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European Commission Work Programme 2026

October 2025

On 21 October 2025, the European Commission published its 2026 work programme which a list of new and on-going legislative and non-legislative priorities. You can find the work programme [here](#).

Based on the HOTREC secretariat's preliminary analysis the following upcoming initiatives could have an impact on the hospitality industry.

Annex I: New initiatives

Annex I includes the new policy/legislative initiatives proposed by the Commission during 2016.

AREA	POLICY OBJECTIVE	INITIATIVE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	TYPE AND TIMELINE
A New Plan for Europe's Sustainable Prosperity and Competitiveness	Circular Economy	<i>Circular Economy Act</i>	Revised rules on waste management and Extended Producer Responsibility possibly leading to increased costs and business uncertainty due to legal changes.	Legislative, Q3 2026
	Energy	<i>Electrification action plan, including heating and cooling</i>	Possible increased initial costs, but more savings in the long term	Non-legislative, Q1 2026
		<i>Strengthening energy security</i>		Legislative, Q1 2026

	Energy	<i>Setting-up of the energy efficiency framework</i>		Legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>Setting-up the renewable energy framework</i>		Legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>Omnibus to simplify energy product legislation</i>	Less administrative burdens and costs for the companies	Legislative, Q2 2026
	Climate	<i>European integrated framework for climate resilience</i>	Less costs in the long run	Legislative, Q4 2026
	Tourism	<i>European strategy for sustainable tourism</i>	Possible new measures on sustainability Focus on a competitive and innovative industry Improve cross border travel EU funding opportunities	Non-legislative, Q2 2026
	Taxation	<i>Omnibus on taxation</i>	Reduction of administrative burdens by simplifying interactions between different EU tax rules	Legislative, Q2 2026
	Competition	<i>Update of antitrust procedural rules</i>	Simpler antitrust procedural rules through the clarification on the interplay between the new Digital Markets Act (DMA) and the traditional antitrust review process.	Legislative, Q3 2026
	Better regulation	<i>Communication on better regulation</i>	Cut in red tape	Non-legislative, Q2 2026

Supporting People, Strengthening our Societies and our Social Model	Affordability / Housing	<i>Initiative on short term rentals</i>	Enhancing the level playing field between hotels and STRs	Legislative / Non-legislative, Q2 2026
	Cohesion	<i>Strategy for outermost regions</i>	Better connectivity + competitiveness	Non-legislative, Q1 2026
		<i>Communication on Eastern border regions</i>	Better connectivity + competitiveness	Non-legislative, Q1 2026
		<i>Communication on islands and coastal communities</i>	Better connectivity + competitiveness	Non-legislative, Q2 2026
	Quality Jobs	<i>Quality Jobs Act</i>	Possible burdens to employers	Legislative, Q4 2026
	Education	<i>European school alliances and Basic Skills Support Scheme</i>	Encourage up-skilling and reskilling	Non-legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills</i>	Encourage up-skilling and reskilling	Non-legislative, Q3 2026

	Skills and fair labour mobility	<i>Proposal for a European Social Security Pass</i>	Facilitating process for employers to comply with their obligations	Legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>Strengthen the European Labour Authority</i>	Better coordination between labour inspectors	Legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>Skills portability initiative</i>	Employers to recognise non-formal certificate qualifications for employees	Legislative, Q3 2026
Sustaining our Quality of Life: Food Security, Water and Nature	Agriculture	<i>Livestock strategy including elements on animal welfare</i>	Possibly extending the scope of mandatory information to provide to consumers on non-prepacked food focusing on animal welfare	Non-legislative, Q2 2026
		<i>Update of rules on unfair trading practices in the food chain</i>	Unclear whether Hospitality operators could benefit from fairer purchasing conditions, reduce price and supply pressures from dominant suppliers, and improve overall market transparency and competitiveness.	Legislative, Q3 2026
	Fisheries and Oceans	<i>Vision 2040 for fisheries and aquaculture</i>	Possibly extending the scope of mandatory information to provide to consumers on non-prepacked food focusing on origin and sustainability.	Non-legislative, Q3 2026
		<i>Ocean Act</i>	Possibly extending the scope of mandatory information to provide to consumers on non-prepacked food focusing on origin and sustainability.	Legislative, Q4 2026

Protecting our Democracy, upholding our Values	Consumer protection	<i>Digital Fairness Act</i>	Introducing a clear regulatory framework for influencer marketing in the promotion of hotels, restaurants, and cafés Risk: Restricting dynamic pricing practices	Legislative, Q4 2026
	Media	<i>Update of rules on audiovisual media services</i>	Introducing a clear regulatory framework for influencer marketing in the promotion of hotels, restaurants, and cafés	Legislative, Q3 2026
	Equality	<i>Gender equality strategy 2026-2030</i>	Encouraging gender equality	Non-legislative, Q1 2026

Annex II: Annual Plan on Evaluations and Fitness Checks

Annex II contains a list of **REFIT (Regulatory Fitness) initiatives** to simplify existing legislation, or an **annual plan of evaluations and fitness checks** to identify potential simplifications, reductions in costs, and the consolidation of rules.

FULL TITLE	INDICATIVE FINALISATION TIME	Potential impact
Evaluation of the tobacco control legislative framework	Q2 2026	Potentially leading to stricter smoking regulations by introducing advertising and display bans, or packaging requirements.

Annex III: Pending proposals

Annex III includes pending proposals requiring swift adoption by the Parliament and Council.

AREA	FULL TITLE	REFERENCES	POTENTIAL IMPACT
A New Plan for Europe's Sustainable Prosperity and Competitiveness	DIRECTIVE on corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence requirements	COM(2025)81 final 2025/0045 (COD) 26.02.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of reporting obligations
	Digital Euro Regulation	COM(2023)369 final 2023/0212 (COD) 28.06.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially lower transaction fees than credit cards • Reduced dependency on dominant card schemes
	Payment Services Regulation	COM(2023)367 final 2023/0210 (COD) 28.06.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusion of restaurants' meal vouchers from strict payment obligations • Unconditional refund right for Merchant Initiated Transactions (e.g. no-show fees, post-stay charges) • Enhanced transparency for card fees • See HOTREC position
	Green Claims Directive	COM(2023)166 final 2023/0085 (COD) 22.03.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More administrative and financial burdens to companies

	Late Payment Regulation	COM(2023)533 final 2023/0323 (COD) 12.09.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30-day mandatory B2B payment term • See HOTREC position
A New Era for European Defence and Security	Regulation establishing an <i>EU Talent Pool</i>	COM(2023)716 final 2023/0404 (COD) 15.11.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease of labour and skills shortages
	Directive concerning the status of <i>third-country nationals who are long-term residents</i> (recast)	COM(2022)650 final 2022/0134 (COD) 27.04.2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility to make it easier for third country nationals to acquire EU long-term resident status and strengthen their rights
Supporting People, Strengthening our Societies and our Social Model	Traineeships Directive	COM(2024)132 final 2024/0068 (COD) 20.03.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open-market traineeships to be regulated at EU level • Fear of more admin burdens for companies
	Directive on Package Travel Directive	COM(2023)905 final 2023/0435 (COD) 29.11.2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure business viability with balanced provisions on prepayments, package definition and insolvency protection.
Sustaining our Quality of Life: Food Security, Water and Nature	Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on cooperation among enforcement authorities responsible for the enforcement of Directive (Eu) 2019/633 on <i>unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships</i> in the agricultural and food supply chain	COM(2024)576 final 2024/0318 (COD) 10.12.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unclear whether Hospitality operators could benefit from fairer purchasing conditions, reduce price and supply pressures from dominant suppliers, and

			improve overall market transparency and competitiveness.
Protecting our Democracy, upholding our Values	Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation	COM(2008)426 final 2008/0140 (CNS) 2.07.2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies to apply equal treatment amongst all guests
Delivering Together and Preparing our Union for the Future	Proposal for a COUNCIL REGULATION laying down the multiannual financial framework for the years 2028 to 2034	COM(2025)571 final 2025/0571 (APP) 16.07.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding opportunities (e.g. training / infrastructures)