

A record number of Parliament’s legislative initiatives (INL) in 9th term were followed up by Commission proposals

In her [first speech](#) before the newly elected Parliament in July 2019, then-candidate for the Commission presidency Ursula von der Leyen expressed her firm support for the right of initiative for the European Parliament. “When this House, acting by majority of its Members, adopts Resolutions requesting the Commission to submit legislative proposals, I commit to responding with a legislative act in full respect of the proportionality, subsidiarity, and better law-making principles,” she said.

The European Commission has a near monopoly on legislative initiative in the European Union (EU), with **special initiative rights for other institutions applying only in certain specific cases**. However, the European Parliament and the Council may **invite the Commission to submit legislative proposals**. Whilst 'indirect' initiative right does not create an obligation on the Commission to propose the legislation requested, the Treaty of Lisbon codified the Commission's obligation to provide reasons for any refusal to follow a parliamentary initiative.

EPRS brief on [Parliament's right of legislative initiative](#)

MEPs took the Commission President by her word and between 2019–2024 tabled 29 INLs, 25 of which requested the Commission to submit legislative proposals ([Rule 47](#) of the EP Rules of Procedure). In comparison, Parliament adopted 15 INLs during its previous, 8th term.

18 INL were followed up by one or more legislative proposals, most of them adopted by the EP before the end of term (*green*), and some still in the making (unfinished business or 1st reading, *blue*). In response to **six INLs**, potential **Commission proposals are subject to prior assessments** (*yellow*).

Regular **own-initiative reports (INIs)** ([Rule 54](#)) by which MEPs highlight issues to tackle on EU level can also prompt legislative follow-up by the Commission, even if they do not have the same legal power to commit it to action. Examples at the end of the below table illustrate how Parliament’s INIs identified areas where a Commission proposal was needed, and which translated into action.

Special INLs on EU institutional reform are listed below the table.

Legislative own-initiative reports (INL)	Follow-up by Commission	EP state of play on proposed legislation
<i>By date of EP adoption</i>	<i>Procedure file (tabling year)</i>	
An EU legal framework to halt and reverse EU-driven global deforestation (10/2020) Press Release Procedure file	Deforestation regulation (2021)	Adopted 19/4/2023 Press Release

<p>Framework of ethical aspects of artificial intelligence, robotics and related technologies (10/2020) Press Release Procedure File</p>	<p>Artificial Intelligence Act (2021)</p>	<p>Adopted 13/3/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>Civil liability regime for artificial intelligence (10/2020) Press Release Procedure File</p>	<p>AI Liability Directive (2022)</p>	<p>Preparatory work in JURI</p>
<p>Digital Services Act: Improving the functioning of the Single Market (10/2020) Procedure File Press Release IMCO</p>	<p>Digital Services Act (2020) Digital Markets Act (2020)</p>	<p>Adopted 5/7/2022 Press Release</p>
<p>Digital Services Act: adapting commercial and civil law rules for commercial entities operating online (10/2020) Procedure file Press Release</p>	<p>Digital Services Act (2020) Digital Markets Act (2020)</p>	<p>Adopted 5/7/2022 Press Release</p>
<p>Digital Finance: emerging risks in crypto-assets - regulatory and supervisory challenges in the area of financial services, institutions and markets (10/2020) Procedure file</p>	<p>Digital Finance Package (2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital operational resilience Act (DORA) • Markets in crypto assets • Information accompanying crypto assets transfers <p>Anti-money laundering package (2021)</p>	<p>Adopted 10/11/2022 Press Release</p> <p>Adopted both 20/4/2023 Press Release</p> <p>Adopted 24/4/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>The right to disconnect (adopted 1/2021) Press Release Procedure File</p>	<p>Social partner negotiations initiated by EC failed, Unions call for EU legislation</p>	<p>Waiting for 2024 proposal promised by EC N Schmit on 13 Dec 2023</p>
<p>Corporate due diligence and corporate accountability (3/2021) Procedure file Press Release</p>	<p>Corporate sustainability due diligence Directive (2022)</p>	<p>Adopted 24/4/2024 Press Release</p>

<p>Challenges of sports events' organisers in the digital environment (5/2021)</p> <p>Press release Procedure file</p>	<p>2023 EC Recommendation on how to combat commercial scale online piracy of sports and other live events. EC will assess its effects by 11/2025, evaluate impact of DSA and copyright legislation and only then decide whether additional measures are needed.</p>	
<p>Proposal for a Council decision to identify gender-based violence as a new area of crime (9/2021)</p> <p>Press Release Procedure file</p>	<p>Combating violence against women and domestic violence (2022)</p> <p>Additionally, EuroStat survey on gender-based violence and €3 mio. budget for preventive EU campaigns</p>	<p>Adopted 4/4/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>Protecting workers from asbestos (10/2021)</p> <p>Press Release Procedure file</p>	<p>Directive on protection of workers from asbestos (EC proposal 2022)</p>	<p>Adopted by EP on 3/10/2023 Press Release</p>
<p>Legal migration policy and law (11/2021)</p> <p>Procedure file Press Release</p>	<p>Single Permit Directive (2022)</p>	<p>Adopted 3/3/2024 Press Release</p>
	<p>Long-term residents (2022)</p>	<p>Trilogues disrupted Press Release</p>
	<p>EU Talent pool (2023)</p>	<p>Preparatory work</p>
<p>Digitalisation of the European reporting, monitoring and audit (11/2021) - CONT</p> <p>Procedure file</p>	<p>Recast of the Financial regulation (2022)</p> <p>Also covered by AML package</p>	<p>1st reading 14/3/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>Combating gender-based violence: cyber-violence (12/2021)</p> <p>Press Release Procedure file</p>	<p>Combating violence against women and domestic violence (2022)</p>	<p>Adopted 4/4/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>A statute for European cross-border associations and non-profit organisations (2/2022)</p> <p>Procedure file Press Release</p>	<p>European Cross-border associations (2023)</p>	<p>Adopted 13/3/2024 Press Release</p>
<p>Fair and simpler taxation supporting the recovery strategy (3/2022)</p> <p>Procedure file Press Release</p>	<p>Earlier action by EC: VAT exemptions (CNS) 2021</p> <p>Taxation rules to prevent the misuse of shell entities for tax purposes (CNS) 22/12/2021.</p> <p>VAT package (PR EC):</p>	<p>Consultation votes completed</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VAT rules for the digital age (CNS) 2022 • Administrative cooperation in the field of taxation (CNS) 2022 	
Citizenship and residence by investment schemes (3/2022) Procedure file Press Release	No additional legislation to be tabled. EC believes that current rules, the new provisions in Anti-money laundering package and the draft Long-term residents (2022) directive are covering the issues raised.	Trilogues disrupted on LT residents Press Release
Responsible private funding of litigation (9/2022) Procedure file	EC to map implementation of existing rules and launch an external study and stakeholders consultations before taking position	
Revision of European Works Councils Directive (2/2023) Procedure File	Amending Directive on establishment and functioning of European Works Council (2024)	EMPL vote 3/4/2024 Press Release
Quality traineeships in the EU (6/2023) which also contains call for Disability Card Procedure File Press Release	Traineeship Directive (2024)	Preparatory work
	European Disability Card (2023)	Adopted 24/4/2024 Press Release
Resolve legal and administrative obstacles in the cross-border context (9/2023) Procedure file	EC tabled in Dec 2023 an amended proposal to "unfreeze" the European Cross border mechanism (2018) blocked in Council.	Plenary debate 4/2024 Press Release
Social and professional situation of artists and workers in the cultural and creative sectors (11/2023) Procedure file Press Release	EC commits to organise a High-level Round Table with relevant stakeholders in 2024 to develop further reflection on potential next steps, including initiatives and legislative proposals.	
Digitalisation and Administrative Law (11/2023) Procedure file	EC to gather further evidence on an administrative law as requested, including consultation of experts, to allow the next College of Commissioners to decide on the concrete measures to be proposed.	

Promotion of the freedom of scientific research in the EU (1/2024) Procedure file	EC will launch a dedicated study to support the drafting of a legislative proposal that will provide a solid assessment of the protection and promotion of the freedom of scientific research in the EU.	
INIs of interest		
Fair working conditions, rights and social protection for platform workers (EMPL) - (9/2021) Procedure file Press release	Platform work Directive (2021)	Adopted 24/4/2024 Press Release
Ethics Body AFCO (9/2021) Procedure file Press Release	Interinstitutional Body for Ethical Standards for Members of Institutions and advisory bodies (2024)	Adopted 25/4/2024 Press Release
Undue use of actions under civil and criminal law to silence journalists, NGOs and civil society (11/2021) Procedure File Press Release	Anti-SLAPP directive (2022)	Adopted 27/2/2024 Press Release
Virtual Worlds (IMCO) (09/2023) Press Release Procedure file		
Music streaming platforms and remuneration of artists (CULT) (11/2023) Press Release Procedure file		
Addictive design of platforms (IMCO) (12/2023) Press Release Procedure file		

Five special legislative proposals were drafted by AFCO to initiate changes in the EU's institutional set-up:

- [Treaty change](#) (2023) - no Council position ([Rule 85](#))
- [EP composition](#) (2023) - EP [enacted Council decision](#) of 720 seats ([Rule 46](#))
- [EU Ombudsman duties](#) (2021) - EP [enacted Council proposal](#) ([Rule 46](#))
- [European elections](#) (electoral law reform) (2022) - no Council position ([Rule 46](#))
- [Permanent system of allocation of seats in the EP](#) - awaiting AFCO vote ([Rule 46](#))