

European Commission Work Programme 2023

Ibec summary analysis

18 October 2022



European Commission Work Programme 2023

A Union standing firm and united

- ✓ 43 new initiatives
- ✓ 116 pending priority proposals

- **Current challenges set the tone:** The current geopolitical tensions, economic challenges and the energy crisis, stemming from the pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine, set the tone. In 2023, the Commission will seek to revise the EU electricity market, persist with sanctions against Russia, bolster EU security and defence, and develop closer ties with international partners, both in Europe via the accession process and European Political Community, and further afield through free trade agreements.
- **Pre-existing policy priorities remain:** The twin digital and green transition, along with increasing social policy initiatives, will remain central to the EU policy agenda. While the vast majority of major files have already been proposed, the Commission sets out a clear intent to complete negotiations with the Council and Parliament in 2023 on the Fit for 55 package, AI Act and Data Act, among a host of others. At the same time, significant proposals will be presented incl. a Critical Raw Materials Act and a Social Economy package.
- **Time to agree legislation is short:** This Commission is now entering the final months in which it can propose new legislation that can be realistically agreed with the European Parliament and Council before the European Parliament elections in May 2024. Regardless, the Commission will press ahead with a significant number of new initiatives in 2023 while 116 pending priority proposals are yet to be finalised by the EU institutions before the end of the current mandate.



1

An EU that is focused on its strengths and competitiveness



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1. **Economic governance** review (Q1 2023)
2. Improving the **retail investment** framework (Q1 2023)
3. Communication on the **Single Market** at 30 years: benefits and implementation gaps (Q1 2023)
4. **Corporate taxation: Business in Europe: framework for income taxation (BEFIT)** (Q3 2023)
5. **Social economy** package (Q2 2023)
6. Data access in **financial services** & revision of rules on payment services (Q2 2023)
7. Reinforced quality framework for **traineeships** (Q2 2023)
8. Strengthening the **euro** incl. digital euro (Q2 2023)
9. Second set of new **own resources** (Q3 2023)

An EU that is focused on its strengths and competitiveness

An uncertain geopolitical climate and disruptions to supply chains during the COVID-19 crisis has showcased the importance of the single market. In 2023 the Commission will issue a **Single Market Communication**, assessing it at 30 years, showcasing its benefits, and identifying implementation gaps as well as future priorities.

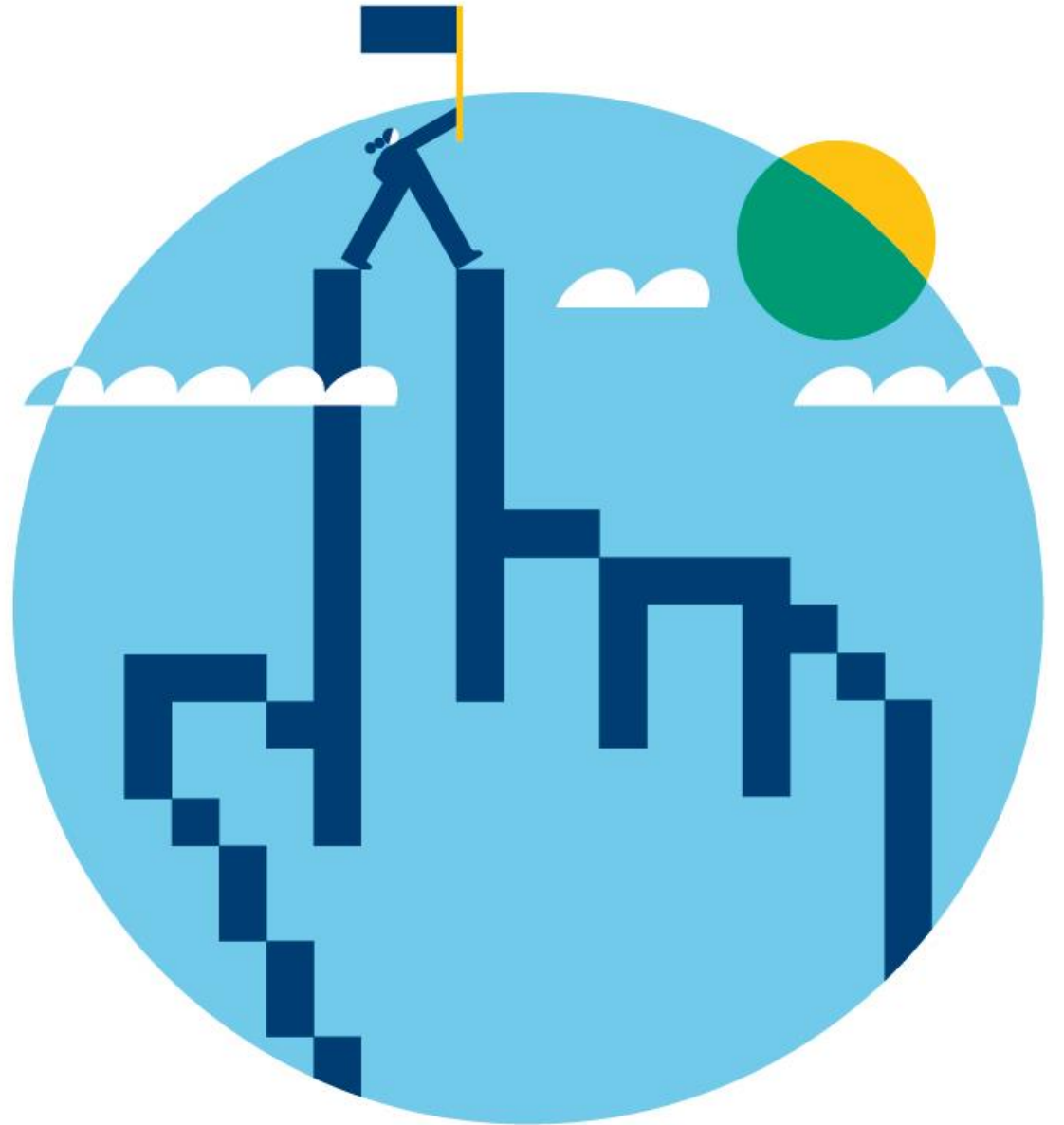
In this context and in a bid to strengthen economic security, the Commission may revise the **EU's FDI screening regulation** to strengthen its effectiveness and may also examine whether additional tools are necessary in respect of **outbound strategic investments controls**.

In addition, the Commission will make significant proposals on social and economic policy, including a **social economy package** and a **review of its economic governance**.

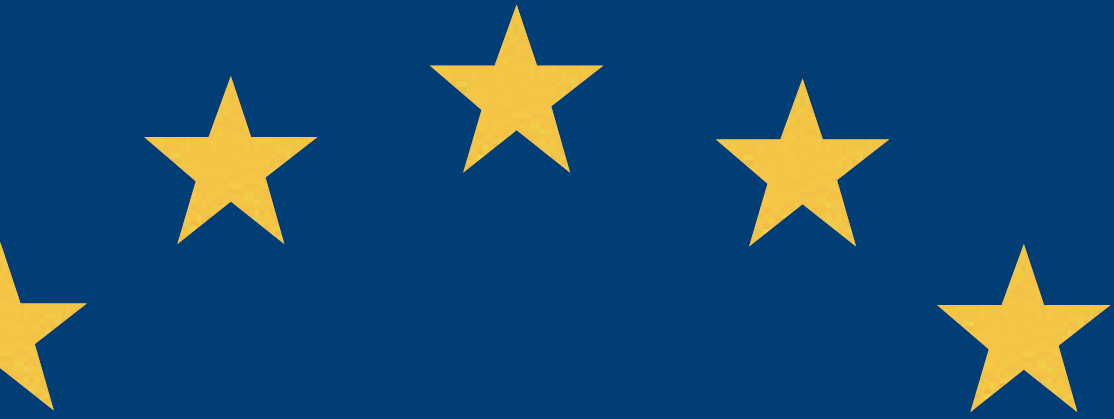


2

An EU that leads
an inclusive and
innovative
digital decade



An EU that leads an inclusive and innovative digital decade



1. European critical **raw materials** act (Q1 2023)
2. Revision of the **late payments Directive** (Q3 2023)
3. Initiative on **virtual worlds** (Q2 2023)
4. **Patent licensing** package incl. compulsory licencing & standard essential patents (Q2 2023)
5. **Company law** digitalisation (Q2 2023)
6. **Mobility package** incl. common European mobility data space (Q2 2023) & EU regulatory framework for hyperloop (Q3 2023)
7. New **radio spectrum** policy programme (Q3 2023)

An EU that leads an inclusive and innovative digital decade

Emphasising its twin digital and green ambitions, the Commission work programme highlights solutions which aim to make the economy more efficient and less resource intensive. The Commission will propose an **EU critical raw materials act** to ensure an adequate and diversified supply for Europe's digital economy as well as for the green transition.

Acknowledging the opportunities digital can provide when it comes to **mobility**, a common European mobility data space will boost digitalisation of the sector, while an EU regulatory framework for hyperloop will help accommodate this high-speed, low-carbon transport solution.

For business, the Commission proposes to expand use of digital tools and processes in **company law**, will revise the **late payments directive** to reduce burdens for SMEs, and with 2023 as **European Year of Skills**, many initiatives aim to deliver the necessary reskilling and upskilling of the EU workforce.



3

An EU that puts sustainability at the heart of our prosperity



An EU that puts **sustainability** at the heart of our prosperity



1. Revision of internal **electricity market** rules (Q1 2023), incl. decoupling electricity and gas prices
2. New European **Hydrogen** Bank, incl. €3 bn investment (Q3 2023)
3. REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of **Chemicals**) revision & sharing of data for chemical safety assessments (Q4 2023)
4. Revision of **waste** framework Directive: food and textile waste (Q2 2023)
5. Legislation on sustainable **food** systems (Q3 2023)
6. Initiative on **soils**: protection, sustainable management and restoration (Q2 2023)
7. Freight and passenger **transport**: increasing rail & revision of combined transport Directive (Q2 2023)

An EU that puts **sustainability** at the heart of our prosperity

The Commission will continue to put its political weight behind the flagship *European Green Deal* with a view to addressing the effects of **climate change**, strengthening the EU's economies, and enhancing security against the new geopolitical reality.

At this late stage in the legislature, the vast majority of the Commission's proposals have been presented, notably within the **Fit for 55 package**, and are currently being negotiated by the Council and Parliament in trilogues, such as the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and Emissions Trading Scheme, or internally towards reaching negotiating positions.

Most notable, in 2023 the Commission will focus on **energy costs** and **supply** with a review of the EU **electricity market** and significant investment in **hydrogen**. It will also seek to change the rules for food and textile waste, soils, and chemicals with a revision of **REACH**.



4

An EU that is
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and investment



An EU that is **open** for trade and investment



1. Communication on EU **space** strategy for **security and defence** (Q2 2023)
2. Communication on EU **maritime security** strategy (Q2 2023)
3. Update of **sanctions toolbox** to include corruption (Q2 2023)
4. Communication on a new agenda for relations with **Latin America and the Caribbean** (Q2 2023)
5. Increased cooperation with **accession candidates** (Western Balkans and Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia)

An EU that is open for **trade** and investment

The EU's international outlook has hardened significantly and includes a recognition that while the multilateralism and the rules-based international order will remain guiding principles, the EU should prepare for a significant period of **systemic rivalry in a multipolar world**.

First and foremost, the EU will continue to support **Ukraine** and to respond to the Russian invasion, incl. through the continued application of the extensive **sanctions** adopted, incl. on energy, financial transactions, and individuals. In this context, there is significant momentum behind EU **security and defence** initiatives, including on space and maritime as well as a dialogue with European Defence Industries to encourage production to fill armament stocks.

Likewise, the EU will continue to step-up its engagement with **accession candidates** and will actively push the **European Political Community** as a forum to work with European countries outside the EU, incl. the UK and Norway. On **trade agreements**, the EU will strive to ratify agreements with Chile, Mexico and New Zealand and to conclude negotiations with Australia, India and Indonesia.



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