

European Commission Presents 2026 Work Programme



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News

On 21 October 2025, the European Commission [presented its 2026 Work Programme](#): “Europe’s Independence Moment”. It addresses current and emerging challenges, including threats to the EU’s security and democratic institutions, geopolitical tensions, economic and industrial risks, and the accelerating impact of climate change.

In 2026, the Commission will maintain its focus on reducing regulatory burdens for individuals, businesses, and public administrations. Furthermore, the Work Programme signals a continued commitment to streamlining EU legislation, with proposals targeting a broad range of sectors:

- Automotive;
- Environment;
- Taxation;
- Food and feed safety;
- Medical devices;
- Energy products.

Ongoing implementation dialogues and “reality checks” are intended to identify additional opportunities to reduce administrative burdens for citizens.

In the field of Justice and Home Affairs, the 2026 Work Programme prioritizes the operationalization of the Pact on Migration and Asylum. Recognizing migrant smuggling as a criminal enterprise, the Commission plans to propose targeted sanctions against smugglers and traffickers, including asset freezes, restrictions on freedom of movement, and measures to deprive them of illicit profits. Special attention will be given to child protection measures – addressing criminal threats both online and offline – alongside new strategies to combat trafficking in human beings.

Frontex is expected to expand its operational support to Member States, including enhanced roles in facilitating returns, with the digitalisation of return procedures advancing the modernization of the Common European Return System.

Future initiatives will also seek to strengthen Europol and reinforce the EU legal framework for combating organised crime.

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