

Agenda of the European Commission

15 – 21 December 2014

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Tuesday 16 December:

- Adoption of the 2015 European Commission Work Programme
- The Commission adopts its monthly infringements package

Tuesday 16 December:

Adoption of the 2015 European Commission Work Programme

The news:

Every year, the Commission sets out its priorities in the Commission Work Programme (CWP). The first CWP of the Juncker Commission will translate the ten points of the Political Guidelines - the political contract with the European Parliament - and the European Council's Strategic Agenda for the Union in Times of Change, into concrete deliverables.

The background:

The Juncker Commission is committed to restoring citizens' confidence by demonstrating that the EU can deliver for them on the big challenges facing European economies and societies. That starts with setting the right priorities for the 2015 Commission Work Programme.

The Juncker Commission will set out its policy programme for new initiatives planned for 2015 and withdrawals of pending proposals (based on the principle of political discontinuity). This programme will be developed based on the Commission's stated ambition to be "bigger and more ambitious on big things, and smaller and more modest on small things."

The Juncker Commission is committed to a fresh start, with better prioritisation. The first work programme will concentrate on a limited set of concrete initiatives which can make a positive difference for citizens. For the first time, in the preparation of the Work Programme, the Commission is working in dialogue with both the European Parliament and the Member States to build support for its programme. The Commission believes that proposals are only useful if they are adopted, accepted and implemented properly on the ground.

The event:

- Tuesday 16 December: presentation of the 2015 European Commission Work Programme at the European Parliament plenary session by First Vice-President Frans Timmermans. Press release and fact sheet will be available on the day.
- Available on EBS

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Tuesday 16 December:

Adoption of the 2015 European Commission Work Programme

The news:

On Tuesday 16 December, the European Commission will adopt its monthly infringements package. These decisions cover all Member States and most EU policy areas and seek to enforce EU law across Europe in the interest of both citizens and businesses.

The background:

Article 258 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) gives the Commission the power to take legal action against a Member State that is not respecting its obligations under EU law. There are three successive stages: Letter of formal notice, reasoned opinion and referral to the Court of Justice.

If, despite the ruling, a Member State still fails to act, the Commission may open a further infringement case under Article 260 of the TFEU. After only one written warning, Commission may refer a Member State back to the Court and it can propose that the Court imposes financial penalties based on the duration and severity on the infringement and the size of the Member State.

The event:

A comprehensive Memo on all referrals and reasoned opinions, specific IPs on each referral and a Memo on the procedure will be available on the day on Rapid: <http://europa.eu/rapid/>

The sources:

For more information on infringements: http://ec.europa.eu/eu_law/infringements/infringements_en.htm

On the general infringement procedure: [MEMO/12/12](#)

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On specific infringements, please contact the spokesperson in charge.