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# Commission work programme 2019

## SUMMARY

This briefing is intended as a background overview for parliamentary committees planning their activities in relation to the European Commission's 2019 work programme (CWP 2019). It offers a brief description of the work programme's content.

While following the same format as in previous years, the CWP 2019 takes into account the upcoming European Parliament elections (May 2019) and the end of the current Commission's mandate (late 2019). It does not announce multiple additional legislative proposals as previous ones did, but concentrates on the adoption of legislative proposals already submitted before the parliamentary recess.

As in previous years, the CWP 2019 annexes provide a fairly clear overview of new initiatives, REFIT initiatives, intended withdrawals and repeals of existing legal acts. In comparison with previous years, the most extensive annex is however the one linked with priority pending proposals that need to be addressed by Parliament and/or the Council by May 2018; it includes 187 pending proposals.

## The CWP 2019 communication

On 23 October 2018, the Commission published and presented its work programme for 2019: **'Delivering what we promised and preparing for the future'** (COM(2018) 800). The Commission's annual work programmes generally set out a targeted agenda to complete the [ten priorities](#) of the Juncker Commission<sup>1</sup> and the strategies that underpin them. The CWP 2019 was presented by the European Commission in the form of a communication with various annexes providing fairly detailed information about the Commission's legislative and non-legislative intentions for 2019. The CWP 2019 differs from the previous work programmes in that it takes into account the upcoming European Parliament elections and the end of the present Commission's mandate.

The European Commission's [communication](#) explains the CWP's focus. The communication notes various pressing challenges that need to be addressed (e.g. migration, disinformation campaigns, and the increasingly volatile global situation). The CWP concentrates on full delivery of 'what is already on the table' rather than presenting new legislative proposals or non-legislative initiatives. Nonetheless, the communication provides information on the Commission's plans to submit various non-legislative reports, communications and strategies. Furthermore, the CWP communication includes a short section on Brexit, with the introduction of two additional legal proposals and, also in this context, a number of delegated and implementing acts that should be adopted. It also provides a forward look to the May 2019 summit in Sibiu.

All in all, the communication underlines the need to deliver on two specific Commission priority areas: jobs, growth and fairness, and democratic change before the May 2019 European elections. In this regard, the Commission stresses that a joint effort and intensified collaboration with Parliament and the Council is needed to adopt all legislative proposals.

## Annexes

In addition to the Commission's communication, the CWP includes five annexes relating to new (legislative or non-legislative) initiatives (Annex I), REFIT initiatives (Annex II), priority pending proposals (Annex III), withdrawals (Annex IV) and repeals (Annex V). The following table gives a breakdown of dossiers and individual files (initiatives) included in the CWP's five annexes.

Table 1 – CWP 2019 annexes

Annex	Dossiers	Dossier files
Annex I: new initiatives	10 dossiers	2 legislative and 16 non-legislative initiatives
Annex II: REFIT initiatives	10 dossiers	6 evaluations and 4 fitness checks
Annex III: priority pending proposals	84 dossiers	187 priority files
Annex IV: withdrawals	10 dossiers	10 intended withdrawals
Annex V: repeals	7 dossiers	7 intended repeals

Source: CWP 2019.

In contrast with previous years, all five annexes are included in [one document](#).

- **Annex I** includes 15 dossiers linked with the Juncker Commission's ten priorities. Each of these dossiers includes at least one legislative or non-legislative initiative. The non-legislative initiatives include 10 communications, a reflection paper, a coordinated plan, a strategy, two reports, and a recommendation. The legislative initiatives include two Brexit-related legislative proposals.<sup>2</sup>
- **Annex II** includes 10 dossiers with 10 REFIT initiatives; all at present only non-legislative initiatives. This annex announces six evaluations and four fitness checks that are going to be carried out in the upcoming months by the Commission. However, Annex II underlines that only 'the most significant evaluations and fitness checks' that are to be undertaken by the Commission are included in the annex. This fact is also underlined by the CWP communication (p. 11).
- **Annex III** includes 84 dossiers with 187 priority initiatives to be adopted either in the ordinary legislative procedure or under special legislative procedure. The priority pending proposals relate to all ten Juncker Commission priorities.<sup>3</sup> This annex contains proposals mentioned in the joint declaration on the EU's legislative priorities for 2018 and 2019, signed by the European Parliament, Council and Commission presidents, and priority files in the CWP 2018 and Letter of Intent for 2018. The breakdown of these initiatives is set out in Table 2.
- In **Annex IV**, the Commission provides a list of 10 pending legislative proposals that it intends to withdraw by April 2019.<sup>4</sup> These legislative proposals will be withdrawn because they are obsolete, because their content is already included in other acts or because their goals can be better achieved in other ways.
- The list of repeals included in **Annex V** contains seven files of existing legislation that the Commission plans to repeal (or to make proposals to repeal) in the months ahead because they are obsolete.<sup>5</sup> The repeals include three Commission regulations, three Council directives and one Parliament and Council directive.

The CWP also includes two infographics linked with its annexes, namely on new initiatives ([Annex I](#)) and on REFIT initiatives and priority pending proposals ([Annex II and Annex III](#)). In parallel, the

European Commission published a [fact sheet on CWP](#), [questions and answers](#) and a [press release](#). All these documents are accessible on the Commission's [CWP website](#).

Table 2 provides details of the CWP's annexes with indications of the Parliament committee concerned. Generally, the committee shown in the table is the committee currently dealing with the file. However, a committee with an asterisk (\*) refers to the committee responsible during the adoption of the original legislation and a committee with two asterisks (\*\*) refers to the committee that could possibly be responsible for the upcoming file.

Table 2 – CWP files by parliamentary committee

Annex	Dossier	Parliamentary committee concerned
Annex I: new initiatives <sup>6</sup>	Proposal to adapt references to EU energy efficiency targets (expressed in absolute values) for 2030 to an EU at 27	LIBE**
	Proposal to place the United Kingdom on either the 'visa required' list of third countries or the 'visa free' list	LIBE**
Annex II: REFIT initiatives	Fitness Check – Water Framework Directive 2000/80, Floods Directive 2007/60 and Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271	ENVI*
	Fitness Check – Air Quality Directives 2008/50 and 2004/107	ENVI*
	Evaluation – Regulation 1013/2006 on the shipment of waste	ENVI*
	Evaluation – Directive 98/71 on the legal protection of designs and Regulation 6/2002 on Community designs	JURI*
	Evaluation – Construction Products Regulation 305/2011	IMCO*
	Evaluation – Regulation 396/2005 on maximum residue levels for pesticides and Regulation 1107/2009 on the placing plant protection products on the market	ENVI*
	Fitness Check – supervisory reporting	ECON*
	Fitness Check – corporate reporting	JURI*
	Evaluation – Equal pay Directive 2006/54	FEMM*
	Evaluation – Consumer Credit Directive 2008/48/EC and the Marketing of consumer financial services Directive 2002/65/EC	IMCO*
Annex III: PPP <sup>7</sup>	AFCO (2), AFET (2), AGRI (4), BUDG (8), CULT (3), DEVE (1), ECON (40), EMPL (8), ENVI (10), IMCO (15), INTA (3), ITRE (19), JURI (13), LIBE (32), PECH (2), REGI (5), TRAN (15), BUDG/CONT (1), IMCO/JURI (1), JURI/LIBE (1) <sup>8</sup> , Unknown (2)	
Annex IV: withdrawals <sup>9</sup>	Fishery resources: recovery of cod stocks, long-term plan; aligning the regulation with the TFEU <a href="#">2012/0013(COD)</a>	PECH
	Union certification system for aviation security screening equipment <a href="#">2016/0236 (COD)</a>	LIBE
	EU common list of safe countries of origin <a href="#">2015/0211(COD)</a>	LIBE

	Member State responsible for examining the application of unaccompanied minors <a href="#">2014/0202(COD)</a>	LIBE
	Crisis relocation mechanism <a href="#">2015/0208(COD)</a>	LIBE
Annex V: Repeals <sup>10</sup>	<a href="#">Directive 2001/34/EC</a> on the admission of securities ( <a href="#">2000/174(COD)</a> )	JURI*

Source: CWP 2019.

## European Parliament implementation appraisals

European Parliament implementation appraisals are pro-active briefings providing a synthetic and succinct analysis (4-12 pages) of the operation of existing EU legislation. They focus on specific pieces of secondary European law, directives or regulations that are to be amended or reviewed by the co-legislators following legislative proposals envisaged in the CWP. They also cover those legislative proposals included in the CWP that are submitted as a part of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT) programme. These briefings are prepared by the Ex-Post Evaluation Unit of EPRS. Since the 2019 CWP does not envisage any new legislative proposal that would amend existing EU legislation nor new legislation as part of the REFIT programme, no implementation appraisals are planned before a new CWP (2020) is adopted.<sup>11</sup>

### ENDNOTE

- <sup>1</sup> Regarding the progress of Commission initiatives linked to the Juncker Commission initiatives, see the [Legislative Train Schedule](#).
- <sup>2</sup> See Table 2.
- <sup>3</sup> The largest priority areas are: a deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base, and a new boost for jobs, growth and investment.
- <sup>4</sup> The intended withdrawals include legislative proposals for five Council decisions and five regulations of Parliament and the Council in the fields of security and migration; maritime affairs and fisheries; and economic and financial affairs, taxation and customs.
- <sup>5</sup> The planned repeals are from the following policy areas: capital markets union, taxation and customs and food safety.
- <sup>6</sup> Only legislative proposals are included here.
- <sup>7</sup> Because of their number (187), the individual dossiers are not listed.
- <sup>8</sup> Based on the information provided in the [European Parliament's legislative observatory](#) (OEIL).
- <sup>9</sup> Intended withdrawals of four proposals for a Council decision are not included in the table.
- <sup>10</sup> Intended repeals of three Commission regulations and three Council directives are not included in the table.
- <sup>11</sup> See M. Remáč, [Implementation appraisals following the Commission Work Programme 2018](#), EPRS, European Parliament, November 2017.

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