Statement by the Committee on Foreign Affairs 2015/15:UU4

Summary

The Committee has examined the Commission's Work Programme for 2016. In its annual Work Programme, the Commission presents the political priorities for the coming year. As set out in its work programme for 2015, the Commission's ambition in the next few years is to make a difference when it comes to bigger issues and to demonstrate more openly how the EU works with these.

The Committee on the Constitution, Committee on Finance, Committee on Taxation, Committee on Justice, Committee on Civil Affairs, Committee on Defence, Committee on Cultural Affairs, Committee on Education, Committee on Environment and Agriculture and Committee on the Labour Market have all submitted a statement of opinion on the programme.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs underlines how positive it is that the Commission presents a work programme on an annual basis. The Committee notes that the work programme contains proposals designed to meet the challenges currently facing the EU and its member states, for example, as regards refugee and migration policy, measures for growth and job-creation, and promoting a well-functioning internal market for services and goods, including an digital internal market. However, the Committee would have liked to see an even higher level of ambition in the field of energy, environment and climate.

There are two reservations in the statement (from the Sweden Democrats and the Left Party).

The examined document:

Communication from the Commission COM(2015)610, Commission Work Programme 2016 - No time for business as usual.