

EuroCOP policy grid – 2021

February 2021



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

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



<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>The European Commission has also launched the process towards the adoption of two adequacy decisions for transfers of personal data to the United Kingdom, one under the General Data Protection Regulation and the other for the Law Enforcement Directive. The next steps in the process are obtaining an opinion from the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) and green light from a committee composed of representatives of the EU Member States. Once this has been completed, the Commission can proceed to adopt the two adequacy decisions.</p> <p>All relevant Committees in the European Parliament have so far recommended that the Parliament give its consent to the Agreement.</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>30 April 2021: On 24 February, Cabinet Office Minister Michael Gove wrote to European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic to agree to an extension of the ratification until end of April.</p>
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	combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism.		
EU Multi-annual financial framework	<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 will apply 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>



<p>COVID-19</p>	<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 likely to have an impact on budgets 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>17-18 July 2020: EU leaders agreed recovery fund</p> <p>20 January 2021: Member States have agree 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>Legislative</p>		



<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 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>July 2020: EuroCOP sends response to Commission consultation 09 December 2020: Commission published legislative proposals and impact assessments 14 December 2020: European Parliament designates LIBE Committee as the responsible Committee 17 February 2021: Commission draft acts closes to feedback</p>
<p>Anti-Money Laundering Regulation</p>	<p>The Commission will publish new legislation to strengthen anti-money laundering measures. The ongoing public consultation includes questions around Europol's mandate with regard to coordination and information exchange between national financial intelligence units.</p>	<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>7 May 2020: Action Plan and public consultation published 26 August 2020: Public consultation deadline 10 September 2020: EBA issues Opinion and Report on the future EU legal framework on AML/CFT Q1 2021: Legislative proposal</p>



<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, 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 and TRAN.</p>
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<p><u>Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive)</u></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’.</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>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><u>Directive on the use of PNR data</u></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>November 2018: EU adopts Regulations updating SIS</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>

Directive on combating the sexual exploitation of children online and child pornography	<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>30 December 2020: Commission roadmap closed for comment</p> <p>11 February 2021: Public consultation opens to feedback</p> <p>15 April 2021: Public consultation closes to feedback</p> <p>Q2 2021: Expected publication of framework revision</p>
Directive on attacks against information systems	<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>April 2018: Proposals published</p> <p>December 2019: Council agrees position</p> <p>December 2020: European Parliament votes to enter interinstitutional negotiations</p>
Directive on combating fraud and counterfeiting of non-cash means of payment	<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 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.</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>October 2020: Legislative proposal</p>
<p><u>Prüm system</u></p>	<p>The Prüm Decisions contains 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>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>A revision of the framework is currently under discussion.</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>Q2 2021: Expected publication of framework revision</p>

Directive on combating terrorism	<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>
Proposed Regulation on preventing the dissemination of terrorist content online	<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. The Regulation must now be formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council.</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>
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.</p>	<p>9 September 2020: Commission roadmap closes for comments</p> <p>July 2021: Commission report evaluating CEPOL expected</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>No revisions planned</p>

Directive 90/270/EEC - display screen equipment	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.	In effect	Will be revised under the updated 2021-2027 Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work.
Directive 2003/88/EC - working time	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.	In effect	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.
Directive 89/654/EEC - workplace requirements	The Directive creates minimum standards for safety and health at the workplace.	In effect	Will be revised under the updated 2021-2027 Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work.
Directive 89/656/EEC - use of personal protective equipment	The Directive puts in place minimum requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) that are used by workers at work.	In effect	No revisions planned
Directive 2019/1152 on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions	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.	In effect	Member States have until 2022 to transpose the new rules into their national legislation. No revisions planned. Scheduled review is by August 2027.



<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>30 December 2020: Commission roadmap closes for comments</p> <p>Q2 2021: Public consultation expected</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>TBC</p>

Occupational safety and health (OSH) Framework	The EU's Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work is a 6-year strategic agenda , which is coming to an end in 2020. The EU will now be setting 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)	Preparation phase; Commission has received initial feedback through a roadmap, with a more detailed public consultation launched in December 2020.	29 October – 26 November 2020: Roadmap open for feedback 07 December 2020: Consultation opens for feedback 01 March 2021: Consultation closes to feedback Q2 2021: Commission adoption expected
Action plan to implement the European pillar of social rights	Some aspects of the pillar include Directive 2019/1152 have already been put in force, yet the Commission is to publish its Action Plan on implementing the remaining aspects of the pillar next year.	Preparation phase, originally scheduled for 2021	TBC 2021

New Security Union Strategy	<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>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 a consultation for its roadmap on this, closing on 15 March 2021.</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>Q1 2021: Police cooperation consultation expected</p> <p>15 March 2021: Feedback period for Commission roadmap on organised crime closes</p> <p>Q4 2021: Police cooperation adoption expected</p>
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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 December 2020 the European Parliament and Council reached a political deal, allocating a €1.931 billion budget for the ISF for 2021-2027. Once the text is finalised at technical level, it will have to be formally adopted by both the Parliament and the Council.</p>	<p>May 2018: Commission proposed new budget for the ISF</p> <p>November 2018: European Parliament draft report on ISF</p> <p>October 2019: Discussions between EU institutions begin</p> <p>10 December 2020: European Parliament and Council reached political deal on ISF budget for 2021-2027</p> <p>4 February 2021: European Parliament LIBE Committee to vote on the provisional agreement</p> <p>EP timeline (link)</p>
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<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>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>
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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>July 2020: Publication of strategy</p> <p>September 2020: Publication of targeted legislation to identify, report and take down content</p> <p>Q4 2020 onwards: Further proposals to be published</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>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 2020 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>1 July 2020: European Skills Agenda published</p>

White Paper on Artificial Intelligence	<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 following up on the White Paper is expected on 21 April 2021.</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.</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>April 2021: Follow up to AI White Paper expected</p>
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.</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 to feedback</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>18 September: Publication of strategy</p>
Council of Europe			
Ethnic profiling in Europe: a matter of high concern	<p>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.</p>	<p>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>	<p>April 2018: Motion for resolution tabled November 2020: Adoption of draft report by Equality Committee 28 January 2021: Parliamentary Assembly adopts report</p>
Use of force by law enforcement officers	<p>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.</p>	<p>Motion for resolution published 10 September. Following this a rapporteur was appointed by the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights.</p>	<p>September 2020: Motion for resolution published October 2020: Oleksandr Merezhko (Ukraine, SOC) appointed as rapporteur</p>