



MEETING OF THE EBO WORLDWIDE NETWORK

Roundtable on the Europe Commission's New Policy Priorities
3 June 2025

Outline

- ✓ The **2024-2029 Political Guidelines** and new priorities
- ✓ The **Commission work programme – purpose and process**
- ✓ The **Commission work programme – structure**
- ✓ **2025 Commission work programme**

EUROPE'S CHOICE

*“My view is that our era’s greatest challenges – from security to climate change to competitiveness - can only be solved through joint action. Against this backdrop, I believe **Europe must choose its best option: Union.**”*

President von der Leyen, 18 July 2024



Prosperity and Competitiveness



Europe needs to stay in the race to define the technologies that will shape the green global economy for decades to come.

Despite the good starting position, Europe needs to **go faster and further** to ensure **competitiveness, prosperity and fairness**.

Prosperity And Competitiveness I



Making business easier

- **stress-test** the entire EU *acquis*
- improve innovative companies' **access to capital**
- new **SME and competitiveness test**

A more resilient and circular economy

- create market demand for secondary materials with **new Circular Economy Act**
- reducing dependencies with **Critical Medicines Act**
- European action plan on the **cybersecurity of hospitals**

A Clean Industrial Deal

- **2040 goal** in European Climate Law
- **Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act**
- **international cooperation** on climate policy
- **Single Digital Booking and Ticketing Regulation**

Prosperity And Competitiveness II



Boosting productivity through tech diffusion

- **AI Factories Initiative**
- **Apply AI Strategy**
- **European AI Research Council**
- **a European Data Union Strategy**

Skills and labour

- Establishment of a **Union of Skills**
- **STEM Education Strategic Plan**
- **European Strategy for Vocational Education and Training**
- **Skills Portability Initiative**

Strengthen research

- **Additional funding for research (2027-2034 MFF)**
- **European Biotech Act**
- **Strategy for European Life Sciences**
- **University Alliances**

Access to capital

- **European Savings and Investments Union**
- **revision of the Public Procurement Directive**
- **European Competitiveness Fund**
- Make **Important Projects of Common Interest** faster and simpler

A new era for European Defence and Security



In a **more and more fractured and uncertain world** where **peace is fragile**, Europe must give itself the means to **defend and protect itself** and to deter potential adversaries.

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model



Europe's **unique social model** has been **impacted by the crises of recent years for many Europeans**, from the cost of living, housing and energy to the fairness of income and inequalities.

Faced with an accelerated speed of change in our societies and economies, we should work to **ensure social fairness, equal opportunities and quality jobs.**

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature



Europe's quality of life depends on having a secure and affordable supply of quality local food. **Farming is a core part of our European way of life – and it must always stay that way.**

We must also continue the **protection of our natural world**. Our forests and woodlands and our grasslands are not only our home (...) but are also essential to regulating our climate and ensuring food and water security.

Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature



Farming and food

- **A Vision for Agriculture and Food**
- **Reward farmers working with nature**
- Support **the competitiveness of the entire food value chain**
- Protect our **food sovereignty**

Climate adaptation, preparedness and solidarity

- **European Civil Defence Mechanism**
- **Climate Adaptation Plan**
- **Strengthen Europe's water security**
- **A European Water Resilience Strategy**

Protecting our natural world

- **A European Oceans Pact**
- **incentives and equitable and efficient implementation,**
notably to **reach international biodiversity commitments**

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values



Europe's future in a fractured world will depend on having **a strong democracy and on defending the values** that give us the freedoms and rights that we cherish.

A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships



In a world as dangerous as it has been for generations, **Europe needs to be more assertive** in pursuing its strategic interests.

Enlargement as a geopolitical imperative

- Prepare candidate countries (notably investment and reforms in the **Growth Plan for the Western Balkans** and the **Ukraine Facility**)
- **Pre-enlargement policy reviews**

A global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships



Reshaping multilateralism for today's world

- Europe to play a **leading role in reforming the international system**
- **Respond better to partner's concerns about impacts of EU policies**

A more strategic approach to our neighbourhood

- New **Pact for the Mediterranean**
- **EU-Middle East Strategy**
- take part in all diplomatic efforts to ensure **resolution to the conflict in Gaza**

A new economic foreign policy

- **Strategic EU-India Agenda**
- strengthen **cooperation with ASEAN**
- new impetus in mutual **partnership with Africa**
- deepen the **cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean**

Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future



In the last five years, Europe has set the course on an ambitious programme of modernisation. We must now focus on **implementation, investment and reform** to prepare our future.

This cuts **across all of the priorities** set out in the Guidelines and will require **a team effort** by all Institutions and Member States.

Delivering together and preparing our future



A new budget fit for our ambitions

- **More focused** to align with our priorities
- **Simpler** in the way it works
- **More impactful** to leverage better national, private and institutional financing

Stronger partnership with the European Parliament

- **Stronger cooperation on Article 225**
- Revising the Commission-Parliament **framework agreement**
- **Full justification of the use of Article 122** by the Commission

An ambitious reform agenda for Europe

- **Pre-enlargement policy reviews** (in 100 days), on the rule of law, the Single Market, food security, defence and security, climate and Energy, migration...
- Proposals to **strengthen Europe's capacity to act**

Purpose of the Commission work programme

- ✓ Sets out the **key initiatives for the year ahead**.
- ✓ Informs the European institutions, Member States, citizens and stakeholders how the Commission delivers on the political priorities and turns them into **concrete action**.

2025 Commission work programme - process



- ✓ 18 July 2024: Candidate for Commission President von der Leyen presents her 2024-2029 Political Guidelines



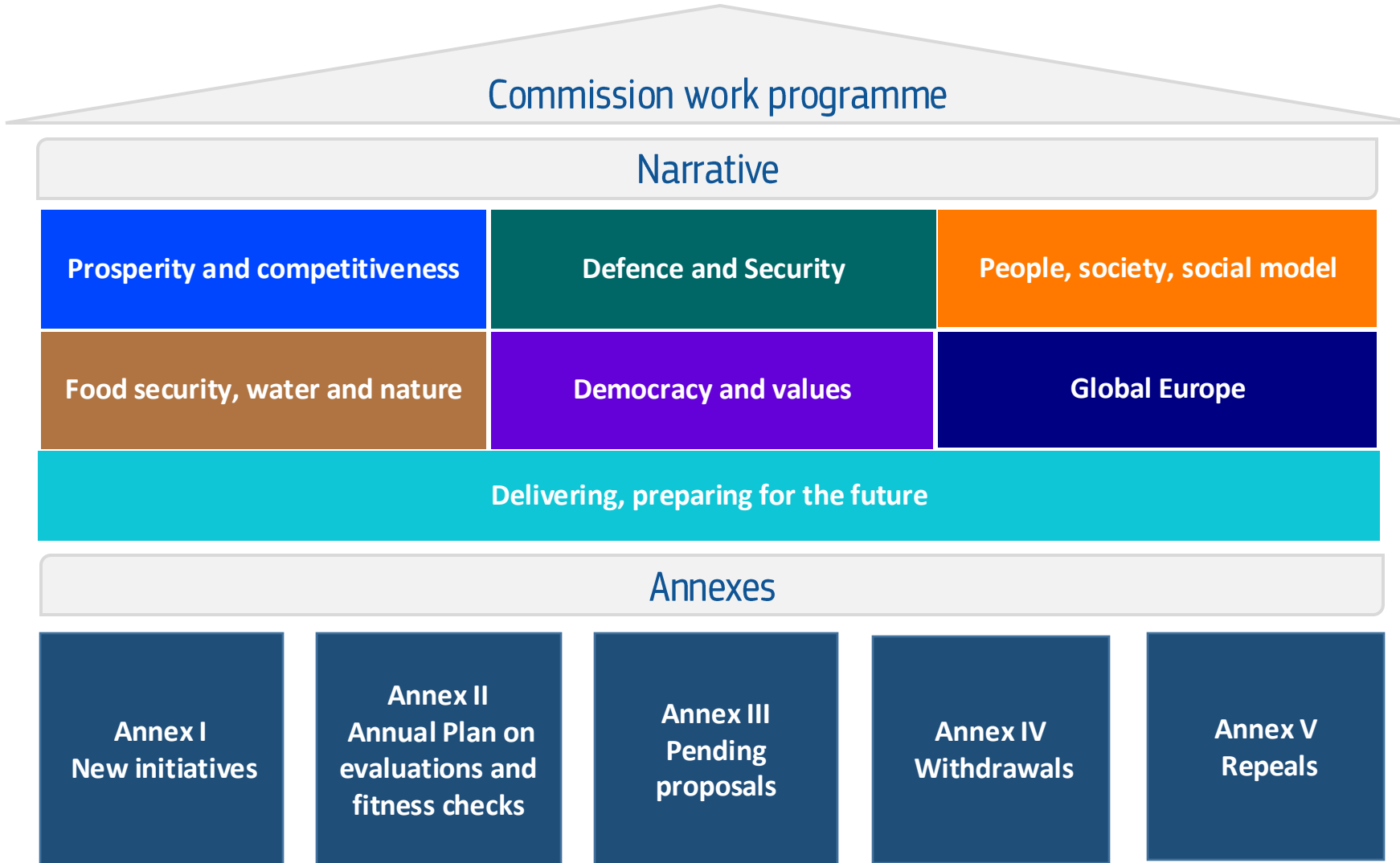
- ✓ 17 September 2024: President-elect von der Leyen presents future College and sends mission letters to Commissioners-designate

- ✓ Interinstitutional dialogue
 - ✓ European Parliament and Council



- ✓ 11 / 12 February 2025: adoption & presentation

Commission work programme – structure



2025 work programme focus: 'Moving forward together: A Bolder, Simpler, Faster Union'

✓ Main focus of the 2025 Commission work programme

- Boosting competitiveness, enhancing security, and bolstering economic resilience
- Initiatives for the first year of the mandate that reflect the need for more opportunities, innovation and growth for our citizens and businesses.

✓ Simplification

- Strong focus on making the implementation of EU rules easier in practice, reduce administrative burdens and simplify EU rules.

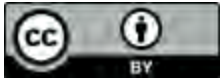
✓ Strategies framing the way ahead

- Apart from first key legislative proposals, the Commission work programme lists several key strategies that outline the way forward on competitiveness, social policy, democracy and the EU's global role.

2025 Commission work programme: Figures

- ✓ **51 new initiatives**, of which **18 legislative**, of which **11 simplification initiatives**
- ✓ **37 evaluations and fitness checks**
- ✓ **123 key proposals** already adopted by the Commission and to be agreed into law
- ✓ **37 initiatives** proposed for **withdrawal**;
- ✓ **4 repeals proposed**

Thank you



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