Conference of Committee Chairs

10 June 2022

Summary Report
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 Commissioners, held during the first semester of 2022,

- having regard to the Commission Work Programme 2022,

- having regard to the hearings held for the Commissioners-designate before Parliament’s consent on their nomination and in particular the commitments made by the Commissioners and the Commission Vice-Presidents during these hearings,

- having regard to the exchange of views of the Conference of Committee Chairs with the Commission Vice-Presidents and Commissioner Hahn on annual programming during the meeting of 5 October 2021,

- having regard to the Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making (IIA on BLM) of 13 April 2016,

- having regard to the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement signed on 30 December 2020, applied provisionally as of 1 January 2021 and into force as of 1 May 2021,

- having regard to the Commission statement on the role of the European Parliament in the implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement,

- having regard to the Recovery Package to tackle the effects of the unprecedented socio-economic crisis provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic,

- having regard to the dramatic consequences of Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine,

- having regard to the Report on the Final Outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe which concluded its work on 9 May 2022,

- having regard to the positions expressed by each parliamentary committee in this report,

1. Welcomes the fruitful exchanges of committees with the relevant Commissioners and Commission Vice-Presidents in the framework of the Structured Dialogue held during the first semester of 2022 in the difficult context generated by the Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine;
2. Welcomes the timely response by the Commission to the crisis caused by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive and the submission of proposals for urgent measures and actions providing support to Ukraine and countries most impacted by the humanitarian crisis, underlines the need to strengthen the efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, support the social and labour market integration of the refugees as well as to address the consequences of the war in terms of food and energy security, increasing inflation, poverty, social exclusion and inequalities and to build more resilient energy and food systems in light of the Green Deal; calls on the Commission to keep the Parliament fully and timely informed of the potential budgetary implications of these measures;

3. Stresses that the urgent procedure, while justified for the adoption of legislative proposals in the first critical moments of the war, should not be systematically requested in order to allow committees a careful consideration of the proposals in full application of the Parliament’s legislative prerogatives;

4. Underlines that the current MFF is already stretched to its limits by the consequences of the war in Ukraine, together with the ongoing economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic; calls on the Commission, as a first step, to make optimal use of the existing funding opportunities, flexibility and other provisions set out in the MFF Regulation and the Financial Regulation;

5. Reiterates its view that the Union must have sufficient means to react to unexpected developments and to invest in longer-term policy objectives and in its strategic autonomy; points to the series of new policy initiatives announced recently, in particular in the fields of energy security and defence, and the ongoing financing needs related to humanitarian aid, reconstruction and recovery in Ukraine, food security and support to Member States welcoming people fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, which presuppose the need for a reinforced EU budget fit for these new challenges; calls on the Commission to conduct an in-depth review of the current MFF and come forward with a legislative proposal for an MFF revision as soon as possible and no later than the first quarter of 2023;

6. Recalls the commitment to introduce new own resources set out in the legally binding Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA), in order to repay the debt incurred under NextGenerationEU and enhance the resilience of the EU budget’s revenue side in view of the challenges and upcoming initiatives; in this context, calls on the Commission and the Council presidency to spare no effort in facilitating a swift agreement on the December 2021 legislative proposal for the “Next Generation of Own Resources” so that they are introduced by 1 January 2023 in accordance with the IIA roadmap;

7. Calls on the Commission to review the entire European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and strengthen its enlargement policy and to ensure coherence and credibility; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to develop proposals on how to continue strengthening ties with the Eastern Partnership countries;
8. Calls on the Commission to fulfil its role as the driver of the European integration to develop by the end of 2022 an action plan to facilitate the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) decision-making process by switching progressively to qualified majority voting for decisions in the area of the CFSP that do not have military or defence implications as well as for other EU external policy tools such as the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime;

9. Stresses that the EU trade policy is a major geopolitical tool, which can facilitate economic recovery and boost economic growth in the current geopolitical context dramatically changed by Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine, and calls on the Commission to further engage with WTO countries and trade partners by means of strategic partnerships in order to diversify EU supply chains and their resilience, deepen cooperation on critical emerging technologies, digital issues and raw materials, including for key agricultural products, and help tackle global challenges; underlines the importance of the intense legislative work on new instruments to fill the gaps in the trade and investment toolbox to ensure level-playing field for EU companies; calls for further reflection and resources on how to make implementation and enforcement of international trade agreements more effective; further calls on the Commission to reinforce in the CWP 2023 synergies between international trade and other EU policies for a more coherent approach between the internal and external aspects of EU economic policies;

10. Welcomes the activation of the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism against Hungary and calls on the Commission to continue ensuring a strict application of the "Conditionality Regulation" for the protection of Union's budget in the event of breaches of the principles of the rule of law; considers that the geopolitical context is no excuse for softening the EU Institutions stance on the worsening situation of the Rule of Law in some Member States;

11. Welcomes the lively debates and implication of civil society in the Conference on the Future of Europe and invites the Commission to consider a proper follow-up of the areas touched upon by the Conference’s conclusions with concrete legislative proposals;

12. Welcomes that the Commission has stepped up its response to Parliament’s legislative initiatives under Article 225 TFEU; so far the Commission replied with legislative proposals to nine Parliament’s resolutions, pending the analysis of the content of the proposals by the competent committees; calls on the Commission to inform regularly Parliament on the progress of the initiatives and actions undertaken after the formal Commission reply;

13. Expects that the Commission continues honouring its commitment to ensure that the Parliament is immediately and fully informed in relation to the work and activities of the bodies established by both the Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the Union and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as in relation to any major decisions in the context of the implementation of those agreements, in order for the Parliament to be in a position to exercise fully its institutional prerogatives;

14. Underlines the commitment of the Commission to deliver a number of important proposals in 2023 and stresses the need for the Commission to adopt those in good time
to allow the co-legislators sufficient time to work on the proposals before the next European elections; in this context, draws the attention to the fact that a Commission proposal can only be considered as effectively presented to Parliament when translations into all the official languages are submitted and very much regrets that too often Commission proposals, including priority ones, are first published in English with translations available only weeks thereafter, which causes delays to the decision making process;

15. Asks the European Commission, when adopting its Work Programme 2023, 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;

16. Insists that the Commission Work Programme should be reliable and expects that, if the Commission were obliged to adapt it, it provides Parliament with detailed justification;

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17. Asks the President to submit the present Summary Report to the European Commission.
POSITION
of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

The Committee on Foreign Affairs,

1. Underlines that the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and the grave and massive violation of human rights and fundamental norms of international law have increased the urgency for the EU to respond to new geopolitical dynamics; reiterates its call on the Commission to take swiftly all necessary steps to ensure strategic sovereignty for the EU and a genuine security and defence policy in close cooperation with NATO - within its area of competence; welcomes in this regard the Council’s adoption of the Strategic Compass for the EU on 21 March 2022 and calls for its swift implementation;

2. Supports the Commission in its work towards the widest international condemnation of Russia including through increased sanctions and the efficient implementation of sanctions already decided; underlines the importance of continuous diplomatic efforts to maintain the strongest possible unity among the international community in condemning Russia, defending international law and the rules-based international order; calls on the Commission, in close cooperation with the EU’s partners, to convince as many countries as possible to adhere to the sanctions against Russia, and to tackle Russia’s and China’s malign influence and disinformation campaigns, which are, amongst others, trying to discredit the EU and its sanction regime against Russia; calls on the Commission to actively support the International Court of Justice in the investigation into Russia’s war of aggression against Ukraine and assist the collection of evidence and the documentation of ongoing war crimes;

3. Calls on the Commission to review the entire European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and strengthen its enlargement policy and to ensure coherence and credibility; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to thoroughly assess the impact of Russia’s war against Ukraine on cooperation within the Eastern Partnership (EaP) and to develop proposals on how to continue strengthening ties with the EaP countries; insists once more on effectively enhancing reforms in the areas of democracy, human rights and rule of law and intensifying sectoral cooperation; calls on the Commission to step up the level of ambition of relations with the EU associated countries and to continue the work towards granting EU candidate status to Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, which would also be a clear political signal of solidarity with the people of Ukraine; calls on the Commission to grant necessary financial support to these countries; reiterates its calls on the Commission and the Council to make full use of the revamped methodology to increase credibility, transparency and accountability of the accession process and to use metrics to assess justice system performance and positive and negative conditionality to address lack of political will; calls on the Council and the Commission to launch the intergovernmental conferences with Albania and North Macedonia and to grant visa-liberalisation to Kosovo without further delay, to encourage Montenegro to advance on meeting benchmarks and closing chapters, to demand from Serbia as a candidate country to show real commitment to EU values and align with the EU’s decisions and positions in foreign and security
policy, including adopting sanctions against Russia without further delay, and to also reflect this stance in the accession negotiations with Serbia; urges the Commission to make pressure on political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina to return to state institutions and advance on EU-related reforms to ensure its EU perspective as a single, united and sovereign country; calls on the Commission to implement the findings of the European Court of Auditors Special Report 01/2022 ensuring an effective rule-of-law impact of EU financial assistance in the Western Balkans and to fully apply IPA III conditionality where the focus should be on operationalising the provisions on modulation and reducing funding in case of significant regression or persistent lack of progress by reference to relevant indicators; considers that without clear and significant progress in the field of fundamental rights and rule of law the accession process, with Turkey should remain at a standstill; is however of the opinion that the Commission should enhance dialogue and cooperation with Turkey on foreign policy and security issues in order to strive for an increased mutual alignment in these areas and should remain open for engagement with the Turkish civil society;

4. Calls on the Commission to support the countries of the Southern Neighbourhood to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and cushion the adverse effects of supply shocks and price increases on these countries resulting from the war in Ukraine; calls on the Commission to fully implement the initiatives outlined in the joint communication of the Commission and the VP/HR of 9 February 2021 on the renewed partnership with the Southern Neighbourhood; regrets the fact that, more than 25 years after the start of the Barcelona Process, the construction of a shared area of prosperity, democracy, stability and freedom with the Mediterranean countries of the Southern Neighbourhood has not yet been completed; calls on the Commission to take all necessary steps to facilitate Tunisia’s return to democracy, including technical support for inclusive and transparent efforts towards political and economic reforms; asks the Commission to engage in talks with the two rival Libyan governments, together with the UN, in order to facilitate agreement over a feasible roadmap for elections in the country; urges the Commission and the VP/HR to play an active role in unblocking the political stalemate in Libya; urges the Commission to adopt a concrete strategy to enhance dialogue to achieve the two-state solution which remains the only viable solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict; calls for an enhanced partnership with the Gulf and swift restoration and full implementation by all parties of the JCPOA which is a cornerstone of non-proliferation and stabilisation of the Middle East and the Gulf region;

5. Calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to intensify relations between the EU, the US and other like-minded strategic partners to promote peace, security, effective multilateralism and a rules-based global order; reiterates its calls on the Commission to work with the UK on possible venues for future cooperation and coordination in the area of foreign and security policy, including in the framework of EU-NATO cooperation; stresses in this context the importance of strengthening relations with the LAC region by foreseeing an update of the EU-LAC strategy and re-instating the bi-regional EU-LAC summit, which has not taken place in six years, in particular considering the increasing and disproportionate influence of China and Russia in the region in comparison with the EU; stresses in this context the importance of concluding balanced and modernised Agreements with Chile, Mexico, and Mercosur with a strong human rights dimension and
alignment with the goals of the European Green Deal - provided that - in the case of Mercosur - the additional pre-ratification commitments are agreed; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to implement the commitments undertaken during the AU-EU Summit; asks the Commission and the VP/HR to come-up with a revised EU-Asia strategy; takes note of the outcome of the EU-China Summit; reiterates its requests for a renewed EU-China strategy; underscores the necessity to ensure that any support to Russia’s war in Ukraine and any circumvention of the effects of the sanctions against Russia by China must have consequences for its relations with the EU; calls on the Commission and the VP/HR to seek for strategic cooperation with Taiwan; underlines that the EU’s new Indo-Pacific Strategy needs to be implemented swiftly as it can play a crucial role in this regard; welcomes the EU engagement for a safe, stable, peaceful, sustainable and prosperous Arctic; underlines that the EU, as a geopolitical power, has strategic and day-to-day interests, both in the European Arctic and the broader Arctic region and a fundamental interest in supporting multilateral cooperation in the Arctic; asks the Commission to focus on the problem of the growing militarisation of the Arctic and on its rapidly changing physical and security environment; stresses the importance of mainstreaming human rights, gender equality and the rights of women and marginalised groups across foreign policy issues and in all relations with third countries or at the multilateral stage;

6. Underlines that energy diplomacy should become a key tool of the EU’s foreign policy instruments; calls on the Commission to speed-up its work towards intensifying the diversification of the EU’s energy supply sources thereby reducing as quick as possible its energy dependency on Russia; in that context, welcomes the Commission’s communication REPower EU of 8 March 2022 and the initiative to update the European Strategy on energy engagement; takes note that the Commission identifies the Gulf region as a key partner for the EU and welcomes that the EEAS and the Commission will present early May a Joint Communication setting out a strategic partnership with the Gulf countries; underlines that the energy diplomacy should lead to the development of tools and partnerships that are consistent with the objectives of the Green Deal and encourages the use of renewable energy by all our partners;

7. Welcomes that the Commission and the VP/HR launched on 1 December 2021 the Global Gateway Strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport and strengthen health, education and research systems across the world and in particular with the Global South; believes that considerable more efforts are needed to enable this strategy to live up to its full potential;

8. Is of the opinion that the increasingly challenging regional and geopolitical situation demands for improving the EU’s decision-making process in the field of the CFSP; calls on the Commission to fulfil its role as the driver of the European integration to develop by the end of 2022 an action plan to facilitate the CFSP decision-making process by switching progressively to QMV for decisions in the area of the CFSP that do not have military or defence implications as well as for other EU external policy tools such as the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime; calls on the Commission to propose a similar action plan to facilitate EU enlargement decision-making by switching progressively to QMV for decisions in the area of the accession, except for the admission
to the EU, where unanimity would still be required; calls on the Commission and the HR/VP to ensure comprehensive monitoring of the EU sanctions and their implementation, and during the review of the EU Global Human Rights Sanction Regime to highlight the importance of adding corruption among sanctioned crimes.

DROI key message

9. Is deeply concerned by increasing abuse and violations of international human rights standards and growing attacks against the rules based global order; calls on the Commission to step up its support to effective monitoring and protection mechanisms, with a view to safeguarding human dignity, the rights of women and other vulnerable groups and minorities as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world, and guaranteeing the respect of rule of law and accountability; underlines that a strategic and coordinated use of EU’s instruments, including political dialogue and partnership, monitoring mechanisms, trade agreements and a sound strategy to respond to repeated abuses and grave violations, among them violations of the freedom of speech and attacks against journalists, is central to the EU’s leverage on the global stage; calls on the Commission and the EEAS to take into account the EU Election Observation Missions’ conclusions concerning third countries in particular, when designing policies, to update the election observation methodology of EU EOMs in order to adapt them to new challenges and threats to electoral integrity, as well as to strengthen the engagement towards domestic observers in election observation; in view of the challenges faced by international election observation (such as the introduction of IT tools in electoral processes or the use of the Internet), invites the European Commission to update the communication on the guidelines on EU global election assistance and observation strategy; welcomes the Commission proposal for a Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence as a step towards fostering responsible corporate behaviour in regard to human and labour rights, while underlining the importance of a coherent accompanying strategy on forced labour, with special focus on eradicating child labour and protecting children in situations of conflict; also reiterates the key importance of guaranteeing children's right to education and calls on the Commission and the EEAS to maintain robust funding for education; underlines the importance of strengthening and making the full use of international and national instruments in the fight against impunity, including universal jurisdiction and the crime of aggression; calls on the Commission to ensure that these instruments are applied in a coordinated and complementary manner with other relevant EU and Member States instruments; believes that a special international tribunal to investigate and prosecute the Russian Federation’s crime of aggression against Ukraine would be a crucial step towards ending impunity and would complement the proceedings on war crimes, crimes against humanity and other serious crimes under international law already brought before the ICC, the International Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights; calls therefore on the Commission to swiftly make financing available for the initiative to establish an interim office in The Hague, with a view to allowing Ukrainian and international prosecutors and investigators to conduct the preparatory work necessary for the swift establishment of the tribunal; underlines the importance of properly storing and securing preliminary evidence of these crimes against Ukraine and welcomes the Commission proposal to amend the 2018 ‘Eurojust’ Regulation, with a view to enabling the agency to collect, preserve and share evidence of war crimes; in
order to strengthen the effectiveness of the EU sanctions, including under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, calls for an asset database to help to track down Russian and other third country oligarchs and owners of assets held by shell companies: calls on the Commission and the EEAS to actively reflect on how to make the human rights clauses in international agreements effective and strategic and on how to promote human rights based – including the right to a clean environment – approach in all EU instruments and strategies, such as the Global Gateway, so as to build the EU’s human rights policy on a solid basis; urges the EU to formulate a comprehensive global anti-corruption strategy in order to stand up against financial enablers of human rights abusers, which also needs to include programmes under its external financial instruments enhancing the scrutiny role of the European Parliament;

SEDE key message
10. With regard to security and defence, with the return of war to Europe due to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, there is a new sense of urgency requiring all the European Union institutions to work together to enhance European security and defence so that the EU is a stronger and more capable security provider for its citizens, and international security, peace and stability; thereby calls on the Commission to report on the steps it is taking to achieve, with all means and without delay, a fully-fledged European Defence Union in complementarity with a much more reliable and effective Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP); welcomes the "European Commission’s contribution to European Defence" and its "Roadmap on critical technologies for security and defence" which if implemented through concrete action in a timely manner could represent a core contribution to a more effective and reliable CSDP and an ambitious Strategic Compass, the latter having the aim of being the EU’s first White Book on European Defence; welcomes the Versailles Declaration which represents a positive statement on strengthening European Defence, in particular its capacities and calls for turning this declaration into concrete action, including the speedy delivery of key commitments, inter alia:

- for the Commission, in coordination with the European Defence Agency, to put forward an analysis not only capability, procedural, legal and investment gaps but on how to fill those gaps (including through specific defence investment, technical standards, new or adapted legislation) by mid-May 2022 and to propose any further initiative necessary to strengthen the European defence industrial and technological base also via technical norms for interoperability and a legal framework for the security of supply for defence as demanded by the European Council already in 2013;
- by further supporting partners through all available instruments, including through an increased use of the European Peace Facility (which may require additional funds following its extensive use for Ukraine) and for the VPHR to provide clarity on the use of the instrument, adequate safeguards, and coherence with other EU instruments (notably CFSP budget, Global Europe and EU Trust Funds);
- by ensuring the Strategic Compass meets the highest level of ambition and priorities for capability development to face the serious deterioration of the European and international security order, and that it sets out the necessary guidance for action across the security and defence dimensions with a realistic
timetable for implementation in order to make the European Union a stronger and more capable security provider;

- In rising to the challenges of the geopolitical changes and deteriorating European and international security order, the European Parliament should play its full role, mobilising all the potential of the Treaties including through its budgetary powers and all the existing instruments to ensure the EU has the resources and capabilities to provide the necessary security expected by its citizens.

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The Committee on Development,

1. Is concerned by the global increase in food and nutrition insecurity in recent years; underlines that the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequent rise in energy and food prices is worsening an already difficult situation in developing countries, notably amongst the poorest and most vulnerable people in the Southern Neighbourhood and Sub-Saharan Africa; calls on the Commission, in coordination with Member States and international partners, to urgently initiate and implement a Global Food Security Strategy, in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy, to simultaneously increase life-saving humanitarian aid and to address the long-term drivers of food insecurity, including through development interventions seeking to empower local farmers to scale-up production capacities and strengthen local supply chains; welcomes the implementation of cash-based policies to not undermine the local food markets on the supply-side;

2. Calls on the EU to continue to accelerate the rolling out of vaccines in developing countries especially in Africa, and to support countries in the efficient administration of vaccines; calls for the setting-up of an effective long-term, comprehensive EU global health strategy; insists on the importance of helping to build stronger health systems in developing countries notably by delivering “horizontal” universal health care system coverage through a holistic and rights-based approach, which entails i.a. to fully address the multidimensional nature of health (with close links to gender, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation, education and poverty), along the line of “One Health” approach, in addition to the support of the development of infrastructure, vaccine production capacities and capacity building; calls on the Commission to engage constructively towards an agreement on a comprehensive WTO response to the pandemic that includes trade related and intellectual property related aspects;

3. Regrets that the outcome of the EU-African Union Summit has been overshadowed by the war in Ukraine; calls for the urgent setting-up of the monitoring mechanism in order to improve transparency and track commitments; welcomes the launching of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package as a way to boost public and private investments in infrastructure development; underlines that the Parliament intends to closely monitor its design and implementation; regrets that some African countries have chosen to abstain from a series of UN General Assembly votes on Russia and Ukraine; in this regard, calls for reinforced multilateralism and for the urgent signature of the Partnership Agreement between the EU and the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPs), which offers a modernised framework of cooperation and dialogue;

4. Recognises that the war in Ukraine and the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic are having a huge negative impact on the global achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); calls for a renewed impetus for their achievement by 2030 and urges the
EU to take the lead and to set up a comprehensive strategy and roadmap to this end; further notes that access to quality education, including vocational training, is a holistic, cross cutting issue that has an impact on every dimension of SDGs; recalls furthermore the crucial importance of ensuring Policy Coherence for Development in order to minimise contradictions and build synergies between all EU policies in order to increase the effectiveness of development cooperation; stresses that digital transition requirements and energy priorities should not cause irreparable damage to ecosystems and to the basic rights of local people; welcomes the inclusion of the SDGs into the Economic Governance Cycle for the European Semester;

5. Stresses that human development is essential for the eradication of poverty and the achievement of the SDGs; recalls that human rights, gender equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human development; recalls that fighting inequality can contribute significantly to human development and calls on the Commission to make this a key guiding principle in the current EC programming and implementation under NDICI-Global Europe; underlines the important role of education, job creation and investments in the reduction and eradication of poverty; underlines that providing access to education is a crucial issue in humanitarian emergencies and in conflict prone areas; highlights that schools protect children from the physical dangers around them – including abuse, exploitation and recruitment into armed groups - and that schools are important to combat radicalisation as well as to provide children with lifesaving food, water, health care and hygiene supplies; welcomes the up-coming adoption of the EU’s first Youth Action Plan for external action;

6. Recalls that the COVID-19 pandemic has increased inequalities within and between countries and has led to growing levels of indebtedness of many low-and middle-income countries; further underlines the importance of addressing debt sustainability in partner countries as a priority and calls on the Commission to follow-up on the 2016 EP report on enhancing developing countries’ debt sustainability, and to draw up specific initiatives to save developing countries from excessive debt; reiterates its call to the Commission to adopt an action plan linked to the mobilisation of domestic resources and innovative financial instruments; calls on the Commission to promote international cooperation in tax matters, to fight against illicit financial flows and incentivise responsible lending;

7. Stresses that the European Union and its Member States continue to be the world’s leading providers of Official Development Assistance (ODA); strongly encourages Member States to deliver on their commitments to dedicate 0,7 % of their GNI to ODA in a context where challenges and needs are growing; calls for an acceleration of the reform of the European financial architecture for development in order to maximise the use of resources and highlights the need for more private funding and for a broadening of the donor base; urges the Commission to protect the funding originally allocated to development in the NDICI-Global Europe regulation despite the massive needs for Ukraine;

8. Recalls the impact of climate change on human development and the vulnerability of developing country populations; highlights furthermore that the global biodiversity crisis undermines progress towards 80% of the assessed targets of the SDGs; recalls that the rights of indigenous people and local communities should be protected and their voices
heard as they play an important role in the protection of biodiversity; stresses in addition that the EU has a key role to play in the external dimension of international ocean governance, in particular with regard to coastal communities; calls for additional support to be provided to help developing countries fight against land degradation and land desertification;

9. Notes with concern that protracted emergencies and conflicts around the globe are placing increasing pressure on an already underfunded global humanitarian system, including on the EU and on its Member States as leading humanitarian donors; calls, in this context, for a rapid and efficient implementation and reinforcement of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in the EU’s response to humanitarian crises and for stronger and more systematic coordination between humanitarian and development policies in order to strengthen resilience in crisis-affected countries; re-emphasizes the principle “no one left behind” in relation to the war in Ukraine and also other conflict areas; calls on the Commission to engage with non-governmental partners in order to increase the efficiency of its financial support for access to quality education and vocational training;

10. Expresses its concern regarding the systematic violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in armed conflicts around the world; calls on the EU and its member states to step up efforts to monitor and investigate IHL violations and to hold their perpetrators accountable; stresses the vulnerability of women, children and youth in conflicts and humanitarian crises and calls on the Commission to adopt concrete measures to properly address the needs of people in vulnerable situation, in particular gender-based violence and the exploitation and abuse of children; recalls moreover to further develop an adapted and efficient gender-responsive EU humanitarian action and the need to ensure continued access to education in emergencies.

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The Committee on International Trade,

1. Stresses that the geopolitical reality has dramatically changed since Russia’s unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, as also recognised in the Versailles Declaration of the Heads of States and Governments of 10 and 11 March 2022; in the current context of challenging geopolitical context, ongoing economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic, a shift from rules-based trade towards power-based trade, stresses that EU trade policy has been reconfirmed as a major geopolitical tool, which can facilitate economic recovery and boost economic growth while focusing on shared prosperity and strengthening Europe’s influence in a fast-changing world; highlights the role of EU trade policy in achieving the Versailles Declaration’s objective of building European sovereignty through a more robust economic base by making the latter more resilient, competitive and fit for the green and digital transitions, while leaving no one behind; calls, therefore, on the Commission to further engage with WTO countries and trade partners by means of strategic partnerships in order to diversify our supply chains and their resilience, deepen our cooperation on critical emerging technologies, digital issues and raw materials, including for key agricultural products, and help tackle global challenges; welcomes and is ready to contribute as co-legislator to the EU’s objectives, in particular to reduce EU’s strategic dependencies in the most sensitive areas like critical raw materials, semi-conductors, health, digital and food and to promote globally our standards, market access, sustainable value chains and connectivity;

2. Welcomes the fact that in 2022, one year after the Communication on the review of the EU trade policy, the work, including on important legislative files, has intensified thereby further shaping the concept of EU’s strategic autonomy; stresses the importance of ensuring both strategic autonomy and a sustainable recovery; notes, however, that in the Commission Work Programme 2022, entitled “Making Europe stronger together”, the role of international trade and investments and possible synergies with other EU policies are not sufficiently developed with respect to the six headline ambitions; calls on the Commission to develop and implement a more coherent approach covering the internal and external aspects of EU economic policies (no silo approach) by making this principle of coherence and mutual relevance more prominent in its evaluations, impact assessments and consultations to reinforce the future proofing of the EU policies; welcomes the continued dialogue with DG Trade, which is imperative from the democratic perspective, and in particular Executive Vice-President Valdis Dombrovskis’s intervention at the INTA meeting of 28 February, as part of the structured dialogue with Parliament; notes that challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the frequency of interactions between INTA and the Executive Vice-President and looks forward to more regular dialogue in 2022 and beyond; appreciates the availability of Executive Vice-President Margrethe Vestager and DG Trade’s Director General, the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, Trade Chief Negotiators and other Commission’s Directorates and
EEAS to participate to INTA meetings and in camera Monitoring Groups dedicated to specific negotiations;

3. Underlines the importance of the intense legislative work on new instruments to fill the gaps in the trade and investment toolbox to ensure level-playing field for EU companies; thus, welcomes the conclusion of the trilogues on the International Procurement Instrument (IPI) aiming at ensuring reciprocity for EU businesses in the access to procurement markets of non-EU countries; welcomes the on-going work on new rules addressing distortive foreign subsidies and an instrument against economic coercion; is ready to work to the new proposal for the review of the Blocking Statute\(^1\); while welcoming the efforts of the Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, calls for further reflection and resources on how to make implementation and enforcement of international trade agreements more effective, including through better coordination with the EU and Member States offices in third countries and, in this context, calls for more cooperation with like-minded partners;

4. Reiterates its strong commitment to multilateralism and rules-based cooperation in international trade; in this context, welcomes the efforts of the Commission to achieve concrete results at the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation, which is rescheduled to take place in June 2022; stresses once again the importance of finalising an agreement on ‘Trade & Health’ in light of the ongoing pandemic, the agreement on fisheries subsidies, of securing meaningful progress on the Joint Statement Initiatives (JSIs) in compliance with WTO rules, including the e-commerce negotiations, of exploring options on environmental goods as part of the WTO trade and climate initiative and wider commitments on strengthening of the sustainability dimension of the WTO; expects that progress will be made in restoring the functionality of the Appellate Body; invites the Commission to continue the cooperation, in the framework of the WTO, with the United States, Japan and others especially on transparency for industrial subsidies and state-owned enterprises; invites the Commission to take the lead also in other in international fora and to seek commitment for climate neutrality from G20 countries; Calls on the Commission to continue the constructive dialogue on the draft compromise resulting from the quad discussions on the TRIPS waiver and enhancing global access to affordable COVID-19-related medical products

5. Welcomes the encouraging developments in the context of the new forum for transatlantic cooperation on trade and technology, the Trade and Technology Council, as part of the EU agenda on strengthening transatlantic trade relations, and invites Executive Vice-Presidents Dombrovskis and Vestager to continue to engage in a regular structured dialogue with the INTA committee on this matter; insists on the democratic control of the European Parliament and the transparency; fully supports the TTC initiatives and shared EU-US approach on investment screening and on exports controls and calls for increased and structured dialogue on economic and trade relations with Ukraine; notes the de-escalation with respect to US steel and aluminium tariffs, while still awaiting for the elimination of quantitative restrictions and looks forward to concrete cooperation for


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greener production in the sectors concerned; deeply regrets the Chinese sanctions, still in place against individual Members of European Parliament and one parliamentary committee, Chinese measures of economic coercion against Lithuania and Beijing's reiteration of its determination to continue developing bilateral ties and boosting cooperation with Russia; considers that all these elements have had a negative impact on the broader EU-China dialogue, including on trade and on the progress of the EU-China Comprehensive Agreement on Investment; is moreover concerned about the lack of progress recorded in these areas at the latest EU-China Summit of 1 April, particularly in light of the need to address important structural issues on the trade and investment fronts; notes with interest the new Global Gateway strategy to build connectivity partnerships that should promote digital and green trusted connectivity with partners across the globe, while taking into account our partner countries needs and the EU's own economic and geostrategic interests;

6. Urges the Commission to conclude balanced modernised trade agreements with Mexico and Chile and to seek meaningful progress in the on-going bilateral negotiations with Mercosur countries, New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia and others in line with the negotiating directives and ensuring the agreements are in line with the goals of the European Green Deal and the EU ambitions in Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapters; stresses again the broad support in Parliament to start the negotiations with Taiwan on a Bilateral Investment Agreement without further delay; welcomes the resuming of negotiations with India on Investment Protection Agreement, an agreement on geographical indications, and a comprehensive free trade agreement as an ultimate goal in the long-run; welcomes the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific presented by the Commission and High Representative in September 2021; calls for full implementation of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Withdrawal Agreement - in all its parts, including the trade-related aspects of, in particular, the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland; in the event that the Court of Justice for the EU confirm in appeal the judgment of the General Court draws the attention that the Commission should reflect on credible and sustainable alternative to the Protocol on products originating in Western Sahara;

7. Welcomes the revision of the regulation applying a scheme of generalised tariff preferences (‘GSP Regulation’) which contributes to sustainable development and the respect of human rights worldwide in line with Article 21 TEU; welcomes the Commission proposal for corporate sustainability due diligence and expects the release as announced of an equally ambitious legislative proposal for a trade policy tool to ban forced labour, including child labour products; calls for consideration of equality for all, including the gender equality principle, and for a special consideration of the impact on the next generations; stresses once again that the micro, small and medium-sized enterprises’ (MSMEs) level of utilisation of EU’s FTAs not satisfactory and, while welcoming the introduction of new tools such SMEs centres or SMEs helpdesks, considers that particular attention should be paid to MSMEs taking better advantage of trade agreements and to trade facilitation measures, calls on the Commission to reduce administrative and regulatory burdens for MSMEs to a minimum; emphasises that digital transformation has the potential to be another key enabler for sustainable development;
8. Welcomes the EU’s ongoing leadership in the negotiations for a Multilateral Investment Court and looks forwards to seeing developments; calls on the Commission to pursue a high level of ambition in the reform of the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) in order to bring it fully in line with transparency and sustainability goals; reiterates expectations to see steps towards a swift conclusion by June and calls on the Commission to take necessary action should those goals not be achieved;

9. Calls on the Commission to continue engaging with Parliament on improving the implementation and the enforcement of Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) chapters; looks forward to the timely publication of the revised 15-point action plan, which should be an open, inclusive and transparent process leading to an ambitious and holistic agenda to deliver of the EU’s international sustainability commitments; stresses the importance of strengthening the Union’s innovative enforcement methods and welcomes the Commission’s openness to look at the cooperative approach and to consider, among other options, sanctions as a last resort, underlines that the revised 15 point action plan should be implemented in all future trade negotiations thus reflecting the new EU ambitions;

10. Notes that according to the CWP 2022 the Commission will pursue the global energy transition, as well as promoting security of supply, clean technologies and open markets; in this context, welcomes the new practice of considering the Paris Agreement, including National Determined Contributions, as essential elements in the framework of trade and investment agreements; and calls on the Commission to regularly carry out ex post impact assessments in order to ensure full consistency with the European Green Deal of existing and future trade and investment agreements; encourages the Commission to bring forward new initiatives aiming at using trade policy to facilitate the achievement of our ambitious climate objectives.
The Committee on Budgets,

1. Underlines that the Russian invasion of Ukraine has required a swift response from the EU budget; urges the Commission to use all available flexibility within the MFF and to mobilise all relevant programmes and instruments, including the NDICI, AMIF, the Cohesion Funds and the Solidarity and Emergency Aid Reserve, to provide humanitarian aid and macro-economic financial assistance to Ukraine and to support Member States welcoming refugees fleeing the conflict; notes the significant EU budget exposure through loans to Ukraine and calls on the Commission to monitor the situation closely and keep Parliament fully informed of potential budgetary implications;

2. Stresses that the crisis has highlighted the need to scale up spending and investment in key areas, including stepping up defence cooperation and boosting investment in innovative defence technologies, achieving energy independence and security, boosting strategic industrial production, enhancing food security, and delivering on the EU’s climate objectives through a socially just transition; calls on the Commission, as a first step, to make optimal use of flexibility in the MFF Regulation and the Financial Regulation, including by regularly making available again the research decommitments under Article 15(3) of the Financial Regulation; regrets that the recent Chips Act and Secure Connectivity proposals draw primarily on funding in existing programmes, highlighting once again the limited resources and flexibility available;

3. Reiterates its view that the Union must have sufficient means to react to unexpected developments and to invest in longer-term policy objectives and in its strategic autonomy; calls on the Commission to conduct, as a priority, an in-depth analysis of the functioning of the 2021-2027 MFF in order to determine the pertinence and timing of an MFF revision, including the possibility of bringing forward its proposal for the MFF mid-term revision; expects such a revision to take into account the long-term implications of the current crisis on existing EU policies and programmes, but also the shift to new political priorities and emerging needs, as well as other well-identified shortcomings of the current framework; reiterates its view that any future decisions on the budgetary architecture of the Union should safeguard the community method and ensure that the Parliament is fully involved in the decision-making process;

4. Highlights the importance of NextGenerationEU and MFF programmes in helping Member States to address the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis and to boost investment; regrets, therefore, the delay in implementation of a number of MFF programmes and points to the fact that Article 7 of the MFF Regulation has already been triggered with Draft Amending Budget 1/2022; calls on the Commission to support efforts to expedite programme implementation;
5. Calls on the Commission to monitor RRF implementation and to support Member States to ensure that excessive focus on RRF plans does not deflect from implementation of other programmes; urges the Commission to continue to provide regular information to the budgetary authority about the implementation of external assigned revenue under NGEU, including as part of NGEU interinstitutional meetings;

6. Welcomes the 22 December 2021 “financial package”, which contains an update of the Own Resources Decision; calls on the Commission to facilitate discussions in the Council so that the proposed own resources are introduced by 1 January 2023 as set out in the legally binding Inter-Institutional Agreement; urges the Commission, in interinstitutional legislative negotiations, to defend the community nature of the Social Climate Fund and its proposals whereby revenue under the ETS and CBAM will flow into the EU budget; expects the Commission to ensure that additional revenue from new own resources covers at least the repayment of the Recovery Instrument costs and urges the Commission to present proposals for a second basket of new own resources by the end of 2023; calls for the structural dialogue between the three institutions to intensify in view of the Council decision on the proposed three new own resources

7. Underlines that the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation was found by the CJEU to be fully treaty-compliant in its judgment of 16 February 2022; calls on the Commission to apply the regulation in full and without delay whenever a breach of the rule of law is detected, while safeguarding beneficiaries of EU funds in the event of sanctions; asks the Commission to fully implement other mechanisms to protect the Union budget, in particular those in the Financial Regulation and Common Provisions Regulation; recalls the Commission’s commitment to step up efforts to ensure full participation of all Member States in the European Public Prosecutor’s Office;

8. Repeats its call for the Commission to provide timely and meaningful information to enable Parliament to exercise its prerogatives as budgetary authority, including with regard to measures taken in the framework of Article 122 TFEU, and for the Commission to act consistently as an honest broker between the two arms of the budgetary authority; calls, furthermore, for adequate support and information in the preparation and implementation of pilot projects and preparatory actions.

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The Committee on Budgetary Control,

1. Expect the Commission to facilitate a smooth adoption of the upcoming targeted revision of the Financial Regulation by the co-legislators, especially as regards the establishment of a mandatory single interoperable database, with relevant information on direct and ultimate beneficiaries of EU funds, including but not limited to the mandatory risk scoring tool – ARACHNE and providing a clear overview of the recipients of the EU funding;

2. Welcomes the activation of the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism against Hungary and calls on the Commission to continue ensuring a strict application of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092, "Conditionality Regulation", for the protection of Union's budget in the event of breaches of the principles of the rule of law;

3. Calls on the Commission to ensure a proper and sound implementation of the NextGenerationEU stimulus package, in order to prevent double funding, fraud and conflicts of interests, in line with Regulation 2021/241 and to transmit relevant documents and information simultaneously and on equal terms to the European Parliament and to the Council, whose involvement is crucial to ensure the democratic oversight;

4. Urges the Commission to work closely with the Member States in order to speed up the implementation of cohesion policy (2021 – 2027) and ensure a quick start up of the implementation of the common agricultural policy (2023-2027), while keeping a high focus on quality, delivering on the Union's priorities and responding to the energy, supply and refugee crisis; reiterates in this context the importance of stepping up the fight against fraud, corruption and conflict of interests;

5. Reminds the recurrent weaknesses in relation to the reliability and quality of work of various Member States' national authorities in terms of implementation and audit and control systems; urges the Commission to provide technical assistance and advisory services to the Member States concerned to optimise their administrative capacities and digitalise the audit and control systems, which should play a primary role in identifying fraudulent structures in the EU and stepping up the fight against fraud and corruption;

6. Calls on the Commission to follow up on the requests from the European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO) especially concerning ensuring sufficient and adequate staffing and possible adaptions of the basic act (Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (‘the EPPO’) to ensure that EPPO can function in an optimal way;

7. Emphasises that at present no analysis or report considers in a satisfactory way how the revamped EU anti-fraud architecture including Eurojust, Europol, EPPO, Ombudsman,
Court of Justice, etc. effectively works; underlines that some topics, notably conflict of interests and corruption, appear not adequately analysed; calls on the Commission to update the existing reporting, aligning it with the new complex institutional setup, in order to allow an effective analysis, the identification of the possible gaps calling for intervention and of the effective benefits and of the good practices that can be endorsed, enhanced and shared;

8. Calls on the Commission to prepare an annual summary of the situation of off-budget instruments (such as the European peace facility or ESM) and hybrid instruments (such as EUTFs or the Facility for refugees in Turkey), including more comparable data sets and analysis, ensuring an appropriate follow up and comparison of the instruments and allowing the Parliament to fully carry its scrutiny prerogative;

9. Asks the Commission to ensure that also for the financial year 2023 and following years that the EDF expenditure is appropriately reported on and followed-up, given their specificities, and to keep the discharge authority timely and fully updated on its development.

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The Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs,

Macroeconomic Considerations

Economic Prospects for the EU

1. Stresses that the conflict in Ukraine and the severe sanctions against the Russian Federation will unavoidably entail negative effects on the EU economy; notes that the robust response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis has proven to be effective; expects the Commission and the Council to react with the same determination, unity and speediness and in solidarity with this new severe crisis; is concerned that the current crisis, together with increased energy prices, inflationary pressures and the rise of the interest rates could hamper economic growth prospects in the coming months; highlights that the combination of all these factors might become an element of macroeconomic instability; calls on the Commission to take all these elements into account in the context of the EU’s economic and fiscal and surveillance framework; recalls its requests made in the Parliament resolution on the European Semester for economic policy coordination: annual sustainable growth survey 2022; takes note of the Commission Communication on fiscal policy guidance for 2023;

2. Reiterates its call on the Commission to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) ensuring full compliance with the legislative framework provided by the co-legislator; expects the Commission to appropriately involve the co-legislator in the process; invites the Commission to consider targeted changes enabling interested Member States to use the remaining amount for loans to finance multi-country projects to strengthen the EU’s resilience in light of the fallout of Russia’s aggression in Ukraine;

Economic governance reform

3. Invites the Commission to present a proposal on how to reform the economic governance framework, preferably prior to the deactivation of the general escape clause, making it simpler, more coherent and more transparent; notes that a switch to an expenditure rule with a ceiling on nominal public expenditure combined with a debt anchor would satisfy those conditions; recalls in this regard its report on the review of the macroeconomic legislative framework for a better impact on Europe’s real economy and improved transparency of decision-making and democratic accountability; invites the Commission to revamp the comprehensive economic policy response to the current crisis to effectively address economic and social inequalities against the backdrop of enormous investment needs;
Digital Euro

4. Welcomes the targeted consultation on the Digital Euro conducted by the Commission in April-June 2022; asks the Commission to keep the European Parliament involved in the preparatory work leading to the adoption of a proposal to establish this digital currency;

Banking Regulation and Financial Services

Banking Regulation

5. Welcomes the adoption of the Banking Package by the Commission in order to effectively introduce the Basel III standards in EU legislation; highlights in particular the need for ensuring that European banks remain well capitalised while preserving their competitiveness and the flow of credit towards citizens and businesses; acknowledges the Commission’s attempt to further strengthen citizens’ confidence in the protection of deposits by introducing an EDIS; calls for the harmonisation of national insolvency regimes and for initiatives that make resolution work for more banks, which requires a review of the Public Interest Assessment in order to increase transparency, ex-ante predictability with regard to its expected outcome, and thus allow resolution tools to be applied to a broader group of banks; highlights that the envisioned targeted adjustments should strive to make the crisis management regime more coherent, credible and effective; reiterates that bank-like systemic risks can occur where credit intermediation takes place in an environment where regulatory standards and supervisory oversight are looser than for regular banks; calls on the Commission to continuously monitor the resilience of capital markets and to put forward, if appropriate, legislative proposals;

Financial Services: CMU Action Plan

6. Welcomes the Commission proposals implementing the Capital Markets Union (CMU) Action Plan (AIFMD, MiFIR, ELTIF, ESAP, CSDR Review) that are currently going through the legislative process and invites the Commission to keep executing on the CMU Action Plan in order to create a true single market for financial services; looks forward to the Commission proposal on the Retail Investment Strategy; expects a proposal in 2022, with detailed steps on how to further develop the CMU including by ensuring that retail investors who wish to invest into capital markets can do so with confidence and based on a strong and coherent investor protection framework; stresses the need to streamline and make more coherent the consumer protection and client information provisions in various EU financial services files; notes that a coherent retail investment strategy might vastly improve citizens’ access to financial markets; notes the Commission’s recent consultation on the review of the Mortgage Credit Directive (MCD); calls on the Commission to propose an appropriate follow-up; welcomes the Commission’s targeted consultation on Instant Payments; urges the Commission to come forward as swiftly as possible with a legislative proposal to ensure the wider availability of instant payment solutions for EU citizens based on adequate levels of consumer protection;

7. Welcomes the Commission’s targeted consultation on the functioning of the ESG ratings market in the European Union following the adoption of its Strategy for Financing the Transition to a Sustainable Economy; calls on the Commission to put forward, if appropriate, a legislative proposal to strengthen the transparency, reliability and comparability of ESG ratings and combat potential greenwashing by ESG rating
providers; notes the publication of the report on social taxonomy by the platform of sustainable finance;

8. Welcomes the public consultation on statutory audit and corporate governance; expects the Commission to follow-up with a view to integrate the lessons learned from Wirecard case and solving the inherent conflict of interest in the audit market;

9. Asks the Commission to continue working to ensure the EU’s autonomy with regards to central clearing, in spite of the decision to extend the temporary equivalence of UK based CCPs until 30 June 2025; welcomes the Commission’s targeted consultation on the review of the central clearing framework in the EU and applauds the ambition to improve the EU’s clearing and settlement landscape to make it more attractive compared to third countries and to expand clearing activities in the EU; invites the Commission to come forward with concrete proposal in this regard;

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Terrorist Financing (AML/CFT)/ Targeted Financial Sanctions

10. Welcomes the legislative proposals from the Commission to strengthen the anti-money laundering (AML) framework in the Union, especially tackling the regulatory and supervisory fragmentation with a creation of the Anti-Money Laundering authority, as well as establishment of a single rule book and more efficient enforcement of existing rules for staunch fight against money laundering, terrorist financing, tax fraud and tax evasion; stresses the need for more efficient and coordinated enforcement of existing rules, which can also be instrumental to close the gaps that allow for circumvention of targeted financial sanctions; calls on the Commission to continue to pursue infringement procedures against Member States still not effectively implementing or enforcing EU law on AML; calls on the Commission to update the EU list of high risk countries in line with the latest FATF developments without further delay; calls on the Commission to propose the creation of a dedicated body to monitor the enforcement of targeted financial sanctions and other EU restrictive measures, on the basis of the work already carried out by the "Seize and Freeze" Task Force; calls on the Commission to map and publish the assets frozen and seized by each Member State;

Competition Policy

11. Welcomes the Temporary Crisis Framework adopted by the Commission to support the economy in context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine; stresses however that the Commission needs to focus on developing a convincing exit strategy that moves from more targeted support measures to an eventual phasing out and to developing more long-term solutions; regrets that killer acquisitions currently largely fall outside the scope of the Merger Regulation; upholds that the review of competition policy should make it fit for the digital age; calls for more ex-ante instruments to be introduced in competition law; underlines that the market definition notice should be reviewed to take into account the new digital reality and shorter life cycles for businesses; reiterates its requests made in the Parliament resolution on competition policy – annual report 2021, in particular notes that there are multiple vendors in several specific markets for financial data, and although none of them has a dominant market share, competition remains very low; notes that measures to enhance competition in this market have turned out to be insufficient;
Taxation

General

12. Calls on the Commission to analyse the impact and tax implications of the Pandora Papers’ revelations; underlines in particular the need to provide a better framework for the enablers of tax avoidance in the European Union and calls on the Commission to address this issue in future policy proposals; supports the commitment of the Commission to make full use of the Treaties to curb aggressive tax planning in the internal market, such as article 116 TFEU; highlights the Parliament’s DAC implementation report (2020/2046(INI)) and regrets that relevant documents were not shared with the Parliament by the Commission and the Council; welcomes the Commission’s efforts in addressing policies in Member States which allow aggressive tax planning through the assessment of Recovery and Resilience plans; underlines that the enforcement of sanctions on Russian oligarchs showcases the need for more extended exchange of information between Member States;

OECD negotiations

13. Welcomes the agreement reached by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on a two-pillar reform considering it as an important step towards to ending tax evasion and profit shifting practices to low tax jurisdictions, reducing harmful tax competition, ensuring that companies pay their fair share of tax in each jurisdiction; calls on Member States to reach an agreement as soon as possible on the implementation of the OECD Pillar 2 agreement establishing a minimum level of taxation for multinationals; points out the need to ensure a balanced timetable for the adoption of the rules applying Pillar 2 of the OECD agreement, assuring a safeguard on the European economy’s competitiveness; awaits the Commission’s proposal to implement the Pillar 1 agreement, once the technical aspects of the multilateral convention are agreed at OECD level; calls on the Commission to initiate a structured dialogue with both the Parliament and the Council on the state of play of the future international convention and on the future legislation applying Pillar 1 of the OECD agreement;

Deepening the fiscal framework of the EU

14. Welcomes the Commission’s Communication on Business taxation for the 21st century setting out a long-term vision to provide a fair tax framework in Europe and calls on the Commission to follow-up on all the initiatives announced, i.e. a legislative proposal in 2022 on the publication of effective tax rates paid by large companies based on the Pillar 2 methodology of the OECD and a new proposal for an EU single corporate tax rulebook (BEFIT) in 2023, based on a fair, comprehensive and effective formulary apportionment and a common tax base of income taxation for businesses; calls on the Commission to initiate a wide inclusive consultation process on guiding principles ahead of the launch of the BEFIT proposal with stakeholders, Member States, national parliaments and the European Parliament; calls on the Commission to widen the scope of the future proposal for DAC8 to new sectors such as crypto-assets while taking into account the EP DAC implementation report and DAC7 opinion; calls on the Commission to be ambitious in its upcoming legislative proposal on withholding taxes to ensure that payments generated within the Union are taxed at least once before leaving it and invites the Commission to take on board the recommendations by the European Parliament in its recent adopted
resolution ‘A European Withholding Tax Framework’; calls on the Council to resume negotiations on the revision of the Interest and Royalties Directive to ensure a minimum effective tax rate of intra-EU payments and asks the Commission to start a structured dialogue with both the Parliament and the Council on a possible new version of the proposal; calls on the Commission to present an impact assessment for a revision of the Anti-Tax Avoidance Directive to prepare the ground for possible legislative procedure and also to revise the Parent-Subsidiary directive; deeply regrets the failure by the Council to revise the Code of Conduct on Business Taxation and the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions; recalls the concrete proposals of the European Parliament made in this respect; is concerned by the growing harmful practices in the area of personal income taxation; invites the Commission and the Code of Conduct Group to look into personal income and capital gains tax from a cross-border perspective, in line with the EU Treaties; highlights the importance of closing the VAT gap, notably by taking concrete steps towards a definitive VAT system and start the effort of reforming this tax with a Single EU VAT registration procedure and the Single EU VAT number by 2023.
The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs,

1. Strongly condemns the unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation; calls on the Commission to strengthen the efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, support the social and labour market integration and protection of the refugees including through swift profiling and recognition of qualifications, in particular through the EU Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals, and to provide financial aid to the Member States for the reception and integration of refugees, including for healthcare and care services, housing, food and material aid, education, training programmes and public employment services; welcomes the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive; calls on the Commission to fully implement it through solidarity and shared responsibility between EU Member States, by guaranteeing the full range of rights provided by the Directive, for all those who are entitled to this protection: Ukrainian nationals, their family members, stateless persons and third-country nationals who benefited from international protection or equivalent protection in Ukraine, as well as their family members; calls for extending the temporary protection to those third-country nationals legally residing in Ukraine who are unable to return in safe and durable conditions to their country or region of origin; welcomes the swift adoption of the CARE and updated REACT-EU regulations and calls on the Commission to keep similar flexibility in the use of EU funds for cases of crisis; calls on the Commission to ensure the timely and rigorous implementation of the EPSR Action Plan, through concrete steps and achievements, and to make sure that each proposal delivers and reaches its goal; calls for the indicators and the proposals to consider the social impacts resulting from the effects that the pandemic and/or the war have on the economy, employment and health; welcomes the adoption of the Council recommendation establishing a European Child Guarantee, whose objective is to prevent and combat poverty and social exclusion by guaranteeing free and effective access for children in need to key services; highlights that the COVID-19 crisis and the arrival of refugees following the war in Ukraine may exacerbate the situation of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion or children who need access to good quality care; calls on the Member States and the Commission, therefore, to urgently increase the funding of the European Child Guarantee with a dedicated budget of at least EUR 20 billion in order to combat the poverty that is affecting children and their families and to contribute to the goal of reducing poverty by at least 15 million by 2030 – including at least 5 million children in all Member States by 2030; believes that the Child Guarantee should become a permanent instrument to prevent and tackle child poverty in a structural manner in the EU; deeply regrets that not all Member States have delivered their Child Guarantee national action plans by the required deadline; urges the Commission to closely monitor Member States’ progress in implementing the Recommendation including through the European Semester, in particular as regards national action plans and minimum funding obligations under the ESF+ and RRF and to issue country-specific recommendations where needed; reiterates its call on the Commission to involve Parliament in the common
monitoring framework and in the work of the Social Protection Committee; urges the
Commission to ensure Member States provide free and effective access to high quality
services for children fleeing Ukraine on equal footing with other children in the host
countries in line with the recommendation to ensure national integrated measures take
account of the specific disadvantages experienced by, inter alia, children with a migrant
background including third country national children, irrespective of their migration
status;

2. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to work towards the implementation of
an improved sustainable governance architecture in the EU based on solidarity, social
justice and integration, fair distribution of wealth, gender equality, high-quality public
services, including a public, universal and high-quality education system, quality
employment and sustainable growth; calls on the Commission to integrate sustainability
and well-being into the Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy and the country-specific
recommendations (CSRs); believes that the RRF could be put on a permanent footing to
ensure that such an instrument is available in crisis of similar severity and can be accessed
more quickly; calls on the Commission to include the overall objective of raising work
quality at the European level in the Semester process and the Social Scoreboard, with a
view to guiding and assessing the contribution of employment policies across Member
States to the implementation of the SDGs and the EPSR; asks the Commission to propose
a comprehensive antipoverty strategy; calls on the Commission to ensure together with
the Member States that there is enough adequate and affordable social housing to cover
the housing needs of the low and middle income groups, to eliminate energy poverty by
2030 through supporting energy efficiency investment by low-income households in the
context of the Green Deal objectives and to assess the energy markets in order to avoid
the negative effects of rising energy prices on households and on SMEs; welcomes the
launch of the European Platform on Combating Homelessness; urges the Commission to
come up with an ambitious action plan to progressively eradicate homelessness by 2030,
including a European-wide ‘Housing First’ approach and to reduce the housing cost
overburden rate; calls on the Commission to include this objective in the CSRs; underlines
that homelessness is one of the most extreme forms of social exclusion; calls on the
Commission and the Member States to agree on an EU framework for national
homelessness strategies; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure
minimum standards for quality housing for cross-border and seasonal workers, as well as
ensuring decent facilities, tenant privacy and written tenancy contracts enforced by labour
inspectorates and establishing standards in this regard; welcomes the Council conclusions
on strengthening minimum income protection to combat poverty and social exclusion;
foresse the Commission’s proposal for a Recommendation on minimum
income, with the purpose of safeguarding the right to a decent life; underlines that every
person in Europe should be covered by a minimum income scheme and that pensions
should ensure an income above the poverty line;

3. Calls on the Commission to propose, on the basis of a thorough assessment, a proper
evaluation and in consultation with Member States and the social partners, a directive on
minimum standards and conditions to ensure that all workers are able to exercise
effectively their right to disconnect and to regulate the use of existing and new digital
tools for work purposes whilst taking into consideration the European Social Partners
framework agreement on digitalisation which provides for the social partners to take implementation measures within the next three years; urges the Commission to present proposals for a directive on psycho-social risks and wellbeing and a directive on work-related musculoskeletal disorders, and an EU mental health strategy in order to protect all workers in the workplace; urges the Commission to present a directive on minimum standards and conditions for fair teleworking, to protect the health and safety of workers and to ensure decent working conditions, including its voluntary nature, respect for working hours, leave, work-life balance and other digital rights at work such as the right to disconnect, the protection of workers’ privacy, including through remote monitoring or any other tracking; calls on the Commission, furthermore, to present a further ambitious revision of the Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive; stresses that workers should be protected against exposure to endocrine disruptors by EU legislation; calls on the Commission to consider presenting a legislative initiative, after consulting social partners, to clarify OSH liabilities and responsibilities in relation to AI systems and new ways of working and algorithmic management; calls for a ban on the surveillance of workers; calls on the Commission to present, after consulting the social partners, a proposal for a directive on the basis of Article 153(1)(a) and (b) TFEU laying down Union minimum standards for the recognition and compensation of occupational diseases; calls on the Commission to present a European Strategy for the Removal of All Asbestos; calls on the Commission to present a proposal for a framework directive for Member States to set up national asbestos removal plans that include clear and realistic timelines, including priorities and interim targets, detection and registration of asbestos, financing and support to homeowners and SMEs, protection measures for workers against the risk of asbestos exposure in accordance with Directive 2009/148/EC as well as the safe disposal of asbestos in order to prevent asbestos from entering into recycling processes; calls on the Commission to update Directive 2009/148/EC, taking into account the latest scientific knowledge and technical developments; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure better recognition and compensation of asbestos-related diseases to all exposed workers in order to protect the health of construction and other workers in the green transition; calls for the use, where possible, of analytical transmission electron microscopy (ATEM) or similarly advanced methods for fibre counting;

4. Calls on the Commission and Member States to step up their efforts to reduce mobility barriers for workers and businesses; calls on the Commission to directly assist Member States during the whole process of transposition of the revised Posting of Workers Directive; calls on the Commission to examine protection gaps with a view to ensuring decent and safe working and living conditions for mobile workers, in particular cross-border and seasonal workers and preventing abusive practices and unfair competition, especially in subcontracting of services provided by intermediaries; calls on the Commission to analyse negative developments related to labour mobility, particularly the brain drain in certain sectors and regions; calls on the Commission and the Member States, with a view to fairness in the internal market, to take legislative measures to end abusive subcontracting; calls on the Commission to strongly enforce the social clause of the existing EU public procurement directive and to examine the need to revise that directive in order to strengthen social clauses in public contracts; urges the Commission and the Member States to ensure that public service institutions, whether privately or publicly managed, provide decent working conditions for their staff, respecting in particular the
freedom to negotiate and conclude collective sectoral or company-level agreements and the right to adequate wages;

5. Expresses its regret that the Commission has not presented a proposal for a European digital social security number despite making several commitments to do so; calls on the Commission to initiate a legislative proposal on the European digital social security pass (ESSP) before the end of 2022, in order to ensure the portability and traceability of workers’ rights as soon as possible; underlines that an ESSP initiative should aim to safeguard social rights by facilitating information and improving enforcement of applicable rules on social security coordination and labour mobility in cross-border situations; considers that the Commission’s proposal for an ESSP initiative needs to bring about clear benefits for all stakeholders involved in the process of mobility such as mobile citizens and workers, businesses, including SMEs employers, and trade unions, as well as national authorities such as labour and social security inspectorates; recalls that an ESSP initiative must be without prejudice to national social security systems and their diversity, respecting the traditions of each Member State, national labour market models and the autonomy of social partners; calls on the Commission to cooperate closely with social partners and relevant national social security institutions and labour inspectorates when it comes to the development and introduction of an ESSP initiative, ensuring full respect for the autonomy of social partners and national labour market models; considers that an ESSP with real-time data access would allow for national competent authorities and social partners to verify social security coverage for workers at any given point in time and thereby strengthen labour inspections and support the collection of evidence in joint cross-border labour inspections; calls on the Commission to revise the Temporary Work Agency (TWA) Directive in order to establish a legal framework to ensure decent working conditions and equal treatment for intra-EU seasonal workers and mobile workers on fixed-term contracts with temporary work agencies or any other type of labour market intermediary, including recruiting agencies;

6. Welcomes the Commission’s proposal on improving working conditions in platform work in order to guarantee rights for all platform workers, and to address the specificities of platform work to ensure fair and transparent working conditions, guarantee a healthy and safe working environment, give access to adequate and transparent social protection, as well as their right to organise, to establish, freely join and be represented by, inter alia, trade unions and negotiate collective agreements as well as ensuring data protection in line with the GDPR and transparent, ethical and non-discriminatory algorithmic management, while also creating a predictable and stable business environment that fosters investment and innovation; stresses that any regulation regarding online platforms must respect the principle of subsidiarity and the different approaches of the Member States; calls on the Commission, with the collaboration of the Member States, to collect comparable data on platform workers in order to get a more accurate idea of the scale of digital labour platform activity and deepen the knowledge of the working and employment conditions of platform workers, including social security coverage and income range; calls on the Commission to introduce a new framework directive on workers’ information, consultation and participation for European company forms, including subcontracting chains and franchises, and for companies that use European company mobility instruments, in order to establish minimum standards including on
anticipation of change and restructuring, in particular at company level; also calls for a revision of the European Works Council (EWC) directive to ensure inter alia proper enforcement, access to justice and effective sanctions for violation of the rules and improve the functioning of the special negotiating body, including a transnational information and consultation process, to be properly conducted and completed before any decisions are taken;

7. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to maximise their efforts to invest in affordable, accessible, inclusive and high-quality VET, to reinforce upskilling and reskilling measures, including digital and transferable skills, and to promote lifelong learning to prepare workers for the needs of the labour market in the light of the green and digital transformations; underlines that the mutual recognition of qualifications is key to overcoming skills shortages and skills mismatches including those of third country nationals; calls on the Commission and the Member States to promote and improve current mutual recognition mechanisms and job mobility portals, facilitating and promoting transparent mobility, such as the EURES job mobility portal, the Europass online platform and the European skills, competences, qualifications and occupations classification system (ESCO); highlights that qualifications and certified competences provide added value to workers, improving their position in the labour market, and can be transferred in labour market transitions; calls for public policy on skills to be oriented to the certification and validation of qualifications and competences; stresses that skills-based compensation systems should be established in companies for upskilling workers and in agreement with workers’ representatives, as this system would ensure that there is a return on that public investment; reiterates its call on the Commission to introduce a common European definition of disability status in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to facilitate the free movement of people with disabilities within the Union and the mutual recognition of disability status among Member States;

8. Recalls that one of the ESF+ objectives is to promote gender-balanced participation in the labour market through measures that aim to ensure, inter alia, equal working conditions, improved worklife balance and access to childcare, including early childhood education and care; recalls further that the ESF+ should also aim to provide a healthy and well-adapted working environment in order to respond to health risks related to changing forms of work, and to the needs of an ageing workforce; calls on the Commission to make the fight against youth unemployment a priority; believes it is time to make the reinforced Youth Guarantee both binding and inclusive for all Member States, including active outreach measures towards long-term NEETs and young people from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds or in vulnerable situation (such as young persons with disabilities, young LGBTIQ+ and young Roma people) and calls for reinforced measures, including making full use of the opportunities provided by the ESF+, to promote employment through active interventions for labour market integration and the creation of sustainable entry-level positions which ensure that young people have access to social security and fair remuneration; calls on the Commission to continue monitoring investment and spending on youth priorities within NextGenerationEU, the RRF and the ESF+ and to keep Parliament closely involved; points out that special attention should also be given to young people and children from disadvantaged groups who may not even
have the option of distance learning due to lack of digital infrastructure or living conditions in general; calls on the Commission to consider a youth clause assessing the impact of an initiative on young people when putting forward new initiatives across all policy areas; calls on the Commission to ensure that the new ALMA initiative assists young people, in particular NEETs, in finding temporary quality work experience in another Member State, complying with quality standards that uphold young people’s labour rights such as decent remuneration, good working conditions and access to social protection; calls on the Commission to review existing European instruments such as the Quality Framework for Traineeships and the European Framework for Quality and Effective Apprenticeships and to include quality criteria for the offers made to young people, including the principle of fair remuneration for trainees and interns, access to social protection, sustainable employment and social rights; calls for facilitating access for young people to paid, quality and inclusive traineeships and apprenticeships including for young persons with disabilities; condemns the practice of unpaid internships as a form of exploitation of young workers, and a violation of their rights; calls on the Commission and the Member States, in collaboration with Parliament, and respecting the principle of subsidiarity, to propose a common legal framework to ensure fair remuneration for traineeships and apprenticeships in order to avoid exploitative practice; calls on the Commission to develop a recommendation to ensure that traineeships, apprenticeships and job placements count as work experience and consequently grant access to social benefits;

9. Welcomes the Commission’s commitment to present a European care strategy and awaits a European action on care aimed at taking a comprehensive approach towards all care needs and quality public and private services accessible to all and setting quality guidelines for care throughout the life course, including for children, older persons and persons with long-term needs, with a view to identifying and recognising the various types of informal care-giving, and guaranteeing financial support for both formal and informal carers, appropriate periods of leave and affordable services, among other things as well as ensuring decent working and employment conditions for formal care workers; calls on the Commission to also prioritise mental health in the upcoming EU care strategy; invites the Commission to collect disaggregated data on the provision of care services; urges the Commission to monitor systemically the implementation by the Member States of the Work-Life Balance Directive; calls on the Commission to ensure equal participation and opportunities in the labour market for men and women, and to address the feminisation of poverty in all its forms, including poverty in old age, particularly by factoring gender into the availability of and access to adequate pension entitlements in order to eliminate the gender pension gap, and by improving working conditions in feminised sectors and professions such as the care sector; urges the Commission to introduce a framework for the professionalisation of domestic work and care, leading to the recognition and standardisation of the relevant professions and skills and to the possibility of career building;

10. Calls for close monitoring of active outreach measures to ensure equal participation of those furthest from quality jobs on the labour market; calls on the Commission to strengthen the efforts to combat all forms of discrimination against older people, to promote a positive perception of old age in society and the social inclusion of older people
by stimulating age-friendly environments and to strengthen the support for the silver economy; calls on the Commission to present a plan to ensure the mental health, dignity and wellbeing of people, including the elderly, by supporting adequate quality healthcare and care services, investing in community-based services, health prevention and promotion, social protection, and decent and affordable housing and infrastructure, as well as supporting social economy projects including co-housing and cooperative housing, health and wellness programmes, adult day care and long-term care, and protecting the role and working conditions of caregivers, also fostering intergenerational solidarity; calls on the Member States to provide equal access to affordable, preventive and curative healthcare of good quality as enshrined in the European Pillar of Social Rights, including medical and care services and facilities which do not discriminate on grounds of age; calls on the Commission and the Member States to focus their actions on increasing the healthy life years of older people; calls for bridging the digital divide, for accessible and affordable digital skills programmes catered to the needs of older people and for further exploring the possibilities for social inclusion and integration into the labour market of older people of working age; calls on the Commission and the Member States to develop recommendations on reducing the risk of poverty and social exclusion in older age; calls on the Commission to prepare an EU action plan on demographic change and solidarity between generations, taking into account the diversity and complexity of the situation in specific age groups as well as differences in the Member States; underlines the importance of adequate, reliable and comparable data as a basis of policies and measures for tackling demographic challenges; calls on the Commission to revise the EU statistical framework by increasing the upper age limit for the collection of data, ensuring the inclusion of persons living in institutions and providing disaggregated data by gender and age, with full respect for privacy and fundamental rights standards.
The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety,

Environment and Climate

1. Underlines that the invasion of Ukraine has shown the urgency by which EU has to significantly reduce its dependency on fossil fuels, in particular on Russian gas, oil and coal, by, inter alia, diversifying energy sources: therefore, reiterates the importance of the revisions of all relevant climate legislation in line with international commitments and the increased climate ambition expressed in the Climate law and the European Green Deal ambition, as well as the proposal for a carbon border adjustment mechanism to reduce carbon leakage; stresses the need to maintain consistency and stringency across all measures under the climate and energy package; stresses, in particular, the importance of the review of the ETS Directive; calls on the Commission to implement the Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change; welcomes the proposals to strengthen the F-gas Regulation as well as the Regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer in order to ensure its effective contribution to the EU’s climate targets; calls on the Commission to ensure the implementation of the Taxonomy Regulation in particular the timely adoption of the second batch of technical screening criteria for the four remaining environmental objectives and stresses that those shall be based on conclusive scientific evidence and the precautionary principle enshrined in Article 191 TFEU;

2. Reiterates that in order to reach the EU’s 2030 target and its long-term climate neutrality objective a swift and predictable reduction in emissions should be prioritized, while at the same time the removals by natural sinks should be enhanced; stresses that all sectors need to do their fair share of emissions reductions including the transport sector where emissions have been growing, notably 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, including in international aviation and maritime transport, to ensure the achievement of our economy-wide emissions reduction commitment, while at the same time working towards higher global ambition in international fora, such as IMO and ICAO;

3. Stresses the urgent need for a holistic approach to tackle the loss of biodiversity in line with the 2030 Biodiversity strategy, notably by expanding the legal protection of terrestrial and marine protected natural areas and strengthening restoration via the upcoming EU Nature restoration plan, including legally binding EU nature restoration targets to restore degraded ecosystems\(^1\); stresses that this framework should be ambitious and clear, building on existing targets and obligations in EU nature legislation and avoiding any duplication; urges the Commission to present its proposal as soon as possible before the summer, in line with its earlier commitment; welcomes the legislative proposal to stop imported deforestation and to set due diligence obligations for the placing

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\(^1\) Resolution of 16 January 2020, P9_TA(2020)0015

DV\1258132EN PE 660.048 v03-00 34
of forest and ecosystem risk commodities on the EU market; calls on the Commission to design an EU-wide common legal framework, with full respect for the subsidiarity principle, for the protection and sustainable use of soil, addressing all major soil threats;

4. Welcomes the targets presented in the Farm to Fork and the Biodiversity strategies; underlines the importance of swiftly presenting impact assessed legislative, as well as non-legislative, initiatives to implement these targets, including to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and to achieve a paradigm shift towards sustainable food systems; welcomes the intention of the Commission to present proposals on reduction of food waste and date marking, and urges the Commission to present the proposal for a revision of the Directive on sustainable use of pesticides as soon as possible before the summer, in line with its earlier commitment;

5. Welcomes the Chemicals strategy for sustainability and urges the Commission to implement the actions laid down in that strategy as well as in EP resolution of 2020\(^1\); supports the Zero pollution action plan for water, air and soil; considers it imperative, in this context, that the Commission presents impact assessed legislative proposals to rapidly substitute endocrine disruptors, all non-essential uses of PFAS and other harmful chemicals, in production and use as well as in imports to the EU; calls on the Commission to align EU air quality standards with the new WHO guidelines, in line with EP Resolution of 2021\(^2\); by means of legislative changes to the AAQ Directives; welcomes the proposal to revise the Industrial Emissions Directive in order to better address pollution from large industrial installations, and to make them fully consistent with EU environment, climate, energy and circular economy policies;

6. Urges the Commission to implement the actions laid down in the new Circular Economy Action Plan and in the EP resolution on the Action Plan\(^3\); calls on the Commission to propose binding EU targets for 2030 to significantly reduce the EU material and consumption footprints and bring them within planetary boundaries by 2050, using the indicators adopted by Eurostat as part of the updated circular economy monitoring framework; calls on the Commission to tackle plastics in a comprehensive way; urges the Commission to adopt a general phase-out of intentionally added microplastics and to reduce, through new mandatory regulatory measures, the unintentional release of all microplastics at source; urges the Commission to present the proposal on packaging and packaging waste to reinforce the essential requirements for packaging and to reduce (over)packaging and packaging waste; underlines that sustainable, circular, safe and non-toxic products and materials should become the norm in the EU market and not the exception and should be seen as the default choice, which is attractive, affordable and accessible for all consumers; welcomes therefore the Commission’s legislative initiative on sustainable products to set horizontal principles for product policy and binding requirements on products placed on the EU market;

\(^1\) Resolution of 10 July 2020, P9_TA(2020)0201
\(^2\) Resolution of 25 March 2021, P9_TA(2021)0107
\(^3\) Resolution of 10 February 2021, P9_TA(2021)0040
7. Calls on the Commission to focus on implementation in 2022 and 2023 of the health policy measures towards a strong and inclusive European Health Union and for prevention, preparedness and response to public health emergencies in line with relevant agreements reached in the inter-institutional negotiations; considers that the regulatory framework should include provisions aimed at lowering the EU’s dependence on third countries for the provision of essential medicines and medical material; reiterates, the importance of the HERA to face current and future public health crises, including the threat of antimicrobial resistance and welcomes the proposal for the European Health Data Space; urges the Commission to present the proposals revising the Blood, Tissues and Cells Directives as soon as possible; calls for the full implementation of the EU’s crises response as part of the European Health Union, the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the agreements found on the strengthened EU4Health Programme and the Union Civil Protection mechanism;

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; in this context the fight of antimicrobial resistance is especially important; notes with great unease that even before the COVID-19 outbreak, the lack of availability of essential life-saving medicines, commonly used medicinal products 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 apply the lessons learned from the first procurement contracts with pharmaceutical companies when negotiating new contracts especially in terms of ensuring transparency and accountability, particularly in relation to public spending, liability, global production and solidarity; calls on the Commission to continue to support the development, clinical trials and broad availability of vaccines and other medicinal products against COVID-19 and COVID-19 variants through all available means, continuing to secure robust market approval processes for vaccines and health emergency products, as well as post market surveillance and pharmacovigilance, and to prepare a plan to ensure that vaccines are made globally available;

Food safety

9. Welcomes the Commission commitment to present proposals, for a legislative framework on sustainable food systems by 2023, for a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling system, for a revision of legislation on food contact materials as well as secondary legislation to implement official controls on animals and products of animal origin exported from third countries to the Union in order to ensure compliance with the prohibition of certain uses of antimicrobials, and awaits the belated establishment of science-based nutrient profiles; notes the outcome of the Commission’s staff working document on new genomic techniques; call for the future consultation as part of the impact assessment, to uphold the highest standards of transparency, to take into account the views of all relevant stakeholders, and to be underpinned by the precautionary principle, as well as the need to ensure a high level of protection of the environment and human health and consumers’ right to information;
10. Welcomes the entry into force of the Regulation on transparency and sustainability of EU risk assessment in the food chain; considers that scientific studies submitted to EMA and ECHA should also be publicly available; calls on the Commission to apply the principles set down in the Transparency Regulation to all stakeholders in the food risk assessment process and to reinforce close cooperation and coherence between all European evaluation agencies, EMA, EFSA and ECHA.

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The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy,

Industry and SMEs

1. Welcomes the updated industrial strategy and the Chips Act and calls on the Commission to continue its work towards achieving the crucial overarching goal of strategic autonomy and increasing high-quality jobs in the EU; stresses that, in order to be a genuinely transformational strategy, the European Green Deal and digital transition need to be at its core, with the aim of reducing EU’s dependencies and ensuring a level playing field for European industry, while creating the base for becoming a competitive frontrunner in establishing a net-zero GHG emission and sustainable economy; stresses the need for policy initiatives aimed at an integrated industrial transformation, reflecting the zero-pollution, climate neutrality and circular economy ambitions, particularly by speeding up the renewable energy supply for the electrification of industrial processes, in line with the EU’s climate and energy targets; calls on the Commission to help SMEs in increasing investment in new technologies and continuous innovation, favouring the implementation of more sustainable business models and digital transformation initiatives and improving internal processes/workflows; calls on the Commission to assess how future legislative proposals would not add unnecessary or disproportionate administrative costs on and generate benefits for EU industry and SMEs, in order to ensure that they deliver on the 2030 and 2050 climate objectives, while maintaining their competitiveness;

2. Calls on the Commission to urgently address the pressing needs of EU industry, both in terms of a systematic identification of shortages in supply chains, particularly those of critical raw materials, and in terms of proposing targeted and effective measures to tackle such shortages, with particular focus on SMEs, and supporting resilience and material efficiency throughout the value chain, namely by improving closed-loop recycling of carbon-intensive products and fostering resource savings, circular economy approaches and more diversified, locally rooted supply chains; stresses that the availability of materials and components and of manufacturing capacity in Europe is essential and that dependency on one third country should not be replaced by an accrued dependency on another, in terms of supply of rare-earth minerals, other critical metals, equipment, or manufacturing capabilities;

Research and Innovation

3. Recalls the importance of strengthening EU research, innovation and technology leadership, attracting businesses and talent from around the world, addressing brain-drain, and creating diverse high-value jobs and economic growth through securing EU strategic advantage in breakthrough technologies, such as AI, quantum computing and engineering biology, opening up transformative opportunities for research and business and improving the lives of people;
4. Calls on the Commission to cut all science and research cooperation with Russia, and to develop calls for proposals in Horizon Europe dedicated to supporting, strengthening and rebuilding the Ukrainian scientific sector and enhancing cooperation between the EU and Ukraine; stresses the importance of academic freedom for research, both within the EU and in third countries, and the need to take measures to protect it, including dedicated support for persecuted researchers; reminds the Commission that research and innovation are key to tackle pressing societal challenges, such as climate change, protection of biodiversity, health, and enable economic, social recovery and open strategic autonomy, and that resources should be prioritised accordingly; underlines the importance of the proper implementation of the Horizon Europe programme;

Energy

5. Considers that the sharp rise in global fossil energy prices suffered by EU households, businesses and industries, that was driven by global supply and demand dynamics and exacerbated by factors linked to the pandemic, geopolitical tensions and the war in Ukraine, have reframed the geopolitical context of EU energy policy for the immediate and long term future and strengthened the need for energy independence and phase out of fossil fuels; welcomes the Commission's current initiatives and the options given to Member States to tackle the consequences of rising energy prices for households and industry, but calls for further initiatives to significantly reduce and ultimately terminate EU's dependence on all Russian energy imports, while ensuring security of energy supply in a solidarity-based approach among Member States; highlights, however, that energy prices continue to be high and calls therefore on the Commission to come up with EU-coordinated action; stresses the need for priority measures to leave no one behind and further reduce energy dependence and poverty; calls on the Commission to bring forward additional proposals, in light of the current geopolitical situation, and in view of a long-term stable energy framework, in order to address any shortcomings or speculative market practices in the energy markets and to present a coherent energy security strategy based on increased efforts in energy efficiency and savings, additional renewable energy capacity and diversification of sources, suppliers and supply routes that should be secure and reliable, and make a determined effort to secure the needed interconnectors, both within the EU and at its borders, to finalise the EU internal energy market; calls on the Commission to provide a harmonized framework for the future decommissioning of unused oil and gas infrastructures operated by Russia, Gazprom or any of its subsidiaries;

6. Stresses the importance of strengthening the bond between the climate and societal growth objectives of the Fit for 55 package, ensuring the implementation of the energy efficiency first principle, as a key enabler of the decarbonisation of our economy, in a joint and effective effort at EU and national level; calls on the Commission to facilitate the roll out of national renovation programmes and measures promoting the shift to renewable heating solutions, particularly targeting the worst-performing buildings and those occupied by low-income, vulnerable and energy poor households; stresses the importance of strengthening the synergies between circular economy, resource use reduction and energy savings in transition pathways;
ICT

7. Welcomes the various legislative and non-legislative proposals that the Commission has already presented in the area of ICT or scheduled for adoption in 2022; highlights the importance of the twin transition, in order to enable high-level digitalisation in all areas of the society and the economy in a sustainable, energy efficient, secure and affordable manner that contributes to achieving the climate targets, and create a competitive and robust data economy, so that the Union remains competitive and is able to reap benefits at global scale; underlines the need to use all available financial instruments to the greatest extent possible in a coherent manner to speed up digitalisation in all Member States, considering the priority level that each social and economic sector has in terms of digital transition, and to tackle the existing social, economic and geographical divides; calls on the Commission to assess the environmental impact of data sharing and of the infrastructures required to ensure a sustainable digital deployment in line with the Green Deal;

8. Stresses that cutting-edge EU cybersecurity capabilities and tools are of utmost importance, given the greater pressure put on our society and economy by increasing cyber threats and attacks; calls on the Commission to urgently present a full assessment of all EU policy instruments on cybersecurity currently in place, their enforcement and impact, identifying possible regulatory and implementation gaps, taking into account potential cyber threats that may occur in future, and to present, if appropriate, additional legislative and non-legislative proposals to address shortcomings; notes that the threat landscape is growing and connectivity becomes ubiquitous; stresses the need to ensure that all connected devices, their connections and the manufacturing supply chain are adequately secured;

9. Notes with concern that the main players in global digital technologies remain companies based outside the EU, which also capture the value generated by data of European customers;

Space

10. Stresses the need to guarantee and enhance the autonomy of the Union's space programme components and assets; underlines that free access to space is crucial and must be safeguarded, in order to assure both the continuity and robustness of all services provided by the Union space programme components as well as the upgrading of these services in line with users' needs; calls on the Commission to immediately start the process for an EU legislative framework for space activities, which should serve as a basis for an EU-wide level playing field for space activities; calls on the Commission to analyse thoroughly all dependence issues and to present timely solutions.

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The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection,

1. Stresses that a coherent, competitive, resilient and sustainable internal market is the backbone of a strong EU response to the dramatically changed geopolitical environment and that the EU industrial strategy digital and green transition as well as the circular economy is an important driver for economic stability and recovery in the face of multiple crises; calls on the Commission to make the announced Single Market Emergency Instrument a key priority and to put forward a coherent and ambitious package that will demonstrably strengthen the resilience of the single market to anticipate, resist, and recover from future crises and ensure a well-functioning internal market that guarantees the smooth free movement of goods and services at all times;

2. Stresses moreover that the EU’s strategic dependency on third countries in a number of critical areas weakens the EU’s global power and strategic autonomy and can hamper the digital and green transitions; welcomes the Commission’s proposals on batteries and semiconductors, as well as the Standardisation Strategy as important elements for ensuring the EU’s security of supply and resilience; calls on the Commission to continue its work to analyse and address current and future strategic dependencies through international cooperation with likeminded democratic countries and trade agreements, including tailored and proportionate policy measures which maintain the EU as an open single market, in order to improve the resilience and competitiveness of Europe’s economic base;

3. Recalls the importance of the effective implementation and enforcement of the single market rules, including implementation of the proportionality test when imposing national rules, as a well-functioning and resilient single market remains the key asset and the necessary condition for a swift and transformative recovery of the Union’s economy; calls on the Commission to invest further efforts, including through the Single Market Enforcement Task Force, to remove remaining unjustified single market barriers preventing service providers from access to the single market, as also supply chain resilience benefits from open markets for services trade1;

4. Stresses that the creation of a harmonised and trustworthy digital single market, as a driver for building resilience and promoting prosperity and inclusion, requires not only further legislative measures but also a strong focus on implementation and enforcement; emphasises the importance of the historical agreements on the Digital Markets Act and the Digital Services Act, which will set a global standard and hold the potential of ensuring a safe, fair, contestable, transparent and accountable online environment; asks the Commission to work closely with national authorities on their implementation, ensuring the required level of resources, skills and governance to make real change,

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1 https://issuu.com/oecd.publishing/docs/oecd_stri_policy_trends_up_to_2022
confirmed by quantified impact indicators, happen to the benefit of European businesses and consumers;

5. Stresses that the development of a European approach to Artificial Intelligence and the setting up of further rules for the use and access of data are key instruments for building a resilient and trustworthy digital single market, where citizens and businesses can safely enjoy the benefits of new technologies; welcomes the Commission’s proposal for a Data Act as an essential step in the creation of a single market for data, that will make the EU more competitive globally and increase fairness and trust in the digital economy; anticipates also the upcoming dialogue on the Artificial Intelligence Act and stresses that the European approach to Artificial Intelligence must safeguard fundamental rights and people’s safety, while at the same time spurring technological innovation by promoting a single market approach to artificial intelligence and ensuring that the EU makes full use of the potential of AI;

6. Reminds that the number of EU unicorns is limited compared to other developed regions and countries; calls on the Commission to analyse the regulatory environment in the most successful countries and to publish the best practices; further calls on the Commission to introduce changes to improve the Single market in order to increase consumer welfare, inter alia by better suited environment for companies, including start-ups, entrepreneurs and innovators;

7. Asks the Commission to consider the risks of “over-regulation” which can result in unnecessary, unjustified and disproportionate administrative burdens affecting micro enterprises, SMEs and consumers to varying degrees by hindering competitiveness and preventing the single market from functioning well and unlocking its full potential; points out that important elements to consider as part of the internal law-making process should include: the simplification of administrative processes to avoid unjustified and unnecessary burdens and the ‘think small first’ principle; recalls the Commission’s commitment to apply the ‘one in, one out’ principle, which should not be used to automatically repeal legislation nor should they serve to diminish the standards of protection already achieved for consumers and businesses;

8. Calls on the Commission to maintain a strong focus on consumer protection, including in the digital and green transitions; welcomes the adoption of the proposal for a Regulation on General Product Safety and acknowledges the support given during the committee phase of the work on the proposal for a Directive on Consumer Credit; awaits the upcoming proposal on an update of the Directive on Distance Marketing of Consumer Financial Services and stresses that these instruments will enhance the rules on product safety, consumer credit, and retail financial products to take into account the challenges posed by digitalisation and online business models; welcomes the evaluation initiated by the Commission to assess the need for further action in the area of consumer protection to ensure an equal level of fairness and protection - online and offline; stresses the importance of the Commission’s action to enforce consumer rights and to support Member States’ capacity in the context of monitoring illegal online practices and marketing of unsafe products, in particular those sold online;
9. Welcomes the adoption of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products and the Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition initiatives; recalls that it is essential that products are designed to last longer and that consumers receive reliable and clear information at the point of sale on product durability and reparability; calls on the Commission to put forward promptly the legislative proposal on the Right to Repair, as announced in the Work Programme for 2022 and in line with Parliament’s resolution of 7 April 2022; asks the Commission in particular to propose in its future initiative a range of measures with the aim of promoting and encouraging consumers, producers, and traders to opt for repair over replacement, to reduce environmental impact of the products during their lifetime; underlines that when proposing such measures, the Commission should always take into account the highest possible level of consumer protection and consumer welfare, as well as the importance of making the right to repair go hand in hand with furthering a business-friendly market in Europe, as well as ensure the coherence of all interlinked initiatives such as the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products, Empowering Consumers for the Green Transition, and the Right to Repair initiatives;

10. Calls on the Commission to continue the work towards a timely evaluation of the effectiveness of the customs legal framework, to achieve the objectives for which it was designed, enhancing the efficiency of the controls and thus, the safety and security of citizens while facilitating legitimate trade; welcomes in this regard the work carried out in the EU Single Window Environment for Customs; recalls that the digitalisation and interconnection of customs and non-customs systems that underpin the work of customs officers are a strategic objective, and that its completion will foster economic growth and therefore, help recover the necessary investment to achieve them, and reminds that delays at the different levels - European and national - should be avoided by enhancing in continuity the governance system of the customs policy area, including by using state-of-the-art data analysis possibilities.

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The Committee on Transport and Tourism,

1. Urges the Commission to propose further concrete measures to support the recovery of the tourism and travel sector and to alleviate the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, while ensuring the proper working of the internal market; Calls on the Commission to propose more permanent solutions, in light of the experiences gained during the pandemic, so as to prevent future legal uncertainties and ensure the upholding of consumer rights, as well as to ensure a smooth flowing of freight transport in case of future pandemics, building on the experience with the Green Lanes initiative; Calls on the Commission to start making full use of the Treaties to develop a comprehensive European tourism policy, ensuring the sector’s sustainability, inter alia by evaluating the possibility of setting up an European Agency for Tourism supporting the tourism ecosystem;

2. Urges the Commission to swiftly come up with a new revision of the Slot Regulation, in order to optimise the use of airport capacity while ensuring the competitive allocation of slots and to allow for the appropriate flexibility in times of crisis;

3. Stresses that increasing transport by rail and waterway is a key element of EU policy to reduce transport CO2 emissions; Believes, however, that in order to optimise modal shift and reach the related targets, more measures should be taken to speed up the process of improvements of infrastructure and of harmonization, standardization and interoperability, removing in particular the remaining serious obstacles to cross-border traffic; Reiterates that the 4th railway package has to be implemented in full; Requests in this regard a report on the advancement of the implementation of the market and technical pillars of the 4th railway package; Furthermore, encourages the Commission the come forwards with all necessary legislative proposals to support and increase modal shift; Looks forward to the upcoming EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistic emissions and the review of the CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles; Calls on the Commission to develop coherent rules for environmental, energy and safety performance of tyres and to present proposals for improved emissions testing in roadworthiness checks;

4. Supports the revision of the ITS Directive and the Commission's intention to accelerate the deployment of safer, smarter, more inclusive, more efficient, more competitive and more sustainable mobility; Believes that fostering multimodality will also improve the functioning and sustainability of road transport, including its connection with other modes; Points out that concrete initiatives on EU-wide multimodal travel information, ticketing and payment are urgently needed to support passengers in making informed and sustainable choices in an integrated transport system; Therefore, calls on the Commission to swiftly put forward a legislative proposal on through-ticketing, in particular in the rail sector and including multimodal aspects;

5. Highlights that inland waterway transport (IWT) can make a substantial contribution to the decarbonisation of transport; Calls on the Commission to further harmonise the technical and navigation rules governing the inland waterways, in particular with regard to the River Information Services (RIS), promoting the efficiency of IWT and its links to...
other modes of transport; Reiterates the importance of facilitating the further digitalisation of the sector and points out the potential of including waterborne deliveries in city freight logistics;

6. Welcomes the announced evaluation of the passenger rights Regulations in the areas of air, sea and inland waterway, and bus and coach transport; Reminds of the importance to ensure that passengers have better rights to information, assistance and re-routing, better assistance and effective protection for passengers with disabilities and reduced mobility and more effective complaint procedures and enforcement measures; Highlights the need to clarify grey zones and gaps in existing legislation and for passengers to be protected by easily understandable rights across modes and to be more aware of those right;

7. Points out that the Union and its Member States should remain at the forefront of improving maritime safety legislation and promote high-quality standards in maritime transport; Welcomes, in this regard, the forthcoming revision of the maritime safety framework (Directives on Flag State Responsibilities, Port State Control and Accident Investigation) and the revision of the mandate of the European Maritime Safety Agency;

8. In light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the subsequently deteriorated security situation in Europe, stresses the need to put more ambition and to accelerate the EU’s project for military mobility; Calls on the Commission to find and present solutions to increase its budget line under the CEF programme; Emphasises the importance of ensuring that military mobility aspects are thoroughly assessed and addressed both in terms of infrastructure and funding, with a view to ensure optimal cross-border cooperation and mobility within the Union; In this respect, calls on the Commission to propose targeted support of major infrastructure projects better connecting all Member States and to increase transport infrastructure connections with the Western Balkans, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine; Believes that EU based and owned transport operators with links into the Russian market should be supported for the reorientation of their transport operations away from Russia; Calls on the Commission to review all existing and proposed transport legislation, taking into account the revised geo-political situation, as well as the increased energy and fuel prices and the shortage of raw materials; Calls on the Commission to analyse the impact of the increased fuel prices on mobility and to propose measures to address transport poverty; Calls on the Commission to present a support strategy for EU airlines and their workforce, which have been severely hit, first by the COVID-19 pandemic and now by overflight bans for Russia and Belarus, high fuel prices and dropping demand; Stresses, however, the need to ensure a level playing field and fair competition between airlines, in particular when providing financial support;

9. Believes that more coordinated action is needed in the area of road safety, in order to reduce deaths and serious injuries by 50% by 2030 and to attain the goal of zero deaths by 2050 (Vision Zero); Welcomes in this regard the forthcoming revisions of the Cross-border Enforcement Directive and the Driving Licence Directive; Urges the Commission to come forward with a proposal to tackle odometer fraud throughout the EU; Furthermore, regrets that the revision of Council Directive 96/53/EC on the maximum weights and dimensions of heavy-duty vehicles is not mentioned in the Commission Work Programme 2022 and urges the Commission to come forward with the revised proposal as soon as possible, ensuring the proper functioning of the single market, road safety and environmental performance;

10. Points out that digitalisation and innovation for all modes of transport is of utmost importance; Therefore, calls on the Commission to come forwards with an investment programme for the transport industry, including investments in infrastructure,
digitalisation, innovation, and sustainability in aviation, maritime, rail and road; Believes that particular attention should be paid to autonomous driving, linked to innovation in all modes of transport; Calls on the Commission to initiate, as soon as possible and in accordance with the Green Deal parameters, a revision of the Combined Transport Directive; Highlights the importance of training programmes for all workers along the value chain to upskill and reskill them for the new type of jobs that could be created due to digitalisation and innovation; Urges the Commission to offer concrete ideas and guidance as to how artificial intelligence can be used to enhance transport links, which areas deserve particular attention, as well as the possible risks that it may present, also to ensure that public transport is future-proofed against possible crises similar to COVID-19.

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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;

2. Underlines that cohesion policy makes a significant contribution to the implementation of the EU’s overall political objectives, including sound and sustainable economic development, quality job creation, 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; welcomes the Commission’s view that horizontal policies should incorporate regional proofing, to ensure they respect the principle of ‘do not harm to cohesion’ and calls on the Commission to issue specific guidelines on how to implement and enforce this principle across EU policies;

3. Emphasizes that cohesion policy was the first policy mobilized to respond to the COVID emergency, and that solutions were found through the CRII and CRII+ regulations, and REACT EU; also underlines that in the aftermath of the unprecedented and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine, the cohesion policy has again been mobilized through CARE and CARE+ to provide budgetary assistance to the Member States and regions hosting a large number of Ukrainian refugees; considers that the economic, social and territorial consequences of the unprecedented and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine will be very heavy for the whole European Union and for all EU citizens;

4. Stresses however that this emergency, and the legislative proposals that result from this latter, should however not undermine or threaten the strategic approach of the whole Cohesion Policy programming;

5. Regrets the delay in the implementation of cohesion policy for the 2021-2027 period, while recognising the importance of adopting high-quality programmes at the start of the programming period in order to avoid reprogramming at a later stage; believes that the start in the implementation of the 2021-2027 cohesion policy is also essential in order to be able to mitigate the consequences of the unprecedented and unprovoked Russian aggression against Ukraine and inflation;

6. Considers the implementation of the Just Transition Fund, the rural agenda and the EU Strategy for Outermost Regions strong priorities and will closely follow up on them;

7. Calls for the speedy implementation of the legislation required for the 2021-2027 cohesion policy, bearing in mind the crucial role of cohesion policy for the EU’s economy and society; urges the Commission and the Member States to do their utmost to speed up the adoption of Partnership agreements and programmes in the shortest time frame possible; recalls its strong opposition of any transfer from Cohesion Policy Funds (which
are part of the MFF) to the RFF (which is an instrument outside the EU budget) beyond the threshold of the 5% of the initial allocation, set in the Common Provisions Regulation;

8. Underlines that it is important to re-launch the legislative process on the proposal for a regulation on a mechanism to resolve legal and administrative obstacles in a cross-border context;

9. Points out that the risk of natural disaster has now became permanent and endemic, and natural disasters are growing in number and intensity; deems it necessary to strengthen EU solidarity instruments to address this problem and calls for creation of a European Fund for adaptation to climate change;

10. Calls on the Commission to undertake a dynamic assessment of Article 174 TFEU and to build on that article with a genuine European island agenda and to create a European strategy for islands, involving civil society and relevant stakeholders of these territories.

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The Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development,

1. Is most concerned about the significant impact of the conflict in Ukraine on both European and global agricultural markets and notes with regret that the war crisis is highlighting the EU’s dependency on third countries to satisfy its demand for energy, fertilisers and animal feed; stresses that the increased input costs for producers, together with vulnerabilities due to specific imported agricultural products, lead to increased consumer prices that jeopardise the affordability of food, especially for low-income persons; recalls Parliament’s resolution adopted on 24 March 2022 on the need for an urgent EU action plan to ensure food security inside and outside the EU in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and welcomes the timely response by the Commission to the war crisis, including the establishment of the new European Food Security Crisis preparedness and response Mechanism; supports, furthermore, the aid to Ukraine through the proposed EU Emergency Support Programme to secure the access of the Ukrainian population to basic goods and services, and supports the provision of fuel to Ukraine for its sowing campaign; stresses that the Commission should further plan ahead to tackle global food security and the threat of hunger in several parts of the world, including Africa;

2. Welcomes the proposed support package of EUR 500 million to support the producers most affected by the war crisis; takes the view, furthermore, that the flexibility in the use of regional development funds that was applied during the Covid-19 urgency, should be extended to help farmers to face the current crisis; supports the proposed deployment of market safety net measures, the possibility of increased advances of direct payments, the allowed derogation from certain greening obligations in 2022 to bring additional agricultural land into production, as well as the proposed application of a Temporary Crisis Framework for state aid;

3. With reference to the National CAP Strategic Plans and the legislative initiatives envisaged under the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies, maintains that they must be analysed on the basis of a comprehensive impact assessment of European food security and of the situation in neighbouring countries, and insists that the Commission take this into account; urges the Commission to take into account the impact assessments already published by internationally recognised research institutes; invites, furthermore, the Commission to provide further assessment on how to balance the objective of maintaining farmers’ income and ensuring food security with the objective of reducing industrial carbon emissions under the specific exceptional circumstances;

4. Underlines the need to decrease the EU’s dependency on mineral fertilisers imported from third countries, by increasing the EU production of fertilisers as well as by developing alternatives, such as the use of animal manure and leguminous crop rotations and a long awaited EU Protein Strategy, repeatedly called for by all groups ; invites the Commission
to accelerate the legislative procedures on new genomic techniques and new breeding techniques, taking into account that gene editing is an important tool aimed at developing new plant variations more resistant to climate change and more efficient in the use of fertilisers; takes the view that agricultural land must primarily be used for food and that grain production must be prioritised for human and animal consumption over non-food/non-feed uses;

5. Calls on the Commission to present specific measures for a comprehensive EU plant protein strategy to boost food security and autonomy as regards animal feed; welcomes the adoption of an exceptional and temporary derogation to allow for crop production on fallow land, while maintaining the full level of greening payments for farmers;

6. Welcomes the deployment of market safety measures, such as private storage aid, to support the much-affected pig meat sector and calls for the design of initiatives to improve its geographical balance among the Member States; is against any plans to impose more restrictions on livestock production and is concerned, in particular, by reports that the Commission may extend the scope of the Industrial Emissions Directive to include more farming enterprises;

7. Asks the Commission to provide more in-depth information on the CAP National Strategic Plans (NSPs) submitted so far; points out that NSPs should be adapted to the urgent situation caused by the war; supports investments, through the NSPs, that reduce the dependency on energy intense chemical pesticides and synthetic and mineral fertilisers, particularly where their production involves gas and fossil fuel, likewise supports investments into precision farming where this can help to reduce this dependency;

8. Looks forward to the Commission proposal for revision of the EU legislation on food labelling (Regulation 1169/2011 on the provision of food information to consumers) that should be preceded by a comprehensive impact assessment, and calls on the Commission to broaden the consultation of Member States, stakeholders and scientific bodies for data collection and analysis; notes the proposed introduction of a harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling to facilitate consumer choice; urges, nevertheless, to take into account consumption preferences due to geographical differences, culture and traditions, and challenges the one-approach-fits-all policy;

9. Acknowledges the increasing need for sustainability and resilience of food systems taking into account scientific and medical innovations aiming to improve the resilience of crops and the preservation of livestock; notes the upcoming proposal for revision of the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive 2009/128/EC, which will identify options for reducing pesticide use through alternatives to chemical pesticides; underlines, nevertheless, the urgent need for a comprehensive scientific analysis and notes that, in view of ensuring food security in the present times of crisis, certain plant protection products should not be banned while no alternatives exist; calls for stepping up scientific research to modernise GMO legislation taking into account the need for farmers to guarantee high yields that meet sustainability criteria and adapt to the pressures of climate change;
10. Welcomes the upcoming proposal for revision of the Animal Welfare legislation; recalls that the support of science and evidence based on fitness checks of that legislation is vital and considers that its rules should be made much clearer and easier to implement, whilst maintaining and improving standards; encourages the Commission to engage actively with non-EU trading partners at bilateral and multilateral forums, to enhance promotion of high EU Animal Welfare standards; looks forward to the proposal for a Council recommendation on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at the end of 2022 thanks to the work of the EU AMR One-Health Network in view of the continued serious threat from AMR for human and animal health; looks forward to the publication by the European Medicines Agency of new data on the use of antibiotics in animals and humans; urges the Commission to intensify research into the prevention of animal diseases, including the development of vaccines, in particular for African Swine Fever.

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The Committee on Fisheries,

1. Recalls the Commission’s legal obligation to report on the functioning of the Common Fisheries Policy by the end of 2022;

2. Underlines the need for CFP policies that work for fishers, coastal communities and the marine environment alike and that strike a balance between social, economic and sustainability concerns, while respecting the specificities of the different sea basins, with particular attention to the small-scale, coastal and artisanal fleets;

3. Underlines that fishing and aquaculture have been among the hardest hit sectors by the COVID-19, they are still struggling with the consequences of the pandemic and now they have been hit again by the crisis caused by the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine; underlines that the Commission should take up all necessary measures in order to provide assistance to these sectors as soon as possible;

4. Calls on the Commission to keep monitoring the implementation of the fisheries chapter in the EU-UK TCA and to ensure that the fisheries dimension in the TCA is properly implemented; reiterates that the EP must be fully and immediately informed of all fisheries-related developments under the TCA and particularly of its “Specialised Committee on Fisheries”; calls for the establishment of a simple quota-exchange mechanism between parties and organisations from the fisheries sector;

5. Emphasizes the importance of concluding annual consultations on shared stocks in time to ensure continuity of supply chains; stresses that the Union must use all leverage at its disposal, including access to the EU single market, to achieve timely conclusions;

6. Recalls the Commission’s commitment for the ongoing triannual evaluation of the Technical Measures Regulation to assess the extent to which technical measures have contributed to achieving the objectives set; underlines the importance to continue supporting the development of fishing gear which improves selectivity, reduces fuel consumption and has a positive effect on ecosystems, taking into account relevant scientific evidence;

7. Reiterates its call for a due recognition of the significant contributions of the fisheries and aquaculture sector to the implementation of the “Biodiversity 2030” and “Farm-to-fork” Strategies where traceability and labelling should play an important role, recognising that protecting and restoring biodiversity is the only way to preserve the quality and continuity of human life on earth; recalls that fishers play a key role as “guardians of the sea” and that fisheries and aquaculture are much-needed suppliers of healthy food and animal proteins which would otherwise have to be imported;

8. Calls on the Commission to ensure a level playing field for all economic sectors in the implementation of effectively managed and connected Marine Protected Areas;
9. Supports the Commission’s endeavours under the European Green Deal for sustainably managed and plastic-free oceans, including the development of a circular economy in the fisheries and aquaculture sector;

10. Reiterates its request for a faster transposition of measures adopted by the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations and reminds the Commission of its duty to fully include Parliament in RFMO negotiations; calls on the Commission to streamline the transposition process and to strengthen the dialogue with the Advisory Councils, fishers and other stakeholders in this process;

11. Encourages the Commission to expand the Union’s network of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs) as a means to export its high sustainability standards globally, to promote good oceans’ governance and to secure sustainably managed fishing opportunities for the EU fleet. Underlines, however, the need to accurately monitor the destination of the financial means earmarked for the “sectoral support”, to ensure it indeed benefits the local fisheries sector in partner countries. Calls on the Commission to promptly and firmly react to safeguard the legitimate interests of EU fishing vessels should the SFPA partner country not honour the obligations it signed up to by paralysing the activity of fishing vessels. Calls on the Commission to activate the necessary mechanisms to solve problems arising from "unilateral non-compliance" with the agreements by a third country and to activate economic aid to the sector for the damage caused, in line with EMFAF provisions;

12. Recalls the importance for EU trade agreements to be in line with key CFP principles: countries identified as non-cooperating under the IUU Regulation or responsible for serious human rights’ abuses must not benefit from preferential market access and FTAs should not be concluded with such countries; calls on the Commission to promote a more effective traceability of all fisheries products.
The Committee on Culture and Education,

13. Calls on the Commission to propose ambitious EU-level measures and financial support to complement Member States’ efforts in addressing the challenges resulting from Russia’s war against Ukraine, such as by providing quality education and training for people fleeing the war and setting up a dedicated town-twinning programme between the EU and Ukraine, and urges the Commission to provide additional resources for the School Education Gateway and e-Twinning platforms to support teachers working with Ukrainian students;

14. Calls on the Commission to actively support organisations and institutions aimed at fostering critical historical memory both in the EU and beyond, particularly in order to denounce Russian historical and cultural revisionism, including by strengthening the remembrance strand of the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme, and to complement the measures taken by UNESCO to protect Ukrainian cultural heritage both financially and technically;

15. Calls for continued efforts for the Erasmus+, Creative Europe and European Solidarity Corps programmes 2021-2027 to become more inclusive, flexible and efficient, learning the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and responding effectively to crisis situations such as Russia’s current war against Ukraine;

16. Reiterates its call for ambition in turning the vision of a European Education Area into reality by 2025, based on a holistic lifelong-learning approach and a concrete implementation strategy and roadmap to be provided by the European Commission by the end of 2022 that is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goal 4;

17. Recalls the need for strengthening a distinct European perspective in students’ curricula and teachers’ training across education systems in Europe, focusing on European history and culture, rights and values and the European integration process, and calls for a corresponding framework strategy to be provided by the European Commission by the end of 2023;

18. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure a successful, ambitious and bottom-up driven European Year of Youth 2022 and its proper follow-up and long-term legacy, as well as to effectively mitigate the social, economic and psychological impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people;

19. Calls for targeted and coordinated measures at European and Member States’ level to ensure the full recovery and long-term resilience of the cultural and creative sectors as well as the sports sector and to support their digital and ecological transitions; requests the Commission to set up a dedicated instrument pooling existing resources to mobilise
European civil society actors in addressing emergency situations for cultural actors; and calls on the Commission to secure adequate resources for the New European Bauhaus;

20. Calls on the Commission to develop a long-term video game and e-sport strategy aimed at supporting the sector and the dissemination of European content;

21. Underscores the vital role of a vibrant and pluralistic media sector in providing independent coverage and countering disinformation, which should remain key objectives in the context of ongoing and future legislative proposals and initiatives linked to the media sector such as the European Media Freedom Act, and regrets in this context the absence of Commissioner Breton in this year’s Structured Dialogue exercise;

22. Calls again on the Commission to develop an encompassing strategy for the Union’s media and communication policy, based on a critical assessment of the current policies and their efficiency and impact, and requests the Commission to set up an effective inter-institutional information service to provide multilingual factual information on EU affairs in an easy-to-understand manner.

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The Committee on Legal Affairs,  

Ukraine  

1. Condemns the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggression of Ukraine by Russia and Belarus; is aghast at the violence and brutality that the Ukrainian People is bravely enduring; notes that the aggression has prompted a robust and rapid geopolitical action by the European Union with our international Partners; recalls the wide array of initiatives that have largely and rightly transformed the 2022 Commission Work Programme, initially focused on the recovery from the pandemic, on digitalisation and on the green transition; praises the Commission for its actions in this connection and in particular for issuing sanctions and freezing assets belonging to natural and legal persons linked to the Russian regime, mainly through the commendable work of the Freeze and Seize Taskforce; calls upon the Commission to pay utmost attention when conducting these procedures and the possible confiscation of assets in order to make sure that they will not be repealed or annulled afterwards on procedural or otherwise legal grounds; supports the idea put forth by the Commissioner for Justice to gather all confiscated assets into a fund for the victims of the Russian invasion; acknowledges that these horrific events and the said measures come with a cost for EU citizens, families and businesses and endorses the Commission and Member States efforts to quickly soften such cost while maintaining a level playing field within the internal market; affirms that fighting disinformation is crucial in the EU action towards Russia and endorses the measures taken on Russia Today and Sputnik given their role as propaganda weapons in the hands of the Russian power structures; is pleased that the Commission work with the signatories of the Code of Practice on Disinformation led to the swift ban from their platforms of the transmissions of Russia Today and Sputnik; praises the Commission for adopting measures to help refugees, for assisting the Member States most affected by the crisis and for the support provided to Ukraine and Moldova and is proud of the solidarity the Union and its Peoples have shown; draws the Commission attention to the specificities of the situation of the Russian citizens fleeing the prosecutions by the Russian regime; encourages the Commissioner for Justice, Eurojust, the Joint Investigation Team, all relevant Union bodies and agencies, the Ukrainian Public Prosecutors, the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court and Prosecutors from Member States to continue their efforts to gather evidence of war crimes and crimes against Humanity committed in Ukraine; is of the opinion that not only footage of the crimes, but also testimonies of victims and witnesses should be collected and preserved; welcomes the statement by the Commission Vice-President for Interinstitutional Relations and Foresight that the 2023 Commission Work Programme will also focus on the rebuilding of Ukraine and on the European security structure; congratulates the European Schools for the free-of-charge enrolment of hundreds of Ukrainian children fleeing the war and giving this way a lesson in solidarity to its pupils across the EU; affirms that all illegal adoptions of Ukrainian children fleeing the war must be stopped, particular attention needs to be paid to children from institutional
care homes; calls on the Commission to work closely with Members States to ensure that there is a child-friendly identification and registration of all children fleeing Ukraine and that there are measures in place to prevent the illegal trafficking and smuggling of children;

**Digital policies**

2. Takes pride that the EU is the first jurisdiction worldwide to endeavour on setting a legal framework for AI, which will establish a global standard and offer to our economies the competitive advantage that always stems from legal certainty, and that it has first and significantly contributed to work in this area; welcomes the Commission Proposal for a regulation laying down harmonised rules on artificial intelligence (AI Act) (COM/2021/206 final), which builds on, without however fully embracing, the ethical dimension that the Parliament, in its resolution on the Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (2020/2012(INL)), had set for the development and deployment of AI; holds that a balance must be attained between reaping the benefits of AI and building ethical and trustworthy European AI, especially considering its applications in sensitive fields; is pleased that the proposal generally responds to Article 225 TFEU resolutions (2020/2012(INL) and 2020/2014(INL)); supports the effort to build a Single Market for AI and appreciates that the proposal focuses on behaviours, thus being human-centred, technology-neutral, future-proof and applicable also to the challenges posed by the development of Metaverse; looks forward to the upcoming proposal on civil liability aspects of AI, for which it expects the Commission to take into account its legislative own-initiative report on the Civil liability regime for artificial intelligence (2020/2014(INL)); considers the adoption of the Digital Services Act and of the Digital Markets Act a success, for which the Commission duly took into consideration resolutions 2020/2018(INL) and 2020/2019(INL) and which is to finally create a single digital market that will ensure fair competition, protects citizens, consumers and users and favour the emergence of European players; these two legislative cornerstones will be complemented by the Commission proposal on eIDAS (COM(2021) 281 final); welcomes the Commission proposal on harmonised rules on fair access to and use of data (Data Act - COM(2022) 68 final) and believes that, by complementing the Data Governance Act (2020/0340(COD)), it should empower EU businesses, in particular SMEs and start-ups, to collect and use data within a framework of fair contractual terms; is convinced that it is necessary to assess whether the current Union legislative procedures and structures are fast enough to properly respond to the challenges posed by the pace of technological innovations; welcomes the Commission proposal for a European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade (COM(2022) 28 final) and the proposal for a Regulation establishing a framework of measures for strengthening Europe's semiconductor ecosystem (Chips Act-COM(2022) 46 final), a key instrument in the endeavour to ensure EU digital sovereignty;

**Intellectual property**

3. Appreciates the content of the IP Action Plan to which the Committee responded with the own-initiative response An intellectual property action plan to support the EU’s recovery and resilience (2021/2007(INI)); is satisfied that the Commission put forward a proposal for a regulation on geographical indication protection for craft and industrial products (non-agricultural GIs - COM(2022) 174 final); recalls that in the last term this Committee
authored a report on a possible extension of geographical indication protection of the European Union to non-agricultural products (2015/2053(INL)); looks forward to the upcoming proposals on designs, compulsory licensing of patents, SPCs (supplementary protection certificates) and SEPs (standard essential patents) and anticipates the entry into force of the Unitary Patent Protection; appreciates the proposal made by the Commissioner for the Internal Market to discuss the Chips Act and the said IP-related files with the Committee as soon as possible; supports the idea expressed by the Commissioner for the Internal Market to build a network of national research centres so that their cooperation can increase the number of patents originated in the Union; takes note of the Commission proposal for a regulation on GIs for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products, and other quality schemes for agricultural products aiming at strengthening the GIs system and giving new tasks to the EUIPO in this regard;

Company law

4. Is relieved that after a 10 year-long stall in the Council, the proposal for a directive on improving the gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges and related measures has finally reached the stage of trilogue negotiations; welcomes both the Commission proposal for a Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSR D - COM(2021) 189 final) and the Commission proposal for a directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (COM(2022) 71 final) and notes the recommendations of the resolution on Corporate Due Diligence and Corporate Accountability (2020/2129(INL)) and of the report on Sustainable Corporate Governance (2020/2137(INI)) that have been taken into account in their texts; endorses the objective of setting up a horizontal framework mandating companies to respect fundamental rights and the environment through their whole value chains; is looking forward to smooth conduct and conclusion of the parliamentary and interinstitutional processes on both those proposals;

Rule of Law and Justice

5. Welcomes the second Annual Rule of Law Report; invites the Commission to take into account the assessment made by the Parliament in the report on the Commission’s 2021 Rule of Law report (2021/2180(INI)); is pleased that there will be specific recommendations for each Member State; warmly welcomes the proposal made by the Commissioner for Justice to hold a dialogue with the Committee to discuss the content of the 2022 Rule of Law report; following number of calls by the Parliament, welcomes that the Commission has finally triggered the Rule of Law Conditionality Mechanism by sending a notification to Hungary and will closely follow the next phases of the procedure initiated by the mentioned Commission notification to Hungary; affirms that the independence of judiciary is a cornerstone of Rule of Law; declares that the geopolitical context is no excuse for softening the EU Institutions stance on the worsening situation of the Rule of Law in some Member States. Welcomes the proposal for a Directive on protecting persons who engage in public participation from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings (SLAPPs), which builds on the own-initiative report on Strengthening Democracy and Media Freedom and Pluralism in the EU: the undue use of civil and commercial law actions to silence journalists, NGOs and civil society (SLAPP) (2021/2036(INI)); recalls that fundamental values such as freedom of speech and freedom of media are at stake when SLAPPs are used and stresses the need to strike a balance
between the protection of journalists and civil society against SLAPPs and access to justice; appreciates the two proposals (2021/0394(COD) and 2021/0395(COD)) for the digitalisation of judicial cooperation, which aim at facilitating access to justice for individuals and businesses and at enhancing interoperability, efficiency and resilience of judicial cooperation through a secure and reliable communication channel; is content that individuals will be able to choose traditional means and that video conferencing of hearings and electronic payment of court fees will be enabled.

Looks forward to the Commission proposal on the recognition of parenthood, which should complement the provisions of Regulation 2016/1191 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union to safeguard the best interest of the child; recalls the European Parliament resolution of 5 April 2022 on the Protection of the rights of the child in civil, administrative and family law proceedings (2021/2060(INI)) and reiterates its calls on the Commission and Member States to ensure that the best interest of the child is always ensured in the course of such proceedings;

Environment
6. Welcomes the Proposal for a directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law (COM(2021) 851 final) which will soon be examined by the Committee;

Comitology reform / Articles 290 and 291 TFEU
7. Recalls that on 17 December 2020 the plenary approved amendments to the proposal on mechanisms for control by Member States of the Commission’s exercise of implementing powers: implementing acts at appeal committee level (2017/0035(COD)) which aims to reform Regulation (EU) No 182/2011 and on which there has been no progress in the Council since 2017; stresses that the Parliament aims inter alia at more transparency and a more cautious approach in the context of environment, health and consumer protection when it comes to the adoption of implementing acts; regrets that the Council is not showing any willingness to move forward with this file and invites the Commission to look for bridges; encourages for the application of Non-binding criteria for the application of Articles 290 and 291 TFEU of 18 June 2019;

Better Regulation, Better Law Making and COFEU
8. Stresses the need for the Commission to give the co-legislators sufficient time to work on the proposals before the next European elections; stresses in particular that the Commission proposal can only be considered as effectively presented to co-legislators when translations into all the official languages are submitted and very much regrets in this context that too often Commission proposals (including priority ones) are first published in English with translations available only weeks thereafter; this causes delays to the interinstitutional process, does not respect the principle of multilingualism and does not offer citizens and law-makers across the EU an equal possibility to get acquainted with the proposal from day one.

Reminds the Commission of all elements of its report on Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws (2021/2166(INI)) in which it replies to the Commission Communication Better Regulation: Joining forces to make better laws (COM/2021/219
final) and its intention to help ensure that EU policies and legislation are geared towards the future, whilst making better use of foresight, to mainstream the sustainable development goals and to better take into account the importance of digitalisation, long-term societal objectives and environmental protection; welcomes the livelihood the Union civil society has shown in the context of the Conference on the Future of Europe and looks forward to the transposition of the expressed ideas into concrete legislative proposals;

Article 225 TFEU resolutions and own-initiative reports

9. Appreciates that the Commission has stepped up its response to Article 225 TFEU resolutions; is satisfied that the Commission is currently working on a legislative proposal following up on the EP Resolutions originated by this Committee A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations (2020/2026(INL)) and has followed-up to the INI report on The impact of intimate partner violence and custody rights on women and children (2019/2166(INI)) with the Proposal for a directive on combating violence against women and domestic violence (COM/2022/105 final); calls on the Commission to give a proper and separate response to the INL on Challenges of sports events’ organisers in the digital environment (2020/2073(INL)); reiterates its call on the Commission to promptly and adequately follow up Parliament’s last term resolutions on the limitation periods for traffic accidents (2015/2087(INL); cross-border aspects of adoptions (2015/2086(INL)); protection of vulnerable adults (2015/2085(INL)); a statute for social and solidarity-based enterprises (2016/2237(INL)) and 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; in this context, reiterates its deep regrets of 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; expects the Commission to sincerely engage with the Parliament on the upcoming own-initiative report on Digitalisation and administrative law (2021/2161(INL)), since the sectoral solutions currently in place lack the thoroughness needed for an EU administration that in its entirety and in a consistent way avails itself of the digital tools; draws the Commission attention to its upcoming report on Responsible private funding of litigation 2020/2130(INL); expects the Commission to follow-up the Article 225 TFEU resolutions as regards the Expedited settlement of commercial disputes in the EU (2018/2079(INL)) and Common minimum standards of civil procedure in the EU (2015/2084(INL)) since these actions would strongly support the economic recovery from both the pandemic and the current economic difficulties stemming from the Ukrainian crisis;

Commission Human Resources Strategy

10. Congratulates the Commission on the recently issued Communication A new Human Resources Strategy for the Commission (C(2022) 2229 final); agrees with the priorities set by the Commission, namely an attractive working environment, faster and more agile
selection procedures, flexible and rewarding career for all staff and staff-focused HR services; affirms that the Strategy rightly aims also at guaranteeing well-being and mental support for staff; asks for the simplification and speeding up of procedures through the involvement of staff and the use of internal data and AI; supports the Commission on its intention to implement a culture of trust-based HR management, on the clear setting of objectives, on flexibility and mobility to face sudden crises; considers geographical balance, gender balance and a diverse workforce to be key to the improvement of the HR management and regrets that thirteen Member States are underrepresented in the Commission staff; supports the actions set out in the Communication on Greening the Commission (C(2022) 2230 final) that aims at making the Commission climate-neutral by 2030 by reducing emissions due to business travels, staff commuting and infrastructures.

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The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs,

Democracy, Rule of law and fundamental rights

1. Expects the Annual Rule of Law report in July 2022 as announced and looks forward to the country-specific recommendations as requested by the Parliament; 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; calls on the Commission to immediately enter into negotiations with Parliament on an interinstitutional agreement;

2. Calls on the Commission to make full use of all tools available to address the situation in the Member State under the Article 7(1) TEU procedure, in particular expedited infringement procedures and applications for interim measures before the Court of Justice of the EU, as well as the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation; requests the Commission to monitor the situation in the Member States (MS) under the Article 7(1) TEU procedure; calls on the Commission to refrain from approval of the Polish and Hungarian national plans under the Recovery and Resilience Facility until all criteria related to compliance with country-specific recommendations in the field of the rule of law and relevant CJEU and ECHR judgments are fully fulfilled;

3. Emphasises the importance of swiftly implementing the Rule of Law Conditionality Regulation, and, with regard to Hungary, continuing with the procedures by submitting a proposal for an implementing decision on the appropriate measures to the Council (Article 6(9)); calls for further assessment and action from the Commission under the Regulation with regard to Poland;

4. 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, access to documents as well as to take steps towards the ratification of the Istanbul Convention;

5. Looks forward to receiving information on the implementation of the strategies for the Implementation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, for LGBTI Equality, and on Roma Equality and Inclusion, as well as of the EU anti-racism action plan. Looks forward also 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;

6. Recalls the importance of victims' rights in the EU and looks forward to the proposed revision of the related Directive; reminds Parliament’s call to all relevant actors for a full and consistent implementation of the Directive on Trafficking in Human Beings which is key in the context of the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, and vulnerable women and children fleeing the country; calls again for the revision of the Directive on Trafficking in Human
Beings in order to improve the measures for the prevention, tackling and prosecution of all forms of trafficking, especially for sexual exploitation; welcomes the proposed 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;

7. Looks forward to the follow-up steps in the implementation of the European Democracy Action Plan to defend and promote media freedom and pluralism, including transparency of the media ownership via the Media Freedom Act and to fight disinformation, including with a clear disinformation strategy, within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond; looks forward also to proposals for increased protection and financial support to NGOs, independent media and investigative journalism, through an EU emergency fund and welcomes the proposal on anti-SLAPP legislation;

Asylum and Migration

8. Welcomes the activation of the Temporary Protection Directive, and the solidarity shown all over the EU in the efforts to provide protection and shelter for persons fleeing war-torn Ukraine. Calls on the Commission to put in place all operational tools and guidance to ensure a successful implementation of the temporary protection regime, both in the short- and the long-term and to continue assisting affected countries in the EU neighbourhood with the reception and registration of refugees from Ukraine;

9. Calls on the Commission to further assist the co-legislators in finalising the reform of the CEAS, taking into account the recent developments, which might create a momentum for a holistic and balanced compromise between the co-legislators, based on solidarity, fair sharing of responsibility and cooperation between Member States, setting up at EU-level a mechanism 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; combatting trafficking in human beings, strengthening search and rescue efforts and ensuring that humanitarian assistance is not criminalised, and making sure that returns of those who do not have a right to reside in the EU are effective and dignified;

10. Reminds the Commission of its obligation, as Guardian of the Treaties, to monitor and ensure the implementation of the existing EU asylum and migration acquis including by starting infringements where necessary.

Schengen and borders

11. 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, and to take appropriate action against Member States that refuse to follow the rules. Further stresses the importance of a judicious reform of the rules on Schengen and Schengen monitoring to provide for truly European governance of the Schengen Area, and to pursue a high-level political debate on the state of Schengen with the European Parliament and the Council; calls on all relevant actors to speed up the implementation of the new EU large-scale IT systems and their interoperability, and of the European Border and Coast Guard Regulation including to reinforce the respect, protection and promotion of fundamental rights;
Data Protection

12. Calls on the Commission to ensure that the Union privacy and data protection acquis is effectively and consistently applied throughout the Union, by fully enforcing the GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679, Directive (EU) 2016/680 as well as Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 and ensuring that Member States fulfil their obligation to provide sufficient resources to national independent supervisory authorities, and where necessary by opening infringement procedures; calls also on the Commission to urgently align all relevant JHA instruments with Directive (EU) 2016/680 (‘Police Directive’) or Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, as the case may be, and to ensure that the future agreement with the US on transfers of personal data fully respects the rules set out by the GDPR and the established Court jurisprudence; moreover, asks the Commission to facilitate the negotiations of the co-legislators to finally achieve progress on the reform of Directive (EU) 2002/58 (‘ePrivacy’);

13. Stresses the importance of encryption technology as an important tool for the protection of cybersecurity and confidentiality of communications and calls on the Commission to discontinue any approach to weaken encryption.

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

14. Stresses the importance of the European Public Prosecutor's Office, and calls for the allocation of appropriate financial resources to match its 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; calls on the Commission to swiftly publish proposals on “residence and citizenship by investment schemes” based on the Parliament’s legislative own-initiative report adopted in March 2022;


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The Committee on Constitutional Affairs,

1. Considers essential to ensure the due follow-up of the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFOE), which successfully concluded its work on 9 May 2022; emphasizes the call from citizens for more and better Europe in some areas and for a more democratic and transparent Union; expects the Commission to place a maximum effort in following-up swiftly to the COFOE’s conclusions; calls in particular on the Commission (and the Council) to remember their commitments for a proper follow-up and calls on them to acknowledge that some of the requests of citizens clearly require amendment of the Treaties; urges the Commission to follow-up on that request and to take initiatives in that sense; points out that AFCO will contribute to the debate through the forthcoming report on “Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties” pursuant to Article 48 of the TEU and expects due support of the Commission in that process;

2. Following the proposal made by Parliament on 3 May 2022, in accordance with prior commitments from President von der Leyen, expects the Commission to be a true facilitator in the inter-institutional talks between Parliament and Council on the reform of the European Electoral Law, and in particular to support the Parliament’s proposal to create a European wide constituency;

3. Takes note of the Commission’s draft proposal to amend Regulation 1141/2014 on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations; regrets that the Commission did not take full account of the Parliament’s suggestions in its evaluation report on the application of that Regulation; strongly disagrees with the Commission’s choice for the recast format which severely limits the Parliament’s legislative prerogatives;

4. Expects the Commission to continue to uphold the commitment made by its President to support the Parliament’s right of initiative by responding with a proposal for a legislative act, in full respect of the proportionality, subsidiarity and better law making principles, following each of the Parliament’s requests under Article 225 TFEU; calls on the Commission to take account of the Parliament’s forthcoming own-initiative report on this matter on the basis of the report adopted by AFCO on 28 April 2022; insists on the need for a continuous and fair dialogue and cooperation between Commission and Parliament in the phase leading to the Parliament’s requests under Article 225 TFEU;

5. Reiterates its call on the Commission to take due account of the position of the Parliament expressed in its report adopted in September 2021 on “Transparency and Integrity in the EU institutions by setting up an independent EU ethics body”; insists on the need for the Commission to swiftly engage dialogue with the Parliament on the basis of that report with a view to provide a proposal of a common framework based on an inter-institutional agreement;
6. Against the background of the backsliding in the rule of law in certain Member States, reiterates its insisting calls on the Commission to engage in inter-institutional negotiations with the Parliament in order to establish a Mechanism on the Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights aiming for a coherent approach based on close cooperation of all EU institutions, and established around a regular annual cycle; refers in that regard to the letter dated 8 April sent by Parliament’s President to Commission’s President; insists that this mechanism cannot be replaced by the Commission’s annual report on the Rule of Law and should be based on the Parliament’s proposal for an inter-institutional agreement adopted in 2020 (Resolution on the Establishment of an EU Mechanism on Democracy, Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights 2020/2072(INI)) which constitutes therefore the Parliament’s negotiating mandate;

7. Reiterates its encouragements to the Commission to continue keeping the 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, in view of overcoming as soon as possible the objections raised by the Court of Justice in its 2/13 opinion and of finding an agreement with the States parties to the Convention;

8. Expects that the Commission continues honouring its commitment to ensure that the Parliament is immediately and fully informed in relation to the work and activities of the bodies established by both the Agreement on the withdrawal of the UK from the Union and the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement, as well as in relation to any major decisions in the context of the implementation of those agreements, in order for the Parliament to be in a position to exercise fully its institutional prerogatives; reminds that both parties to those Agreements are legally bound to fully implement and respect their provisions, as this is key to protecting citizens’ rights and the peace process and to avoiding a hard border on the island of Ireland, as well as to protecting the integrity of the Internal Market; expects that the Commission continues to take all necessary measures to ensure the implementation of the Agreements and the protection of the Internal Market;

9. Calls on the Commission to further improve timeliness and quality of its answers to Parliament’s written questions; insists on the need for the Commission to be represented by the Commissioner in charge during Parliament’s plenary sessions or committee discussions on important files, so as to ensure a lively, informed and efficient dialogue between Commission and Parliament; encourages the Commission to constantly act as a honest broker between the two branches of the legislative power during the legislative process.

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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. Condemns the Russian Federation’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine and its impact on the life of people living in and fleeing from Ukraine, especially women; strongly condemns the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war and stresses that this constitutes a war crime and calls for EU support with regard to collection of evidence in view of prosecution in the International Criminal Court; calls to ensure full access to SRHR, including safe and legal abortion, and regrets that access to such services is hampered in countries such as Poland, Romania and Slovakia; recalls the difficult situation of and obstacles to transgender persons who are prevented from fleeing Ukraine; asks the Commission to ensure correct and full implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive across all 27 Member States and to make sure that women refugees fleeing the war in Ukraine fully benefit from the rights enshrined therein, especially regarding medical assistance, including maternity, childcare and access to the labour market, healthcare and sexual and reproductive health services; calls on the Commission to conduct a detailed analysis of the needs and to adapt existing policies, including financial instruments such as structural funds, keeping a gender-sensitive approach, in order to support and protect civil society, local authorities and Member States as much as possible in their task of hosting and providing support to refugees;

2. Calls on the Commission to assess the implementation of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and to come forward with proposals to revise and modernise/adapt it following the public consultation; calls on the Commission to fight sexual exploitation, and stresses that human trafficking for sexual exploitation and other purposes remains one of the biggest risks for women and children fleeing Ukraine who are in a particularly vulnerable situation; welcomes the development of a common anti-trafficking plan based on the EU strategy on combatting trafficking in human beings (2021-2025), under the lead of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator;

3. Welcomes the legislative proposal on combatting violence against women and domestic violence and calls for the conclusion of the accession of the EU to the Istanbul Convention as a key priority; calls for the extension of the areas of crime to include gender based violence in the EU list of crimes within Art 83 (1) TFEU, to establish EU level definitions that would allow for minimum rules concerning the establishment of criminal offences and sanctions in this area, including additional effective measures for prevention, protection and reparation for survivors of these crimes; underlines the role of gender sensitive education and the need for awareness-raising campaigns, in particular for boys and men, in preventing gender based violence by countering gender stereotypes in all fields;
4. Welcomes the negotiations on the Women on Boards Directive and the work on the Directive on Pay Transparency; stresses the importance of inclusion of women in decision-making at all levels; calls on the Commission to present complementary measures for overcoming the gender pay and pension gaps, such as by introducing guidelines for gender-neutral job evaluation and classification systems, to allow for a fair and adequate valuation and remuneration of jobs in female dominated sectors, such as care and retail, by presenting a timely revision of Directive 2006/54/EC in order to update and improve existing legislation on the equal pay principle in practice;

5. Calls on the Commission to address via the Digital Agenda and the Digital Single Market Strategy the serious gender gap within the ICT sector, and to foster the education and training of women and girls who are an untapped resource in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects, as well as by fighting gender stereotypes and sexual harassment in these sectors; repeats its calls for the Commission to put forward measures to support women’s entrepreneurial potential and to increase financing opportunities for women start-up entrepreneurs and innovators; stresses the need for further regulatory efforts to ensure that AI respects the principles and values of gender equality and non-discrimination and that conscious and unconscious biases are eliminated; stresses the need to combat gender-based violence online, as well as child sexual abuse online, many of its victims being girls;

6. Stresses that sexual and reproductive health and rights are fundamental rights; expresses its concern about the backlash on women’s rights in some Member States and stresses that the Member States are obliged to respect, protect and comply with commitments relating to reproductive and sexual health free from coercion, discrimination and violence, including access to safe and legal abortion; welcomes the support to actions promoting access to sexual and reproductive healthcare within the EU4Health programme;

7. Calls on the Commission to highlight the connection between breaches of rule of law, the undermining of democratic values and the backlash against equal rights; urges the Commission to apply the rule of law conditionality with regards to governments allowing discriminatory targeting of LGBTIQ+ persons; calls on the Commission to adequately monitor the implementation of EU directives prohibiting discrimination based on race, gender and sexual harassment in the workplace, as well for the adoption of the horizontal anti-discrimination directive that remains blocked in the Council, in order to defend the and to start works on standardisations of rights of women and LGBTIQ+ persons throughout the EU; calls for additional measures to protect women facing intersectional discrimination;

8. Welcomes the upcoming EU Care Strategy; reiterates its calls for a common European action on care, envisaging a holistic and life-long approach to care, taking into account the needs of carers, paid and unpaid, formal and informal who are disproportionately women; stresses that the provision of care is critical to cross generational family wellbeing and that the collection of quality data on the provision of care available for children, older persons, persons with disabilities and other dependents should be further explored; calls for the efficient use and additional allocation of EU funds to invest in quality care services and jobs, thus fostering the care economy; calls to fully transpose the Work-Life Balance
Directive for working parents and carers and for the European Commission to closely monitor its implementation;

9. Regrets that, as highlighted in the special report 10/2021 of the European Court of Auditors\(^1\), the EU’s budget cycle does not yet adequately take gender equality into account; calls on the Commission to implement gender budgeting, as recommended, in all EU programmes, to monitor the EU budget’s contribution to gender equality and to implement a gender-sensitive review of the programmes and spending to adjust them accordingly; calls in particular to accelerate the introduction of an effective, transparent and comprehensive methodology, in close cooperation with Parliament, to measure relevant gender expenditure, as set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement and the Gender Equality Strategy, in order to be able to show tangible results for the 2023 budget and in view of the extension of the methodology to all MFF programmes; highlights the importance of gender sensitive budgeting, and application of gender mainstreaming in all policy areas;

10. Welcomes the adoption of the Gender Action Plan III putting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls at the heart of the EU’s external action, considering youth as drivers of change, promoting economic and social rights of girls and women, ensuring in particular freedom from gender-based violence, progresses on the level of schooling of girls, the number of women in decision-making, the number of women studying in the STEM sectors and their empowerment through digitalisation, the rate of women’s entrepreneurship, the promotion and protection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and the involvement of women in peace and security processes; calls for the proper implementation of the GAP III commitments and measures, with special regards to the intersectionality principle and the access to funding open to all local civil society women’s and LGBTIQ+ organisations.

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\(^1\) Gender mainstreaming in the EU budget - time to turn words into action
The Committee on Petitions,

1. The Petitions committee underlines the need of a better collaboration between the Commission and the Petitions committee; highlights the importance of timely and quality Commission’s replies to the petitions especially petitions concerning actual EU legislation loopholes; regrets that the replies from the EC could take more than three months; takes notes of the answers provided to a large majority of 629 requests from PETI in 2021, regretting that the Commission refused to take action on issues raised in individual petitions; expects that the Commission revises its strategic approach in handling petitions in order to better comply with the right to petition as established in the Treaties; believes that the new Info tool launched by the Commission in 2021 should be integrated in a common database to be set up between Parliament and the Commission; stresses that the Commission must guarantee PETI access to relevant documents and information in the framework of the EU Pilot and infringement procedures linked to petitions;

2. Is concerned about the lack of follow-up on successful ECIs; calls on the Commission to transmit valid ECIs to Parliament without delay; urges the Commission to commit to submitting a legislative proposal following Parliament’s adoption of an INL backing valid ECIs;

3. Considers that the Ombudsman should be provided with more financial and human resources to facilitate inquiry processes and in order to support her determination to achieve full transparency in the EU decision-making process;

4. Welcomes the Commission’s initiatives presented in the 2022 Work Program in the field of Rule of Law and fundamental rights, including an initiative to support independence of the media through European Media Freedom Act;

5. Calls on the Commission to achieve the Climate and Green Deal goals and to improve its plans by developing a new EU energy strategy for a truly European Energy Union and to increase investments towards a highly energy efficient, renewable-based economy; stresses that the results achieved are still very low;

6. Asks the Commission for reporting transparently to the public on lessons learned from the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2022, in particular on common & coordinated EU approach to address challenges caused by the COVID-19 resurgence, on the joint strategy to limit any new variant entry into the EU, on campaign(s) to target unvaccinated, on amending the rules to travel to the EU on preventing isolation and discrimination; on validity of the green certificates and on measures to ensure health and safety in all working environments, with a specific focus on the protection of workers in vulnerable situations; reiterates its call on the Commission to ensure full transparency by publishing non-
redacted versions of the advance purchase agreements and purchase agreements of COVID-19 vaccines¹;

7. Asks the Commission to ensure a toxic-free environment and the highest level of protection of citizens against hazardous chemicals; requests the Commission to enhance circular economy by improving citizens’ right to repair, boosting the most efficient and sustainable use of resources, preventing and reducing waste, promoting sharing economy and the extended use and reuse of products, with a view to strengthening citizens’ rights and welfare;

8. Welcomes the Commission’s work to ensure the reality of the Union of equality; stresses that more needs to be done to fight discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, sex characteristics, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability or age; strongly supports the Commission’s initiatives, such as on mutual recognition of parenthood included in the 2022 Commission's Work Programme;

9. Asks the Commission to genuinely follow-up on the outcome of the Conference on the Future of Europe and to turn the concrete recommendations into the actions.

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¹ added for clarity