



**POLITICAL
INTELLIGENCE**

EU Policymaking in 2023

A guide to what to expect in the year ahead



Introduction

The European Union's institutions face a challenging year ahead managing the economic and energy crisis fuelled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine while rushing against the clock to conclude a broad range of policy advances in time for the next European Parliament elections in 2024.

The European Parliament, Council of the EU, and European Commission have put delivering the European Green Deal to achieve net zero by 2050 at the top of their list of 2023-2024 policy priorities. But while encouraging member states to switch to renewable power, the EU must also ensure consumers and businesses have the energy supplies they need as it makes good on its RePowerEU objective to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian fossil fuels.

On the economic front, the EU's 27 member states remain under pressure to insulate citizens and businesses from the cost-of-living crisis and high energy costs, while managing the expensive legacy of the Covid crisis. Against that challenging backdrop, the bloc is aiming to reform its fiscal rules, make progress on strengthening capital markets regulations, complete the banking union, and develop labour skills, especially digital.

On foreign policy, the EU remains committed to supporting Ukraine, but finding agreement on further sanctions on Russia and providing additional funds and military equipment to Kiev could get more complicated as the war wears on. The EU is seeking new trade deals with India, Australia and South America's Mercosur group, while also securing the supply of strategically important goods and raw materials. The commission and member states also faced the challenge of formulating a response to the challenge of the US Inflation Reduction Act. The EU is also committed to finalising migration and asylum reforms, while within the bloc it remains to be seen if Brussels' decision to withhold EU funds convinces Hungary to change its approach to judicial independence and other rights.

With numerous legislative files already on the table and a limited timeline to conclude them, 2023 promises to be a critical year for the legacy of President Ursula von der Leyen's commission. This Dods EU political intelligence report provides a sector-by-sector guide to what to expect from the EU's institutions in the months ahead, and a list of key European elections due in 2023.

Christopher Ball, Head of EU Political Intelligence

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Agriculture and Fisheries

The year ahead promises to bring a raft of legislative updates on EU agriculture and fisheries files, as the bloc faces the twin challenges of strengthening food production following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and making progress on its net zero ambitions set out in the European Green Deal. Following the European Commission's approval of all 27 Member States' Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plans, the reformed CAP entered into force on January 1, 2023. The Commission is due to produce an assessment of those plans at the end of the year, with a particular focus on the collective ambition to achieve Green Deal targets. While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to make progress on the following files in 2023:

Sustainable Food System Framework (SFSF)

While awaiting the Commission's adoption of a Proposal of a Regulation regarding the new initiative on [Sustainable Food Systems](#), the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union will prioritise negotiations on the revision of [the Food Information to Consumers Regulation \(FIC\)](#) and its food labelling provisions. The latter were expected to be adopted by the Commission at the end of 2022, but were subsequently delayed, and they are an important ingredient in the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy.

In addition, the Commission is planning to propose a review of the reduction targets for food waste during the first half of 2023.

New Genomic Techniques

The co-legislators are due to start discussions on a Commission's proposal for a revision of the [Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques due in the second quarter of the year](#), based on the findings of a [Commission study](#). The initiative aims to come up with a legal framework for plants obtained by targeted mutagenesis and cisgenesis and for their food and feed products. The Parliament and the Council will also start work on a proposal for the revision of the [legislation on seeds, plant and forest reproductive materials](#).

Geographical Indications (GIs)

The Parliament and Council are due to discuss the [Proposal for a Regulation on GIs](#) put forward by the Commission in March 2022. Although no changes are foreseen to the fundamental structure of the GIs systems, the proposal aims to simplify and clarify the scheme, while contributing to CAP objectives.

In addition, the co-legislators are planning to continue to advance negotiations on the conversion of the Farm Accountancy Data Network into a [Farm Sustainability Data Network](#).

Animal Welfare

The Commission is expected to put forward several proposals in the second half of 2023 for the [revision of EU legislation](#) on animal welfare, including on [labelling for food](#), welfare of [animals kept for economic purposes](#), and [protection of animals at the time of killing](#) and during [transport](#).

Fisheries Control Regulation

Representatives of the Parliament, Council, and Commission are set to continue trilogue discussions to agree on a revised [Fisheries Control Regulation](#). While the Swedish Presidency of the Council announced a debate on the review of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Control Regulation remains fundamental to provide an up-to-date system of monitoring, inspection and enforcement of fishing in EU waters and the activities of the EU fleet globally.



Tobacco Products Directive

A proposal for a Directive is now expected to be published by the Commission in 2023. The proposal was initially included in the Commission 2022 Work programme and planned for December 7, 2022 but was delayed.

Monica Gamba, Political Consultant covering agriculture and fisheries policy

Energy, Climate and Industry

The ongoing energy crisis triggered by the invasion of Ukraine suggests it will be another busy year ahead for policy in the energy, climate and industry sectors as Europe looks to wean itself off Russian fossil fuels, ease price pressures for consumers and businesses, and make progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with its Fit for 55 and European Green Deal ambitions. Further challenges include ensuring affordable energy prices for consumers and businesses and access to key raw materials for the transitioning industries. While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to tackle the following files in 2023:

Revision of the EU's internal electricity market rules

The publication of the proposal to protect consumers from high energy bills has been brought forward to the first quarter of the year Q1 2023 despite the Commission services advocating for a third quarter timeline to allow for stakeholder consultation and impact assessment. The Commission is framing the exercise as a targeted reform to taking into account the shift in gas flows away from Russia and towards global LNG markets and the increased presence of renewables in the grid. However, it remains to be seen what can be achieved by a long-term market reform to rectify a situation primarily caused by a short-term lack of supply. Member states have also yet to fully implement the previous 2018 reforms and there were few complaints about the functioning of the market before late 2021.

Renewable Energy Directive (RED)

A key aspect of the response to the war in Ukraine in terms of EU energy policy was an increase in ambition on renewables. However, despite more funding and efforts to accelerate permits, also through [a dedicated Council regulation](#), increasing the overall target of renewable energy to 45 percent of the overall mix remains contentious, with member states at odds about what is feasible. The Swedish Presidency of the Council of the EU has said it wants to continue negotiations on the directive with the European Parliament that started in the Czech presidency.

Energy Efficiency Directive (EED)

Another pivotal file of the REPowerEU package, the proposal for a revised EED sets out more ambitious targets for reducing primary energy consumption in the EU by 39 percent and final by 36 percent. The Council's [general approach](#) adopted in June is currently more ambitious than the Commission proposal but is still behind what the Parliament is pushing for. As with the RED, the Swedish Presidency aims to advance the negotiations in the trilogues.

Energy performance of buildings (EPBD)

As part of the Fit for 55 package, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal to revise the EPBD in December 2021. The revised EPBD would set the vision and outline the tools for achieving a zero-emission building stock by 2050. Per the proposal, as of 2030, all new buildings in the EU must be zero-emitting, while all new public buildings must be zero-emission as of 2027. A [general](#)

[approach](#) was adopted in October 2022. The Swedish presidency has committed to advance the work.

Methane emissions

The Commission proposal presented in December 2021 aims to [address gaps](#) in current legislation relating to methane emissions from upstream exploration and the production of oil and natural gas, but also others, such as those from the gathering and processing of natural gas and from coal mines. This is important to reach goals set in the EU Climate Law and to potentially harness otherwise lost methane as an energy resource. The Swedish Presidency intends to continue the work on the proposal for a regulation on the reduction of methane emissions in the energy sector.

Gas package

The proposal to revise the gas directive and the gas regulation aims to achieve a more profound transformation of gas markets to help the EU reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with 2030 and 2050 targets. Key aspects include the role of hydrogen and renewable gases in the future gas markets, joint procurement and cross-border exchanges. The Swedish Presidency has committed to advance the work on the proposals, with [no general approach](#) reached by the end of 2022.

EU Hydrogen Bank

The European hydrogen market faces a chicken and egg dilemma, with suppliers complaining about insufficient demand and customers about a lack of supply. The Commission [will attempt to de-risk](#) and boost the market from both sides to try to grow it evenly and accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels. However, [there have been criticisms and even reports about a lack of unity](#) in the Commission, with support from some high-profile political figures contrasting with technical questions about the practicalities of producing and transporting hydrogen. There are also questions about the use of green hydrogen, [the definition of which remains controversial](#), and the fact it creates extra demand for already scarce supplies of renewable electricity.

European Critical Raw Materials Act

In light of digitalisation and the shift to greener technologies, the EU's industries find themselves contending for a limited global supply of critical raw materials, such as microchips and lithium. The extraction of these materials often also poses environmental and human rights questions. The Critical Raw Materials act [will aim to address this challenge by](#) tackling the dependency on China and ensuring more resilient supply chains to avoid repeating the current situation caused by overreliance on Russian fossil fuels. The Commission plans to identify strategic projects along the supply chain and help the industry build up strategic reserves where supply is at risk.

Matej Banovec, Political Consultant covering energy, climate and industry policy

Environment and Sustainability

Environmental legislation will continue to be high on the EU agenda in 2023, as the war in Ukraine adds urgency to member states' drive to reduce their dependence on expensive fossil fuels and deliver the EU Green Deal. That could include challenging discussions on forestry and nature restoration as the EU looks to accelerate the green transition through a mix of policies designed to protect and restore the environment, develop the circular economy, and reduce emissions. Lawmakers are expected to tackle the following environmental policy files in 2023:



Revision of the Ambient Air Quality Directives

Public [concern](#) about air quality and its effect on health conditions will continue to fuel the EU's Zero Pollution ambition to reduce air and water pollution by 2050 through stricter measures and compensation for those affected. The European Commission's [proposal](#) by the Commission late October last year, will be fine-tuned by the ENVI Committee which is [responsible](#) for the file, is set to consider the Commission's proposal put forward in October. The Swedish Presidency of the Council has also [said](#) it will prioritise advancing the negotiations in the Environment Council.

Measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment

The Commission has tabled measures to restrict the addition of microplastics to products and reduce their release into the environment. The initiative, which was expected at the end of 2022, is due to focus on labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures for the main sources of these plastics.

Packaging and Packaging Waste

EU lawmakers are expected to progress the much-awaited proposal to clamp down on packaging and packaging waste which was put forward by the Commission in late November after several setbacks. Initial discussion of the planned rules at the ENVI Committee and [Environment Council](#) of December 20 suggests the co-legislators will focus on deposit return schemes, harmonisation and standardisation, related targets and minimum recycled content.

Right to Repair

The Commission has said it will re-table a proposal to encourage more repair and reuse of goods on May 31 after it was left out of the Circular Economy Package II in late 2022 following rejection by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board. The promotion of repair and reuse as a means to empower consumers to make greener choices has been a key concern at the Parliament's IMCO Committee, which produced a topical [resolution](#) on the matter.

Waste Shipment Regulation

The Swedish Presidency has said it will [continue](#) working on a revision of the Waste Shipments Regulation. This is seen as crucial for combating illegal waste shipments and tightening controls on different sources of waste. The proposal is now in the hands of the co-legislators. The ENVI committee, which is responsible for the file, is due to discuss rapporteur Pernille Weiss' (EPP, DK) report in the first [plenary session](#) of 2023.

Nature restoration

Coming on the heels of the landmark [UN Biodiversity Conference \(COP 15\)](#), the emphasis on reversing biodiversity loss and the restoration of climate-resilient landscapes will continue to be a key legislative focus. While the [Nature Restoration Law](#) enjoys strong public support, some stakeholders have raised concerns about whether the targets are achievable or enforceable, as well as expected socioeconomic impacts. The co-legislators are set to continue considering these issues in the months ahead, with the [ENVI committee](#) expected to [discuss](#) the draft report in January whilst the Swedish Presidency has made the topic a key priority for the next six months.

Natalia Pujalte, Political Consultant covering environment and sustainability policy



Foreign Affairs

Ukraine

Ukraine is expected to continue to dominate the EU's foreign policy agenda in the months ahead. The European Commission has proposed an unprecedented financial support package of up to €18bn and committed to providing the besieged nation with political, financial, and humanitarian assistance for as long as it is needed, including help with reconstruction after the war. Along with the US, EU member states continue to provide Ukraine with a range of military hardware. Debate about whether to provide Ukraine increasingly sophisticated and powerful weaponry is expected to intensify ahead of an EU-Ukraine summit scheduled for 3 February. Since the start of the war in February 2022, the bloc has, along with the European agencies and development banks that form so-called Team Europe, mobilised over €19.7bn to support Ukraine's economy and provided an additional €3.1bn in military assistance through the European Peace Facility.

Security & Defence Policy - The [2023 EU Annual Budget](#) includes €945.7mn for the European Defence Fund to support European strategic autonomy and security, and €157mn for the European Defence Industry Reinforcement through Common Procurement Act. Furthermore, following a proposal from the Commission, €295.2mn will be directed to Military Mobility to improve civilian and military mobility. The Commission submitted the plan on military mobility to member states for consideration and endorsement at the end of 2022 and it aims to produce periodic joint progress reports on the implementation of the plan, with the first due by November 2023.

On June 21, the Commission is scheduled to present a Space and Defence Package, including strategies for space security and defence and a European defence investment programme.

International Cooperation

Sweden, which holds the rotating Council Presidency from January 1 to July 1, has made cooperation with global partners, including the US, UK, Canada, Latin America and China, a priority for the coming months. Other ambitions include working towards the implementation of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, the implementation of the Communication on the Gulf Region, and attempting to revive the Iran Nuclear Deal.

The EU is expected to look to make further progress on membership talks with the Western Balkans, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia in the months ahead. The bloc is also working to enhance cyber resilience in the Western Balkans region following a series of recent cyber-attacks, including the Commission's new €5 million programme for the region this year.

In April, the EU High Representative, Josep Borrell, together with European Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, are due to outline a New Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Nora Doorley, Political Consultant covering foreign security and defence policy

Trade

The year ahead promises to be crucial for the EU both in terms of the multilateral trading system and for expanding its network of bilateral trade agreements. One of the Commission's biggest

challenges will be helping formulate a European response to the US Inflation Reduction Act. While the Commission has urged the Americans to remove any discriminatory elements of the text, it has raised questions about the EU's approach to state aid rules and whether Europe should develop a sovereign fund to counter subsidies elsewhere. Finding a way to achieve this without undermining the single market's level playing field could be one of the more complicated tasks facing the Commission in the coming months. This also comes at a time when the EU and US are looking to deepen cooperation through the Trade and Technology Council, which is due to meet again in mid-2023. Trade relations with the US will be also discussed at the May 25 Trade Council.

The EU is also working to make progress on several bilateral trade negotiations in the months ahead, including deals with India, Indonesia, Australia and the Mercosur bloc. However, any new agreements face the added challenge of taking into account the EU's trade and sustainable development goals, which include concerns for the environment and labour rights. Elsewhere, the EU is looking to make progress this year on strengthening aspects of its trade relationship with Switzerland. It is also working to resolve a dispute with the UK about post-Brexit trade arrangements for Northern Ireland, with London aiming to find a solution by the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday peace agreement in April.

In terms of legislation, European legislators are aiming to make progress on the modernisation of the generalised system of preferences (GSP) and complete the trade defence toolbox with the files on proposals to limit forced labour and protect against economic coercion due to continue in the months ahead.

Christopher Ball, Head of EU Political Intelligence

Financial Services

It promises to be a lively year ahead for EU financial sector and economics policy. The European Commission is keen to reform the bloc's fiscal rules to help manage the elevated debt levels from Covid and energy crisis. Amid a challenging economic backdrop of slowing growth, high inflation and eroding real incomes, Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis has said he wants simpler fiscal rules with more latitude for debt reduction but stronger enforcement. While the Commission is yet to formally present its proposals, the issue is expected to produce heated debate at ECOFIN meetings in the coming months and raise question about the coordination between fiscal and monetary policy at a time of high inflation. If the reforms are not agreed in good time, pressure on the Commission will likely mount to keep the so-called general escape clause active for a fifth consecutive year to allow deviation from the Stability and Growth Pact in exceptional circumstances.

The year ahead also promises to be a busy in other fields of the financial services reform, including measures for managing banking failures, strengthening the Capital Markets Union, and tackling tax evasion, as well as progressing existing files. While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to tackle the following policy files in 2023:

Bank crisis management and deposit insurance

The Commission is expected to present proposals for a review of the EU framework for managing bank failures and protecting depositors in March 2023. The framework comprises the Bank

Recovery and Resolution Directive (BRRD), the Single Resolution Mechanism Regulation (SRMR), and the Deposit Guarantee Schemes Directive (DGSD).

Retail Investment Strategy

The Commission intends to make further progress in building the Capital Markets Union by proposing a package of measures as part of the Retail Investment Strategy. The objective of the new strategy, which is expected to be published in April, is to respond to new challenges in the market, such as the increasing digitalisation of investment advice and the use of digital distribution channels. The new rules should also ensure that retail investors in the EU benefit from adequate protection, bias-free advice and fair treatment; have access to open markets with a variety of competitive and cost-efficient financial services and products; and are provided with transparent, comparable and understandable information about products.

Taxation package

The Commission is also expected to come up with two new taxation proposals in April. The first aims to tackle the role of enablers involved in facilitating tax evasion and aggressive tax planning in the EU. The second would seek to introduce a new EU common system for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax abuse in the area of withholding taxes.

The Commission is also expected to come up with proposals on the Digital Euro in May, followed in June by the open finance framework and a revision of EU rules on payment services.

The Swedish Presidency has signalled it would aim to reach the conclusions on the revision of the EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes, a political agreement on the Directive on exchange of tax-relevant information on crypto-assets and conclusions on the progress achieved by the Code of Conduct Group at the February, May and June ECOFIN meetings, respectively.

Other files

Meanwhile, 2023 promises to be an eventful year for concluding several financial sector files which are already on the table. These include the implementation of the Basel III reform, advancing the negotiations on the proposals to tackle money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including a new Anti-money laundering Authority (AMLA), as well as the negotiations on the new corporate sustainability due diligence directive (CSDDD) which promises to be particularly heated.

Igor Kostadinovski, Political Consultant covering business and financial services policy

Health and Pharmaceutical

The year ahead promises to bring several pressing challenges for Europe and its health systems, not least the still present threat of Covid. Legislators are due to consider a revision of pharmaceutical legislation and grapple with data privacy concerns affecting the proposal on the European Health Data Space, the EU Global Health Strategy and the Implementation of the Beating Cancer Plan. The Council is also expected to consider a proposal for a new regulation on European Medicines Agency's fees.

While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to tackle the following files in 2023:

Updating the general pharmaceutical legislation - The Swedish presidency of the Council of the EU is due to work on the framework of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe and proposals on new regulations concerning orphan medicinal products and pediatric medicines. It will aim to ensure uninterrupted access to high-quality affordable medicines and medical devices, although using transferable exclusivity vouchers as an incentive for companies to research and develop new antimicrobials has proven controversial and will pose challenges in future negotiations.

The Commission plans the adoption of the [changes to marketing authorisations \(review of EU rules\) for medicines for human use, which aims to improve the efficiency of](#) the lifecycle management, in for the fourth quarter of 2023.

Stella Kyriakides, the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, said in December that the Commission aims to table a delayed proposal on [performance of pharmacovigilance activities for human medicines](#) in March. The Commission had planned to adopt the regulation in the second quarter of 2022 but decided to wait for feedback on the draft act. The interinstitutional negotiations are expected to be complicated due to the pressure to update a 20-year-old regulatory system and make it fit for purpose for the innovations of the future.

Beating Cancer Plan

The adoption of the [Cancer Screening Recommendation](#) during the EPSCO meeting in December, signalled a first step towards the implementation of the EU Beating Cancer Plan. Its successful implementation in 2023 will depend on member states remaining committed to the implementation of the revised guidelines and Commission support for coordination and monitoring of the screening efforts across the EU.

The Proposal on European Health Data Space

The Swedish presidency plans to make advances on the [proposal concerning a regulation for a European Health Data Space](#) (EHDS) that aims to enable effective cross-border data sharing to facilitate care delivery and strengthen research, innovation and policymaking.

Renewal of the EU Global Health Strategy

The EU aims to make swift progress on improving global health security to prevent and manage pandemics. Its strategy focuses on three core priorities: investing in the well-being of all people; reaching universal health coverage with stronger health systems; and combatting current and future health threats. The General Secretariat of the Council's [annex on the European Union Global Health Strategy](#) encourages the Commission and the EU Member States to work closer than ever in a Team Europe approach.

WHO talks on an international pandemic treaty



European lawmakers also hope to make progress on Pandemic Treaty negotiations following several debates on the issue at the Parliament's Special Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic (COVI)

Beatriz Solanas Huerta, Political Consultant covering health and pharmaceuticals policy

Digital

European legislators are aiming to make further progress on the bloc's digital strategy in the months ahead, with several files expected to come to a head by the Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE) Council in June. Despite the implementation of the Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act, 2022 also highlighted the ongoing fragility and risks around EU infrastructures. Digitalisation remains a priority for the European Union and digital skills will play a prominent role in the European Year of Skills in 2023. While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to tackle the following digital policy files in 2023:

Artificial Intelligence

Working on a legal framework for Artificial Intelligence remains a priority for the European Parliament and Council. The Swedish Presidency aims to initiate trilogue talks on the [Artificial Intelligence Act, which](#) was published by the Commission in April 2021, if [MEPs](#) reach a common position on the file as expected in January. The Czech Presidency adopted its [general approach on the legislation at](#) the Telecommunications Council of December 2022. The next TTE Council is scheduled for June 2.

Data Strategy

The Swedish Presidency is also hoping to make progress on the [Data Act](#) proposal, one of the main pillars of the EU data strategy which was published by the Commission in February 2022, in the Council and Parliament. The Data Act aims to ensure fairness in the digital field, promote a competitive data market, develop opportunities for data-driven innovation and make data more accessible for all. The Presidency is expected to provide information on the Data Act during the June TTE Council.

Cyber Resilience

The [Cyber Resilience Act](#) proposal, published in September 2022, aims to provide more secure hardware and software products and to help consumers take into consideration cybersecurity when buying and using digital products. The Swedish Presidency is expecting to advance the Council's work on the file and present its general approach or progress report during the June TTE Council.

Interoperable Europe Act

The Swedish Presidency also aims to progress the Council's work and present its general approach or progress report on the [Interoperable Europe Act](#) by the June TTE Council. The proposal, which was published by the Commission in mid-November, aims to reinforce cross-border interoperability and cooperation between public administrations. The framework will be

structured on four pillars: Interoperable Europe Board, Mandatory interoperability assessments, Interoperable Europe Portal, and Innovation and support measures.

New radio spectrum policy programme Commission's [Work Programme 2023](#) indicated it plans to introduce a legislative initiative to establish the [new radio spectrum policy programme](#) (RSPP 2.0) in the third quarter of the year. The initiative is part of the EU 5G Action Plan framework and aims to guarantee strategic planning for spectrum management.

Connectivity

The Swedish Presidency is aiming to advance the work on the new Connectivity Infrastructure Act and present its general approach or progress report at the June TTE Council. The new proposal is expected to be published soon and will include a revision of the [Broadband Cost Reduction Directive](#) (BCRD), which was first announced by the Commission in February 2020. The objective of the BCRD is to promote and facilitate high-speed electronic communications networks by diminishing the cost of their deployment.

Digital Skills

Digital skills are expected to be a key focus of the EU Year of Skills 2023, with the Commission planning a Cybersecurity Skills Academy. The Commission is also scheduled to discuss digital skills and education package in a College meeting on February 14. The topic is also due to be discussed in the Parliament plenary session of February 13-16.

Other files

MEPs are aiming to reach a final common position on the [Chips Act in early stages of the year](#) after the Czech Presidency adopted its general approach at the end of 2022. Elsewhere, the Swedish Presidency aims to start trilogues on the [e-ID proposal](#) and to advance the negotiations with the Parliament on the [ePrivacy Regulation](#). Trilogues are also expected to start on the [Political Advertising](#) file, once MEPs reach a common position.

Eleonora Bottin, Political Consultant covering digital policy

Transport

The year ahead promises significant movement in EU transport legislation, as the Swedish presidency looks to make progress on climate targets for the sector from the Fit for 55 package and various files including the so-called Single European Sky plans for the bloc's aviation market. European legislators also hope to make progress in negotiations on the trans-European transport network (TEN-T) to achieve more efficient and sustainable transport services, while the Commission is expected to present proposals on road, rail and intermodal transport, including a revision of the Directive on driving licences and a package for green freight transport. While the European Institutions have yet to set out specific dates, lawmakers are expected to tackle the following files in the months ahead:

Fit for 55 Transport

In 2023 negotiations are expected to continue on the following three transport-related files from the [Fit for 55](#) package:



RefuelEU Aviation Initiative

The [proposal](#) aims to reduce the aviation sector's environmental footprint and enable it to help the EU achieve its climate targets. The Council agreed on a general approach for the proposal in June 2022. Negotiations between the Council and the European Parliament, in meetings known as 'trilogues', will seek to achieve a final position on the legislation.

FuelEU Maritime

The [proposal](#) aims to use greener fuels to help reduce average carbon intensity (CO₂ per tonne-mile) in ships by at least 40 percent by 2030 and by 70 percent by 2050, and cut total greenhouse gas emissions by at least half by 2050 compared to 2008. Despite progress in recent years, the maritime sector still relies almost entirely on fossil fuels and constitutes a significant source of greenhouse gases and other harmful pollutant emissions. Trilogues are expected in the month ahead following the Council's agreement on a general approach for the proposal in June 2022.

Alternative fuels infrastructure

The Commission has presented a [proposal](#) for the revision of existing legislation aiming to accelerate the deployment of infrastructure for recharging or refuelling all modes of transport with alternative fuels and power supplies. Trilogues are expected in the months ahead after the Council agreed a common position in mid-2022.

TEN-T

European legislators are hoping to make progress this year on a [review](#) of the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) launched by the Commission in 2019. The European Parliament is expected to adopt a position in the first half of 2023 after the Council adopted a [general approach](#) in December 2022.

Intelligent Transport Systems Directive

The Council adopted a general position on the [revision of the Directive on the deployment of Intelligent Transport Systems \(ITS\)](#) in June 2022. Trilogues are expected once the Parliament has adopted its position. The revision aims to stimulate faster deployment of new transport services primarily by making more primarily digital data on road, traffic and travel available.

Single European Sky rules

The Swedish presidency and EU institutions have made it a priority to advance negotiations on a [revision of the Single European Sky rules](#) launched by the Commission in 2020 which aim to increase the efficiency of EU air traffic management. Although trilogues started in July 2021 they have yet to produce an agreement due to a lack of consensus on issues such as national responsibility and role of network manager Eurocontrol. Member states took stock of the main bones of contention in July 2022, paving the way for further technical negotiations to continue.

Other files

The Commission is expected to present a number of proposals on road, rail and intermodal transport in the first half of 2023, including a revision of the [Directive on driving licences](#), a package for green freight transport, and a [package on maritime safety](#).

Alexandru Stretet, Political Consultant covering transport, tourism, and space policy



Key elections in the EU in 2023

January 13	Czech Republic	Presidential (previous 12/26.01.18)
February 5	Cyprus	Presidential (previous 28.01.2018)
March 5	Estonia	National parliament (previous 03.03.2019)
April 2	Finland	National parliament (previous 14.04.2019)
May	Latvia	Presidential (previous 29.05.19)
June 8	Greece	National parliament (previous 07.07.2019)
October	Luxembourg	National parliament (previous 14.10.2018)
Autumn	Poland	National parliament (previous 13.10.2019)
December	Spain	National parliament (previous 10.11.2019)

(NB: election dates may be subject to change due to unforeseen events)

Centine Johansson, EU Reference Data Editor

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