



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament  
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa  
Euroski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament  
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European  
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament European parliamentti Europaparlamentiet

Conference of Committee Chairs

9 July 2020

## Summary Report 2020

*The Conference of Committee Chairs,*

- having regard to the provisions of the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission, in particular to paragraphs 33-35 and its Annex IV,
  - having regard to the Structured Dialogue between committees and the Members of the Commission, held during the first semester of 2020,
  - having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making of 13 April 2016,
  - having regard to the Commission Work Programme 2020 adopted on 29 January 2020 and adjusted on 27 May 2020,
  - having regard to the commitments made by Commissioners and Vice-Presidents during their hearings in autumn 2019,
  - having regard to the exchange of views between the Conference of Committee Chairs and the Commission Vice-Presidents during the meeting of 14 January 2020,
  - having regard to the unprecedented crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on health and socio-economic systems in all EU Member States,
  - having regard to the package of legislative proposals adopted by the Commission on 27 May 2020 as part of the Recovery Plan to tackle the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic,
  - having regard to the legislative resolution with recommendations to the Commission on a safety net to protect the beneficiaries of Union programmes: setting up an MFF contingency plan ([2020/2051\(INL\)](#)) adopted by the European Parliament on 13 May 2020,
  - having regard to the positions expressed by each parliamentary committee in this report,
1. Welcomes the fruitful exchanges of views between committees and their relevant Commissioners and Commission Vice-Presidents during the **Structured Dialogue**, stressing the importance of the active dialogue initiated during the hearings of the Commissioners-designate;
  2. Recalls the successful **meeting** of the Conference of Committee Chairs with the Commission's Vice-Presidents on 14 January 2020 and notes that this simplified format has proven to be very efficient and could serve as a basis for future exercises;
  3. Takes note of the adjustments made by the Commission to its Work Programme 2020 on 27 May as a result of the additional initiatives taken by the Commission in response to the COVID-19 pandemic while keeping the general structure of the Work Programme as initially presented in January;

4. Strongly believes that, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union faces an unprecedented crisis, which requires extraordinary measures, an enhanced coordination among the Member States and a coherent European approach; therefore welcomes the Commission's proposal for a **Recovery Plan** as a good basis for future negotiations whilst underlining that the need for the swift introduction of new own resources to notably ensure a sustainable and fair repayment of Next Generation EU, and securing a higher MFF 2021-2027 to invest in the future and sufficiently finance programmes and projects such as prioritised by the European Parliament in line with the Union ambitions;
5. Calls on the Commission to prepare a **contingency plan** on the basis of the automatic extension of the 2020 ceilings, to prevent the shutdown of the MFF sectoral programmes on 31 December 2020 in case an agreement on the future MFF-OR, to which the European Parliament is fully engaged and using its prerogatives, cannot be reached in time;
6. Welcomes the excellent cooperation and information exchange between the Parliament and the Commission during the negotiations on the future EU-UK relations; such cooperation should not remain unique; invites the Commission to resume efforts to fully implement the commitment set out in paragraph 40 of the IIA on BLM 2016 in order to pave the way for the swift introduction of systematic, transparent and effective inter-institutional arrangements for cooperation and information-sharing concerning international agreements;
7. Calls on the Commission to prepare for all possible scenarios for the Union's future relations with the United Kingdom and stresses the importance of appropriate coordination with Parliament sufficiently in advance should any contingency measures prove necessary, so that Parliament can fully exercise its legislative prerogatives;
8. Expects the Commission to honour its commitment, confirmed on numerous occasions by its President and Members, to support the **right of initiative** of the European Parliament and to respond with the submission of a legislative proposal to each Parliament's resolution adopted in line with Article 225 TFEU, paragraph 10.2 of the IIA on BLM 2016 and paragraph 16.3 EP-Commission Framework Agreement; is determined to periodically monitor, jointly with the Commission, the follow up of all legislative initiatives requested by Parliament;
9. Calls for detailed and timely information from the Commission on the preparation and transmission of **delegated acts**, which allows for an effective scrutiny of the acts and avoiding unnecessary requests for early non-objection procedures, especially in the difficult working conditions that all institutions are currently facing; recalls that the inclusion of a systematic consultation of experts in the preparation of delegated acts in the IIA on BLM 2016 should have contributed to "facilitating negotiations [...] and improving the application of Articles 290 and 291"; regrets that a number of inter-institutional negotiations still prove difficult more than four years afterwards, as the Council remains reluctant to use delegated acts, even in cases where the conditions of Article 290 are clearly met;
10. Reminds the Commission that all initiatives included in the Commission Work Programme should, as a general principle, be accompanied by an **impact assessment** and underlines that the scrutiny of such impact assessments continues to gain importance in committee work; asks

the Commission to avoid forwarding proposals not accompanied by an impact assessment unless duly justified; underlines the importance for Parliament to have access to the findings of the impact assessment as early as possible and covering all the options that have been evaluated in the process, thus complementing timely evaluation reports that are foreseen in the basic legal acts;

11. Stresses the importance of **proper inter-institutional legislative programming and early information** on the content and structure of the initiatives and legislative proposals prepared by the Commission, particularly in the case of urgent and sensitive files so as to ensure a swift and well prepared work of parliamentary committees on the given files; similarly, stresses the importance of a fair access to information provided by the Commission to both co-legislators, Parliament and Council, in all stages of the legislative cycle and in particular during the negotiations on legislative proposals;
12. Asks the European Commission, when adopting its Work Programme 2021, to duly take into account the positions expressed by committees hereafter and, should some specific requests not be included, to inform of the reasons; further expects the Commission to clearly indicate the timetable, nature and legal basis of the envisaged proposals in the Work Programme;

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13. Asks the President to submit the present Summary Report to the European Commission.

**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and of Human Rights and Security and Defence**  
**Subcommittees**

*The Committee on Foreign Affairs,*

1. Welcomes the Commission's communication on the **EU global response** and calls for a further set of measures in order to provide for a **strong external dimension in tackling the COVID19 crisis and its aftershocks**; having in mind that the current Commission set out to be a 'geopolitical' one, living up to the EU's role as a global leader which upholds the EU's core values and principles of the protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law, solidarity and multilateralism based on sovereignty in EU decision-making, guided by the goal of achieving strategic autonomy, calls on the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the EU for Foreign and Security Policy (VP/HR) to initiate a **review of the 2016 EU Global Strategy**, aiming at strengthening efforts to coordinate multilateral responses to global challenges and to protect and promote global public goods, building strongly on the EU's connectivity strategy that should serve as main tool for the geopolitical perspective of the EU, addressing also as a priority enhancing global health governance in particular with a strong focus on cooperation with the African continent, applying a gender sensitive approach, and to **adapt EU thematic or geographic strategies**, to reflect the geopolitical shifts, economic, social and political challenges caused by the COVID19 crisis as well as other long-term trends, in order to defend the EU's values and interests more effectively to contribute to the security of Europe and to lead global efforts to foster international cooperation and solidarity, and to **revive multilateral solutions and a global order**, including a strengthening of the UN system based on the respect of international law, including international humanitarian law; recalls that numerous conflicts and dangers in EU's neighbourhood, including war in Ukraine and Syria, and rise of terrorism in Sahel, require **coordinated action and possible revision of current EU policies, agreements and treaties**; calls for proactive initiatives of the VP/HR, aimed at strengthening WHO global health leadership and international cooperation to fight the current pandemic and to prevent future health crisis;
2. With regard to **enlargement policy**, welcomes the recent communication on enhancing the accession process and calls on the European Commission (EC) to set clear long term **rules for conditionality and reversibility**, while taking into account the full application of principles of democracy, respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms and rule of law, fight against corruption and organised crime, and good neighbourly relations; calls on the Commission to increase its means to assess democratic standards in candidate countries, in particular election- related procedures, measures and activities but also media freedom; calls upon Commission to put additional focus in election processes in Serbia and Bosnia & Herzegovina to ensure necessary legitimacy of election processes, lack of which could lead to serious institutional crises in the countries and pose threat to the stability of the region requests that the intergovernmental conferences take place as soon as possible aiming at starting accession talks with **Albania** and **North Macedonia** and not to further delay the annual progress reports; in this regard welcomes the Commission's announcement of an **Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans**; urges the Commission to make proposals which guarantee that this plan is not financed via existing IPA or other funds and would therefore potentially reduce the impact of other

important policies and programmes; strongly requests to bring this plan completely in line with the European Green Deal, in particular the EU's decarbonisation target; requests increased attention to the challenges of socio-economic and ecological transformation, fight against poverty, public health, democracy and rule of law, human rights, fight against corruption, organised crime, terrorism and radicalisation, good neighbourly relations, regional security, respect for international refugee law; and especially emphasises the necessity of improved EU strategic communication in the Western Balkans; with the aim of making the EU as much a player as it is a payer in order to have greater political impact on the ground; calls for a critical assessment of the EU's relations with **Turkey**; calls for extending the geographic scope of the **European Union Solidarity Fund** to cover all the Western Balkan countries and to explore its further possible extension to associated countries of the Neighbourhood;

3. Requests a bold **review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)**, including critical lessons learnt from its results, to adapt to challenges to socio-economic development and public health, to further strengthen the rule of law and democracy, to protect human rights and minority rights, fight against organised crime, corruption and oligarchic structures, support human security, climate change, stability, migration and upholding international law, including the right to international protection; paying particular attention to the **Southern Neighbourhood**; considers that 11 years after the start of Arab Springs and in view of significant challenges facing the southern Mediterranean countries, a more committed and renewed approach to EU's relations to its Southern Neighbourhood is urgently needed; with particular focus on political and economic reform, regional cooperation and a just and comprehensive resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; underlines that the situation in Libya is further deteriorating, calls on the VP-HR for a long-term comprehensive political response in accordance with the Berlin Process; the EU should reinvigorate its efforts towards helping to solve long-standing conflicts in its neighbourhood, including through the appointment of dedicated Special Representatives and strengthened capacity; the Commission should initiate a comprehensive policy review to ensure that its dealings with territories under occupation are strictly consistent with international and EU law; calls for a sustainable and credible strategy for long-term engagement with **the Eastern Partnership**, focusing on not only stabilisation and market-access but more so on democratisation and people's well-being, with ambitious and transformational goals; welcomes the recent communication on Eastern Partnership with its focus on resilience, sustainable development and accountable institutions and requests its update to adapt to the post-COVID19 challenges; calls on the Commission to further deepen EU-EaP cooperation; reiterates its full support for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova; stresses that the economic sanctions on **Russia** must remain in place until the full implementation of the Minsk agreements;
4. Requests the VP-HR and the EC to **prepare for all possible scenarios of future relations with the United Kingdom**, and present these options to the EP, along with the necessary policy recommendations to minimise disruptions in the normal functioning of the Union; expresses regret that the UK is so far unwilling to engage in negotiating the area of foreign policy, security and defence with the EU;
5. In terms of **other geographic strategies**, asks the VP-HR to present a new way forward for renewed **transatlantic relations**, which should be based on shared commitment to multilateral cooperation and international law; calls on the VP/HR to seek the closest

possible exchange with the US administration, in order to ensure the maximum possible coherence in international objectives of the transatlantic alliance, taking into account the current challenges; requests a substantial review of relations with **China** in light of its global influence, including its increasingly assertive activities in the South China Sea, the Pacific Region, and of the recent challenges, balancing critical approach with the need to secure China's continued anchorage in multilateral cooperation in the framework of the UN, noting that it is essential for the EU that China sheds full light on this pandemic, the timing of its emergence and its real human toll; and asks to consider upgrading relations with **Taiwan** (ROC) and to support its meaningful presence in international organisations, and in this context considers it of paramount importance for the EU to agree a Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan; asks the VP-HR to **revise the EU-Asia strategy** in light of the multitude of tensions and opportunities and the importance of strengthening the cooperation with ASEAN; calls on the VP-HR to present a coherent strategy for balanced EU engagement in the **Gulf region**, with the promotion of regional security and cooperation as a key strategic objective, in line with the EU Global Strategy and relevant Council Conclusions; encourages the VP-HR to exert further efforts to safeguard the **JCPOA with Iran**, a key non-proliferation security agreement; calls for an intensified engagement in the **Arctic** region, and is anticipating progress on the update of the EU's Arctic Policy; renews its call for an upgrade of **ties with the African continent** and the African Union, and demands that the response to the current crisis must be well reflected in the new Strategy, which is to be finalised at the EU-AU Summit in October; underlines that this must include a strengthening of our security engagements, development cooperation, human rights, and ecological challenges in the continent, as well as a fundamental renewal of our communication and media policy; calls for a particular attention to the needed enhanced cooperation with our partners in **Latin America**;

6. With regard to **thematic policies**, insists on the swift adoption and implementation of an **EU targeted human rights sanctions mechanism** (EU Magnitsky Act), with an in-built scrutiny role for the European Parliament and an expert advisory committee; invites the VP-HR and the EC to implement the **EU strategic framework on human rights and democracy** and to revise the recently published **Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy for 2020-2024** with due consideration of the profound challenges posed by the reinforced authoritarian global trends, including the long-term suspension of rule of law principles and fundamental freedoms, and worsening human rights and fundamental freedoms' situation due to the effects of the COVID19 crisis, and in this context to consider as a priority the fight against racism and xenophobia; stresses the need to pay particular attention to the protection of minorities, inter-alia the ethnic and religious ones; insists that objectives in the Action Plan are focused, time-bound and allocate institutional responsibility; requests the VP-HR to revise and to critically assess the effectiveness of its the **strategic communication and counter-disinformation and -propaganda policy** in order to engage more effectively and proactively in defence of the Union's values; and to counter aggressive Russian and Chinese or other actors' propaganda efforts; welcomes the inclusion of a communication on disinformation in the adjusted AWP 2020; in this regard requests that the upcoming **European Democracy Action Plan** addresses the interference of third countries in the democratic order in the Union and in countries in the Union's immediate neighbourhood; asks the VP-HR and the Commission to come up with a review of the **external dimension of the EU's migration policy**, including a robust human rights perspective strengthening the dialogue with the European Parliament on this matter, implementing an independent monitoring mechanism, and with specific measures to protect refugees of the central Mediterranean route and migrants held in administrative

detention centres; welcomes that the EU Action Plan on **Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in External Relations for 2021-2025** has been kept in the adjusted AWP 2020, and requests the EC not to postpone it to next year; underscores the importance of **climate diplomacy**, and calls for the introduction of clear and fixed climate-related criteria in the EU's foreign policy; requests a **conflict prevention and mediation policy** review and a doubling of financial means in light of the crises and armed conflicts in the EU's Southern and Eastern Neighbourhood, the UNSG's call for a global humanitarian ceasefire, and the concrete recommendations issued in its resolution<sup>1</sup> on building EU capacity on conflict prevention and mediation of 12 March 2019; urges the Commission to put forward an ambitious proposal with regards to mandatory **human rights and environmental due diligence for responsible business conduct** and transparency in global value chains outside the EU, with corporate liability and an enforcement mechanism applicable across all sectors and effective access to remedy for victims and affected communities; calls for an assessment of the application of humanitarian exceptions provided for by the EU's sanctions policy, as application of these exceptions by the EU and its Member States can ensure that these sanctions do not obstruct the global fight against COVID-19; calls for a strategic debate about economic and trade related aspects of EU's strategic autonomy in the light of current and possible future **extraterritorial sanctions of third countries**; calls for intensifying efforts for combating **hybrid and cyber threats**; calls on the European Commission to work towards intensifying the diversification of the **EU's energy supply** thereby reducing its energy dependency on third countries; stresses that the Nord Stream 2 project goes against EU's energy policy goals and calls on the European Commission to clearly state so; underlines the need to pay proper attention to importance of **freedom of navigation**; calls on the Commission to promote ethical standards on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and to engage in AI Diplomacy in order to find the right balance between technological development and human rights protection; calls on the European Commission to implement and promote a human rights approach within the external dimension of the Green Deal; requests the Commission to step up a solid and global human rights perspective in the new EU Biodiversity Strategy 2021-2030 and to introduce clear and permanent climate-related human rights benchmarks in the EU's foreign policy;

7. Concerning **financial support to EU's external policy framework**, welcomes the inclusion of additional financial support to partner countries in **the EU Recovery Plan**, in particular in the Western Balkans, the Neighbourhood and Africa, in their efforts to fight and recover from the impact of the pandemic and to strengthen their resilience, including proposals amending the current **2017 EFSD Regulation** (up to €1 billion) and the **2018 draft NDICI Regulation** (€6.8 billion more compared to the 2018 EC proposal); calls on the Commission to prepare a **contingency plan to extend the validity of the MFF spending programmes**, including the current external financing instruments (EFIs), by one year in case an agreement on the MFF 2021-2027 is not reached in time for its entry into force on 1 January 2021; requests the Commission to **assess the impact of the pandemic on the current and future EFIs** and timely inform the EP about any necessary adaptations; requests a proper **EP involvement in the strategic steering of programming** of the instruments, including in the pre-programming exercise; requests that the new programming of assistance under those instruments follows strict **conditionality** based on respect for rule of law, democracy and human rights; in this context, requests a clarification of the future role of **EU Trust Funds**; and calls on the Commission to strongly consider

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0158\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2019-0158_EN.html)

suspending as additional leverage when **budget support** as an operational modality in countries which manifestly fail to meet international standards in human rights; insists on the importance of enhancing **support to civil society and human rights defenders** in a global context of ever-shrinking civil society space; requests regular information on the use of the new off-budget **European Peace Facility** on an annual basis, in particular on the nature, volume, and specific end-user and related safeguards and monitoring provisions concerning the transfer of lethal equipment, in particular arms and ammunitions;

8. With regard to **security and defence**, calls on the Commission to play its role as guardian of the EU Treaties; reiterates its calls to **fund the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) from the Union budget**, and calls on the Commission to support the requests of the EP in this regard; requests concrete implementation and clear benchmarks supported by commensurate budget allocations, of the military mobility under the **Connecting Europe Facility**; underlines the importance of the **European Defence Fund (EDF)**, as critical tool enabling collaborative projects in defence research and development and calls for its implementation without delay as the EDF a necessary step towards Europe's strategic autonomy and supports the allocation of an appropriate funding in the framework of the MFF; calls on the Commission to provide a deep and broad analysis on all legal possibilities to support the progressive **framing of a common defence policy** and establishing a fully-fledged defence Union; supports the objective of adopting a strategic compass in this regard; recalls that EU primary law (Article 42(2) TEU) requires that prior to the establishment of a common defence the European Council has to reach an unanimous decision; underlines the **role of NATO in European security architecture** and calls for the closest possible EU-NATO cooperation on defence matters; calls on the VP/HR to ensure that **CSDP missions** are properly equipped, funded and trained and that the mandate provided permits forces in the field to operate alongside local forces in a manner best suited to mission objectives; calls for implementation of **the EU Common Position on Arms Exports** in order to promote the Union's strategic interest in security, stability and peaceful conflict-resolution, particularly in its extended neighbourhood, such as the Middle East and the Gulf region;
9. Concerning **inter-institutional relations**, calls for close cooperation and dialogue with the EP in preparation of legislative and non-legislative actions in the external policies; requests that the EP's views are heard and taken into account prior to **finalising strategies and negotiating directives** as committed to by VP-HR and Commissioners during their hearings; calls on the Commission to broker an **inter-institutional agreement with the HR on the cooperation pursuant to Article 36 TEU**, replacing the current unilateral Declaration on Political Accountability, as requested during the hearings of the new Commission; reiterates its previous calls on the VP-HR and the EC to contribute to the swift adoption of an **inter-institutional accord on the negotiation and conclusion of international agreements** - as set out in paragraph 40 of the Agreement on Better Law-Making - in order to pave the way for systematic, transparent and accountable arrangements for information-sharing and scrutiny of such agreements; including early information about decisions on future negotiations, full access to all negotiating mandates, and refraining from proposing a provisional application of international agreements prior to the EP's consent; calls for a reinforced oversight of the Foreign Affairs Committee over the appointment and work of **EU Special Representatives**; requests **access** to EU human rights and democracy country **strategies** and **EUSR reports**;

10. Asks the EC to initiate an **Amendment to the Decision establishing the EEAS** of 2010 by the High Representative (HR), requiring an opinion by the EP, in particular with regard to necessary changes to Article 9, referring to the External action instruments and programming and with regard to necessary changes to Article 6, referring to the composition of staff and the objective of developing an EU diplomatic service where a European *esprit de corps* dominates.

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## **POSITION**

### **of the Committee on Development**

*The Committee on Development,*

1. Update of the EU Global Health Strategy, including WASH Action Plan, with focus on universal access to health and vaccines, health care systems, COVID-19 and other diseases in Africa

- ) Calls on the Commission to provide an updated, comprehensive and integrated global health response to the new realities and to some of the persisting, neglected, evolving or new threats facing the world today, such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Focus should be on building stronger health systems, infrastructure and human resources, as well as carrying out research and vaccination in developing countries, while at the same time combatting food insecurity and malnutrition of the most vulnerable populations on the planet. The adoption of an Action Plan to deliver UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 on universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) should complement such an update.
- ) Calls for the reinforcement of public health systems. Territorial medicine and prevention must be an objective of development policies over the coming years. Invites the Commission to continue to support the most vulnerable populations, starting with refugees.
- ) Calls for a coordinated global strategy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences worldwide and urges the EU to take the lead in a concerted global response. Stresses the importance of EU crisis management, swift actions and technical assistance aimed at helping developing countries and their health care systems in crisis over the COVID-19 pandemic; underlines the role of NGOs, particularly in the provision of the most needed medical equipment and deployment of medical staff.
- ) Stresses the importance of effective measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, as well as other commonly present diseases in Africa, in particular through the provision of assistance aimed at ensuring wider access to safe water and sanitation facilities. More specifically, calls on the Commission to adopt an Action Plan to deliver UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 on *universal access to water, sanitation and hygiene* (WASH). Calls on the Commission to pursue implementation of the EU-Africa comprehensive strategy for a true paradigm shift in EU-Africa relations, so it becomes a partnership of equals in order to deliver on growth, jobs and sustainable development.
- ) Calls on the Commission to adopt an Action Plan on “Biodiversity and Health” in a context where the COVID-19 crisis highlights the degradation of ecosystems, notably deforestation, increases overall emerging zoonotic disease risks and negatively impacts on many aspects of human health. Taking into consideration the landmark IPBES report of 6 May 2019, highlights that the global biodiversity crisis undermines progress towards achieving 80% of the assessed targets of goals related to Agenda 2030.

2. Food security, sustainable farming and rural development

- J Underlines that the number of people suffering from malnutrition is on the rise again due to climate related shocks, notably desertification, natural disasters and inappropriate land structure, and that the COVID-19 pandemic may push even more families and communities into deeper distress. Calls therefore on the Commission to examine the best possibilities to promote sustainable and productive dryland agro-ecosystems, through the setting-up of model farms, sharing farmers' experiments, landscape approaches and extension of relationships with representatives of rural communities and farmers.
- J Calls on the Commission to adopt an Action Plan on sustainable farming, complementing and consistent with the "Farm to Fork Strategy". Its operationalisation should: (i) draw lessons from the COVID-19 crisis, which laid bare the massive vulnerabilities of the global food system; (ii) minimise the environmental and climate impact of the CAP abroad; and (iii) build upon resilient agro-ecological food systems, in line with the recommendations of landmark reports from the IPCC, IPBES and the FAO-led global agriculture assessment (IAASTD).

### 3. Mobilisation of domestic resources and fighting tax evasion and illicit financial flows

There is also a link between COVID-19 and domestic resource mobilisation. This could be helped if the EU and others were to get serious about international cooperation in tax matters and the fight against illicit financial (out) flows (from developing countries). Calls on the Commission to come up with concrete initiatives to assist developing countries in combatting illicit financial flows and corporate and multinational tax evasion, to ensure taxes are paid where profits and real economic value is created, in order to stop base erosion and profit shifting.

### 4. SDGs as a structural roadmap and democracy as a precondition for development

Calls on the Commission to establish a comprehensive EU strategy on how to use the SDGs as a structural roadmap, adapting the strategy to the challenge of growing inequalities as a result of the COVID19-crisis. This should include a policy-coordination mechanism towards the achievement of Agenda 2030, ensuring that SDG implementation and the Paris Agreement, internally and externally, is a priority in the next MFF.

### 5. Initiative on Debt sustainability, including debt relief

- J Calls on the Commission to provide follow up to the 2016 EP Report on enhancing developing countries' debt sustainability, and to draw up, in coordination with all major international actors and countries concerned, a white paper with a genuine strategy designed to save developing countries from excessive debt. This to be done by adopting a multilateral approach, specifying the rights, duties and responsibilities of all concerned and considering the institutional provisions best suited to ensuring an equitable and sustainable approach to the debt problem. In addition, calls on the Commission to come up with a specific initiative on debt relief for highly indebted poor countries.
- J Calls on the Commission to initiate work in international fora and, together with Member States and the private sector, develop a regulatory framework that will ensure full transparency of the conditions governing loans to developing countries and ownership of such loans. This should include the promotion of institutional and private creditor agreements for a debt moratorium in the aftermath of a natural disaster or acute

humanitarian crisis in order to enable a debtor country to devote all its resources to securing a return to normality.

#### 6. Implementation of Grand Bargain commitments, including the humanitarian and development nexus and cash transfers. Continuity of humanitarian project implementation

- ) Implementing the Grand Bargain provides the EU with an opportunity to define better the roles and added value of both DG DEVCO and DG ECHO in supporting multiannual programmes. We request the Commission to establish a regular reporting mechanism, which would allow the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the commitments made by the EU at the 2016 WHS and as part of the Grand Bargain.
- ) Stresses the need to prioritise the nexus approach, notably in humanitarian-protracted crises. Therefore, calls on the Commission to line-up the projects operating on the humanitarian-development nexus, emphasising resilience building, with the involvement of local partners prominent in the sector of inclusive quality education.
- ) In the context of the COVID-19 response, we call on the Commission to adopt a Communication on cash transfers which result in more aid directly reaching beneficiaries, with a view to supporting the extension of cash transfers to the most vulnerable people in the poorest countries.
- ) Notes that the COVID-19 pandemic is putting at risk the continuous operation of humanitarian projects that have already started, and calls on the Commission to consider concluding ongoing projects without the contribution of own-resources from implementing CSOs.

#### 7. Binding due diligence and trade

- ) Calls on the Commission to introduce legislative proposals on binding due diligence obligations for supply chains in the garment sector and for the corporate liability of transnational corporations for human rights abuses linked to their operations in developing countries, allowing for the protection of and access to justice and redress for the victims of such abuses.
- ) Notes with concern that, notably on trade issues, implementation of the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) has remained challenging, even though it is a prerequisite to achieving the 17 SDGs. Calls for a roadmap on the operationalisation of PCSD and the adoption of a working document to ensure that EU trade policy does not harm developing countries but rather helps them to overcome COVID-19 notably with regard to access to medicines.

#### 8. Addressing the situation of refugees, displaced people and migrants; strategy of peace, stabilisation and reconstruction in countries destroyed by armed conflicts

- ) Calls on the Commission to create a strategy of peace, stabilisation and reconstruction in countries destroyed by armed conflicts, such as Syria and Iraq, which are now further burdened by the COVID-19 pandemic. Calls on the Commission to prepare a coherent strategy, in collaboration with the governments of those countries, which would aim to support local medical services, provide maximum assistance to the civil population, particularly in reconstruction activities, while ensuring that the basic needs of the citizens are met, and in the stabilisation process, in the spirit of understanding and peace.
- ) Notes with concern that COVID 19 has put into perspective the dramatic humanitarian situations faced by displaced, elderly, disabled people, including women and girls, in

conflict-affected regions. Stresses the special vulnerability of people displaced by climate change who lack any legal recognition and whose number has been drastically increasing with the increase of natural disasters worldwide. Calls on the Commission to take measures to support these populations with the adequate funds and programmes, including seasonal workers who are significantly missing during this sanitary crisis, and envisage safe and legal pathways for these populations, including the possibility of circular mobility.

#### 9. Efficiency and visibility of aid; donor coordination and joint programming

- ) Calls on the Commission to improve the efficiency of aid and the implementation of EU development contributions through stronger partnerships with local communities, including CSOs, diasporas, churches and faith based organisations, safeguarding the interests of the disabled, social movements, indigenous peoples and foundations and the representation of vulnerable, discriminated and marginalised people and minorities. Calls on the Commission to strive to support initiatives where the EU contribution has a real added value and could transparently contribute to peace and security, food security and rural development, poverty eradication, good governance, water and sanitation, education and social protection.
- ) Underlines that the reduction of financial resources makes it necessary to use financial resources in the most effective, efficient and coherent way. Calls therefore on the Commission to reinforce its work on donor coordination and joint programming in development policy, notably with stronger consultation and involvement of local communities by considering the most urgent needs and sensibilities. Calls on the Commission to submit a proposal for a legal act concerning regulatory aspects of EU donor coordination on development aid on the basis of Articles 209 and 210 TFEU. We would like therefore to reiterate the requests of 2013 (P7\_TA(2013)0558) and 2017 (P8\_TA(2017)0026) and ask the European Commission to present a legislative proposal.

#### 10. Follow up and reporting

Deplores that the DEVE Committee priorities set for the EC Work Plan 2018 have, by and large, been ignored. ; Calls on the Commission to report regularly to the Committee on Development of the European Parliament on the follow-up to the EPs adopted resolutions in the development cooperation area.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on International Trade**

*The Committee on International Trade,*

1. believes in a global coordinated approach to COVID-19, which besides emergency measures must lead in 2021 also to legislative initiatives for long-term measures;
2. welcomes the constructive dialogue established with Commissioner Hogan and DG Trade and calls on Commission to ensure that INTA Committee is fully involved in any broader policy reflections on the review of the trade policy already in 2020, on the basis of the Green Deal and including also the gender equality agenda; in particular, invites the Commission to take the necessary initiatives to address the challenges to global supply chains and come up with a comprehensive strategy on smart reshoring, strategic stockpiling and diversifying our imports;
3. welcomes the fact that Commission has already started the necessary steps for the revision of the regulation applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences ('GSP Regulation')<sup>1</sup> and expects a proposal by end 2020/beginning 2021;
4. calls on the Commission to fully involve INTA Committee in the reflection process to finalising the initiative for the reform of the World Trade Organisation, which must remain a priority in particular in order to find a long term solution to the crisis of the Appellate Body;
5. invites the Commission to take the lead in international fora (UNCTAD, WTO, G20, G7) and stresses the importance of finalising multilateral and plurilateral agreements (in particular, on fisheries subsidies) and advancing negotiations on e-commerce by the end of 2021, and to continue cooperation with the United States of America and Japan especially on transparency for industrial subsidies;
6. calls on the Commission, in consideration of the delays due to COVID-19, to continue prioritising in 2021 the dialogue with all trade partners, and in particular the United States of America, to facilitate the resolution of trade irritants and re-establish talks for future deals, and with China in view of the conclusion of the Comprehensive Agreement on Investment at the latest within the first months of 2021, and to conclude on-going negotiations with New Zealand, Australia and Japan (investment); invites the Commission to clarify its intentions concerning the future trade and association agreements on the issue of the split of the text;
7. underlines the importance of ongoing negotiations with the United Kingdom to be finalised before the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020 with the aim to achieve an ambitious and comprehensive trade agreement, and full implementation of the Withdrawal

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) No 978/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences (OJ L 303, 31.10.2012, p. 1).

Agreement in all its parts, including the trade-related aspects of, in particular, the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland;

8. underlines the importance of a global level-playing field for EU businesses and, for that purpose, calls on the Commission to facilitate the conclusion of all necessary steps leading to the following new tools for the trade and investment toolbox: by the end of 2020, the ‘International Procurement Instrument’<sup>1</sup>, the revision of the ‘Enforcement Regulation’<sup>2</sup>, the ‘Dual-use Regulation’<sup>3</sup> and, by the end of 2021, a new instrument on foreign subsidies, a new initiative for a Blocking Statute and possibly a revision of the FDI screening mechanism<sup>4</sup>, whilst continually aligning the EU’s trade policy with the aims of the Green Deal;
9. expects also that the new Chief Trade Enforcement Officer will be provided with all necessary powers to perform its role;
10. calls on the Commission to provide active support and a legislative proposal to be adopted in 2021 on the supply chain due diligence issue in response to Parliament’s request, as part of the EU sustainability agenda;

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<sup>1</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the access of third-country goods and services to the Union’s internal market in public procurement and procedures supporting negotiations on access of Union goods and services to the public procurement markets of third countries (2012/0060(COD)).

<sup>2</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 654/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the exercise of the Union's rights for the application and enforcement of international trade rules (2019/0273(COD)).

<sup>3</sup> Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items (recast) (2016/0295(COD)).

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/452 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 establishing a framework for the screening of foreign direct investments into the Union (OJ L 79I, 21.3.2019, p. 1).

**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Budgets**

*The Committee on Budgets,*

1. Requests the Commission to intensify in 2021 their efforts on any unfinished business related to the Multiannual Financial Framework and Own Resources (MFF/OR) be it on MFF/OR per se, in case 2021 is carried out under extended 2020 ceilings, be it on expenditure programmes that may not have been concluded yet;
2. Calls on the Commission, in case of a MFF/OR deal in 2020,
  - ) to follow-up without delay on new instruments, if agreed upon;
  - ) to operationalise new Own Resources to be integrated into the revenue side of the EU Budget as from the beginning of the financial programming, with retroactive effect if necessary;
  - ) in particular to make advances on the possible own resources like those building on the revenue generated by the European Emissions Trading System and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, thereby aligning the financing of the EU budget with the objectives of the European Green Deal;
3. Urges the Commission not to postpone action in the area of corporate taxation-based own resources and accelerate EU and OECD-wide work on the harmonisation of the taxable bases in order to counter effects of tax avoidance and tax base erosion at European level and at the same time provide fresh revenue to the EU budget [and the re-financing of the Recovery Instrument] , and on adjustments to the Financial Regulation to reflect the new MFF provisions;
4. Requests the Commission to urgently focus on the finalisation and implementation of the Recovery Plan, which should provide the necessary additional resources needed to mitigate the consequences of the Covid-19 crisis in particular on key areas of action, such as public healthcare;
5. In this regard, demands the Commission, as Guardian of the Treaties, to act in full respect of the prerogatives conferred by the Treaty to the European Parliament, as budgetary and legislative authority together with the Council, and to ensure Parliament's full involvement in the setting up, implementation and oversight of the Recovery Plan; urges the Commission to take all the needed measures for that purpose.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Budgetary Control**

*The Committee on Budgetary Control,*

New legislative proposals by the Commission:

1. to propose **the establishment of a public uniform and standardised information system** for Member States to report information on the final beneficiaries of Union funds in the area of agriculture and cohesion in order to guarantee transparency and better cooperation between Commission and Member States in order to contribute to an earlier detection of systemic errors and misuse;
2. to create an **instrument of mutual administrative assistance in the field of expenditure**, particularly in the context of the structural and investment funds (**ESIF**), which would allow to strengthen anti-fraud activities also in defence of EU budget expenditure<sup>1</sup>;
3. to allow for **public access to land registers across the Union** and to link up the national databases on company ownership to databases on land ownership and EU farm subsidies;
4. to introduce a **complaint mechanism against land-grabbing**, calls on the Commission to support farmers or beneficiaries confronted with land-grabbing malpractices, misconduct of national authorities, pressure from criminal structures or organised crime, or persons who are subject to forced or slave labour, giving them the opportunity to swiftly lodge a complaint with the Commission;
5. to close loopholes in the existing EU anti-money laundering legislation by **proposing a directly applicable EU anti-money laundering Regulation and a centralised EU anti-money laundering authority**;

CONT requests the Commission to facilitate progress on ongoing legislative procedures, namely:

6. the **protection of the Union's budget** in case of generalised deficiencies as regards the **rule of law** in the Member States (together with BUDG);
7. the **EU Anti-Fraud Programme 2021-2027** (MFF related file) and

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<sup>1</sup> *Justification:*

*The current EU legislation lacks the provision of tools for the exchange of information on the use of the European structural and investment funds (ESIF). The EU legislation does NOT provide instruments of "mutual administrative assistance" in the anti-fraud sector essential for the protection of the EU Budget.*

*This instrument would complete the framework of cooperation for the protection of the EU's financial interests.*

*Up to now, within the ESIF it is not possible to directly exchange data and information - within the scope of administrative activities - between the control Administrations of the various Member States, unlike what occurs within the Common Agricultural Policy.*

*This lack concerns a sector (the so-called "structural funds") on which OLAF itself has been detecting most of the fraud phenomena for many years.*

8. the modification of **Regulation n° 883/2013** with regard to the cooperation between **OLAF** and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO);
9. Finally, **CONT stresses the importance of specific budgetary control measures on implementation of Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus (CRII+)**<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> *Justification:*

*In the context of the coronavirus outbreak and regarding the CRII+ package which simplifies procedural steps linked to programme implementation, use of financial instruments and audit, we need implementation of particular rules on the setup and functioning of the management and control system, which remain an important safeguard for obtaining assurance on their functioning and on the legality and regularity of operations.*

*The EU budget and taxpayer's money must be protected and therefore control and audit mechanism need to be adapted to this new CRII+ package.*

**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs**

*The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs,*

General

1. Notes that the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting all EU Member States, although not with the same intensity; underlines the need for a common European response by means of a massive recovery package for investment, in order to transform our economies and strengthen their resilience and to reduce the direct and indirect costs of the COVID-19 outbreak; re-calls its resolution of 17 April 2020 on EU coordinated action to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences<sup>1</sup>; stresses that at the same time, the foundations for a strong medium and long-term economic recovery have to be laid;

Economic Governance

2. Notes that the comprehensive economic policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic includes a Recovery Package, SURE and instruments provided by the EIB and the ESM; calls for a proposal for a permanent European Unemployment Insurance scheme to be adopted via the ordinary legislative procedure, as included in the political guidelines by President von der Leyen; calls on the Commission and Member States to engage in a debate on a capital increase for the EIB in order to allow for the fulfilment of EIB's new tasks; points out that COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the necessity of sustainable economic and fiscal policy-making in line with the EU's economic and fiscal coordination and surveillance frameworks and should inform the debate on a review of the economic governance framework;
3. Notes the importance of the debate on a fair burden sharing in the EU in the medium and long-term in order to allow for a sustainable recovery and avoid pro-cyclical effects; urges the Commission to propose a massive recovery package for investment to support the EU economy; underlines that this package would be financed by an increased MFF, the existing EU funds and financial instruments, and recovery bonds guaranteed by the EU budget and increased resources; notes the debate on increasing the budget for the InvestEU and the Reform Support Programme that includes BICC; highlights the need to continue the deepening of our Economic and Monetary Union;

Banking Union, Capital Markets Union and Financial Services<sup>2</sup>

4. Underlines the pivotal role of the banking sector in mitigating the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis; welcomes the swift reaction of the Commission in proposing amendments to the legislative framework adjusting temporarily the prudential framework for banks in order to allow the banking sector to support the economy without undermining

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<sup>1</sup> Texts adopted, [P9\\_TA\(2020\)0054](#).

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/cmu-high-level-forum\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/cmu-high-level-forum_en).

financial stability; underlines the need to implement the finalised Basel III standards in EU law, reflecting international developments; calls for the completion of the Banking Union;<sup>1</sup>

5. Underlines the need to further diversify the funding sources for the European economy, in particular for SMEs in order to facilitate a quick recovery; calls on the Commission to swiftly complete the Capital Markets Union (CMU); stresses the need to use the opportunity to amend the legislative framework with a view to facilitating the restart of the economy and making EU capital markets fit for the time after Brexit; awaits legislative proposals on the MiFID Review and the Benchmarks Review;
6. Underlines the importance of a solid European-level regulatory framework to digitalisation of financial services aligned to international standards; stresses the need for a legislative proposal based on an assessment of the potential impact of FinTech on the CMU and effectively addressing the most pressing challenges relating to FinTech, which are, amongst other things, the financial stability implications of crypto assets, operational resilience and ensuring a level playing field that combines equal treatment with appropriate oversight;
7. Urges the Commission to pursue its efforts in the field of sustainable finance by adopting the delegated acts of the EU Taxonomy and Disclosure Regulation, by exploring avenues to mainstream the use of the EU taxonomy in the public sector , by renewing the sustainable finance strategy, including a review of the NFRD, a sustainable corporate governance strategy, and a review of the Credit Rating Regulation, where appropriate;

#### Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT)

8. Stresses the need to strengthen the anti-money laundering legislation in the Union; welcomes the Action Plan on Anti-Money Laundering; supports the Commission's intention to table, as from 2021, the necessary legislative proposals that will ensure a more effective enforcement at European level of existing rules and close the still existing gaps in the current legislation; calls on the Commission to carefully assess the correct transposition and implementation of AMLD3-4-5 and to launch if necessary infringement procedures against Member States not complying with EU law; calls on the Commission to speedily implement the new methodology for identifying high-risk third countries presenting deficiencies in their AML/CFT frameworks while ensuring public access to information and transparency in the process; calls on the Commission to introduce a mechanism with effective EU-wide jurisdiction to combat money laundering and financial crime;

#### Taxation and transparency

9. Stresses that a fair, effective and simple tax system and the fight against tax evasion and tax avoidance are prerequisites for a quick economic recovery; calls on the Commission to facilitate an agreement among Member States on Public country-by-country reporting, on a definitive EU VAT regime, and on an ambitious and broad-based Financial Transaction Tax (Enhanced Cooperation Procedure) in line with the EP's Resolution; awaits the Action Plans on fighting tax evasion and simple taxation and on Business taxation; underlines that digital taxation remains one of the challenges to be addressed;

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0026\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2020-0026_EN.html).

calls on the Commission to push for an international level agreement by the end of 2020 on the BEPS 2.0 Reform; calls on the Commission to propose an EU solution should an international deal not be reached by the end of 2020; calls on the Commission to quickly finalise its assessment as regards the most efficient and effective carbon adjustment mechanism to address the issue of carbon leakage; welcomes the Commission's decision to waive VAT on the import of medical equipment from non-EU countries in the context of COVID-19;

### Competition and State aid<sup>1</sup>

10. Notes the adoption of a temporary State aid framework and welcomes its second amendment, in line with the objectives of green and digital transformation of the economies as well as preventing fraud, tax evasion or aggressive tax avoidance, and providing specific safeguards and conditions on recapitalisation, including a ban on dividend and bonus payments and on share buybacks; is concerned about the asymmetric State aid responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; underlines the need to ensure a level-playing field within the internal markets and internationally, in order to safeguard the integrity of the internal market and effective competition; welcomes the Commission's ongoing fitness checks of the competition law and policy including the General Block Exemption Regulation; urges the Commission to continue to tackle any form of abuse of dominant positions, including in the digital economy, while ensuring an effective screening of investment from third country investors.

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<sup>1</sup> [A9-0022/2020](#)

**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs**

*The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,*

1. Welcomes the Commission's SURE proposal and calls for its swift implementation, including also NGOs as eligible under the scheme; calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that financial assistance is only provided to undertakings not registered in tax havens; awaits the Commission proposal on a permanent EU Unemployment Reinsurance Scheme ; calls on the Commission and the Member States to take concrete measures in view of promoting and strengthening social dialogue at all levels, collective bargaining and the involvement of workers in company matters in the response to the COVID-19 crisis, including the Revision of the Directive on European Works Councils and a legal act for the information and consultation of workers, anticipation and management of restructuring, as well as to ensure that social partners are fully respected and involved in the design and the implementation of the measures taken; asks the Commission to present an assessment of the working and employment conditions of the low skilled/low-paid essential workers identifying the sources of their precariousness and coming up with appropriate proposals to ensure decent working conditions for all workers; asks for an EU Teleworking Agenda, including a legislative proposal to facilitate teleworking and for a plan on how to effectively combine work and parenting;
2. Calls on the Commission to prioritise aid and crisis-mitigation measures for the most vulnerable and deprived citizens, including women and children exposed to domestic and gender based violence, the elderly, youth, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, in particular the Roma, people from OCTs and remote, isolated and outermost regions, people at risk of poverty or social exclusion, homeless people and people in precarious housing situation, who are at greater risk of being infected with COVID-19 or suffering the most from its economic and social impacts; in order to tackle the multidimensionality of poverty and inequalities, calls on the Commission to present an EU Child Guarantee still in 2020, an up-to-date rights-based, comprehensive and integrated antipoverty strategy with a designated poverty reduction target, an EU Framework on National Homelessness Strategies and to conduct a comparative study on the different minimum incomes schemes in the Member States, which provide a social protection floor and safety net for those in need and should not be confused with the concept of a universal basic income, and to highlight best practice cases with a view to presenting a framework in this regard;
3. Calls on the Commission to put forward a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term post-2020 EU Disability Strategy based on consultations of persons with disabilities and their representative family members or organisations and to take crisis-mitigation measures in line with the UN CRPD in order to protect them and to ensure their equal and non-discriminatory access to services; urges the Commission to continue to work towards unblocking the horizontal Anti-Discrimination Directive in the Council;
4. Believes that continuous efforts and new EU initiatives to facilitate the mobility of citizens in the EU are needed; believes that the rights of posted and mobile workers and decent working conditions should be guaranteed; recognises that coordinated digital solutions will foster mobility and asks the Commission to put forward a proposal for a digital EU Social

Security Number based on an impact assessment without undue delay; notes that the provision and management of social security systems are a member state competence which the Union coordinates but does not harmonise; stresses that workers in a vulnerable situation, such as cross-border workers, including frontier and seasonal workers, may not lose their status and social security rights under the applicable legislation, including the right of equal treatment, due to Member States' measures in the context of their Covid-19 strategies; strongly supports the Commission's call on the Member States to allow frontier workers to continue crossing borders without restrictions, respecting the EU-OSHA health and safety guidelines;

5. Calls on the Commission to prepare a 'contingency plan' for the MFF related programs, namely ESF, YEI, FEAD, EaSI and EGF, to prevent a shutdown of programmes on 31 December 2020 in case an agreement on the MFF-OR cannot be reached in time; also with a view to a likely increased need for social policy funds in the coming months calls for adequate budgetary resources for ESF+ and EGF in the revised MFF 2021-2027 proposal in order to combat the social impacts of the crisis in a sustainable and equitable way;
6. Highlights the importance of delivering on a social Europe and the EPSR; asks the Commission to ensure fair working conditions and adequate social protection for platform workers while fostering innovations and new digital solutions;
7. Calls on the Commission to update the Skills Agenda in order to meet the skills requirements of the EU labour market, the ecological and digital transition, and to address digitalisation, automatisisation, skills shortages and mismatches and digital exclusion; calls on the Commission and the Member States to invest in inclusive, non-discriminatory and high-quality VET, to reinforce up- and reskilling measures, including digital transversal and transferable skills, and skills that build resilience and well-being, and to promote lifelong learning; calls on the Commission to propose a more effective, inclusive and non-discriminatory Youth Guarantee; calls on the Commission to put forward bold solutions to address the immediate needs resulting from the COVID-19 crisis and to complement the economic Recovery Plan;
8. Welcomes the launch of consultation of social partners on fair minimum wages in the EU; calls for upward social convergence for all; welcomes the Commission's intention to introduce binding pay transparency measures and urges their swift adoption in order to avoid further gender-based inequalities and discrimination in the labour market; calls on the Commission to present a comprehensive proposal to support SMEs in the aftermaths of the COVID-19 crisis;
9. Calls for a new Strategic Framework for Health and Safety with a clear ambition to step up the fight for an accident free workplace, including the continued revision of Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive and the revision of the Asbestos Directive and reflecting the COVID-19 crisis in terms of ensuring health and safety at the workplace including by updating the Biological Agents Directive and by addressing as a matter of urgency the situation of employees, who are working remotely, under stressful conditions, overworking and putting their own health at risk, by putting forward an appropriate proposal on the Right to Disconnect, a Directive on Work-related musculoskeletal disorders and an EU Mental Health Strategy;

10. Believes that the low-carbon transformation has the potential to create new jobs in emerging new industries, however it also implies social costs and job losses in conventional industrial and energy sectors, often disproportionately affecting the most experienced workers; points out that the implementation of the climate neutrality goals in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic will require effective employment and just transition policies in affected regions and sectors.

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## POSITION

### of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

*The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,*

#### Environment and Climate

1. Calls on the Commission to propose by June 2021 revisions of all relevant climate legislation in line with the increased climate ambition expressed in the Climate law and the European Green Deal ambition (such as ETS, LULUCF and the Effort Sharing Regulation), and to present the proposal for a carbon border adjustment mechanism to reduce carbon leakage and the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change, in the wake of the adoption of the Climate Law; underlines, in particular, the importance of a rapid review of the ETS directive, including by addressing the need to increase the linear reduction factor, end free allowances and introduce a carbon floor price, as well as an extension of the scope to include EEA-related emissions of shipping as currently covered by the EU MRV; expects the Commission to present a thorough impact assessment, with a breakdown per Member State, ahead of a review of the EU's 2030 and post-2030 climate and environmental policy targets; expects a timely adoption of secondary legislation based on the Taxonomy Regulation which should also be extended to cover all economic activities that significantly harm environmental sustainability and other sustainability objectives;
2. Reiterates that in order to reach our Union-wide Climate neutrality objective by 2050 at the latest, all sectors need to do their fair share, this is especially true for the transport sector where emissions have been growing, preponderantly in aviation and maritime transport; calls, in this context, to safeguard the EU's legislative autonomy in implementing the ETS Directive and in taking domestic climate action in all sectors of the economy to ensure the achievement of our economy-wide emissions reduction commitment; calls on the Commission to intensify its work towards an international agreement on aviation (CORSIA) and push for a higher level of ambition within IMO to help shipping move away from the use of heavy fuel oil;
3. Stresses the urgent need for a holistic approach to tackle the loss of biodiversity, which focusses on protecting and restoring natural sinks, expanding the legal protection of terrestrial and marine protected natural areas and legal measures to stop imported deforestation; calls for an impact assessed legislative proposal to introduce due diligence obligations for the placing of forest and ecosystem risk commodities on the EU market;
4. Underlines the importance of swiftly presenting the legislative and non-legislative initiatives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to achieve a paradigm shift towards sustainable food systems, including revised legislation on pesticides (Regulation 1107/2009 on authorisation of plant protection products and Directive 2009/128 on sustainable use) to implement the calls from corresponding EP resolutions of 2019<sup>1</sup>, including in particular the introduction of

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution of 16 January 2019, P8\_TA(2019)0023, and Resolution of 12 February 2019, P8\_TA(2019)0082.

incentives and targets to reduce the use and the risk of pesticides, as well as measures to reduce the use of fertilisers and antibiotics, including through legislative measures;

5. Calls on the Commission to publish the Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil in 2021; in this context, it is imperative that the Commission also presents legislative proposals to rapidly substitute endocrine disruptors, all non-essential uses of PFAS and other harmful chemicals, in the production and use as well as in the import to the EU;
6. Urges the Commission to act on its commitments laid down in the new Circular Economy Action Plan and to stick to the timelines of the initiatives identified; calls on the Commission to swiftly respond to the public health and environmental concerns about microplastic pollution with new legislative measures based on robust and transparent science to reduce macro- and microplastic pollution, including new design requirements for products and awareness raising schemes.

#### Health and Civil Protection

7. Calls on the Commission to present in 2021 ambitious measures to increase Union competences in health policy following the COVID-19 pandemic and for future preparedness; welcomes the better funded and stand-alone Health Programme with the capacity to better deliver on future pandemics and health threats and to help make our health systems more resilient, as well as the reinforced Union Civil Protection Mechanism with the capacity to better prepare and respond in a common and coordinated way to any type of health or other crisis that emerges at EU level; calls on the Commission to also present a European Health Autonomy Action Plan aimed at lowering the EU's dependence on third countries for the provision of essential medicines and medical material, a European Health Response Mechanism functioning as an information and coordination hub and emergency response team, a European Action Plan to Beat Cancer and a proposal for the European Health Data Space; reiterates its call for an urgent review of the Tissues and Cells Directive;
8. Calls for the presentation of legislative and non-legislative measures to implement the Pharmaceutical strategy to ensure the availability, affordability and security of supply of medicines and the Strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment to tackle pharmaceutical pollution; notes with great unease that even before the COVID-19 outbreak, the lack of availability of essential life-saving medicines, commonly used drugs, and medical devices was on the rise in Europe with a profound impact on health and quality of life outcomes; calls on the Commission to continue to support the development, testing and broad availability of a vaccine or drug against COVID-19 through all available means, and to prepare a contingency plan to ensure that a vaccine developed in a third country is made globally available.

#### Food safety

9. Welcomes the Commission commitment to present proposals for harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling, for a revision of legislation on food contact materials, and to set up nutrient profiles.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy**

*The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy,*

Industry and SMEs

1. Calls on the Commission to present a new industrial strategy that takes into consideration the post-pandemic challenges for the Union's industry and SMEs and ensures their long-term competitiveness; stresses that such a strategy should include a concrete roadmap for growth, recovery and transformation of European industry in support of the twin transition to a green and digital economy; welcomes the Recovery plan for Europe, proposed by the Commission, which should aim at industrial sectors that have suffered during the COVID-19 crisis with a specific focus on SMEs and start-ups that are less resilient, and at the transformation of our economies through the pooling of strategic investments to support SMEs and increase job opportunities and skills; calls therefore for investments to be prioritised into the Green Deal, the digital agenda and achieving European sovereignty in strategic sectors; considers it important that the EU recovery package is not made of reallocation of existing funds but 'fresh money';
2. Calls on the Commission to rapidly assess and identify those sectors that are essential contributors to the EU's strategic autonomy and sustainable growth, and make sure that they are nurtured and supported; calls on the Commission to present proposals aimed at strengthening European industrial and technological sovereignty, and leadership in climate-friendly technologies, through European value chains and ecosystems in critical sectors; calls on the Commission to envisage long-term measures to strengthen EU industrial production, based on a circular economy approach, in order to avoid disruptions in supply chains and dependence on third countries, including in the medicines and medical supplies sector; stresses the need to support the relocation of manufacturing back to Europe and build a business environment conducive to both efforts to combat climate change and safeguard jobs;
3. Calls on the Commission to step up its efforts to support industries in transition towards climate neutrality by implementing the roadmap of actions of the European Green Deal; stresses that, given the current difficult business environment, those industries require even stronger incentives to be able to adapt;

Research and Innovation

4. Believes that the current pandemic has further demonstrated the importance of both basic and applied research, the need for public and private investment in research and innovation and the need for strong cooperation in this field; recalls that Horizon Europe will be a key MFF instrument supporting the objectives of the digital agenda, industrial strategy and the European Green Deal, and will therefore be crucial for the recovery; stresses that, in line with Parliament's position, the budget for the Horizon Europe programme should be commensurate with all the ambitions set out in the programme, the plans for recovery and transformation, and the expected contribution of the programme to the European Green Deal;

5. Calls on the Commission to enhance its coordinated policy for research, innovation and development taking into account the current COVID-19 pandemic and its fallout; notes, however, that investment in pandemic readiness should not be achieved to the detriment of other research areas; recalls the important role of Horizon Europe partnerships to leverage private investment and support the recovery, while ensuring transparency in their implementation and true added-value to the society; underlines the need for continuous commitment to a strong and fully functional, Europe-wide, research area that is open to the world;

## Energy

6. Highlights the central role of energy in the just transition to a net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy; calls on the Commission to submit timely proposals for the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Energy Efficiency of Buildings Directive in line with the EU's increased 2030 and 2050 climate ambition, supported by thorough impact assessments taking also into account the post-COVID reality, with the aim, inter alia, to create new jobs, invest in clean energy, and increase energy efficiency including through the renovation of the building sector; calls on the Commission to also focus on measures aimed to tackle energy poverty which has increased as a result of the COVID-19 crisis;
7. Calls on the Commission to come forward with an ambitious Strategy for Energy System Integration in order to better link the different energy sectors in the EU and propose concrete action to achieve a climate-neutral energy system, while ensuring energy remains secure and affordable; awaits the Commission's overdue assessment on the implementation of the Safety of Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Directive (2013/30/EU), possibly accompanied by its revision taking into account the European Green Deal;
8. Calls on the Commission to come forward swiftly with a proposal for the revision of the TEN-E guidelines in order to align the legislative framework with the European Green Deal and prevent a lock-in of carbon-intensive investments, considering, in particular, the Union energy and climate targets for 2030, the Union's long-term decarbonisation commitment, and the energy efficiency first principle; underlines the importance of a revision of the TEN-E guidelines before the adoption of the next list of projects of common interest (PCI), and calls on the Commission to propose transitional guidance on spending under the Connecting Europe Facility and on the selection of projects for the 5th PCI list by the end of 2020 to ensure that spending and selection is in line with all five dimensions of the Energy Union and the commitments made under the Paris Agreement; notes also the role of natural gas as a transition fuel, and stresses the need for a comprehensive strategy on renewables and renewables-based hydrogen; calls on the Commission to further strengthen the Energy Union by continuing the work on interconnectors and smart grids, in order to maximise cross-border energy flows as this is crucial for energy market integration and improved energy security of supply;

## ICT

9. Urges the Commission to propose a strategy for the digitalisation of European micro, small and medium-sized enterprises to help them become competitive in global markets, and to present proposals to boost digital transformation in European industries and society; calls

on the Commission to put in place an operational enabling legislative framework for the governance of common cross-sectoral and trustworthy European data spaces that truly enable the interoperability and flow of data between Member States, public and private sectors, and companies of all size, while ensuring European leadership in the development of energy efficient green data centres;

10. Calls on the Commission to review the adequacy of existing EU cybersecurity tools and policies in place, inter alia by assessing their robustness during the COVID-19 crisis, and to propose additional measures as appropriate, including a timely proposal to review the Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive;
11. Calls on the Commission to present proposals to support, including through investments to infrastructure, the fast deployment of fixed and mobile very high capacity networks to all Union citizens, regardless of location, thereby also reducing the digital divide, including updates of the Broadband Cost Reduction Directive and the Radio Spectrum Policy Programme, and to propose a framework for copper switch-off; calls also for a legislative proposal to continue the Roaming Regulation and further regulate costs for intra-EU calls, text messages (SMS) and data usage;

#### Space

12. Calls on the Commission to support the Parliament in its endeavour to ensure adequate funding for the new EU space programme and the GSA in order to enhance European strategic autonomy; stresses the importance to ensure both the robustness and the efficient governance of the programme and ensure its effective implementation; calls on the Commission to explore concrete proposals for building links between European defence and space policy.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection**

*The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection,*

1. Recalls the need to protect the internal market, preserving its principles and ensuring the circulation of goods and services within the EU; therefore, calls on the Commission to proactively monitor restrictions imposed at national level, to pursue infringement proceedings against those Member States which violate single market rules and to come up with strategies and proposals based on lessons learnt from the crisis in order to be better prepared and avoid possible future derogations;
2. Highlights that checks to assess conformity with EU rules of products, both produced in the Union's territory or entering the Union market from third countries, have to be effective and performed timely, in particular for personal protective equipment and medical devices, as illustrated by the surge of counterfeited and defective goods that have been detected on the Union market; invites the Commission to come forward in its 2021 Work Programme with initiatives to improve the conformity and safety of such products; calls for the Commission to take a more decisive role in the coordination of customs practices across Member States to ensure that in case of a second wave of contagion, these essential goods are allowed to circulate unhindered on the basis of the listings of products and of the decisions of duty relief already taken, and to ensure that the lessons learnt are built timely into the central strategy for risk management-based controls;
3. Recalls the importance of the legislative proposals contained in the 2020 Work Programme, such as the Digital Services Act and the revisions of the General Product Safety Directive (Directive 2001/95/EC) and the Machinery Directive (Directive 2006/42/EC), ensuring the modernisation of e-commerce as well as the safety of all products;
4. Regrets the absence of new initiatives in the field of traditional services; notes that the services sector has, according to Parliament's own research, the highest potential to drive growth in the European Union; asks, therefore the Commission to ensure this issue is given the same priority as the Digital Single Market, especially considering the critical condition of the European economy;
5. Believes that the future MFF is key to support a well-functioning and modernised internal market and calls on the Commission to ensure that the Single Market Programme, the Customs programme and the Instrument for Customs control equipment are drastically enhanced in comparison to the initial Commission proposals, in order to cope with the magnitude of the crisis; asks for clarity on how these programmes will relate to the Recovery fund;
6. Calls on the Commission to continuously monitor the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on consumers and their rights stemming from Union law, including with regard to enforcement, addressing issues such as unfair commercial practices in a coherent and coordinated way, together with national consumer authorities, and expects comprehensive reporting in 2021; stresses the importance of upholding fair treatment of consumers

confronted with cancelled transport and package travel services, including their rights to reimbursements, taking equally into account the difficult situation and liquidity issues of organisers, carriers and other actors of the travel and tourism sector in the current context;

7. Calls on the Commission to deliver at the latest during the first months of 2021 a legislative proposal aiming to empower consumers for the green transition through better consumer information and other measures supporting a more sustainable consumption, as well as a legislative proposal with respect to consumer credit rules aiming to ensure better consumer information and understanding of lending products and to better protect consumers from irresponsible practices, as initially announced in the 2020 Work Programme.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Transport and Tourism**

*The Committee on Transport and Tourism,*

1. Urges the Commission to assess the implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure and initiate its revision and invites the Commission to adopt a roadmap for fast deployment of a full scale Trans-European system for the distribution of alternative fuels and charging infrastructure; Insists on the importance of the Motorways of the Sea and ports, in particular in the TEN-T network; Reminds the Commission that the correct implementation of Directive 2014/94/EU will be key for the European transport sector to achieve the 2030 climate goals;
2. Recalls that the protection of transport workers' jobs and the survival of many highly competitive companies will depend on targeted European support to the aviation transport sector; stresses that it is of paramount importance to improve infrastructure, making better use of airspace by streamlining the routes taken by aircraft cutting down light time and optimizing airport layout improving throughput and preventing unnecessary burdens; believes that a reinforced Single European Sky can improve the overall performance of air traffic management and air navigation services, and deliver important gains in terms of efficiency and safety; calls on the Commission to revise and update the legislative proposal on SES2+ and Recovery strategy relating to navigational advances for SES and full deployment of SESAR;
3. Calls on the Commission to revise Regulation (EC) No 1008/2008 (Air Services Act) and to simultaneously adopt a legislative proposal for a social agenda in the aviation sector, as the working conditions in the aviation sector are completely indefensible, with atypical and precarious forms of employment having gradually led to worsening working conditions and where effective enforcement of social rights and labour law rules remain a major obstacle due to the transnational and highly mobile nature of the sector;
4. Stresses that increasing freight transport by rail is a key element of EU policy to reduce transport CO2 emissions; Emphasises that the 4th railway package has to be implemented in full, as well as the Regulation on rail freight corridors, which aims at improving cooperation and coordination along a number of corridors with particular potential for developing international rail freight; Is of the opinion that further action at EU level is needed to boost rail freight; calls therefore on the Commission to evaluate Regulation (EU) No 913/2010 on Rail Freight Corridor;
5. Calls on the Commission to put forward a legislative proposal on through-ticketing in the rail sector including multimodal aspects;
6. Calls on the Commission to make a proposal for further development of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) and its core network corridors within the framework of the Connecting Europe Facility in the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027, in order to link all EU regions and solve lack of appropriate infrastructure, accessibility and low interoperability between different parts of the EU, as well as move ahead with shift to more sustainable transport modes;

7. Underlines the importance of inland waterways sector for the decarbonisation strategy of the EU; Calls on the Commission to harmonise the technical and navigation rules governing the inland waterways, in particular with regard to the River Information Services (RIS); stresses the need to make use of information and communication technology (ICT) to support safety, efficiency and environmental friendliness of inland waterway transport; is of the opinion that there are potential areas of technical simplification;
8. Recalls the importance of the NAIADES programme for the inland waterway sector 2021-2027 and other proposals related to the further digitalisation (Directive 2005/44/EC on Harmonised River Information Services, Digital Inland Waterway Area) for the sustainability of the sector; Calls on the Commission to update and renew the NAIADES II programme to ensure that the potential of inland waterway transport as a safe, sustainable and effective mode of transport in the multimodal transport system can be fully exploited through a long-term EU strategy aimed at achieving a successful modal shift;
9. Urges the Commission to put a focus on the re-launch of the tourism and travel sector; Highlights the need for a European framework for workers in the whole value chain of the tourism industry, to be prepared in close dialogue with social partners and covering all types of workers;
10. Urges the Commission to initiate a proposal aiming at alleviating the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; Calls for the setting-up of European Travel Guarantee Fund for the tourism and travel industry, in order to help the sector to recover from the crisis; Further calls on the Commission to set up a strategy setting up a tourism rescue action plan, which will develop a Crisis Management Mechanism for the tourism and travel sector, covering the whole value chain of the tourism industry, involving the regional and local level and meeting the needs of SMEs and workers in the sector, as well as consumers.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Regional Development**

*The Committee on Regional Development,*

1. Recalls that reducing regional disparities and promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion among all regions across the EU is a Treaty objective and must remain a key part of the Union's constitutional fabric and budget; underlines that cohesion policy makes a significant contribution to increasing economic growth and creating jobs; stresses that a robust post-2020 cohesion policy is a political priority; calls on the Commission to accelerate its efforts in this respect; considers that all regions, as defined in Articles 174 and 349 TFEU, should benefit from cohesion policy;
2. Calls for the speedy adoption and implementation of the legislation required for the post-2020 cohesion policy, bearing in mind the crucial role of cohesion policy for the EU's economy and society; insists that grants should remain the main funding tool under cohesion policy; considers that sufficient flexibility and simplification in the implementation of the various funds is key to their success;
3. Stresses that cohesion policy is the EU's main investment policy and contributes to the implementation of the EU's overall political objectives, including sound and sustainable economic development, the digital agenda, the energy union, addressing the climate emergency, a high level of protection of the environment, gender equality, the social pillar and promoting culture and tourism, as well as the key objective of recovery from the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic; emphasises the crucial importance of the participation of, and engagement and dialogue with, regional and local authorities, economic and social partners, and civil society for the quality of programmes and projects and the achievement of objectives;
4. Notes that considerable progress has been made in interinstitutional negotiations on the Common Provisions Regulation, the European Regional Development Fund and Cohesion Fund, and the Interreg programmes; points out that progress is now slow in view of the "negotiating box" approach used by the Council, currently excluding many key issues from negotiations with Parliament which should be covered by codecision;
5. Points out that there are still significant points of disagreement between the institutions on key issues of the future cohesion policy, including on the issue of the budget and of macroeconomic conditionality; notes that the Commission's most recent budgetary proposals do not comply with Parliament's position as expressed in its interim resolution, and that the proposed budget for cohesion policy is even lower than in the expiring period;
6. Welcomes the Commission's proposal for a Just Transition Fund, and the amended proposal abounding its funding, but considers that the funding of the existing cohesion funds must not be negatively affected; calls for the Commission to intensively prepare for the new fund's implementation from next year;
7. Welcomes the adoption, on the proposal of the Commission, of the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative and the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative Plus, which

modify the rules for the current programmes in order to take into account the exceptional conditions created by the Covid-19 pandemic, by providing for the necessary liquidity and flexibility; takes note of the new REACT-EU proposal to provide additional funding for cohesion policy over the next few years whilst reducing red tape, and considers that it should be adopted as a matter of urgency; stresses that Parliament will fully play its role as co-legislator in this regard;

8. Notes the Commission's proposals for additional tools outside cohesion policy to assist the recovery from the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, but stresses that the main aims of cohesion policy must be maintained; highlights the need for coordination and synergies between all EU instruments in order to increase competitiveness and prosperity and reduce disparities, which will be key for the recovery process;
9. Points out that the outermost regions face specific challenges owing to their remoteness, insularity, small size, difficult topography and climate, and economic dependence on a reduced number of products; considers, therefore, that additional support should continue to be provided to the outermost regions.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development**

*The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,*

As regards Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski (DG AGRI issues)

1. Takes note of the COVID-19 package of measures adopted by the Commission to react to the crisis as a minimum first step in the right direction to recognise the key role of our farmers in ensuring food security and a healthy environment for our citizens; strongly regrets the fact that all these measures combined, together with an extremely low budgetary contribution, fall well short of what is required to help farmers facing the current difficulties and to ensure the food sector remains resilient and effective; calls for more support to enable European farmers to face the immediate problems, and in the medium and long term to continue their essential work to produce nutritious and sustainable food;
2. Welcomes the broad confirmation of the importance of the existing direct support and market instruments in the proposals for the CAP after 2020, with some adjustments, and particularly a new autonomous crisis reserve, designed to be more effective; calls for a wide range of measures under the new CAP to support farmers in the transition to a more sustainable agriculture with reduced use of inputs and increased use of innovative and alternative farming practices; welcomes the Commission's intention to simplify the CAP;
3. Notes with satisfaction the Commission's intention to table a revised MFF proposal with the knowledge that, despite the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis circumstances, sufficient food supplies have been maintained to EU citizens thanks to our farmers and food industry; urges the Commission to push for the CAP budget to be increased or at least maintained at the current level and considers that, at the same time, farmers must be incentivised to deliver public goods; rejects any possibility of a renationalisation of the CAP which would be detrimental to the single market; welcomes the agreement reached in ComAGRI and approved by Plenary regarding the Transitional Regulation to ensure the continuity of the CAP and payments to farmers during the transitional period and stresses the importance of a timely agreement between the co-legislators in order to allow for regulatory certainty for the sector;
4. Regrets the Commission's decision to adopt a Farm to Fork strategy in this particular period, believing that it is essential to focus all efforts now on ensuring that our agri-food system continues to deliver food security amid the COVID-19 pandemic before launching a major new policy initiative with far-reaching implications for EU farming; believes it is essential also for Parliament to be in a position to properly scrutinise the legislative proposals that will result from the Farm to Fork Strategy; stresses the relevance of the Horizon Europe research programme to enhance food security and to boost the economic, environmental and social sustainability of EU agriculture; fully supports the Commission's proposal to allocate EUR 10 billion to research in the area of agriculture and food in the next financing period; is convinced that digitalisation of EU agriculture in the best interest of farmers and their environments will be decisive in accelerating the transition towards more sustainable agriculture; highlights the need to have a resilient food system with diverse food supply channels to consumers, including local markets and short supply

chains; welcomes the Commission's stress on boosting the sustainable economic development of organic farming in the EU; welcomes the intention to seek ways to improve origin labelling of foods to enhance consumer information;

5. Stresses the importance of the forthcoming Long-term vision for rural areas and the consultation with rural citizens, local and regional authorities to be launched after the summer with the goal of raising awareness of rural concerns and issues;
6. Considers that free trade agreements can generate greater economic activity and job creation but urges the Commission to duly recognise and reflect the sensitivity of some sectors/products in trade negotiations, making sure to have a reinforced safeguard mechanism to ensure a level playing field between farmers in the EU and in the rest of the world; reminds the Commission of the Parliament's call for rapid development of a European Protein Strategy to help to reduce Europe's heavy dependency on imported proteins;

As regards Commissioner Stella Kyriakides (DG SANTE issues):

7. Notes that an affordable alternative to chemical pesticides and fertilisers must be given to farmers; considers that innovative plant breeding techniques can become an alternative way for ensuring sufficient production quantities and increased food security while ensuring the highest levels of food safety;
8. Considers that consumers in the EU have a right to comprehensive information and highlights the importance of a transparent food labelling system; stresses that the EU's high standards for food production should equally apply to products imported from third countries, otherwise EU farmers would find themselves in a disadvantaged position;
9. Welcomes the Commission's intention to include animal welfare in its Farm to Fork Strategy; highlights that Parliament, in its implementation report on Animal Transport of 2019, called on the Commission to draw up a new 2020-2024 Animal Welfare Strategy; urges the Commission, in its evaluation of the EU Animal Welfare Strategy, to explore ways to ensure the effective and uniform enforcement of existing EU legislation on animal welfare, especially animal transport;
10. Considers that, bearing in mind the difficulties that farmers are facing as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the Green Deal and its Farm To Fork Strategy should offer, in particular, a real opportunity for farmers to economically benefit from embedding the value of sustainability and health throughout the food supply chain.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Fisheries**

*The Committee on Fisheries,*

1. Recalls the Commission's commitment for an **evaluation of the Common Fisheries Policy by 2022**, in order to examine carefully whether the policy remains fit for addressing the challenges that we face, such as climate change and socio-economic development; recalls that the CFP must provide policies that work for fishers, coastal communities and the marine environment alike, by striking a balance between social, economic and sustainability concerns and by considering the peculiarities of the different sea basins;
2. Welcomes the Commission proposals for a new **Biodiversity Strategy 2030** and a "**Farm-to-fork**" **Strategy** for sustainable food, to which fisheries and aquaculture can contribute in a significant way; regrets that in the proposals the Commission didn't duly recognize the important role of fishers as "guardians of the sea" and of fisheries and aquaculture as key suppliers of healthy food and proteins which would otherwise have to be imported;
3. Welcomes the Commission endeavours, under the EU Green Deal, to reach an ambitious goal for effective, coherent and science-based **marine protected areas** as part of EU initiatives for sustainably managed and plastic-free seas and oceans;
4. Calls on the Commission to closely and timely consult with the Committee on each step in the **final negotiations for a new partnership with the United Kingdom**, underlining that no comprehensive agreement can be concluded between the EU and the UK if it does not include a complete, balanced and long-term agreement on fisheries and fisheries related matters, upholding the continuation under optimal conditions of access to waters, resources and markets of the parties concerned and the protection of the marine environment, as well as the existing fishing activities ;
5. Calls on the Commission to contribute in reaching an ambitious agreement on the **future EMFF with an increased budget**, which would support the sector to shift towards energy efficiency and improved safety and working conditions on board and allow for generational renewal, while avoiding overcapacity and over-fishing;
6. Recalls that the adoption of **delegated acts** must respond to high transparency standards and allow for enough time so that Parliament may fully exercise its right of scrutiny;
7. Reiterates its request for a timely **transposition of measures adopted by international fisheries management organisations**, calling on the Commission to speed up the process so that recommendations can be transposed into EU legislation within one year;
8. Encourages the Commission to maintain and, where possible, to expand its network of **Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements**, as a means to export its high sustainability standards globally and to promote good Oceans' governance.
9. Underlines the need for **trade agreements to be connected and aligned with the CFP**, including the EU policy on IUU fishing and to ensure effective policy coherence between

the EU's sustainable development policies (including sustainable fisheries and aquaculture) within future trade agreements; calls on the Commission to ensure that countries linked to IUU fishing and serious labour abuses should not benefit from **preferential market access**, such as autonomous tariff quotas (ATQs) or trade agreements, and to monitor closely the **traceability of fisheries products** imported from non-cooperating countries;

10. Commends the Commission for its efforts in the **fight against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing (IUU)** and invites it to continue to take all necessary actions against non-cooperating countries and organisations that support IUU fishing.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Culture and Education**

*The Committee on Culture and Education,*

1. Highlights that the Covid-19 crisis has shown the potential of online and distance learning, but also exposed key challenges, particularly with respect to teachers' digital proficiency and gaps within and between Member States, including inadequate infrastructure, internet access and ICT equipment, particularly in remote areas and for those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds; stresses that these elements exacerbate existing inequalities; calls for a bold update to the Digital Education Action Plan, which must learn the lessons from the crisis to develop an over-arching EU strategy; reiterates that an effective strategy must cover digital skills at all stages and across all forms of education that enable citizens to think critically and to use new technologies safely - especially media literacy, an understanding of AI and cybersecurity - and to be prepared for the labour market;
2. Calls for swift progress on Erasmus+, Creative Europe and the European Solidarity Corps based on an ambitious MFF and a governance solution that safeguards the EP's role as co-legislator; urges the Commission to prepare contingency measures to enable programme continuation in the event of late adoption of the MFF; reiterates the need for effective measures to make the programmes more inclusive, simpler and more flexible; calls for smart 'greening' measures to reduce the programmes' carbon footprint and increase environmental awareness among participants, thereby contributing to the European Green Deal; recalls that EP support for new programme initiatives is conditional on adequate funding;
3. Calls for an ambitious plan, based on a lifelong learning approach, to scale up the European Education Area, building on existing initiatives to foster recognition of study periods and diplomas, promoting a common approach to European citizenship education and forging closer cooperation in early childhood education and care, school education and vocational education and training, including on VET curricula; insists on a joined-up approach to the EEA, the revised Skills Agenda and the upgraded DEAP;
4. Regrets the social, economic and psychological impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people; calls on the Union to pay particular attention to jobs and traineeships for young people, including through a reinforced and more inclusive Youth Guarantee covering more young people; underlines that Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps provide often life-changing opportunities for young people;
5. Urges the Commission to foster an EU recovery plan for the cultural and creative sector, with a focus on small organisations and individual artists, to overcome the devastating impact of the Covid-19 crisis; notes that the sector often struggles to access funding under the Structural Funds and insists that the Commission assist the sector directly to obtain immediate financial support; calls on the Commission to design further tailored grant-based instruments and 'access to finance' schemes, including through the existing Cultural and Creative Sectors Guarantee Facility and the EIF;
6. Urges the Commission to play a strong role in the field of cultural heritage, building on the experience of the European Year of Cultural Heritage and allocating sufficient funding

to play that role; considers that EU policy should be built on an integrated approach covering preservation and promotion, sustainability, inclusion and accessibility (including digitalisation); underscores the crucial role of cultural heritage in the recovery of the tourism sector; believes that future EU initiatives on cultural heritage, including potentially another European Year, could help the sector;

7. Underscores the vital role played by a vibrant and pluralistic media sector in providing free and independent coverage and acting as an antidote to disinformation; stresses that the Covid-19 crisis has hit an already weakened media ecosystem hard, particularly regional and local players and those in small markets; calls for emergency support to prop up the sector, alongside an ambitious medium-term framework with funding to safeguard its future and new rules for platforms in the Digital Services Act and measures to boost competitiveness in the Media and Audiovisual Action Plan;
8. Regrets the Commission's delayed publication of the guidelines provided for in the Audiovisual Media Services Directive; insists that the Commission closely monitor developments in the Member States to ensure timely and proper transposition of the AVMSD; recalls that the new Digital Service Act must build on and complement the platform-related provisions in the AVMSD;
9. Calls for a thorough assessment of funding under the 'Multimedia Actions' budget line for the independent coverage of European affairs to determine whether the support is delivering on its core objectives and the balance across media channels is right; insists that the assessment should be part of a broader reflection on the Union's media and communication policies designed to deliver strong and updated media and communication strategies; considers that an effective inter-institutional information service can help to provide factual information on EU affairs;
10. Points to the disastrous impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the sports sector, especially grassroots and community sports clubs, which promote public health and foster social cohesion; urges the Commission to ensure the sector can access financial support; calls for a renewed impetus to EU sports policy.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Legal Affairs**

*The Committee on Legal Affairs,*

1. Reiterates its concern about the lack of progress in the Council regarding the proposal concerning disclosure of income tax information by certain undertakings and branches (2016/0107(COD)) and invites the Commission again to step up efforts that it can make on its side to help to unblock the file; similarly, repeats its call on the Commission to step up its efforts in finding majorities in the Council for a political agreement on the proposal for a Directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges (2012/0299(COD)), blocked already since the beginning of last term; welcomes the commitment taken by the Commission in its Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025 to push for its adoption and expects that the Commission spares no effort in helping to unblock the file; reiterates that withdrawal of the proposal is not an option; welcomes the Commission's commitment to supporting the conclusion of the Comitology reform (2017/0035(COD), in particular by addressing the absence of progress in the Council with regard to their negotiating mandate;
2. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to respond to Parliament's resolutions adopted pursuant to Article 225 TFEU with the submission of a legislative proposal; in this context, calls on the Commission to take note of the following pending legislative own-initiative reports: Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online, A framework of ethical aspects of Artificial Intelligence, robotics and related technologies, Civil liability regime for Artificial Intelligence, A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations, Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment, Corporate Due Diligence and Corporate Accountability, Funding of litigation by hedge funds ; calls on the Commission, in light of the principle of mutual sincere cooperation, to consider Parliament's timetables for adoption of its reports, and, if necessary, to adapt to them in case the Commission has envisaged making a legislative proposal, when the Parliament has decided to make use of its prerogative under Article 225 TFEU so that its recommendations can be taken into account in the Commission's preparatory process;
3. Notes that the Commission envisages to put forward legislative proposals on some of the above subjects; looks forward to the upcoming Digital Services Act package and proposals for a legislative framework for AI which should include proposals concerning ethical principles, civil liability and data; calls on the Commission to duly take into consideration Parliament's previous and current work on the topics; considers that the COVID-19 pandemic further shows the potential of AI and, in this respect, that the Union should promote European technological development and innovation in areas of strategic interest; further considers that the use of AI in the form of mobile tracing systems for the prevention of COVID-19 spread should be limited in time, ethical and not put at risk by any means individuals' rights as protected by EU law; recalls that compulsory licencing for medicinal products is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection already included in the World Trade Organisation's TRIPS Agreement; asks the Commission to consider, namely in the context of its upcoming Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe expected later this year,

a mandatory licensing for medicinal products such as vaccines that would allow Member States to more easily respond to public health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic;

4. Takes note of the Commission's commitment to submit a proposal on mandatory corporate due diligence requirements through the supply chain and draws attention to Parliament's upcoming legislative own-initiative report in that regard; draws attention also to the start of work on a report on "Sustainable Corporate Governance" to assess the effectiveness of the non-financial reporting and examine additional mechanisms and instruments to increase the sustainability of the decisions taken by companies' boards; takes note of the Commission's intention to submit a proposal to amend Directive 2014/95/EU to further encourage companies to develop a responsible and sustainable approach to business; notes though that this proposal and a future proposal on corporate due diligence would be linked and that it is key that both instruments be fully consistent and coherent; invites the Commission to await Parliament's resolutions and to consider submitting both proposals simultaneously;
5. Reiterates its call on the Commission to promptly and adequately follow up Parliament's resolutions on possible extension of geographical indication protection of the European Union to non-agricultural products (2015/2053(INL)); law of administrative procedure of the European Union (2012/2024(INL)), having particular regard to Parliament's resolutions of 15 January 2013 and 9 June 2016; limitation periods for traffic accidents (2015/2087(INL)); cross-border aspects of adoptions (2015/2086(INL)); protection of vulnerable adults (2015/2085(INL)); common minimum standards of civil procedure (2015/2084(INL)), and a statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises (2016/2237(INL)); invites the Commission to give detailed consideration to these requests; in this context, deeply regrets the Commission's lack of responsiveness towards the repeated calls from the Parliament for a regulation on an open, efficient and independent European Union administration and encourages the Commission to fully cooperate with the Parliament towards the adoption of such an instrument; considers that a code of administrative procedure is the optimal instrument to fully implement both Article 298 TFEU and the right to good administration enshrined in Article 41 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union; reiterates its call on the Commission to come up with a proposal on the recognition of the content of civil status documents following the adoption of Regulation 2016/1191 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union; further invites the Commission, following the recent revision of Regulation 2201/2003 ("Brussels IIa Regulation"), to consider extending its scope to registered partnerships.
6. Stresses that COVID-19 pandemic impacts on the justice systems, in particular the judiciary, national authorities and legal practitioners, but also on businesses and citizens; encourages the Commission to make every effort to support the justice systems in performing their function; considers it key, in this context, that the Union promotes a rule of law culture, particularly among legal professions and welcomes in this regard the establishment by the Commission of a rule of law cycle and looks forward to the first Commission's annual Rule of Law report in September 2020; recalls the Parliament's resolution on the establishment of an EU mechanism on democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights (2015/2254(INL)) to build further on it; welcomes that access to justice, independence of the judiciary and legal professions' training on the rule of law will be cornerstone elements of that report; supports the Commission in its defence of the

principle of primacy of EU law as defined by the Court of Justice of the European Union and of the role of the Court of Justice of European Union in the interpretation of Union law;

7. Encourages the Commission to give full support and advice to Member States for an early implementation of Directive 2019/1023 on preventive restructuring frameworks, so companies, particularly SMEs, can benefit before the expiration of the transposition deadline from the mechanisms outlined in that instrument and cope better with the difficult economic situation they are facing as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic; looks forward to the additional measures announced by the Commission in the field of civil and commercial law to support SMEs in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic;
8. Welcomes the Commission's readiness to complete the process of consultation with stakeholders as required by Article 17 of Directive 2019/790 on copyright and related rights in the Digital Single Market; observes that owing to the COVID-19 outbreak meetings have been cancelled with uncertainty as to when they could resume; in this context, encourages the Commission to make use of all available methods of consultation and dialogue with stakeholders so guidance on the application of Article 17 can be issued within reasonable time; invites the Commission to provide Member States with all support and assistance with a view to an adequate and timely transposition of the Directive;
9. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to launch the unitary patent with the establishment of a one-stop-shop, which would significantly reduce costs associated with the patent registration; looks forward to the Action Plan on Intellectual Property announced by the Commission; stresses that the action plan should strike the right balance between patent protection and the access and dissemination of technologies to ensure European companies competitiveness and promote creativity and innovation;
10. Calls on the Commission to continue efforts with regard to the follow-up on the Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making (2016/2018(INI)), in particular with regard to practical arrangements for cooperation and information-sharing regarding the conclusion of international agreements, the alignment of all basic acts that still refer to the regulatory procedure with scrutiny (RPS) and the establishment of a dedicated joint database on the state of play of legislative files; welcomes the Commission's readiness to engage with Parliament on the establishment of an Interinstitutional Ethics Body and looks forward to swift progress in this regard before the end of this term; encourages the Commission in the meantime to thoroughly assess the implementation of the rules in the Commissioners' Code of Conduct and apply them in a manner that guarantees the highest standards of ethics and integrity and avoids any conflict of interest throughout the Commission's mandate ; calls on the Commission to duly take into consideration in its future proposal the recommendations made by Parliament in its upcoming resolution on the matter; encourages the Commission to take all necessary steps to ensure that the Council be part of the general process of increasing transparency, both with regard to each individual Member State's position in internal deliberations and their relations with lobbies and civil society organisations.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs**

*The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs,*

Democracy, Rule of law and fundamental rights

Expects the Annual Rule of Law report in September 2020 as announced; reiterates its call for a comprehensive, permanent and evidence-based EU-wide mechanism for the protection of democracy, the rule of law and fundamental rights; emphasises the importance of swiftly adopting the Rule of Law Deficiencies Regulation, and of fully including a rule of law conditionality - to be decided by reverse qualified majority voting - in the revised MFF proposals and new COVID-19 EU funds ; requests the Commission to monitor the situation in the Member States (MS) under Article 7(1) procedure;

Calls on the Commission to prioritise legislation to strengthen democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights, including by continuing efforts to unblock negotiations for legislation that is long overdue, such as on equal treatment, transparency and access to documents;

Looks forward to the adoption of new strategies for the Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, for LGBTI Equality, on the fight against trafficking in human beings and on Roma Equality and Inclusion by the end of 2020, as well as to the stepping up of infringements procedures of existing EU law and where possible, on the basis of thorough impact assessments, to the tabling of new legislation for the implementation of those strategic initiatives; recalls the importance of victims' rights in the EU and calls on the Commission to address the unsatisfactory implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive by MS in the future EU Strategy dedicated to this issue; recalls the Commission's commitment to propose legislation on gender-based violence to complement the Istanbul Convention, at a time where the situation of victims of domestic violence is aggravated by COVID-19 measures;

Looks forward to the adoption, by the Commission, of an ambitious European Democracy Action Plan to defend and promote media freedom and pluralism, and to fight disinformation, including with a clear disinformation strategy, within the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and beyond, and of proposals for increased protection and financial support to NGOs, independent media and investigative journalism, through an EU emergency fund and anti-SLAPP legislation;

Asylum and migration

Calls on the Commission to present as soon as possible its “New Pact for Asylum and Migration”, based on solidarity, fairly shared responsibility and cooperation between MS, in a holistic and balanced approach - creating a solidarity mechanism at EU level for the dignified reception of asylum seekers and stepping up measures for relocation, new avenues for legal labour migration, as well as safe and legal pathways for persons in need of international protection such as resettlement and humanitarian visas, strengthening search and rescue efforts and providing guidelines for avoiding that humanitarian assistance is criminalised, ensuring effective returns of those who do not have a right to reside in the EU and combatting-trafficking in human beings;

Reminds the Commission of its obligation, as Guardian of the Treaties, to monitor the implementation of the existing EU asylum and migration acquis, in particular during the

COVID-19 crisis so that individual rights are upheld, launching infringement proceedings where necessary and ensuring it provides all implementation reports required under current EU law;

### Schengen and borders

Calls on the Commission to monitor properly Member States' actions in the Schengen Area, in particular the introduction of internal border controls and other restrictive measures at internal borders, to reform the rules on Schengen to provide for truly European governance of the Schengen Area as part of a coordinated Recovery Plan for Schengen, and to initiate a high-level political debate on the state of Schengen with the European Parliament and the Council; calls on all relevant actors to strengthen and speed up the implementation of the new European Border and Coast Guard Regulation;

### Data Protection

Calls on the Commission to ensure that the Union data protection legal framework is effectively and consistently applied thorough the Union, by fully enforcing the GDPR and reminding Member States of their obligation to provide sufficient resources to national independent supervisory authorities, and where necessary by instigating infringements procedures; moreover, calls on the Commission to closely monitor the fundamental rights compliance of national measures adopted in the context of COVID 19;

Calls also on the Commission to urgently align all relevant JHA instruments with Directive (EU) 2016/680 ('Police Directive') and to put forward a legislative proposal to replace the said Directive by a Regulation, so as to ensure uniform level of protection; also finally achieve progress on the reform of Directive (EU) 2002/58 ('ePrivacy');

### EU Internal Security - Fight against Terrorism and Money Laundering - EPPO

Stresses the importance of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and calls for the allocation of realistic financial resources to match its expected heavy workload; appreciates further steps taken by the Commission within the anti-money laundering framework and notes that the Union needs to strengthen its fight against money laundering and terrorist financing; requests the Commission to consider proposals on "residence and citizenship by investment schemes"; also expects the revision of the current Europol Regulation,.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs**

*The Committee on Constitutional Affairs,*

1. 1. Believes that the Conference on the Future of Europe should be launched as soon as possible; considers it indispensable as a key aspect of an overall strategy to strengthen European democracy, and especially in the aftermath of the height of the coronavirus crisis, to reach out, listen to and engage with citizens and considers that the Conference on the Future of Europe is the ideal forum to do so; points out that Parliament intends to adopt a report on “Citizens’ dialogues and citizens’ participation in EU decision- making”;
2. In this context, underlines that, in order to prepare well in advance the European elections in 2024, a comprehensive review of the electoral law of the European Union should be undertaken in accordance with the respective procedures under the Treaties, including the lead-candidate system, addressing the issue of transnational lists, the composition of the European Parliament and the statute and funding of European political parties and European political parties; expects the active support of the Commission in this regard in line with its task of initiating annual and multiannual programming under Article 17(1) TEU and the provisions on interinstitutional programming in the IIA on Better Law-making; urges the Commission to present a new proposal for amending Regulation 1141/2014 of European political parties and European political foundations; expects the European Commission to broadly consult the European political parties and foundations and experts on this matter before presenting such proposal;
3. Recalls the need to update and reinforce Parliament's right of inquiry in line with the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty to address the shortcomings evidenced in practice and to contribute to Parliament’s exercise of its duty to ensure political accountability; stresses in this context the commitments undertaken by the three institutions in the IIA on Better Law-making as regards the transparency and coordination of the legislative process and the general commitment to sincere and transparent cooperation throughout the entire legislative cycle; asks that the Commission increases its efforts to facilitate the dialogue between the three institutions in line with the continuing priority given by Parliament to this file in the context of interinstitutional programming;
4. Calls on the Commission to present a proposal on the creation of the independent ethics body common to all EU Institutions, in the course of 2021, taking due account of the position of Parliament on this matter; points out that Parliament intends to present a report on “Transparency and Integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body” in the course of 2020 in view of developing a coherent, global approach of the European Parliament towards issues of transparency, accountability and integrity of EU Institutions;
5. Looks forward to the Commission’s first Foresight Report as well as to the Democracy Action Plan, which will also have an important role to play in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe; calls on the Commission, for all matters related to disinformation, to work closely together with the special committee on disinformation and foreign interferences, which will be created in the European Parliament;

6. Expects the Commission to uphold its commitment to support a right of initiative for the European Parliament by responding with a legislative act to each of Parliament's requests under article 225 TFEU and to take account of Parliament's forthcoming own-initiative report on this matter;
7. Asks that the Commission keeps Parliament thoroughly informed about the progress of the negotiations with the Council of Europe on the accession of the European Union to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which should as soon as possible overcome the objections raised by the Court of Justice in its 2/13 opinion;
8. Calls on the Commission to come forward with a roadmap for EU accession to the Revised European Social Charter.

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality**

*The Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality,*

1. Welcomes the adoption of the Gender Equality Strategy (GES) 2020-2025, the chosen dual approach as well as the strong link between the areas of work and the elimination of stereotypes, gender biases and discrimination; regrets that the Strategy remains vague on timelines for several measures and calls on the Commission to establish concrete timeframes and additional targeted actions;
2. Welcomes the engagement of the Commission to conclude the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention (IC) as a key priority in a timely manner and to present an initiative extending the areas of crime to specific forms of gender-based violence in accordance with Article 83(1) TFEU, looks forward to this in 2021; reiterates its call for this to be followed by a framework directive to prevent and combat gender-based violence, including cyber violence and online hate speech against women, using this new legal basis, as a complementary measure to IC ratification;
3. Welcomes the commitment to present a legislative proposal on pay transparency by the end of 2020, to strengthen the enforcement of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value between women and men and to address the gender pay and pension gaps in cooperation with the social partners;
4. Highlights that women are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, on the frontline as healthcare workers, caregivers and workers in feminised sectors in precarious working conditions as well as suffering from increased gender based violence in confinement; calls therefore on the Commission to mainstream gender across all measures within the post-crisis recovery strategy with adequate budgetary resources, collection of gender disaggregated data and ensure that women are represented in the decision making process;
5. Calls on the Commission to collect data on the provision of different types of care, feeding into a study examining the care gap to inform an initiative for a European Care Strategy, including the efficient use and additional allocation of EU funds to invest in quality care services and jobs;
6. Urges the Commission to continue working with the Member States as well as current and incoming EU Presidencies to urgently unblock the deadlock in Council and adopt the proposed Directive on "Women on Boards";
7. Asks the Commission to put forward without delay a proposal for a review of the Victims' Rights Directive with a view to strengthening the rights of victims of gender-based violence, and anticipates the new Victims' Rights Strategy to include the importance of combating gender-based violence; welcomes the Commission's proposal to put forward a Strategy to combat trafficking in human beings and calls for it to closely monitor its implementation by Member States, to strengthen its gender dimension and for the appointment of the new Anti-trafficking Coordinator as soon as possible;

8. Calls on the Commission to continue its efforts in implementing gender budgeting as an integral part of the budgetary procedure across all stages and budgetary lines with improved monitoring of spending on gender equality, following its commitments in the GES; calls on the Commission to include a gender mainstreaming clause in the revised proposal for the next MFF; stresses the need for the Commission to propose contingency measures for funds supporting gender equality to avoid any gaps in provision should the MFF revision not be concluded in time;
9. Calls on the Commission to ensure a gender perspective in its measures to address the digital and green transformations and to encourage women's participation in digital entrepreneurship, STEM and ICT education and employment to avoid a digital gender gap;
10. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to present an LGBTI+ Equality Strategy by the end of 2020; calls on the Commission to commit to safeguard women's fundamental right to access SRHR, including women in vulnerable situations, particularly in light of the COVID 19 crisis and recovery period; calls for the Commission to include SRHR in the EU Health Strategy and ensure specific funding for its protection;

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**POSITION**  
**of the Committee on Petitions**

*The Committee on Petitions,*

1. Strongly believes that, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Union faces an unprecedented crisis, which could lead it to either success or failure in the perceptions and trust of our citizens and residents, depending on the nature and the scale of its response; therefore, calls on the Commission not just to adapt its 2020 Work Programme by changing the timing of some initiatives, but to review it in order to provide an unprecedented response to the crisis, and draft new proposals if necessary; recalls that equal access to health for our citizens must be at the heart of all EU policies;
2. Regrets the lack of coordination among Member States during the first weeks of the Covid-19 outbreak; acknowledges that cooperation and solidarity are the best answers to face the current crisis; calls on the Commission to include in its 2020 Work Programme concrete legislative proposals to create a real European Health Response Mechanism to better respond in a common and coordinated way to any type of health or sanitary crisis that emerges at EU level;
3. Welcomes all EU measures agreed so far, particularly those aimed at protecting millions of jobs; considers, however, that such measures should be scaled up; stresses that our future depends on healthy ecosystems, and the ecological transition must therefore be accelerated; calls on the Commission to put forward an ambitious Recovery Plan to invest massively and to protect not only European fair jobs, but also businesses, especially SMEs; stresses that such a Recovery Plan will also require some degree of fiscal solidarity and must be in line with the objectives defined by the Green Deal, as well as foster the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights, and be aimed, amongst others, at boosting European competitiveness and productivity;
4. Urges the Commission to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic with specific and innovative measures to protect the staff and the residents of the homes for the elderly and the disabled, and also to urgently address the organisation of funeral services, which have been totally overwhelmed in some Member States;
5. Calls on the Commission to make concrete proposals to enhance the interoperability of healthcare systems; stresses that the EU and all Member States must ensure access to safe and affordable medicines to all our citizens; calls for increased scientific, particularly biomedical, research funding to public institutions and bodies within the new MFF;
6. Takes note of all the Commission's commitments to get more involved in the PETI work to ensure that citizens' and residents' concerns are listened to and taken seriously; underlines the important role played by petitions in improving EU law, also in the context of the planned Conference on the Future of Europe, which can constitute a good opportunity for citizens to contribute to a better Union;
7. Regrets the Commission's increasing use of its discretionary powers for refusing to investigate some cases of non-compliance with EU law, even when the Committee on

Petitions considers that there is a manifest risk of significant effects on the environment, a threat to public health or systemic procedural patterns by national or regional authorities; points out that EIAs are done differently in Member States; urges the Commission to revise its working methods related to the EIAs to already monitor public and private projects, and particularly those with cross-border impact, in their planning phase and not only when they are completed;

8. Urges the Commission to engage in particular with the Council with a view to increasing transparency and access to documents in all its decision-making formations, as requested repeatedly by the Parliament and the Ombudsman; calls for a reform of the Comitology Regulation that allows for a transparent decision-making procedure and a change of voting rules.

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