Introduction

As EU policymaking ramps up for the end of the year, political priorities are continuously tested and adjusted based on external realities. From Russia’s ongoing invasion of Ukraine and an energy crisis to a looming economic downturn and the continued impacts of COVID-19, the EU’s policy agenda for the fall is far from slowing down.

For government affairs and global public policy experts, finding a reliable source of information to make sense of it all in a timely fashion has never been more difficult in this world of partisan politics and news.

FiscalNote’s team of policy experts in Brussels combines their analysis with EU Issue Tracker’s cutting-edge technology to cover all EU developments. This report brings you a selection of key policy developments FiscalNote’s EUIT policy team expects in the second half of the year.
Most of the policy developments come from the Commission, which is the EU’s executive body that can propose legislation. The Parliament, comprised of elected politicians from across the EU Member States, and the Council, made up of the Member States, then bring their own amendments and ultimately must agree on the final text of the proposed legislation.

Consider this the blueprint to prepare for EU policy activity for the rest of 2022.
President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, will deliver her third State of the Union address to the European Parliament in mid-September. The annual address recaps the EU's direction in the last year while also looking ahead to 2023 and identifying key political priorities. The address is followed by a letter of intent to the presidents of the Parliament and the Council, which takes a deeper dive into the political priorities highlighted in the speech. This letter also serves as a precursor to the Commission’s upcoming work programme for the following year.

The Commission is expected to propose a revision on legislation concerning product liability by the end of September. The initiative would aim to adapt the EU's liability framework to the challenges of new technologies, including AI, to ensure that victims who suffer damage to their life, health, or property as a result of new technologies have access to the same compensation as victims of other technologies.

The Commission is slated to present an action plan on digitalisation in the energy sector. The initiative fits the Commission's key objective of twin green and digital transitions. The action plan will include specific measures aimed at ensuring all players benefit from the potential of digital technologies and create opportunities for data-driven energy services.

The full house of the European Parliament will hold votes covering EU renewable energy targets and the use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in the maritime sector. The vote will finalise the Parliament’s position on the proposals before entering into negotiations with the Council to find an agreement on each proposal. The votes will take place during the week of September 12.
October

Institutional

2030 COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission’s Work Programme for 2023 will give practical effect to the political priorities set out by the Commission President in the State of the Union address and provide an annual overview to help stakeholders and the other EU institutions plan their work with the Commission.

Digital

PARLIAMENT TO VOTE ON POSITION ON AI REGULATION AT COMMITTEE LEVEL

The European Parliament’s LIBE & IMCO Committees will jointly vote on their Report on proposed legislation laying down harmonised rules on AI (Artificial Intelligence Act) October 27-28. MEPs working on the file support the legislation as an opportunity for the EU to shape the global rules of a key technology. Parliament is also expected to support amendments to create greater legal certainty, ban certain practices, and ensure synergies with other legislation. The full Parliament will vote on the Report at a later date and will serve as its mandate for negotiations on the proposal.

Environment

NEGOTIATIONS ON EU LEGISLATION CONCERNING DEFORESTATION TO BEGIN

The European Parliament and the Council are likely to be in a position to begin negotiations (“trilogues”) on a proposal for a Regulation to minimise the EU’s contribution to deforestation worldwide and to promote imported products and value chains that do not involve deforestation. The Parliament will finalise its position on the proposal in September, paving the way for the first round of trilogue negotiations to take place in October.

Transport

VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS

Expected on October 12, the Commission will present legislation amending the emission standards for cars, vans, lorries, and buses. The proposed rules would tighten previously set EU standards while also introducing new limits for NOx, particle mass (PM), non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), ammonia emissions, and possibly also for Nitrous oxide (N2O) particles. The proposal will also update the testing protocols.
November

COMMISSION TO PRESENT THE SECOND PART OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE

The package of proposals on the circular economy, initially delayed from a July presentation, is now expected in November. It includes proposals for new or revised EU rules on green claims, packaging and packaging waste, chemicals (REACH), reducing microplastics, and the right to repair. The proposals are provisionally slated to be tabled on November 16.

PROPOSAL ON NEW RULES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CARBON REMOVALS

The new rules would aim to establish a common EU standard for the transparent identification of activities (both natural and technological) that remove carbon from the atmosphere in a sustainable way. While the proposal is still being drafted, the rules will need to specify the types of carbon removals to be covered, while setting out requirements for quality of measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification. The proposal is provisionally expected on November 30.

REVISED RULES ON EMISSIONS FROM HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

In parallel with the proposal on the certification of carbon removals, the Commission will also present a proposal to set more stringent CO2 emissions targets for heavy-duty vehicles for the reporting periods of 2025 onwards. The proposal is provisionally expected on November 30.
December

Institutional

**REVISED PHARMACEUTICAL STRATEGY FOR EUROPE AND PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS**

The Commission is expected to present an updated EU strategy on pharmaceuticals by December 21. The revised strategy will also include a package of proposals revising the EU’s pharmaceutical legislation and rules on medicines for children and rare diseases.

Digital

**PARLIAMENT TO FINALISE REPORT ON EUROPEAN CHIPS ACT AT COMMITTEE LEVEL**

For the European Parliament, the Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy (ITRE) will vote on its Report on the European Chips Act in December. The ITRE Committee is generally supportive of the proposal’s aims to increase Europe’s technological sovereignty in the face of increased global demand for state-of-the-art chips. Once adopted by the Committee, the Parliament will vote on the Report at a later date and will serve as its mandate for negotiations on the proposal.

Business/Consumer & Digital

**DIGITAL SERVICE AND DIGITAL MARKETS ACTS TO BE ADOPTED**

The Digital Services Act (DSA) together with the Digital Markets Act (DMA) will be formally adopted following lengthy negotiations on the proposals between the European Parliament and the Council. The twin proposals aim to update the horizontal regulatory framework for digital services in the European Single Market. The DSA focuses on upgrading the liability and safety rules for digital platforms, services, and products. In contrast, the DMA introduces rules for platforms that act as “gatekeepers” in the digital sector and aims to prevent them from imposing unfair conditions on businesses and consumers. The two Regulations are expected to be formally adopted and enter into force by the end of the year.
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