

NEWS FROM BRUSSELS 32/2023

European Commission work programme 2024

The 2024 Commission Work Programme puts a strong focus on simplifying rules for citizens and businesses across the European Union. This follows up on President von der Leyen's commitment to reduce reporting requirements by 25%, in line with our strategy to boost the EU's long-term competitiveness and to provide relief for SMEs. The Work Programme reflects on the achievements of the past four years, outlines the Commission's new proposals for the months ahead and presents significant initiatives aimed at cutting red tape. Some of these simplifying initiatives have already been put forward. With the 2024 Work Programme, the Commission is putting forward 26 additional proposals to reduce administrative burden without lowering social, safety, consumer protection, environmental or economic standards: [Commission work programme 2024 \(europa.eu\)](#)

Council agrees on new rules to strengthen CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles

The Council has reached an agreement on a proposal to update and strengthen the regulation on CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles. The aim of the proposal is to further reduce CO₂ emissions in the road transport sector and to introduce new targets for 2030, 2035 and 2040. The new rules will contribute to the EU achieving its ambitions to fight climate change. The proposal also aims to encourage an increasing share of zero-emission vehicles in the EU-wide heavy-duty vehicle fleet, while ensuring that innovation in the sector and its competitiveness are preserved and enhanced: [Council agrees on new rules to strengthen CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles - Consilium \(europa.eu\)](#)

EU taxonomy: The Platform on Sustainable Finance together with the European Commission is launching the stakeholder request mechanism

In order to evaluate and consider suggestions from stakeholders regarding activities in the EU taxonomy, the Platform on Sustainable Finance together with the Commission is launching the stakeholder request mechanism. The stakeholder request mechanism allows stakeholders to submit suggestions based on scientific and/or technical evidence on new economic activities that could be added to the EU taxonomy or on potential revisions of technical screening criteria of existing activities. The Platform on Sustainable Finance will assist the Commission in the analysis of submitted requests and provide recommendations to the Commission: [EU taxonomy: The Platform on Sustainable Finance together with the Commission is launching today the stakeholder request mechanism \(europa.eu\)](#)

AI Act trilogues: A vision for future proofing, governance and innovation in Europe by DIGITALEUROPE

DIGITALEUROPE has been a strong supporter of the overall objectives of the proposed AI Act, and its focus on high-risk uses of artificial intelligence (AI). They welcome the Council's and the European Parliament's efforts to strike a balance between protecting the health, safety and fundamental rights of European citizens and ensuring that Europe's growing AI industry remains competitive and continues to innovate: [231016-Final-DE-AI-Act-trilogue-paper.pdf \(digitaleurope.org\)](#)