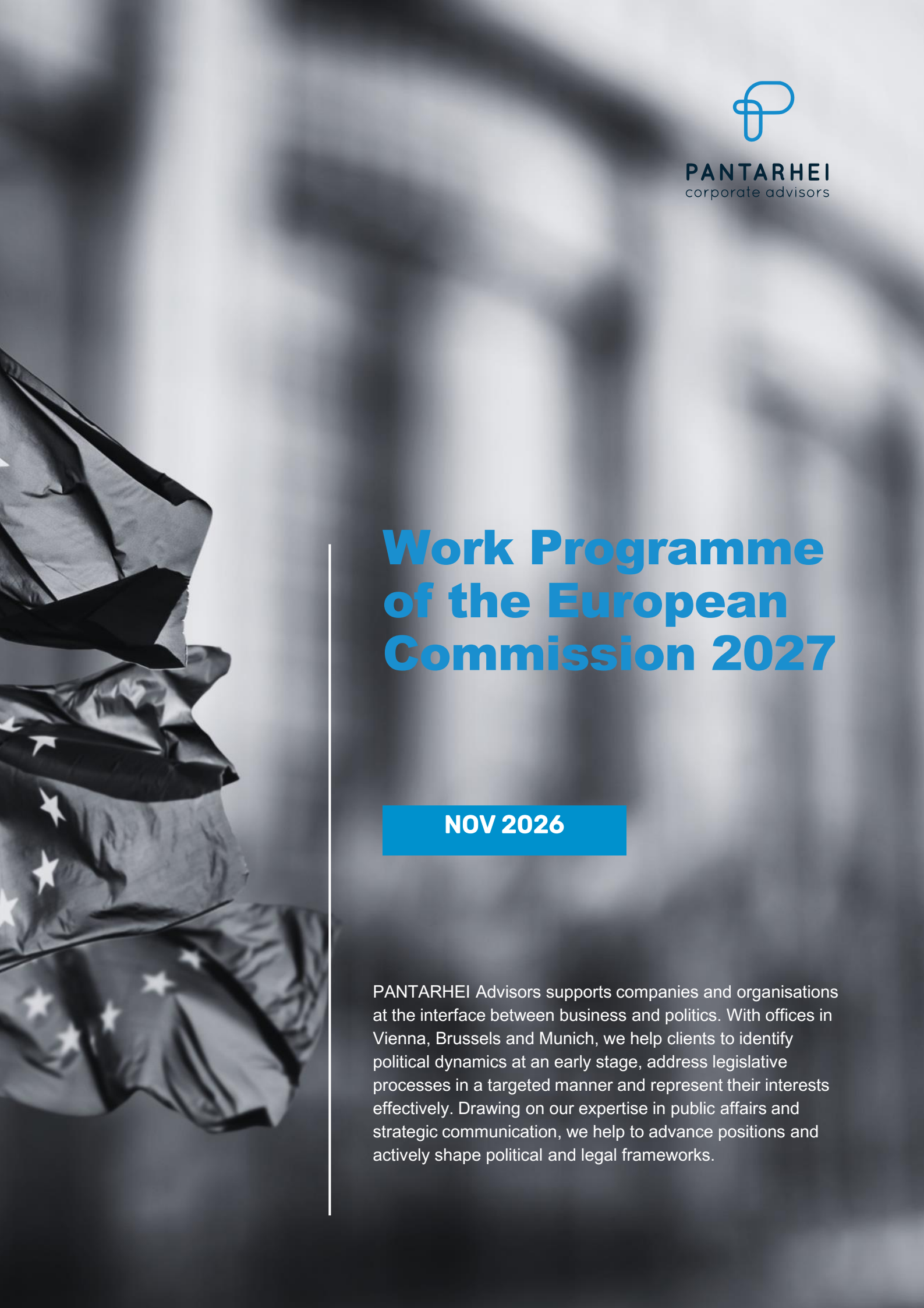


PANTARHEI
corporate advisors

Work Programme of the European Commission 2027

NOV 2026

PANTARHEI Advisors supports companies and organisations at the interface between business and politics. With offices in Vienna, Brussels and Munich, we help clients to identify political dynamics at an early stage, address legislative processes in a targeted manner and represent their interests effectively. Drawing on our expertise in public affairs and strategic communication, we help to advance positions and actively shape political and legal frameworks.

European Commission Work Programme 2027:
What lies ahead for businesses

- On 4 November 2026, the European Commission presented its Work Programme for 2027. It comes halfway through Commission President von der Leyen's second term of office and implements the commitments set out in the political guidelines and the letters of mission to the members of the College.
- There are largely no major new announcements; the focus is on completing and continuing ongoing projects.
- The programme contains 23 key initiatives, ten of which have simplification as their central objective. It is therefore significantly more limited in scope than last year's programme (38 new initiatives, 47 legislative initiatives).
- The planned projects include a banking package to simplify regulations and strengthen competitiveness (Q1 2027), a review of CO_2 limits for heavy-duty vehicles (Q3 2027) and a European Critical Raw Materials Company.
- At the same time, the Commission is withdrawing 18 proposals, including the deposit guarantee scheme – which has been stalled for around ten years – the FIDA Regulation and the Green Claims Directive.

Key priorities from the Commission's programme

- **Competitiveness**
- **Simplification of legislation**
- **Energy prices and security of supply**

23 Key initiatives

24 Pending priority proposals

18 Proposals for withdrawal

14 Proposals to repeal

Our analysis

The change of course is clear: competitiveness, simplification and security of supply are at thecentre stage. The Commission aims to strengthen Europe's competitiveness and further simplify its legislation. According to its own statements, climate targets remain part of the agenda. However, the emphasis is shifting noticeably: energy prices, security of supply and defence are taking centre stage.

Raw materials and security are being given their own structures. The Commission has announced plans to establish a European company for critical raw materials, which is to work closely with the Centre for Critical Raw Materials. In addition, it is examining the establishment of a European Security Council with close partners. Neither of these plans has yet been finalised. For businesses, this means that raw material supply and security are moving up the political agenda, although it is not yet clear what rules will apply.

The financial framework is currently one of the key points of negotiation. By the end of 2026, a political agreement on the 2028–2034 Multiannual Financial Framework, including a comprehensive package of new own resources, is to be reached. Whether it is approved will be decided by the Parliament and the Council.

Now is the time to exert influence. The Commission's communication concludes with the sentence: 'The time to deliver on our independence is now'. The proposals still have to go through Parliament and the Council. Those who put forward their positions at this stage generally have more scope to shape the outcome than in later consultations.

The 23 new initiatives

Organised according to the headings in the Commission's factsheet. The dates given are indicative only and may be subject to change.

A new plan for sustainable prosperity and competitiveness in Europe

Internal market, authorisations, Banking Union, raw materials, digital affairs, transport and energy

No. 1 · Preventing market foreclosure by suppliers
legislative or non-legislative · Q3 2027

No. 2 · Speeding up authorisations
legislative or non-legislative · Q3 2027

No. 3 · Preventing new barriers to the single market
legislative or non-legislative · Q3 2027

No. 4 · Banking Competitiveness and Simplification Package
legislation · Q1 2027

No. 5 · European Critical Raw Materials Company
legislative or non-legislative · no date specified

No. 6 · Digital Package: Simplification and copyright
legislation · Q2 2027

No. 7 · Transport simplification package
legislation · Q1 2027

No. 8 · RefuelEU Aviation
legislation · Q2 2027

No. 9 · Energy framework beyond 2030 and simplification package
legislation · Q1 2027

A new era for defence and security

Visa rules and cross-border police cooperation

No. 10 · Update to visa regulations
legislation · Q1 2027

No. 11 · International data exchange for the police (Prüm)
legislation · Q2 2027

Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model

Housing, care, higher education, skills and regions

No. 12 · Housing Construction Simplification Package
legislation · Q2 2027

No. 13 · European Care Deal
non-legislative · Q2 2027

No. 14 · European University Alliances 2.0
legislative and non-legislative · Q4 2027

No. 15 · Qualifications Guarantee
non-legislative · Q3 2027

No. 16 · Right to Remain
non-legislative · Q1 2027

Safeguarding our quality of life: food security, water and nature

CO_2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles, water, heat protection and nature conservation

No. 17 · Review of CO_2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles
legislation · Q3 2027

No. 18 · European Water Initiative
legislative or non-legislative · Q2 2027

No. 19 · European Heat Plan
non-legislative · Q2 2027

No. 20 · Review of the Nature Conservation Directives
legislative or non-legislative · Q3 2027

Protecting democracy, upholding our values

Equality, safety in politics and political advertising

No. 21 · Recommendation on the ban on conversion practices
non-legislative · Q2 2027

No. 22 · Recommendation on safety in politics
non-legislative · Q1 2027

No. 23 · Review of the Regulation on Political Advertising
legislative or non-legislative · no date specified

2027 Timetable

Q1 2027	Q2 2027	Q3 2027	Q4 2027	No date
4. Banking Competitiveness and Simplification Package	6. Digital Package	1. Preventing market foreclosure	14. European University Alliances 2.0	5. Critical Raw Materials Company
7. Transport simplification package	8. RefuelEU Aviation	2. Speeding up authorisations		23. Political advertising
9. Energy framework beyond 2030	11. Prüm	3. New single market barriers		
10. Update to visa regulations	12. Housing construction simplification	15. Qualifications Guarantee		
16. Right to Remain	13. European Care Deal	17. CO_2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles		
22. Safety in politics	18. European Water Initiative	20. Nature Conservation Directives		
	19. European Heat Plan			
	21. Conversion practices			

Sector overview

Banks

- The Banking Competitiveness and Simplification Package (No. 4, Q1 2027) aims to strengthen the competitiveness of banks and simplify the rules. It is a legislative proposal under Article 114 TFEU.
- The reform of the venture capital framework is part of the Savings and Investment Union. The Commission intends to present it to complete this Union; the communication gives no date.
- The 2015 deposit insurance scheme (EDIS) is being withdrawn. The proposal has been pending with the co-legislators for more than ten years.
- The Financial Data Access (FIDA) Regulation is being withdrawn without a successor. There have been no trilogues since June 2025.
- The digital euro is to be taken forward and is on the list of priority proposals.

→ 2027 is a simplification year for banks: the banking package is due in the first quarter and is set to replace the 2015 deposit guarantee scheme. FIDA is withdrawn without a successor.

Energy

- The post-2030 energy framework (No. 9, Q1 2027) is to be simplified without compromising the objectives of the 2040 framework.
- The acceleration of authorisations (No. 2, Q3 2027) is intended to give priority to projects of strategic interest.
- The Network Package amends, among others, the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001, the Electricity Market Directive 2019/944 and Directive 2024/1788, and is intended to speed up authorisation procedures.
- The Commission will explore the possibility of a Clean Heat Market mechanism to promote heat pumps.
- A review of the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive and Natura 2000 (No. 20, Q3 2027) is due.

→ Authorisations are set to be speeded up, and the nature conservation directives will be reviewed in the third quarter.

Logistics and delivery

- A transport simplification package (No. 7) is planned for Q1 2027.
- The CO_2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles (No. 17, Q3 2027) are to be reviewed, with the aim of achieving climate neutrality without compromising the competitiveness of the automotive industry.
- The Green Claims Directive, which was intended to regulate companies' environmental claims, is being withdrawn.

→ The CO_2 standards for heavy-duty vehicles are to be reviewed, and the Green Claims Directive is being withdrawn.

Online retail and platforms

- The Digital Omnibus amends the GDPR, the Data Act and the ePrivacy Directive (2002/58/EC). It also repeals Regulations 2018/1807, 2019/1150 (P2B Regulation) and 2022/868 (Data Governance Act).
- A digital package covering simplification and copyright is planned for Q2 2027 (No. 6).
- The Commission also intends to take action against the creation of new internal market barriers (No. 3, Q3 2027).

→ Digital rules are being simplified and amended, and new internal market barriers are to be prevented.

Defence industry

- According to the Commission's assessment, the 2030 defence readiness target is at risk. It intends to expand air defence, drones, drone defence and ammunition more significantly, but does not specify a deadline.
- A new European instrument for strategic enablers, such as strategic transport, aerial refuelling, and space and cyber defence, has been announced. The Commission has not specified a timeline.
- The Military Mobility proposal (2025/0847 COD) and the European Competitiveness Fund, including defence research (2025/0555 COD), are ongoing proposals.

→ The 2030 defence readiness target is at risk. A new instrument for strategic enablers is announced, without a timeline.



A different angle on Europe

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