



European  
Commission



# COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2019

Delivering what we promised  
and preparing for the future



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**COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS**

**Commission Work Programme 2019**

**Delivering what we promised and preparing for the future**

## **I. Delivering what we promised and preparing for the future**

The next months will be decisive for our European Union. Next May, Europeans will vote in the elections to the European Parliament. As the President of the Commission highlighted in his State of the Union Address on 12 September 2018, the decisions they make will reflect their confidence in the ability of the European Union to deliver solutions to the challenges that cannot be addressed by any of our Member States acting alone.

Challenges such as ensuring that Europe's return to economic growth really benefits all which means investing in the jobs of the future and making an opportunity out of the digital and low-carbon transition. Challenges linked to migration, which even if far reduced from the crisis years of 2015-2016, will be with us for some time and need sustainable European solutions. Challenges to our democratic societies, our values and our security, which arise from terrorist and cyber-attacks, and increasingly from disinformation campaigns too. Challenges arising from an increasingly volatile global situation in which demographics, competition for resources, and climate change which require a shared push to sustainability, while some are questioning their commitment to the institutions and rules which have shaped the world order for the good over the past 50 years.

More than ever, Europe needs to show that our Union is united, strong and democratic and that only together can we deliver solutions to these challenges and so protect, empower and defend our citizens.

In our annual Work Programmes since the start of the mandate, this Commission has focussed on the biggest challenges where we believe European action can make a difference. With the initiatives presented alongside the State of the Union address, we have now tabled all of the legislative proposals needed to deliver positive change across the ten priorities of the European Commission for 2014-2019. Together with the European Parliament and Council, we have found agreement on nearly half of these and a further 20 percent is well advanced in the legislative process. The priority now must be to turn the rest of the proposals, including all the priority proposals identified in the Joint Declarations, into legislation, and then to implement it effectively. The dialogue the Commission has had with the European Parliament and the Council in the preparation of this Work Programme has confirmed that there is a shared commitment to maintain and further step up the momentum. Now is the time to show that together we can deliver.

To keep the focus on what is already on the table, in this year's Work Programme, the Commission is presenting only a limited number of new initiatives, which alongside those presented with the State of the Union address, are essential to deliver fully on the 10 priorities. These initiatives address outstanding challenges that require collective and decisive action: completing the work in the area of migration; reinforcing the Economic and Monetary Union; addressing increasing tensions in the global trading system; tackling continued challenges to the Rule of Law in some Member States; and finding an agreement with the United Kingdom on its withdrawal from the Union. The Commission will also pay attention to implementing the legislation that has been adopted and to evaluating the existing acquis to

prepare for the future, and we propose the withdrawal or repeal of a series of obsolete proposals and laws.

Finally, this Work Programme takes forward the Roadmap to Sibiu which found strong support in the European Parliament and was taken up in the Leaders' Agenda. The Sibiu Summit will take place on Europe Day, 9 May 2019, six weeks after Brexit and two weeks before the European elections. This will be a crucial moment for the EU of 27 to shape its own future for 2025. With that in mind, it is important that a political agreement is reached on the Commission's proposal for a simpler and flexible future budget framework ahead of Sibiu. Beyond that, the Commission will over the next months make a series of forward-looking contributions to prepare the Summit, so that EU Leaders can provide renewed confidence in the future of our Union of 27.

## **II. Full delivery of the 10 priorities of the Juncker Commission before the European Parliament elections**

### *A new boost for jobs, growth and investment*

Europe's economy is performing well. Growth reached a 10-year peak in 2017. Employment and investment have returned to pre-crisis levels and the state of public finances has significantly improved. However, the economic, social and fiscal situation is still uneven among Member States. As global economic weather conditions are changing, we must use the current momentum to continue to promote policies that allow us to seize new economic opportunities and which prepare the economy to withstand future challenges which will come our way.

This means continuing to invest in the reforms needed to keep the Union on a stable and sustainable growth path. The Commission's modern, fair and balanced proposals for the next Multiannual Financial Framework for the Union of 27 will underpin the delivery of the common objectives for the Union for the next decade. They focus on the areas which EU leaders in Bratislava and Rome agreed where the Union is best placed to deliver. They will allow us to deal with major challenges such as youth unemployment, migration, security, the technological and digital transformation as well as the transition to a more sustainable, low-carbon economy. The Sibiu Summit should confirm political agreement on the future budget. This would show that the Union of 27 is united, has a clear sense of direction, and is ready and able to drive its own destiny and deliver for its citizens.

Public money has its place in stimulating the right sort of investment, but ultimately it is businesses which create jobs and growth. We must therefore continue to leverage the resources available. The Investment Plan for Europe, the Juncker Plan, has already generated 344 billion euro of additional investments, thus surpassing its original target of 315 billion euro, and is expected to create 1.4 million jobs and increase EU Gross Domestic Product by 1,3% by 2020. The Juncker Plan has been reinforced and extended to mobilise an estimated 500 billion euro in additional investment by the end of 2020. The Commission will take stock

of progress and identify further ways of boosting investment, including under the future InvestEU programme.

We also need to agree on the remaining proposals to drive the transition towards a circular economy that supports innovation, jobs and growth and promotes the sustainable use of our scarce resources. Speedy agreement on the proposal on single-use plastics is necessary to reduce the amount of harmful plastics entering our oceans and seas and to provide companies with a strong incentive to look for sustainable and innovative alternatives. This will incentivise European innovation and give European companies a technological lead over their global competitors, thus boosting sustainable growth and jobs for the future.

### *A connected Digital Single Market*

The Digital Single Market is already delivering benefits for Europeans: roaming charges have ended, citizens can now access film, sport, music, video game and e-book subscriptions wherever they are in the EU, and from December this year they will be able to shop online without unjustified discrimination just because of where they happen to live.

Of the 30 legislative initiatives which the Commission has made for the Digital Single Market, 18 have been adopted into law. It is now crucial to conclude the remaining proposals, including on copyright, ePrivacy and contract law. It is important to quickly establish the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre together with the Network of National Coordination Centres to help the EU retain and develop the technological and industrial capacities on cybersecurity which are necessary to secure our Digital Single Market.

We will continue work on the emerging challenge of Artificial Intelligence by enabling coordinated action across the European Union and by following up on the various steps set out earlier this year. The Commission and the High Representative will also present a new Joint Action Plan to tackle the pervasive spread of online disinformation in Europe which undermines Europeans' trust in democratic processes and institutions as well as our independent and free media. This is an issue which it is particularly important to address ahead of next year's elections to the European Parliament.

We will also produce a recommendation to establish a format for the exchange of European Electronic Health Records. This will facilitate the exchange of patient data across borders. It will benefit patients and healthcare providers and help to promote medical progress through the digitalisation of health services. In the area of public health, we will also put forward a comprehensive framework on endocrine disruptors.

### *A resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy*

The last four years have seen the EU investing in our own Energy Union to promote sustainable, independent and secure supplies for citizens. We have led the global fight against climate change and are the only large economy to legislate to cut greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030 in line with the Paris Agreement.

We need to continue the work to secure agreement by the co-legislators on the remaining proposals in the Clean Energy for all Europeans package. To improve the functioning of the EU internal energy market and enhance solidarity between Member States it is also essential for the co-legislators to agree on common rules for gas pipelines entering the European gas market and finalise the new legislation on the electricity markets. We also need agreement on the Commission proposals under the ‘Europe on the Move’ Mobility packages to ensure timely implementation of our agenda for safe, clean and connected mobility, and on the Commission proposals on sustainable finance to mobilise the private capital necessary to support the EU's climate and sustainable development agenda.

The timely adoption of these measures will ensure that the supporting tools and legal framework of the EU's 2030 climate policy are in place. Together, these climate and energy policies will deliver total greenhouse gas emission reductions of around 45% by 2030, surpassing the EU's commitment under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990. They will also put us on a trajectory to achieve projected emission reductions of around 60% by 2050. This is, however, not sufficient for the EU to contribute to the Paris Agreement's temperature goals. The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change special report unequivocally confirms the negative impacts of climate change, and against this background the Commission will propose an EU strategy for long-term greenhouse gas reductions in the run-up to the Katowice Climate Change Conference in December 2018. We will also report on the State of the Energy Union, as well as on the progress made to promote European capacity as a leader in the batteries sector.

#### *A deeper and fairer Internal Market with a strengthened industrial base*

2018 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Single Market. Accounting for a fifth of the world's economy, the Single Market is unique and is Europe's strongest asset to generate economic growth and to help European companies thrive, innovate and create jobs. Our collective weight allows us to be the effective standard-setter and global reference point on issues such as data protection, big data, artificial intelligence and automation, and so export our values and shape the global economy.

We now need to deliver on our promise to make the most of the potential of the Single Market in all its dimensions. Agreement is essential on pending proposals under the Goods and Services Packages to ensure safe products and reinforce trust in the Single Market. We must intensify efforts to agree on a common consolidated corporate tax base and on the proposals for a fair and efficient taxation of the digital economy so that all companies, big and small, pay their fair share of tax where their profits are earned. It is also time to reach agreement on the fair and efficient Value Added Tax proposals, to simplify the system particularly for small businesses, to make it fraud-proof and to modernise the system for setting reduced Value Added Tax rates. Agreement should also be reached on the company law proposals to ensure that the right of companies to move and grow across national borders is not abused by a few to evade tax or to undermine workers' rights. Agreement should also be reached urgently on the legislative proposals for a New Deal for Consumers. This New Deal will modernise and

simplify consumer legislation and introduce strengthened individual redress through representative actions.

A fully functioning Capital Markets Union with deep and liquid markets is crucial for financial stability, to support the Single Market, and to diversify sources of finance for European business, including for smaller companies. It is high time to find agreement on the proposals on the pan-European Personal Pension Product, the European Market Infrastructure reform, the improvement of the EU's financial supervisory architecture and the proposal on business insolvency, restructuring and second chance. Agreement should also be reached on other Capital Markets Union proposals on crowdfunding, covered bonds, facilitating cross-border distribution of investment funds, promoting SME listing on public markets, and more proportionate and effective rules for investment firms. In light of the recent serious revelations of money laundering in the financial sector, it is also vital to reach swift agreement on the proposals to establish stronger anti-money laundering supervision to ensure that rules are better supervised and enforced across the EU.

Beyond delivering results for business, the Single Market is also the guarantor of high social standards and workers' protection. One year ago, at the Gothenburg Social Summit, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights. Within its field of competences, the Commission has taken action to follow it up with concrete initiatives. Agreement is now needed on the establishment of a European Labour Authority, and on the proposals to create a better work-life balance and more transparent and predictable working conditions for everyone, including people working in atypical contracts. We need to agree on the revision of the rules on the coordination of Member States' social security systems, on protecting workers against chemicals which cause cancer, and on access to social protection. It is also high time to finalise the European Accessibility Act, so that people with disabilities can more effectively exercise their equal right to participate fully in society and the labour market.

Maintaining, enforcing and deepening the Single Market is a continuous task. We need to address remaining gaps and improve how it functions. Agreement on pending legislative files and proper implementation of regulation in Member States is therefore of utmost importance. In view of the Leaders' discussion at the December European Council, the Commission will table a Communication focusing on the elimination of remaining barriers and options for action to ensure that Europe seizes the new opportunities of a changing global environment.

#### *A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union*

On 1 January 2019, we will celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the single currency. 340 million Europeans use the euro every day throughout 19 Member States. The euro area represents almost 85% of the Gross Domestic Product of the Union of 27. It has weathered the worst financial crisis in our lifetime and has emerged stronger. It is now time to focus more clearly on the strategic role that the euro should play on the global scene and to strengthen its foundations. The completion of Capital Markets Union is particularly important in this context.

It is also crucial to deliver on the proposals which are part of the roadmap to deepen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union, including the budgetary instruments proposed under the next Multiannual Financial Framework. This will equip the Economic and Monetary Union – notably the European Stabilisation Function and the Reform Support Programme – to ensure greater macroeconomic resilience and to pursue structural reforms and strengthen convergence. In June 2018, at the Euro Summit in which all Member States participated, Leaders agreed to complete the Banking Union, including through creating a common backstop to the Single Resolution Fund and progress towards the European Deposit Insurance Scheme. They also agreed on strengthening the role and developing further the European Stability Mechanism as a crisis management tool. This work needs to be taken forward as a priority, whilst swift agreement is now required in particular on the proposals on risk reduction in the banking sector as well as the package on the reduction of non-performing loans. A resilient euro area requires resilient Member States and reinvigorated economic and social convergence. With this objective in mind, the Commission will continue to strengthen and focus the European Semester to support and guide Member States to achieve sustainable, inclusive and long-term growth.

*Trade: A balanced and progressive trade policy to harness globalisation*

Our scale, common values and purpose mean that the European Union is unique in having trade agreements with 69 countries around the world which account for 40% of global Gross Domestic Product. But increasing tensions and the growing lack of predictability in the global trade order mean that we need to continually reassert our commitment to preserving and strengthening the rules-based international system. Swift conclusion of the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, the biggest trade deal ever negotiated by the European Union, will be a powerful signal of this commitment. We will also work to ensure the rapid entry into force of the agreements with Singapore and Vietnam and to finalise those negotiations for which an agreement in principle has been reached (Mexico) or that are already at an advanced stage such as those with Chile and MERCOSUR. We must also make as much progress as possible in other ongoing trade negotiations, including with Australia and New Zealand.

The EU has every reason to be confident and assertive in our trade relations, but we will not be naïve. It is important that the co-legislators agree swiftly on the proposal on the screening of foreign direct investment, in order to monitor and prevent foreign take-overs that would be detrimental to EU interests. It is also time for Member States to break the deadlock on the proposal for an International Procurement Instrument so that we can prevent discrimination against EU companies in the procurement markets of third countries, and to agree to the reform of the dual use rules so that trade can never be misused as a cover for goods which can be used to violate basic human rights.

*An area of Justice and Fundamental Rights based on mutual trust*

Safeguarding fundamental rights and security has been a top priority in the past four years. To complete the work to deliver an effective Security Union it is now crucial to agree on the proposals on cross border access of law enforcement authorities to electronic evidence, on

marketing and use of explosive precursors, on improving the security features of identity cards and on facilitating cross-border access to and use of financial data by law enforcement authorities. We must also go further to deny terrorists the means to act by agreeing measures on the prevention of the dissemination of terrorist content online and extending the mandate of the European Public Prosecutor's Office to include the fight against cross-border terrorism.

To ensure that European information systems for security, migration and border management work together in a smarter and more efficient way, the proposal on interoperability of these systems should be agreed swiftly, together with the upgrades of for example the European Criminal Records Information System, Eurodac and the Visa Information System.

Revelations from *Dieseltgate* to *Luxleaks*, from the *Panama papers* to the *Cambridge Analytica* affair have shown that whistle-blowers play an important role in uncovering unlawful activities that damage the public interest and the welfare of citizens. We therefore need to agree on improved protection for whistle-blowers who report breaches of EU law.

We must also ensure that the EU can deliver help more effectively to those affected by natural disasters by agreeing on the proposal on the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (rescEU).

Abiding by the rule of law, as one of the Union's values, is essential for democracy and for the respect for fundamental rights. It is also an essential guarantee for the functioning of the European Union – as an internal market and an area where laws are applied uniformly and the budget is spent properly, and in which Member States and their citizens can work together in a spirit of mutual trust towards common objectives. The procedure set out in the Treaties to determine whether there is a clear risk of a serious breach of values, and in particular the rule of law, has been triggered as regards two Member States. There are also mounting concerns about some other Member States. As a consequence there is a growing understanding that the European Union and its Member States need to do more to uphold and enforce the rule of law. In this context, the Commission intends to present an initiative with a view to further strengthening the 2014 rule of law framework.

#### *Towards a new policy on migration*

Migratory pressures remain key concerns of European citizens, despite the fact that the crisis has been overcome. Proper migration management will remain a challenge for many years to come and requires a comprehensive response.

Irregular arrivals in the European Union have dropped by 95% from the peak in October 2015. However, this year has also shown the importance of vigilance on all routes with a substantial fall on the Central Mediterranean route, but rises in the Eastern and in particular the Western Mediterranean routes. Migratory routes and their drivers are constantly changing and we need to prepare for the future. The top priority remains agreeing on a well-functioning Common European Asylum System based on the principles of responsibility and solidarity. Five of the seven initial proposals to reform the System have been provisionally or partly agreed and the final steps towards adoption should now be taken, integrating the changes to

strengthen the operational capabilities of the new European Asylum Agency proposed alongside the State of the Union address. We need in parallel to focus efforts on agreeing the remaining two proposals: the reform of the Dublin system and the Asylum Procedures Regulation.

A credible migration policy means citizens must be assured that we effectively manage our external borders and that we can both protect those in need and return those who are not. Strengthening the coherence and effectiveness of our return policy and reducing incentives for irregular migration is crucial and the Commission has presented the necessary proposals to do so. In the same vein, we need to agree quickly on the reform of the return Directive and to strengthen the capacity of the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, by establishing a standing corps of 10.000 EU border guards by 2020, strengthening its powers in the field of returns, and allowing it to operate more widely in partner countries outside the EU.

At the same time, Europe must do more on legal migration. We need to be able to address adequately labour market needs and skills shortages in the future, while pursuing the EU's interests. It is therefore essential to agree on the revised EU Blue Card scheme, which will make it easier and more attractive for highly skilled third-country nationals to come to work in Europe and contribute to the performance of our economies.

By December 2018, the Commission will publish a Communication on Visa Reciprocity to take stock of the state of play and the possible ways forward as regards the situation of non-reciprocity with the United States in the area of visa policy.

#### *A stronger global actor*

When we stand together, Europe has all the weight we need to be a strong global actor, working towards peace, sustainable development, security and stability, while supporting democracy, defending human rights and promoting the rule of law.

To ensure that this is the case, and alongside efforts to reach an agreement on the proposed financial programmes to underpin Europe's role as global actor, the Commission will continue to call for swift follow-up to its initiative for more efficient decision-making in the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. It will also continue to work on implementing the EU Global Strategy on Foreign and Security Policy, notably as regards India, Latin America and Central Asia.

The implementation of the proposed new Africa – Europe Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs will be taken forward. To that end, the EU's External Investment Plan will be further operationalised and implemented to deliver on its ambitious objective of leveraging up to 44 billion euro in sustainable investments by 2020.

Implementing our neighbourhood policy both in the East and in the South will remain a key priority. With regard to the enlargement of the EU, the Commission will issue the yearly reports on all the progress made in the relationship with all partners concerned. Moreover, the Commission will assess and adopt an opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's request to become a candidate for membership.

## *A Union of Democratic Change*

In the last four years the Commission has sought to make the European Union more democratic, for example by opening up policymaking to citizens' inputs, by boosting transparency of meetings between Commission decision-makers and interest representatives, by publishing negotiating mandates for trade agreements, and by embedding Better Regulation principles in policy design. Important revisions have been made to the rules for funding of European political parties, which will increase the transparency of links between European political parties and their member parties, improve democratic legitimacy with funding better reflecting the electorate's choices and strengthen enforcement to prevent abuses of public spending.

To protect our democratic values, we must guarantee that the upcoming elections take place in a free and fair way, which is why it is urgent that the proposals to better protect our democratic processes from manipulation by third countries or private interests are agreed quickly. The proposal to allow European political parties to be sanctioned for breaching personal data protection in order to deliberately influence the outcome of the European elections should also be agreed as a matter of priority.

European Citizens' Initiatives offer citizens a unique and innovative way to participate in setting the agenda at EU level by directly asking the Commission to take action on a matter that they care about. To make the instrument more user-friendly and to allow it to achieve its full potential it is essential to reach swift agreement on the reform of the Regulation to make it easier for citizens to launch and support new initiatives. We are also responding to citizens' wishes expressed in public consultations, for example with the proposal to end the twice-yearly time change.

From the beginning of its mandate, this Commission has underlined the need for a Union with a stronger focus on things that matter and the need to improve the democratic legitimacy of what the Union does. An essential aspect of this is ensuring respect for the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. The Commission is presenting alongside this Work Programme a Communication setting out how we intend to strengthen the role of the subsidiarity and proportionality principles in the EU's policymaking, building on the rich input received from the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and "Doing Less More Efficiently". In line with the views of the Task Force, this will be done as part of the wider better regulation agenda including in the planned stocktaking. The Communication is accompanied by the Annual Reports on relations between the European Commission and national Parliaments and on the application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

### **III. Offering all Europeans a strong perspective for the future**

The Summit in Sibiu on 9 May 2019 will take place at a pivotal moment – six weeks after Brexit and two weeks before the European Parliament elections. This will be the moment when Leaders provide renewed confidence in the future of the new Union of 27. The Commission will contribute to the process leading up to and beyond Sibiu with a number of reports and communications with a 2025 perspective. It has presented, or will put forward, initiatives aiming to:

- Strengthen the international role of the euro, as part of global efforts to strengthen Europe's sovereignty;
- Enhance the use of qualified majority voting and allow more efficient decision-making in key fields of taxation and social policies, so that the EU Single Market legislation can keep pace with economic and societal developments, as well as in several targeted areas of our external relations to offer the right decision-making tools for our Common Foreign and Security Policy;
- Reflect on the road towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030 to follow up on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including the Paris agreement on Climate Change;
- Pave the way for a new institutional framework for our energy and climate policy by outlining options for enhanced qualified majority voting and possible reform of the Euratom Treaty;
- Further strengthen the 2014 rule of law framework;
- Outline how to make the Union more united, stronger and more democratic in communication terms.

### **IV. Brexit and Preparedness**

While significant efforts are being made to ensure the conclusion of an agreement on an orderly withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and a framework for the future EU-UK relations, certain measures will be necessary to adapt the EU acquis in the context of the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and irrespective of the outcome of the negotiations. In addition to six legislative acts which are already on the table of the co-legislators, the Commission will adopt two more Brexit-preparedness legislative proposals that will address, respectively, the visa status of UK nationals after the withdrawal of the United Kingdom and the adjustment of figures for primary and final energy consumption in the energy efficiency legislation. The proposals will be tabled in November 2018 so that sufficient time is left for the co-legislators to adopt them before the withdrawal date.

The Commission will also present before the end of 2018 a number of delegated and implementing acts that are required in the context of Brexit-preparedness. It will continue to monitor the situation closely as the negotiations evolve, and will propose further measures as necessary, with due regard to the time necessary for the co-legislators to complete their work.

## **V. Better regulation and the implementation and enforcement of EU Law**

From the start of the mandate, this Commission has invested heavily in Better Regulation which is now part of our DNA. The OECD has recently ranked the Commission as a top performer in good regulatory practices. To further consolidate this progress, we are carrying out a stocktaking of our Better Regulation policy and will report in the spring on the results and lessons to be learned. In the meantime, we will pay particular attention to using our Better Regulation tools to look hard at our existing policies and ensure that they remain fit for purpose and avoid unnecessary costs. Annex II of this Work Programme sets out the most significant evaluations and Fitness Checks we will undertake, including those that follow up on the Opinions of the REFIT Platform. The Platform continues its work and it is expected to adopt further Opinions shortly, after which the Commission will provide a detailed presentation of the follow-up to all past and new Opinions in the online REFIT Scoreboard, as well as in the second Annual Burden Survey.

Any rule, no matter how carefully drafted and prepared, is only effective if it is implemented properly in practice. This is why the Commission will continue to pay as much attention to ensuring that laws are properly applied as we do to designing them in the first place. The key to effective implementation of EU law is close cooperation and communication between the Commission and the Member States. We will continue to engage in dialogue with Member States to support them in implementing EU law. Significant efforts will be required in the months ahead as concerns the process of transposing and implementing legislation that has been recently adopted or will be soon. At the same time, the Commission will continue to prioritise serious breaches of EU law that undermine the added value of EU rules, and will take firm action where needed, as it has recently done in areas such as air quality.

## **VI. Conclusion**

The remaining months of this mandate will be crucial to show citizens that we have delivered on our agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change. The Commission Work Programme for 2019 outlines a clear and focused agenda to complete the work we committed to do at the start of this mandate. The Commission will continue to work intensively with the European Parliament and the Council to complete this agenda by adopting and implementing all of the proposals the Commission has made. This common European effort is crucial if we are to show to citizens that Europe can make a difference through focused and effective action and tangible results. On 9 May in Sibiu we will also be able to show that the European Union of 27 has a clear perspective for the future and has reinforced the foundations for a strong, united and sovereign Europe.

