



All CCS and Cross-sectoral Cross- Sectoral Policies and Governance

## EU institutions define priorities for 2026

The EU institutions adopted a joint declaration defining their ten priorities for 2026.

Signaling unity and a shared vision for the Union's future, the priorities highlight security, competitiveness and fairness and include the European Affordable Housing Plan in the Social dimension.

A [Joint Declaration](#) on EU legislative priorities for 2026 was signed yesterday by the Presidents of Parliament, Council and Commission. Here is the institutions' joint press release.

Given the speed and complexity of challenges faced by the European Union, unity, urgency and ambition are key. That is also the spirit behind which President of the European Parliament, Roberta Metsola, Danish Prime Minister, Mette Frederiksen, representing the Council of the EU, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, signed the Joint Declaration on the margins of the European Council today.

The Joint Declaration prioritises legislative actions that focus on boosting the EU's competitiveness and resilience, safeguarding citizens and businesses, while pursuing ambitious simplification goals and working towards agreement on the next Multiannual Financial Framework. Utmost priority will be given to key policy objectives for a new era for European defence and security, to secure Europe's sustainable prosperity, competitiveness and simplification, to strengthen our societies and our social model and quality of life, to ensure comprehensive approach to broader management and migration, to protect our democracy, uphold our values and to leverage our global influence and partnerships.

The Joint Declaration highlights legislative priorities which the

three Institutions have committed to prioritise in 2026. Progress on these proposals should be regularly monitored throughout the year, both to provide updates on the state of play and to allow for early warning of any developments that risk any delay in their progress.

[President Metsola](#) said: “Europe moves when we all pull in the same direction. This Joint Declaration for 2026 is more than just words on a paper – it is a sign of unity and our firm conviction to deliver on people’s expectations. For the first time, it sets out a clear and focused list of ten legislative priorities to make our Union stronger, safer, and more competitive. Parliament is ready to get to work”.

[President von der Leyen](#), said: “Today we stand united with a shared vision for our Union’s future. We must deliver a new era of European security – and that starts with a just and lasting peace for Ukraine and strengthening our own defences. We must also build a more competitive, fairer Europe for our citizens and businesses. And finally we are committed to reaching a swift agreement on the next long-term EU budget. Because to turn our common vision into reality, we must have the means to deliver it”.

## Next steps

The Joint Declaration will be published in the EU’s Official Journal in the coming days. The co-legislators will ensure the timely and effective implementation of this Joint Declaration.

## Background

As set out in the Interinstitutional Agreement on better law-making, signed in 2016 by the three institutions, the European Parliament, the Council, and the Commission discuss and agree on legislative priorities for the next year through an annual Joint Declaration, after the Commission adopts its work programme. This approach helps the institutions collaborate more efficiently on key legislative proposals, with the Parliament and the Council acting as co-legislators.

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Find more [here](#)

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