



SAEIMA OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President of the European Commission

Dear Mr President,

On behalf of the European Affairs Committee of the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia, I would like to inform you that the European Affairs Committee has examined and discussed the European Commission's Work Programme 2016.

Based on the Rules of Procedure of our parliament, the European Affairs Committee usually holds a debate on European Commission's Work Programmes. The 2016 Work Programme was discussed in the Committee in general on 13 November 2015, as a result to which the Committee welcomed the European Commission's proposals and recognizes that the new initiatives are of great relevance, especially regarding the current challenges the European Union is facing.

Having in mind that certain initiatives may have a specific and significant impact on the wellbeing of the Latvian society, as well as on the economic growth, the competitiveness and the safety of the country, for your information I hereby attach the selection of the priorities for the Commission's Work Programme 2016 as underscored and assessed by the European Affairs Committee.

Annex: Priorities of the European Affairs Committee regarding the Commission's Work Programme 2016, 2 pages.

Yours sincerely,

Lolita Čigāne
Chairperson of the European Affairs Committee

Priorities of the European Affairs Committee regarding the Commission's Work Programme 2016

N°	Title	Type of initiative	Description of scope and objectives
A New Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment			
1.	New Skills Agenda for Europe	Legislative / Non-legislative	The Agenda aims at promoting skills development, including the mutual recognition of qualifications, supporting vocational training and higher education and reaping the full potential of digital jobs.
4.	Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020	Legislative / Non-legislative	The mid-term review of the MFF will address how better to target funding on the priorities the EU faces. The review will also look for ways to further orientate the EU budget towards results and simplify the applicable rules (REFIT) e.g. for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and will explore the scope for further simplification under Horizon 2020 funding.
A Connected Digital Single Market			
6.	Implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy	Legislative / Non-legislative	The Digital Single Market Strategy outlined in May 2015 will be taken forward with three sets of actions: 1) a Communication on copyright and legislative proposal on portability, followed by legislative proposals on copyright and the review of the satellite and cable directive (REFIT), legislative proposals on digital contract rights, geo-blocking, and VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT), and the review of the Regulation on consumer protection cooperation (REFIT); 2) reviews of the telecoms regulatory framework (REFIT) and the audiovisual and media services Directive (REFIT), and 3) a legislative proposal on the free flow of data.
A Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy			
7.	Energy Union Package	Legislative / Non-legislative	Following up on the Framework Strategy, the Package is composed of: legislative proposals on electricity market design and the regulatory framework, including the review of the Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), and the revision of the Regulation on security of electricity supply; the revision of the Regulation on security of gas supply and the revision of the Decision on inter-governmental agreements; the effort sharing decision and integration of the Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry sector (LULUCF) into the 2030 climate framework; a renewable energy package (REFIT), including sustainability criteria for biomass, and an energy efficiency package, including energy efficiency for buildings (REFIT).
A Deeper and Fairer Internal Market with a Strengthened Industrial Base			
10.	European Defence Action Plan	Legislative / Non-legislative	The aim is a legal and policy framework to ensure that the European market and industrial and skills base will be able to deliver the military capability priorities that Member States may need to meet future security needs.

N°	Title	Type of initiative	Description of scope and objectives
11.	Action Plan on VAT	Legislative / Non-legislative	The action plan aims at delivering efficient and fraud-proof VAT regimes and will include initiatives on VAT rates (REFIT) and a proposal on VAT for electronic commerce (REFIT) in the context of the Digital Single Market Strategy, and a Communication setting out the definitive VAT regime (REFIT).
12.	Corporate Tax Package	Legislative / Non-legislative	Following up on the Communication on A fair and efficient corporate tax system in the European Union: 5 key areas for action, the package includes a set of measures to enhance transparency of the corporate tax system and fight tax avoidance, including by implementing international standards on base erosion and profit shifting, and a staged approach starting with a mandatory tax base (REFIT) together with withdrawal of the existing CCCTB proposal.
A Deeper and Fairer Economic and Monetary Union			
15.	European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme / Completion of the Banking Union	Legislative / Non-legislative	Following up to the Five Presidents' Report, the proposal will outline steps towards a European Bank Deposit Insurance Scheme based on a reinsurance mechanism. A Communication will set out further measures to complete the Banking Union.
Trade: A Reasonable and Balanced Free Trade Agreement with the U.S.			
16.	Follow-up to the Trade and Investment Strategy	Legislative / Non-legislative	Against the background of the Trade for All strategy for a more effective and transparent trade and investment policy based on values, the Commission will pursue the TTIP negotiations with the US, as well as make progress at WTO, engage strategically with Asia and ensure that EPAs are well implemented.
An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust			
17.	Implementation of European Agenda on Security	Legislative / Non-legislative	Actions to implement the European Agenda on Security including a proposal to amend the Framework Decision on terrorism, improved rules on firearms and a proposal on combatting fraud and counterfeiting on non-cash means of payment.
Towards a New Policy on Migration			
18.	Better Migration Management	Legislative / Non-legislative	The initiative has two dimensions: 1) legal migration: a Communication and further legislative measures including extension of the Blue Card approach; 2) asylum and refugees: a proposal for a structured system on resettlement of refugees and revision of the Dublin system on asylum.
19.	Border Management Package	Legislative / Non-legislative	The aim is to progress towards a European Border and Coast Guard building on a reinforced Frontex.
A Stronger Global Actor			
21.	Capacity building in the security sector	Legislative / non-legislative	The package covers security sector reform and a possible new dedicated instrument for capacity building in support of security and development in third countries.