

EuroCOP policy grid – 2022

February 2022



European Union			
Issue	Summary and relevance	Status	Timeline and next steps
Political			

■ Top priority/live issues ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority/inactive files



<p>EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine</p>	<p>In response to Russia's large-scale military invasion of Ukraine, the largest military attack in Europe since World War II, the EU has acted swiftly to support Ukraine's defense efforts, and has installed far-reaching sanctions against Russia.</p> <p><u>Financial Sanctions</u></p> <p>The EU has cut Russia's access to capital markets of the EU, with the aim of increasing borrowing costs for the sanctioned entities and gradually eroding Russia's industrial base by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prohibiting any form of lending to and buying of securities issued by certain Russian banks and government (including the Central Bank) • imposing a full asset freeze and financing ban on three Russian banks; • extending the list of state-owned companies subject to the financing ban; • targeting the Russian elite by banning their big deposits in EU banks, and blocking Russia's EU-held foreign exchange reserves; • Excluding key Russian banks from the SWIFT system, the world's dominant financial messaging system. • In addition, the EU has prohibited investing in projects co-financed by the Russian Direct Investment Fund. 	<p>Furthermore, the EU is now weighing up options for additional sanctions, with High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Josep Borrell stating on Friday 4th March that "all options remain on the table." More Russian banks could be excluded from SWIFT, Russian ships could be banned from EU ports, and further import bans could be imposed – affecting key materials such as Russian steel, timber, aluminium and coal.</p>	<p>21 February 2022: Russian President Vladimir Putin decided to recognise the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts (administrative regions) in Ukraine as independent entities and to send Russian troops into these areas.</p> <p>23 February 2022: the Council agreed on a first package of measures to respond to Russia's decision to recognise the independence of the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.</p> <p>24 February 2022: Russia launched an invasion of Ukraine.</p> <p>24 February: EU leaders came together at an extraordinary meeting of the European Council in Brussels to prepare a response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. They demanded that Russia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immediately cease its military actions
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The provision of eurodenominated banknotes to Russia has also been prohibited. <p>The EU has also expanded the scope of export controls on dual-use goods (items used for military as well as civilian purposes) to limit Russian access to key technologies, such as semi-conductors. EU airspace has also been shut down to all Russian aircraft, and Russian media outlets like Sputnik and Russia Today have been banned from operating in the EU.</p> <p><u>Airspace sanctions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ban on exports, sales, supply or transfer of all aircraft, aircraft parts and equipment to Russia. Ban on the provision of all related repair, maintenance or financial services. Closure of EU airspace to all Russian-owned, registered or controlled aircraft, including private jets of oligarchs. <p><u>Military and humanitarian aid</u></p> <p>In a watershed moment for the EU, direct military assistance has been pledged to Ukraine, with the 27 Member States agreeing to provide €500 million in weapons and other military equipment to Ukraine. This is a pivotal turning point given that the EU treaties ordinarily prevented the use of the EU budget for military or defense purposes. The military aid adds to</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> unconditionally withdraw all forces and military equipment from Ukraine respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence respect international law stop its disinformation campaign and cyberattacks <p>25 February 2022: the EU decided to freeze the assets of Russia’s president, Vladimir Putin, and its foreign affairs minister, Sergey Lavrov, in response to the military aggression carried out by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The Council also agreed on a further package of individual and economic restrictive measures. These sanctions cover the finance, energy, transport and technology sectors.</p> <p>2 March 2022: EU leaders agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> suspend the broadcasting activities in the EU of the Russian state-owned outlets Sputnik and Russia Today;
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	<p>a new emergency macro-financial assistance (MFA) package of up to €1.2 billion, to help Ukraine deal with the unprecedented humanitarian, economic and geopolitical challenges it is experiencing.</p> <p><u>Refugee protection</u> An additional measure offers Ukrainian refugees temporary protection status for up to 3 years in any Member State.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduce a SWIFT ban for seven Russian banks; • impose sanctions against Belarus in response to its involvement in Russia’s military invasion. <p>4 March 2022: the EU introduced the temporary protection scheme for displaced persons seeking asylum owing to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.</p>
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<p>EU-UK relations</p>	<p>The EU and UK have finished negotiating the terms of the future relationship following Brexit, outlined in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and UK. The Agreement establishes a new framework for law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.</p> <p>It commits the EU and UK to continued protection and giving domestic effect to fundamental rights. In case of non-adherence by the UK, the EU will be able to suspend cooperation on law enforcement and judicial matters. Both sides have also committed to upholding high levels of data protection standards, ascertained by adequacy decisions taken unilaterally by each side.</p> <p>Further on data sharing, the agreement includes ambitious arrangements for timely, effective, efficient and reciprocal exchanges of air passenger data, criminal records information and Prüm data. However, the UK will no longer have access to EU databases that support the area of freedom, security and justice, reserved for Member States and very closely associated countries that accept all associated obligations.</p> <p>The Agreement looks to enable effective cooperation between UK and Europol and Eurojust, in line with rules for third countries established in EU legislation. There will also be strong cooperation when it comes to the swift surrender of criminals and cooperation on</p>	<p>A deal between the EU and UK was agreed on 24 December 2020. The deal secures a tariff-free, quota-free trading relationship and is billed as the most comprehensive trade deal ever made. It also includes a section on law enforcement and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.</p> <p>On 28 June, the European Commission granted the UK data adequacy allowing personal data to flow freely between the UK and EU. The decision has a sunset clause to last four years, meaning that it will be subject to review. The decision also contains strong safeguards to protect against UK divergence. This means that, should the UK wish to substantially diverge from its current data protection regime (largely based on GDPR) then the decision can be reviewed within the four year period.</p>	<p>24 December 2020: Deal agreed between UK and EU</p> <p>31 December 2020: Transition period ended with transitional application of the deal in place</p> <p>28 February 2021: Originally, the European Parliament had until this date to ratify the trade deal, however MEPs wanted more time to scrutinise the 1,300-page document.</p> <p>15 March 2021: The European Commission launched a twin-track legal action against the UK for its decision to unilaterally extend grace periods on goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain.</p> <p>26 April 2021: The EU and UK agreed to an extension of the ratification period until end of April. The European Parliament has said it would not be requesting any further extensions to the ratification deadline.</p> <p>28 April: The European Parliament formally approves the EU-UK trade and cooperation agreement.</p>
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	<p>combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.</p> <p>On Wednesday 13th October, the EU Commission presented a new package of measures to try to resolve the ongoing dispute over the Northern Ireland Protocol. The EU’s new package of measures offers enhanced flexibilities in food, plant and animal health, customs, medicines, and engagement with Northern Ireland stakeholders. It also proposes a different means of implementing the Protocol’s customs arrangement for goods trade between Great Britain (GB) to Northern Ireland (NI). The Commission estimates that, if implemented, the changes they propose would mean a reduction of approximately 80% in Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks, as well as a 50% drop in paperwork required for customs clearance.</p> <p>Subsequently, intensified EU-UK negotiations on the Protocol began and are ongoing at time of writing. Complicating matters is a parallel EU-UK dispute on fisheries. France is now threatening retaliatory measures (including bans on UK boats entering French ports, and extra customs checks on UK goods) from November 2 if the UK continues to deny French fishermen licenses to fish in British waters, as France says had been agreed in last year’s EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). French government spokesman Gabriel Attal said thus far, the UK had granted a mere 50% of the licenses it was supposed</p>		<p>29 April: Council Decision on the Conclusion of the Agreement on behalf of the European Union.</p> <p>28 June: Commission grants UK data adequacy.</p> <p>27 July: Commission decides to pause legal action against UK in attempt to ease tensions over post Brexit customs rules on goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain. The Commission said the pause would help “provide the necessary space to reflect on these issues and find durable solutions to the implementation of the protocol”.</p> <p>6 September: UK Government announced an indefinite extension to grace periods, to allow breathing space to resolve the outstanding issues on the Protocol.</p> <p>26 September: Commissioner Mairead McGuinness reveals Commission will in coming weeks present a package of measures to try</p>
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	<p>to. In response, the UK Government stated it had granted 98% of license applications from EU vessels to fish in UK waters, and PM Boris Johnson vowed to hit back at France were it to break the TCA’s fisheries agreement. The UK Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, has also summoned the French Ambassador to the UK, Catherine Colonna.</p> <p>On January 24, 2022, the new UK lead on negotiations with the EU over the Northern Ireland Protocol, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, met with EU Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič. While both sides acknowledged in the joint statement that they had a mutual objective to accelerate the talks, Šefčovič expressed that he’d found the meeting “difficult” and “frustrating”. While appreciative of the constructive atmosphere, he told EU ministers that Truss had brought up new issues around the Protocol, issues previously thought had to have been resolved during the Withdrawal Agreement and Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) negotiations.</p> <p>Cicero understands that the UK team is trying to push for an agreement to be reached by the end of February. Šefčovič had previously been quoted in media that talks would conclude by the end of February if no breakthrough emerges, ahead of the politically sensitive Northern Ireland Assembly elections in May. In fact, these reports resulted from an incorrect interpretation by Members of the</p>	<p>to resolve the Northern Ireland Protocol dispute.</p> <p>13 October: EU Commission presented a new package of measures to try to resolve the ongoing dispute over the Northern Ireland Protocol.</p> <p>December 1: The UK and EU jointly agreed a one-year extension to grace periods regarding the enforcement of EU customs rules on medicines being transported from mainland Great Britain to Northern Ireland.</p> <p>January 24, 2022: Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and EU Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič met in Brussels to continue intensified discussions over the Northern Ireland Protocol.</p> <p>February 24: EU-UK Joint Committee.</p>
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	<p>European Parliament, and the Commission is still reluctant to put concrete deadlines on the table. Šefčovič had, however, called on Truss to adopt a “laser focus” to try to break the impasse, given how difficult things would become as the Stormont elections get underway.</p> <p>In addition to this, Šefčovič has said that a meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee would take place on 21 February. It is the view of both sides that it would be beneficial for the Joint Committee to intervene and make decisions on the matter. However, it remains unclear whether or not this will be the case.</p>		
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<p>EU Multi-annual financial framework</p>	<p>EU Member States have agreed to the EU’s next seven-year budget (MFF), to extend from 2021-2027. Leaders have agreed a €1.82 trillion budget and recovery package that will be funded by the Commission borrowing from capital markets. The budget carves out over €13 billion for security and defence, allocating €1.7 billion for the Internal Security Fund and increasing the amount of the budget dedicated to Europol by at least 10% (link).</p> <p>The final agreement is based on a compromise proposed by the German Presidency which would ensure any action against Hungary and Poland, based on the rule of law provisions, would not take place until the two have been able to challenge the legality of the provisions at the European Court of Justice. Crucially, Dutch PM Mark Rutte previously had reservations for this compromise, but received assurances from the Commission that the compromise does not change the scope of the mechanism and that the Commission can take retroactive actions given the likely delay in implementation.</p>	<p>Less than a week after EU leaders came to an agreement on the EU’s landmark €1.8 billion budget and recovery package, the European Parliament gave the final seal of approval on 16 December 2020. After this the MFF regulation was adopted unanimously by the Council. The regulation applies from 1 January 2021.</p>	<p>17-18 July 2020: Council agreed budget</p> <p>December 2020: European Council and Parliament both approved budget</p> <p>January 2021: New budget cycle begins</p>
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COVID-19	<p>In the short term, the COVID-19 pandemic has had significant consequences for EU border controls and the functioning of the Schengen Area.</p> <p>In the longer term, the economic impact of the pandemic is having a significant impact on budgets across the Eurozone and resourcing for critical public services.</p> <p>The Commission also expects an increase in cross-border crime and internet fraud due to increased reliance on digital solutions during the pandemic.</p>	<p>Member States are stepping up local restrictions and re-introducing national measures in response to rising infection rates across Europe.</p> <p>The EU has adopted a list of non-EU countries considered ‘safe’ for reopening borders to unrestricted travel. Some Member States have not adopted this list. The European Council Summit on 19 November 2020 discussed rapid antigen tests, vaccines and lifting restrictive measures, focusing on lesson learned from the first wave.</p> <p>After agreement at the European Council Summit on 21 January 2021, the Commission presented new proposals to review the recommendations on non-essential travel into the EU. The updated recommendations were adopted by the Council on 1 and 2 February 2021. The Commission also introduced an export authorisation scheme for vaccines on 30 January 2021.</p> <p>On 17 March 2021, the Commission published a proposal for Digital Green Certificate covering vaccination</p>	<p>17-18 July 2020: EU leaders agreed recovery fund</p> <p>20 January 2021: Member States have agreed a common framework for the use of rapid antigen tests and the mutual recognition of COVID-19 test results across the EU.</p> <p>1-2 February 2021: Council adopts updated recommendations on non-essential travel into the EU.</p> <p>25 February 2021: Members of the European Council took stock of the current COVID-19 epidemiological situation and of the measures in place to contain the spread of the virus. They agreed to continue working to coordinate the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • authorisation, production and distribution of vaccines • coordination of travel measures <p>17 March 2021: Commission publishes proposals for Digital Green Certificate.</p>
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		<p>certificates, test certificates, and certificates for persons who have recovered from COVID-19. The certificates will be issued in a digital form or paper. The Commission will build a gateway to ensure all certificates can be verified across the EU, and support Member States in the technical implementation of certificates.</p> <p>What previously was called “Green Certificate” has been renamed and now it is called “EU Digital COVID Certificate”. The key features of the certificate adopted are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital and/or paper format • With QR code • Free of charge • In national language and English • Safe and secure • Valid in all EU countries <p>People holding a Digital Certificate cannot be subject to additional restrictions, unless they are strictly necessary to safeguard public health.</p>	<p>26-29 April 2021: Parliament discussed the Digital Green Certificate proposal.</p> <p>29 April 2021: Parliament has adopted its negotiating position on the Digital Green Certificate. Negotiations with the Council followed suit.</p> <p>20 May 2021: European Parliament and Council reached a provisional political agreement on the certificate.</p> <p>8 June 2021: Final approval of the certificate by the European Parliament during the Plenary session.</p> <p>14 June 2021: Signing ceremony of the legislative proposal with the participation of EP President David Sassoli, EC President Ursula von der Leyen and Portuguese PM Antonio Costa on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>1 July 2021: Date in which Member States are required to start accepting the certificate for the purposes of travel within the EU.</p>
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		<p>Certificates are issued to vaccinated people, people that have recovered from Covid and tested people.</p> <p>As of October 2021, almost 600 million EU COVID Certificates have been successfully issued across 43 participating countries and 4 continents. This includes 27 EU Member States, 3 European Economic Area (EEA) countries, Switzerland, and 12 other countries and territories. 27 additional third countries are also aiming to join the scheme.</p> <p>Large swathes of the EU are now using the pass as a condition of entry for the hospitality sector, public transport, cinemas and museums, while Italy already requires the COVID pass to enter a workplace under law, and Austria is set to follow suit.</p>	<p>1 July - 12 August: Phase-in period- if a Member State is not yet ready to issue the new certificate to its citizens, other formats can still be used and should be accepted in other Member States.</p> <p>28 October: The United Kingdom joined the EU’s vaccine passport system, meaning that EU countries will recognise the UK NHS vaccine QR code, and the UK will recognise EU QR codes. The UK has thus joined other non-EU countries in the system such as Switzerland, Norway and Israel.</p> <p>25 November: The Commission proposed to introduce a standard 9-month validity for EU Digital COVID certificates which have been issued after the completion of the primary vaccination series. This means that for travel purposes, Member States should not refuse a vaccination certificate that has been issued less than 9 months since the administration of the last dose of the primary vaccination.</p>
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			<p>22 February 2022: The Council of the EU adopted new recommendations on non-essential travel from third countries, in view of the evolution of the pandemic, an overall increase in vaccine and booster uptake and the recognition of a growing number of certificates issued by third countries as equivalent to the EU digital COVID certificate. The new recommendation will start to apply on 1 March 2022.</p> <p>Under this recommendation, COVID-19 restrictions should be applied taking into account both the situation in the third country and the individual status of the individual. Member states should allow non-essential travel for persons vaccinated with an EU- or WHO-approved vaccine, recovered persons and all persons travelling from a country on the EU list. For some of these travellers, additional measures such as PCR testing before travel could apply.</p>
Legislative			

<p>Strengthening of Europol's mandate</p>	<p>The Commission intends to strengthen Europol's mandate in order to reinforce operational police cooperation. This may include the creation of a 'European innovation hub for internal security'.</p> <p>The proposal's fundamental goals are to improve Europol's cooperation with private parties, and where appropriate, with 3rd countries. Moreover, to enhance the agency's data sharing capabilities, including through changes to the Schengen Information System - the EU's mass data-sharing system for security and border management. Under the status quo, Europol is not permitted to create its own alerts for potential criminal suspects, and a separate (but linked) legislative proposal aims to modify the Schengen Information System (SIS), to allow Europol to issue alerts in SIS under a new category.</p>	<p>The Commission held a targeted consultation with stakeholders in July 2020 and will use the results to develop a new legislative proposal. EU interior ministers met informally on 21 October 2020 and reflected on the current challenges and operational needs of the agency. In December 2020 the Commission published its proposal, which has been referred to the LIBE Committee in the European Parliament.</p> <p>At Council level, Member States have different opinions especially regarding mechanisms of exchanging data with third countries, the introduction of a new category of alert in the Schengen Information System (SIS), and the proposed relationship with the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO). The European Parliament Research Service outlines the current state of discussions here.</p>	<p>July 2020: EuroCOP sends response to Commission consultation</p> <p>09 December 2020: Commission published legislative proposals and impact assessments</p> <p>14 December 2020: European Parliament designates LIBE Committee as the responsible Committee. The Committee on Budgets will adopt a draft opinion.</p> <p>10 February 2021: LIBE Committee appoints Javier Zarzalejos (Spain/EPP) as Rapporteur.</p> <p>17 February 2021: Commission draft acts closes to feedback</p> <p>9 March 2021: EDPS Opinion on the Proposal for Amendment of the Europol Regulation.</p> <p>28 May 2021: The Council publishes its Progress Report on the legislation.</p> <p>21 October 2021: LIBE Committee decides to enter into interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues between Council of the EU</p>
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EuroCOP policy grid – 2022

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			<p>and Parliament) confirmed by plenary.</p> <p>December 2021: Interinstitutional (trilogue) negotiations on the Europol mandate are ongoing, and a compromise is now expected for Q1 2022.</p>
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■ Top priority/live issues ■ Medium priority ■ Low priority/inactive files

<p>Anti-Money Laundering Regulation</p>	<p>The Commission proposed its Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) package on 20 July. Among the proposals, the Commission wants to establish a new EU AML Authority transforming AML/CFT supervision in the EU and enhancing cooperation among financial intelligence units. The proposal for the authority's creation can be found here.</p> <p>In addition, the AML/CFT package proposes the following legislative acts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation on AML/CFT containing directly applicable rules, especially in the field of customer due diligence and beneficial ownership. • 6th Directive on AML/CFT (AMLD 6) replacing the existing Directive 2015/849/EU containing rules on national supervisors and financial intelligence units in Member States. • Revision of the 2015 Regulation on Transfers of Funds (2015/847/EU) making it possible to trace transfer of crypto-assets and limit large cash payments. 	<p>A public consultation closed in August 2020. The Commission is developing its position and will publish a legislative proposal in early 2021. EU economics and finance ministers expressed broad support for the draft Council conclusions as prepared by Coreper and at expert level in their video meeting on 4 November.</p> <p>The new AML authority should be operational in 2024 starting its work of direct supervision slightly later once all Member States transpose the provisions of the AMLD 6 Directive and all relevant rules start applying.</p>	<p>7 May 2020: Action Plan and public consultation published</p> <p>26 August 2020: Public consultation deadline</p> <p>10 September 2020: EBA issues Opinion and Report on the future EU legal framework on AML/CFT</p> <p>20 September 2020: Commission adopts a report assessing whether Member States have duly identified and made subject to the obligations of Directive (EU) 2015/849 all trusts and similar legal arrangements governed under their laws</p> <p>1 March 2021: The EBA issues revised guidelines on money laundering and terrorist financing risk factors</p> <p>20 July 2021: The Commission proposed its AML/CFT package.</p> <p>1 December 2021: MEPs from both the ECON (Economic Affairs) and LIBE (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs) committees held a joint hearing on the AML legislative package. MEPs largely welcomed the proposals, but questioned whether</p>
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			<p>its enforcement could be too decentralised amongst various supervisory authorities. MEPs agreed a key priority is to ensure the currently fragmented rulebook in Europe is harmonised and that the establishment of the EU Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) offered a crucial opportunity to achieve this. The full discussion can be reviewed here.</p> <p>February 21 2022: The European Central Bank published its long awaited response to the AML package. It largely welcomed the initiative, saying it “strongly supports” a Union regime that “ensures that Member States, Union authorities and bodies, as well as obliged entities within the Union, have effective tools to counter the misuse of the Union financial system for money laundering and terrorist financing.”</p>
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<p>Additional measures on critical infrastructure protection</p>	<p>The Commission has published new rules to enhance EU security measures around critical infrastructure.</p> <p>The new proposal reflects findings from the 2019 evaluation of the ECI Directive and the impact assessment supporting this proposal which found that existing European and national measures did not sufficiently ensure that operators are able to confront the increasingly complex operational challenges that they face today. The European Parliament has called for a cross-sector approach and a new focus on cybersecurity.</p> <p>Ten sectors are in scope: energy, transport, banking, financial market infrastructures, health, drinking water, wastewater, digital infrastructure, public administration and space. Critical entities must be able to withstand disruptive incidents such as natural hazards, terrorism, insider threats, accidents and pandemics.</p>	<p>On 16 December 2020, the Commission published new rules to enhance EU security measures around critical infrastructure. The proposed directive will now be considered by the Parliament and the Council. LIBE has been designated as the Committee responsible for the file.</p>	<p>7 August: Commission roadmap closed.</p> <p>16 December 2020: Commission published legislative proposal.</p> <p>24 February 2021: Michal Šimečka (Renew/Slovakia) appointed as Rapporteur for the LIBE committee. Other committees involved are ITRE, IMCO, AFET and TRAN.</p> <p>29 April 2021: Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament.</p> <p>26 May 2021: Draft European Parliament Legislative Resolution.</p>
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<p>Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive)</p>	<p>Cybersecurity is a priority area for the new Commission. The Commission intends to launch a review of the Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive), in order to “further strengthen overall cybersecurity in the Union.” The eventual revised directive will become the NIS II Directive.</p> <p>MEPs in the lead European Parliament committee on the legislative file, the Industry, Research, Telecommunications and Energy committee, backed a report strengthening EU-wide cybersecurity requirements. Compared to existing legislation, the changes envisaged would include stricter supervisory and enforcement measures, and a harmonised sanctions regime in the EU.</p> <p>The scope of the Directive is also set to be widened to include “essential sectors” such as the energy, transport, banking, health, digital infrastructure, public administration and space sectors. Further, the NIS II Directive would also ensure safeguards for so-called “important sectors” such as postal services, waste management, chemicals, food, manufacturing of medical devices, electronics, machinery, motor vehicles and digital providers. All medium-sized and large companies in selected sectors would be covered by the legislation.</p> <p>Specifically, the new requirements involve safeguards on incident response, supply chain security,</p>	<p>Public consultation closed in October 2020 and the legislative proposal was published on 16 December 2020. The Proposal will now be subject to debate and negotiations between the co-legislators. ITRE has been made the Committee responsible in the European Parliament.</p> <p>Once the proposal is agreed and consequently adopted, Member States will have to transpose the NIS2 Directive within 18 months.</p> <p>The ITRE Committee voted on 28 October to adopt the NIS II Directive, backing the report by Rapporteur MEP Bart Groothuis (Netherlands, Renew Europe) with 70 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.</p>	<p>July 2020: Public consultation opened</p> <p>2 October 2020: Public consultation closed</p> <p>16 December 2020: Legislative proposal and impact assessment</p> <p>14 January 2021: Bart Groothuis (Renew/Netherlands) has been appointed Rapporteur in ITRE. IMCO and TRAN will draft opinions.</p> <p>13 April 2021: The Commission presented its proposal before the ITRE Committee.</p> <p>3 May 2021: ITRE presented its Draft Report.</p> <p>3 June 2021: Amendments tabled (I–II) during the European Parliament Committee meeting.</p> <p>14 – 15 July 2021: European Parliament TRAN, IMCO and AFET committees present their opinions.</p> <p>28 October 2021: Vote in Parliament’s ITRE committee at first reading.</p>
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	<p>encryption and vulnerability disclosure. Member States will also be able to identify smaller entities flagged to have a higher cybersecurity risk profile. The planned revisions under NIS II also introduces a more streamlined information sharing framework between Member States and competent authorities by creating a European vulnerability database.</p>		<p>28 October 2021: ITRE Committee decision to open interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) with report adopted in committee.</p> <p>10 November 2021: The draft negotiating mandate for NIS II was presented in a Parliament plenary.</p> <p>22 November 2021: Lead Parliamentary committee ITRE (Industry, Research and Energy) decision to enter into interinstitutional negotiations (trilogues) with the Council of the EU confirmed by plenary.</p> <p>3 December 2021: The Council agreed on its position (general approach) on proposed measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the EU under the envisaged new NIS II Directive.</p>
<p>Directive on the use of PNR data</p>	<p>The 2016 Directive on the use of passenger name record data sets out rules to help Member States prevent, detect and investigate terrorism and other forms of serious crime.</p>	<p>In force.</p>	<p>No revisions planned</p>



<p>Schengen Information System:</p> <p>Regulation on SIS for the return of illegally staying third-country nationals</p> <p>Regulation on SIS in the field of border checks</p> <p>Regulation on SIS in police and judicial cooperation matters</p>	<p>The Schengen Information System (SIS) is the most widely used and largest information sharing system for security and border management in Europe. SIS enables competent national authorities, such as the police and border guards, to enter and consult alerts on persons or objects.</p> <p>The system assists the competent authorities in Europe to preserve internal security in the absence of internal border checks.</p>	<p>The SIS was updated by three Regulations in November 2018. These Regulations entered into force on 28 December 2019 and they will be completely operational from December 2021.</p> <p>On 10 December 2020, it was announced that the Council had approved Ireland’s connection to SIS II, which became operational on 15 March 2021.</p>	<p>November 2018: EU adopts Regulations updating SIS</p> <p>15 March 2021: Ireland joins SIS II</p> <p>December 2021: Updated Regulations will become fully operational.</p>
<p>Directive defining the facilitation of unauthorised entry, transit and residence</p>	<p>The Directive sets out obligations for Member States to impose sanctions on persons who assist illegal migration.</p>	<p>In force.</p> <p>In September 2020, the Commission published guidance on implementing the Directive, clarifying that it should not be interpreted to criminalise humanitarian activity in the form of search and rescue.</p>	<p>No revisions planned</p>

<p>Directive on combating the sexual exploitation of children online and child pornography</p>	<p>This 2011 Directive addresses new developments in the online environment, such as grooming (offenders posing as children to lure minors for the purpose of sexual abuse). In July 2020, the Commission adopted the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse and subsequently proposed interim legislation to allow the continuation of voluntary detection efforts by online communications services beyond 21 December 2020.</p>	<p>In force.</p> <p>The European Commission will publish new legislation to tackle child sexual exploitation online in 2021 that will place obligations on online service providers to report and remove illegal content.</p> <p>In the European Parliament, the file on the EU strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse has been referred to the LIBE Committee but no Rapporteur has been appointed yet.</p> <p>On 24 March 2021, the Commission published a new comprehensive EU policy framework to ensure the protection of rights of all children, and secure access to basic services for vulnerable children.</p>	<p>30 December 2020: Commission roadmap closed for comment</p> <p>11 February 2021: Public consultation opens to feedback</p> <p>24 March 2021: The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and the European Child Guarantee published</p> <p>15 April 2021: Public consultation closes to feedback</p> <p>Q2 2021: Publication of framework revision</p>
<p>Directive on attacks against information systems</p>	<p>The 2013 Directive aims to tackle large-scale cyber-attacks by requiring Member States to strengthen national cyber-crime laws and introduce tougher criminal sanctions.</p>	<p>In force</p>	<p>No revisions planned</p>

<p>Proposed Regulation and Directive on facilitating cross-border access to electronic evidence for criminal investigations.</p>	<p>The Commission has proposed a Regulation and Directive to make it easier and faster for law enforcement and judicial authorities to obtain the electronic evidence they need to investigate and eventually prosecute criminals and terrorists.</p>	<p>The European Parliament has voted to enter into interinstitutional negotiations.</p>	<p>17 April 2018: Proposals published</p> <p>24 October 2019: Committee draft report presented</p> <p>December 2019: Council agrees position</p> <p>11 December 2020: European Parliament votes to enter interinstitutional negotiations</p>
<p>Directive on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment</p>	<p>The Directive, adopted in April 2019, removes obstacles to operational cooperation and enhances prevention and victims' assistance, to make law enforcement action against fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment more effective.</p>	<p>Being transposed into national law.</p>	<p>September 2017: Directive proposed</p> <p>April 2019: Directive adopted</p> <p>2021: Deadline for implementation in Member States</p>

<p>Fair minimum wages for workers in the EU</p>	<p>In November 2017, the EU institutions proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights, setting out the EU's commitment to fair wages for workers. President von der Leyen committed in January 2020 to proposing a legal instrument to ensure every worker in the Union has a fair minimum wage.</p> <p>The Commission's October 2020 proposal aims to accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To ensure that across the EU-27 statutory minimum wages are adequately high, that is, <u>at least 60% of the national median living wage</u>. However, importantly the proposal does not oblige Member States to introduce statutory minimum wages if they do not have them. ○ To strengthen employees where collective bargaining is used to decide working conditions, and to extend the coverage of collective bargaining generally. In this regard the proposal obliges EU countries to draw up action plans to promote collective bargaining if less than 70% of employees are already engaged in it. ○ To oblige Member States to establish and report on whether statutory minimum wages are sufficient through specific criteria – including which wage levels can amount to 	<p>The Commission published its proposal for a Directive on adequate minimum wages in the European Union. The file has been referred to the EMPL Committee in the European Parliament. On 6 April, the draft report was presented by rapporteurs Denis Radtke (EPP, Germany) and Agnes Jongerius (S&D, Netherlands). The vote on the report is set to take place in September.</p> <p>In the Council, the Presidency sent in April a new proposal to the national delegations to move the negotiations forward. Nine Member States (Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Hungary, the Netherlands, Austria, Ireland, Greece, and Malta) expressed the wish that the Council should opt for recommendations and not for a directive.</p> <p>In a vote that took place on Thursday 11th November, MEPs from the committee leading on the legislative file, the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (EMPL) voted in favour of a draft negotiating mandate, with 37 votes to 10, with 7</p>	<p>January 2020: Consultation with social partners (businesses and trade unions) on fair wages</p> <p>Q2/Q3 2020: Second stage consultation with social partners (open until November 2020)</p> <p>28 October 2020: Legislative proposal</p> <p>9 February 2021: EMPL appoints Dennis Radtke (Germany/EPP) as Rapporteur</p> <p>19 March 2021: The Committee of the Regions submitted its opinion</p> <p>6 April 2021: Presentation of the Draft Report before the EMPL Committee</p> <p>30 September 2021: Vote scheduled in Committee</p> <p>8 December 2021: Council of the EU and Parliament agree positions on the Minimum Wage Directive proposal</p>
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	<p>decent working and living conditions, taking into account key elements such as purchasing power and the poverty rate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Furthermore, the draft directive explicitly forbids Member States from undermining collective bargaining or agreements. Workers must also be allowed to join a trade union and cannot be prohibited from doing so by the government in question. 	<p>abstentions. This was subsequently endorsed at plenary on November 25th. MEPs therefore indicated their support for either establishing a statutory wage (the lowest wage permitted by law), or by allowing workers to negotiate their wages with their employers.</p> <p>Two weeks later, a significant majority of national ministers in the Council of the EU agreed on a common negotiating position.</p> <p>A key difference between the Council’s position and that of the Parliament is that the Parliament wants Member States to expand collective bargaining coverage if it is below 80%, rather than the 70% level for which the Council is pushing.</p> <p>With both institutions having agreed their respective common position, the Commission proposal will proceed through the Ordinary Legislative Procedure and trilogue negotiations between the Council and Parliament will thus begin either</p>	
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		<p>mid-December or at the beginning of January.</p> <p>The French government has made clear that in its upcoming control of the Council Presidency (from 1st January 2022 – 30th June 2022) it will try to fast-track the negotiations on the Minimum Wage Directive to try to reach agreement before the French Presidential elections scheduled for April 2022.</p>	
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<p>Prüm system</p>	<p>The Prüm Decisions contain rules for operational police cooperation such as joint patrols and introduced procedures for fast and efficient data exchange in specific areas. The core of the Prüm framework lays down provisions under which EU Member States grant each other access to their automated DNA analysis files, automated fingerprint identification systems and vehicle registration data.</p> <p>On 10 December 2021 the Commission published the long awaited framework revision proposal for the framework. The Commission notes that while the Prüm framework has led to an improved situation in terms of preventing, investigating and detecting crime, some of the rules are now outdated since forensic science and technology has significantly improved in the last decade. <i>“Differences in national rules and procedures for following up after a “hit” can also cause significant delays in the information exchange,”</i> the Commission says.</p> <p><u>Key actions set out in the framework revision:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a “central router” for information to be processed through, to which national databases can connect. This will replace the array of bilateral systems currently operating between the various national databases. Data will remain under the control of Member States, however, given their competence over this area. 	<p>In effect. The Commission recently closed a ‘roadmap’ consultation on review of the automated data exchanges under the system. Given the advances in technology, forensics and data protection, certain aspects of the framework are being reassessed.</p>	<p>11 August 2020: Commission roadmap opened for feedback</p> <p>06 October 2020: Commission roadmap closed</p> <p>16 December 2020: Public consultation opens to feedback</p> <p>24 March 2021: Public consultation closes to feedback</p> <p>10 December 2021: Publication of framework revision</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Install a time limit for data exchange – if a match occurs following a given Member State’s query to another Member State, the requisite data (identifying the suspect or convicted criminal, including their name, nationality and date of birth) should, under the proposals, be shared within 24 hours. • Add new data categories – in addition to DNA, fingerprint and vehicle registration data, Member State police officers will also be allowed to share facial images and also police records of suspects and criminals. • Allow Europol to take an active role in the Prüm framework. Under the Commission proposal Member States will be able to automatically check biometric data from non-EU countries held at Europol and Europol will be able to check data from non-EU countries against Member States' databases. 		
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<p><u>Directive on combating terrorism</u></p>	<p>All Member States have to ensure that they criminalise conduct such as training and travelling for terrorism, as well as terrorist financing. These harmonised definitions of terrorist offences serve as a benchmark for cooperation and information exchange between national authorities.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>2017: Directive adopted</p> <p>September 2018: Deadline for incorporating rules into national law</p> <p>30 September 2020: The Commission published a report assessing the measures taken by the Member States to comply with EU anti-terrorism legislation</p> <p>September 2021: The Commission will publish a more comprehensive evaluation of the Directive</p>
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<p>Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online</p>	<p>In September 2018 the Commission published a proposal to introduce stricter rules to tackling terrorist content online, including a one-hour deadline for content to be removed.</p>	<p>On 10 December 2020, the European Parliament and the Council reached political agreement on the file.</p> <p>The regulation is in force as of 6 June 2021.</p> <p>The regulation will apply as of 7 June 2022.</p>	<p>September 2018: Proposal published</p> <p>April 2019: European Parliament adopts position</p> <p>October 2019: Discussions between EU institutions begin</p> <p>10 December 2020: European Parliament and Council reach political agreement</p> <p>11 January 2021: European Parliament Committee approval of agreed text</p> <p>16 March 2021: Council position adopted.</p> <p>28 May 2021: European Parliament plenary session formally adopted the Regulation at early second reading</p> <p>6 June 2021: Regulation enters into force</p> <p>7 June 2022: Regulation will start applying</p>
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Regulation on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)	<p>The Regulation establishes the legal mandate of the European Union Agency for Police Training.</p>	<p>In effect. The Commission is required to evaluate CEPOL by 1 July 2021 to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of its working practices. A public consultation was opened on 19 March, closing on 13 May 2021.</p>	<p>9 September 2020: Commission roadmap closes for comments</p> <p>13 May 2021: Commission public consultation closes for comments</p> <p>August 2021: Commission report on public consultation evaluating CEPOL published, accessible on this page.</p>
Directive 2000/54/EC - biological agents at work	<p>This Directive focuses on minimum requirements for the health and safety of workers exposed to biological agents at work. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the need for police officers to enforce all rules, and lockdown rules especially they may come into contact with biological agents (including COVID-19).</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>June 2020: MEPs and the Commission agreed to classify the virus that causes COVID-19 as a risk group 3 biological agent. The Commission will assess the need to amend the Biological Agents Directive following the lessons learned during the pandemic to ensure better preparedness and response planning in all workplaces.</p>
Directive 90/270/EEC - display screen equipment	<p>This Directive lays down minimum safety and health requirements for work with display screen equipment. The rules here are relevant for police officers who work in front of screens.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>Will be revised under the updated 2021-2027 Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work.</p> <p>28 June 2021: The Commission launched its new EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 addressing the issue under key objective number one.</p>

Directive 2003/88/EC - working time	<p>This Directive establishes minimum safety and health requirements for the organisation of working time. These include minimum periods of daily rest, weekly rest and annual leave, breaks and maximum weekly working time. The Directive also protects workers from negative health effects owed to shift and night work as well as certain patterns of work.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>March 2020: The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has held a decision that a 'period of standby' is not proper working time under the Working Time Directive.</p> <p>2021: Commission expected to submit a five-year report to the European Parliament, the Council and the European Economic and Social Committee on the application of this Directive.</p>
Directive 89/654/EEC - workplace requirements	<p>The Directive creates minimum standards for safety and health at the workplace.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>Will be revised under the updated 2021-2027 Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work.</p> <p>28 June 2021: The Commission launched its new EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027 addressing the issue under key objective number one.</p>
Directive 89/656/EEC - use of personal protective equipment	<p>The Directive puts in place minimum requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) that are used by workers at work.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>No revisions planned</p>
Directive 2019/1152 on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions	<p>The Directive creates new rights for all workers, especially for those workers in more precarious jobs, while limiting burdens on employers and maintaining labour market flexibility.</p>	<p>In effect</p>	<p>Member States have until 2022 to transpose the new rules into their national legislation. No revisions planned. Scheduled review is by August 2027.</p>



<p>Victim's Rights Directive</p>	<p>The Directive establishes minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime and ensures that persons who have fallen victim to crime are recognised and treated with respect. They must also receive proper protection, support and access to justice.</p>	<p>EU countries were asked to implement the provisions of the Directive into their national laws by 16 November 2015. On 11 May 2020 the European Commission adopted a report on the implementation of the Directive. Following this, the Commission launched a roadmap consultation in December 2020 looking to evaluate whether it has achieved its objectives.</p> <p>In July 2021, the Commission published its consultation on the evaluation of the Victim's Rights Directive. A report will be published later in Q4 after the end of the consultation period.</p>	<p>30 December 2020: Commission roadmap closes for comments</p> <p>11 May 2020: The European Commission adopted a report on the implementation of the Victims' Rights Directive</p> <p>19 July 2021: Public Consultation published 25 October 2021: Public Consultation closes for feedback</p> <p>Q4 2021: Commission expected to publish a report</p>
<p>Non-legislative</p>			
<p>Strategic guidelines for justice and home affairs (Post-Stockholm Programme priorities)</p>	<p>The Council had originally aimed to discuss these strategic guidelines in mid-March 2020, with a view to their endorsement ahead of a March European Council meeting. Given COVID-19, this has now been delayed. These guidelines will become the framework under which the Strategic Agenda for 2019-2024 will be implemented.</p>	<p>Ratification stage; Member States are struggling to reach agreement particularly around the issue of migration.</p>	<p>March 2020: The Council aimed to discuss the strategic guidelines in the area of freedom, security and justice during its meeting on 12-13 March 2020, with a view to their endorsement ahead of the March European Council meeting, however this was delayed due to COVID.</p>



<p>Occupational safety and health (OSH) Framework</p>	<p>The EU’s Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work is a 6-year strategic agenda, which came to an end in 2020. The EU has set up a new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work for the period 2021-2027 (as specified in the Council conclusions of December 2019).</p>	<p>The Commission has launched its new OSH framework. The key objectives are: change, prevention and preparedness. More information can be found here. The Commission Communication is available here.</p>	<p>29 October – 26 November 2020: Roadmap open for feedback</p> <p>07 December 2020: Consultation opens for feedback</p> <p>01 March 2021: Consultation closes</p> <p>28 June 2021: Commission launched its new OSH framework</p>
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<p>Action plan to implement the European pillar of social rights</p>	<p>Some aspects of the pillar include Directive 2019/1152 have already been put in force. The Commission published the Action Plan on implementing the remaining aspects of the pillar on 4 March 2021.</p> <p>The Action Plan outlines concrete actions to further implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights as a joint effort by the Members States and the EU, with an active involvement of social partners and civil society. The Action Plan also proposes employment, skills and social protection headline targets for the EU to be achieved by 2030.</p> <p>The Action Plan sets three headline targets for the EU to be achieved by 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 78% of people aged 20 to 64 should be in employment. • At least 60% of all adults should participate in training every year. • The number of people at risk of poverty or social exclusion should be reduced by at least 15 million. 	<p>European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan published in March 2021.</p> <p>The Porto Social Summit, organised by the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU in May 2021, will focus on how to strengthen Europe's social dimension to meet the challenges of a fair, inclusive and resilient recovery, and the green and digital transition. The Pillar Action Plan constitutes the Commission's contribution to the Porto Social Summit.</p> <p>The website dedicated to the European Pillar of Social Rights can be consulted here.</p>	<p>4 March 2021: European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan published</p> <p>7 – 8 May 2021: Porto Social Summit</p> <p>8 May 2021: Porto Declaration published</p>
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<p>New Security Union Strategy</p>	<p>The Commission has published a new Security Union Strategy. The Commission will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthen Europol’s mandate - Explore a Police Cooperation Code to support law enforcement cooperation - Consider EU-level coordination for police forces in case of force majeure events such as pandemics - Explore the possibility to exchange police records to help identify if any police record on a person exists in other Member States, and facilitate access to these records once identified - Improve instruments for cross-border cooperation and information sharing, e.g. information on travellers and others - Improve law enforcement authorities’ capacity in digital investigations, including access to digital evidence - Launch action plans on counter-terrorism, drugs, firearms trafficking and migrant smuggling - Introduce new cybersecurity rules and clear rules to investigate and prosecute cybercrime. <p>On 10 December 2021, the Commission published the following three legislative proposals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on operational police cooperation (see also 	<p>Strategy published. Legislative initiatives to follow.</p> <p>A ‘roadmap’ consultation is open for comments on a police cooperation code. After the Commission has gathered responses from stakeholders, a formal proposal will follow.</p> <p>The Commission published its first Progress Report on the EU Security Union Strategy in December 2020.</p> <p>An objective within the Security Union Strategy was reinforced EU action against organised crime. On 15 February 2021, the Commission launched roadmap on this. It closed on 15 March 2021. The public consultation closed on 14 June.</p>	<p>July 2020: Publication of Security Union Strategy</p> <p>28 September – 16 November 2020: Police cooperation code roadmap open to feedback</p> <p>19 April 2021: Police cooperation code consultation opens for feedback</p> <p>15 March 2021: Feedback period for Commission roadmap on organised crime closes</p> <p>14 June 2021: Public consultation closes</p> <p>10 December 2021: Commission issues three legislative proposals in the context of operational police cooperation, of information exchange between Member State law enforcement authorities, and of automated data exchange for police cooperation (“Prüm II”).</p>
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	<p>the annex to the proposal and the synopsis report of stakeholder consultations);</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on information exchange between law enforcement authorities of Member States (see also the impact assessment and its executive summary); 3. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on automated data exchange for police cooperation (“Prüm II”) (see also the impact assessment and its executive summary). NB – this is summarised further down within the Prüm system section). <p><u>1. Proposal for a Council Recommendation on operational police cooperation</u></p> <p><u>Context:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission has released this proposal following the public consultation on the inception impact assessment, which included four responses – including EuroCOP’s. Encouragingly, EuroCOP’s response is specifically detailed in a paragraph in the Commission’s synopsis report – where it states under Section 5 – Results - <i>“The European Confederation of Police (EuroCOP) indicated the need to improve police</i> 		
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	<p><i>cooperation, which is particularly relevant for border territories. They should be allowed to develop direct cooperation between corresponding police forces under Article 40 of the 1990 Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement (CISA). EuroCOP supported streamlining and developing the different EU legal texts and non-binding guidelines on police cooperation into one consolidated legal text and turning some of the most advanced types of police cooperation included in recent bilateral cooperation agreements between Member States into EU law. This includes the creation of a comprehensive list of investigative tools for effectively fighting serious and organised crime.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission indicates that current legislation covering police cooperation and data exchange is not always precise enough and often difficult to enforce on the ground. Further, the study they carried out through the public consultation process identified three key blockages to effective deployment of joint police operations in the EU: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Legal blockages, namely the limited and at times asymmetric conferral of executive powers of law enforcement officials operating in the respective host countries, as well 		
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	<p>as limited awareness of these powers on the ground;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Technical blockages, namely that officials on the ground have limited remote access to relevant law enforcement databases; ○ Structural blockages, namely that specialised national analytical departments rarely cooperate with similar departments in other countries to design actionable joint cross-border threat assessments/risk analysis and the limited integration of police and customs information and analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Additionally, the Commission notes in the proposal itself that the current EU legal framework for police cooperation involves several bilateral and multilateral police cooperation agreements between Member States, which are very time consuming for Member States to ratify and implement and also leads to a <i>“complex web of several different arrangements, containing different applicable rules, which have led to fragmentation and obstacles to cooperation.”</i> This legislative gap is exploited by organised criminal groups in particular, and some police operations – such as hot pursuits of suspects across internal borders – 		
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	<p>are consequently coordinated in a sub-optimal way. This is a problem EuroCOP identified in its responses to the Commission during the consultation process.</p> <p><u>Key actions:</u> In light of the issues identified, the Commission calls for a Council recommendation on operational police cooperation that will achieve the following objectives, whilst respecting Member State sovereignty in internal security.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonise rules of engagement across Member States in cross-border operations, to monitor and arrest criminals and terrorists in surveillance, hot pursuit, joint patrols and other joint operations across national territories. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Commission indicates this should involve the establishment of a common list of crimes for which hot pursuits and surveillance across border are possible and no more geographical or time limits on such operations. • Enable European police officers to have remote access to their own databases when operating in other EU Member States, alongside secure and cross-border communications systems. 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the role of existing Police Customs Cooperation Centres to become joint police stations which are empowered to exchange information, and also coordinate joint patrols and joint operations through shared risk analyses. • Utilise targeted joint patrols and operations in specific intra-EU border areas, to counter migrant smuggling, trafficking in human beings and other aspects of cross-border crime linked to migration. • Further, the Commission proposes to create – alongside Europol - a coordination platform to better support and target joint patrols and other joint operations across the EU, especially in the context of criminal hubs, mass gatherings, or cases of severe disasters or accidents. • Expand joint training and exchange programmes for police cadets across the EU-27, as well as boosting the lifelong training of officers involved in cross-border police cooperation to create a “true EU culture of policing.” This is also something EuroCOP called for in its position paper submitted to the Commission earlier in 2021. 		
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	<p><u>2. Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on information exchange between law enforcement authorities of Member States</u></p> <p><u>Context:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission issued this proposal largely because substantial loopholes persist in cross-border data exchange between Member State law enforcement authorities in the EU. Given the cross-border nature of fighting crime, a streamlined information exchange is vital yet has not yet materialised in Europe, because of the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National rules often impede rapid information flow between countries, and the 2006 Swedish Framework Decision on simplifying information exchange has still not been fully implemented, leading to a sub-optimal situation. ○ Member States do not always have the correct systems needed to receive information requests from other Member States, channel them to the right authorities at national level, and provide the requested information accordingly. ○ Member States' law enforcement authorities use a variety of different 		
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	<p>channels to send information request to other Member States and respond to them, which slows information exchange.</p> <p><u>Key actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), a framework managed by Europol, the default channel of communication. • Call on Member States to install a “single contact point” – a 24/7 one-stop-shop for information exchange with other EU countries. This should have clearly defined time limits where information requested should be made available within 8 hours (for urgent cases), up to maximum 7 days (in other cases). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Commission emphasises here that requests can only be refused in well-defined cases, for instance if the information would jeopardise the success of an ongoing investigation, harm the vital interest of a person, go against the essential interests of the security of the Member State or if the required judicial authorisation is refused. 		
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<p>Internal Security Fund</p>	<p>In April 2014, the European Parliament and the Council created the Internal Security Fund (ISF) for 2014-2020, with a view to streamlining EU funding in the areas of border control and visa policy. The Fund has two components: one deals with external borders and visa issues, while the other focuses on police cooperation, preventing and combatting crime, and on crisis management.</p> <p>The Commission has proposed €1.7 bn for the ISF in the period 2021-2027.</p>	<p>In force.</p> <p>In December 2020 the European Parliament and Council reached a political deal, allocating a €1.931 billion budget for the ISF for 2021-2027. The deal was approved by both Parliament and Council. On 7 July, the final text was adopted and signed by both co-legislators in second reading. On 15 July, the text was published in the Official Journal of the European Union entering into force.</p>	<p>May 2018: Commission proposed new budget for the ISF November 2018: European Parliament draft report on ISF October 2019: Discussions between EU institutions begin 10 December 2020: European Parliament and Council reached political deal on ISF budget for 2021-2027 4 February 2021: European Parliament LIBE Committee vote on the provisional agreement 06 July 2021: Parliament plenary vote took place 07 July 2021: Final act signed 15 July 2021: Final act published in Official Journal</p>
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February 2022

<p>New Pact on Migration and Asylum</p>	<p>A new approach to an EU migration and asylum system, including the need for safer and more legal pathways for migrants to enter the EU.</p> <p>The new system aims to create more efficient procedures to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New compulsory pre-entry screening - Faster and more efficient decision-making - Deterring of unauthorised movements and facilitation of relocation - Legal guarantees including respect of fundamental rights through independent monitoring and individual assessment of asylum claims <p>On 29 September 2021, the Commission adopted a renewed EU action plan against migrant smuggling and a Communication on the application of the Employers Sanctions Directive. As part of the comprehensive approach to migration under the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, these initiatives aim to prevent organised exploitation of migrants and reduce irregular migration, in coherence with the New Pact's aim to promote sustainable and orderly management of migration.</p>	<p>Proposals published in September 2020. They are now being discussed by the European Parliament and Member States. Discussions between the institutions are likely to be difficult and will struggle to reach consensus on some of the more politically salient proposals.</p> <p>The co-legislators have been asked by the Commission to adopt the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation and the Regulation on the EU Asylum Agency as well as the Regulation on Eurodac.</p>	<p>September 2020: Publication of proposals</p> <p>November 2020: Tomas Tobe (Sweden/EPP) appointed as Rapporteur for the Regulation on Asylum and Immigration Management in the LIBE Committee</p> <p>27 January 2021: The EESC adopted its opinion</p> <p>February 2021: Elena Yoncheva (Bulgaria/S&D) appointed as Rapporteur for the Regulation on the EU Asylum Agency in the LIBE Committee</p> <p>29 June 2021: Agreement reached on the New European Union Agency for Asylum</p> <p>29 September 2021: Commission adopted renewed Action Plan against migrant smuggling, and a Communication on the application of the Employers Sanctions Directive.</p>
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<p>Strategy on Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>A new approach to tackle child sexual abuse on a continental scale.</p> <p>The Commission intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt e-evidence proposals, which will allow evidence held by the private sector to be utilised more effectively. - Help Europol support the fight against child abuse including utilising Europol as a central EU criminal information hub - Improve the digital capabilities of law enforcement - Ensure police officers (amongst other professionals who come in contact with abused children) are trained and equipped with tools to prevent and detect early signs of possible sexual violence and abuse - Establish a European centre to prevent and counter child sexual abuse. As to law enforcement this would mean a facilitator of data exchanges between countries and between the private and public sectors. 	<p>Strategy published in July 2020.</p> <p>Targeted legislation to allow online service providers to continue to apply voluntary mechanisms to identify, report and take down content.</p> <p>The file has been assigned to the LIBE Committee in the European Parliament. No rapporteur has been appointed yet.</p>	<p>24 July 2020: Publication of strategy</p> <p>September 2020: Publication of targeted legislation to identify, report and take down content</p> <p>11 February 2021: Commission publishes its consultation entitled “Fighting child sexual abuse: detection, removal and reporting of illegal content online”</p> <p>15 April 2021: End of consultation period</p> <p>Q2 2021: Proposal for a regulation expected</p>
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<p>Action Plan on trafficking in firearms</p>	<p>A single action plan to address legal loopholes and inconsistencies in firearms controls that hinder police cooperation across the EU and south-east Europe partners (Western Balkans, Moldova and Ukraine). The Commission intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve the European intelligence picture including harmonised collection of data on firearms seizures (as done to analyse drug seizures) and tracking in real-time firearms related incidents - Explore allowing the rules of police cooperation to ensure more systematic tracing of seized weapons, to exchange intelligence outside of specific investigations, share ballistic data more easily and systematically, or carry out controlled deliveries. - Propose an EU Memorandum of Understanding between parcel operators and police and customs authorities 	<p>Strategy published in July 2020. Legislative proposals to follow.</p>	<p>July 2020: Publication of strategy</p> <p>December 2020: Commission implementing regulation under the Firearms Directive, establishing a system for exchange of information amongst Member States on refusals to grant authorisations for acquiring a firearm.</p> <p>5 July 2021: Commission launched its public consultation entitled “Firearms – review of export rules and import & transit measures”</p> <p>11 October 2021: Consultation period ends</p> <p>Q4 2021: Revision of Regulation 258/2012 on export authorisation, and import and transit measures for firearms, to be presented.</p>
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Action Plan on Drugs	<p>Sets out the EU's approach to drugs. The Commission intends to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance collaboration and cooperation between law enforcement in countries in the drug supply chain (i.e. source, transit, target). - Analyse the threats posed by social media platforms, apps and digital marketplaces through further collaboration with the private sector. - Take further measures to enhance the abilities of law enforcement to find production and cultivation sites. - Increase law enforcement supports in the disruption of drug supply chains into prisons. 	<p>Strategy published in July 2020. Legislative proposals to follow.</p>	<p>July 2020: Publication of strategy</p> <p>18 December 2020: Council approves Strategy</p> <p>Q4 2021 onwards: Legislative proposals to be published.</p>
Updated Skills Agenda for Europe	<p>This comes as a follow-up to the Commission's 'New Skills Agenda for Europe' set out in 2016 and aims at improving EU-wide skills and preparing the European workforce for digitisation. The Agenda sets out 12 actions to improve skills in the EU to strengthen sustainable competitiveness, ensure social fairness and build resilience.</p>	<p>Communication published in July 2020.</p> <p>Council recommendation on Vocational training published in November 2020.</p>	<p>1 July 2020: European Skills Agenda published. Commission adopts proposal for a Council Recommendation on Vocational Education and Training.</p> <p>24 November 2021: Council publishes its recommendation</p>



<p>Regulation laying down Harmonised Rules on Artificial Intelligence</p>	<p>On 19 February 2020, the European Commission published a White Paper aiming to foster a European ecosystem of excellence and trust in AI and a Report on the safety and liability aspects of AI. A legislative proposal has been published in April.</p>	<p>The European Parliament is developing its position on what should be included in the proposal. In particular, the LIBE Committee has produced a report on the use of AI in policing (link). The Parliament has also set up a special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in a Digital Age. The Commission has presented its legislative proposal. Now both Parliament and Council have to start analysing the file.</p>	<p>19 February 2020: Commission publishes roadmap on AI</p> <p>14 June 2020: Public consultation closes</p> <p>28 September 2020: European Parliament LIBE Committee adopts report on use of AI in policing</p> <p>21 April 2021: Commission has publishes its proposal for a Regulation on a European Approach to Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>09 June 2021: Brando Benifei (S&D/Italy) was appointed as rapporteur for the file. ENVI, ITRE, TRAN, JURI and LIBE will act as committees for opinion.</p>
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Violence against women and domestic violence	<p>A Commission roadmap has been opened on violence against women and domestic violence. The EU will assess whether EU legislation has helped prevent and combat domestic violence, and whether there are gaps in the current legislation.</p>	<p>Preparation phase: roadmap launched in December 2020, with the evaluation set to conclude by Q2 2021. The Commission has launched a public consultation on 8 February 2021, closing on 10 May 2021. A Directive is expected to be published soon.</p>	<p>21 August 2020: Commission roadmap closed for comments</p> <p>16 December 2020: Commission launches roadmap</p> <p>13 January 2021: Commission roadmap closes for feedback</p> <p>10 May 2021: Commission public consultation closes for feedback</p> <p>Q4 2021: Proposal for a Directive expected</p>
Anti-racism plan	<p>On 18 September 2020, the Commission adopted the EU anti-racism action plan 2020-2025. One of the key challenges recognised in the action plan is the importance of promoting diversity and countering discriminatory attitudes by law enforcement authorities, including police forces. The Commission will work with Member States to step up efforts to prevent discriminatory attitudes by law enforcement authorities and to boost the credibility of law enforcement work against hate crimes.</p>	<p>Strategy published. On 19 March 2021, shortly before the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, the Commission adopted its third report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Directive. The Commission will assess whether to propose new legislation to strengthen the role of national equality bodies by 2022.</p>	<p>18 September 2020: Publication of strategy</p> <p>19 March 2021: EU Anti-Racism Summit organised by the Commission. The Commission has also adopted its third report on the application of the Racial Equality Directive and the Employment Equality Directive.</p> <p>27 April 2021: EESC adopts its Opinion on the Strategy</p> <p>18 May 2021: The European Commission appointed Michaela Moua as Anti-Racism coordinator</p>

Council of Europe			
Ethnic profiling in Europe: a matter of high concern	The Council of Europe has been discussing ethnic profiling in Europe since 2018. A report is under discussion to gather data and establish legal standards against abuse.	Preliminary draft resolution was approved by the Equality Committee in November 2020. The final report was debated by the Parliamentary Assembly on 28 January.	<p>April 2018: Motion for resolution tabled</p> <p>14 December 2020: Adoption of draft report by Equality Committee</p> <p>28 January 2021: Parliamentary Assembly adopts report</p>
Use of force by law enforcement officers	Members of the Council of Europe have adopted a motion for resolution calling for a report that will develop standards on the use of force by law enforcement officers.	Motion for resolution published 10 September. Following this a rapporteur was appointed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.	<p>10 September 2020: Motion for resolution published</p> <p>October 2020: Oleksandr Merezhko (Ukraine, SOC) appointed as rapporteur</p> <p>21 April 2021: The committee considered an introductory memorandum. It agreed to hold a hearing with experts at a future meeting, subject to the availability of funds, and took note of the Rapporteur's intention to consult other relevant experts, as necessary, at no cost to the Assembly.</p>