# 2023 European Commission Work Programme: Addressing Crises and Promoting Unity

**Date**: 2022-10-18

**Location**: Strasbourg, France

## Executive Summary

The 2023 Commission Work Programme outlines the European Union’s strategic response to ongoing crises, particularly the war in Ukraine, energy challenges, and climate change. It emphasizes collective action, resilience, and transformation across six key areas: the European Green Deal, digital advancement, economic stability, global leadership, social equity, and democratic integrity. The programme prioritizes support for Ukraine, energy independence, and sustainable development, while also addressing food security and social rights. It aims to enhance the EU’s internal market, promote digital solutions, and strengthen democratic values amidst rising global tensions. The Commission will focus on implementing existing agreements, fostering citizen engagement, and ensuring effective governance to navigate these challenges and build a united, resilient Europe.

## Characteristics

* **Crisis Response and Unity**: The programme emphasizes collective action in response to crises, particularly the war in Ukraine and its economic repercussions, highlighting the EU’s commitment to solidarity and cooperation among member states.
* **Green and Digital Transition**: It prioritizes accelerating the green transition to combat climate change and promoting digital solutions to enhance efficiency and sustainability across the EU.
* **Social Market Economy**: The focus is on reinforcing the social market economy, ensuring fair labor practices, and addressing social inequalities, particularly in light of the ongoing economic challenges.
* **Democratic Values and Citizen Engagement**: The programme aims to strengthen democracy and citizen participation, building on the outcomes of the Conference on the Future of Europe to enhance policymaking and governance.
* **Global Leadership and Security**: It outlines the EU’s role in global affairs, emphasizing the need for a robust security and defense strategy while maintaining a commitment to multilateralism and humanitarian assistance.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Commission; Ursula von der Leyen; European Parliament; European Council; EU Member States |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Multilateralism |
| Data & Governance | Digital Governance; Data Protection |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Economy |

## Practical Applications

* Implementation of the RepowerEU plan to reduce dependence on Russian energy imports, including gas savings plans and emergency energy market intervention measures.
* Mobilization of over EUR 19 billion to strengthen Ukraine’s economic, social, and financial resilience, along with EUR 3.1 billion of military support under the European Peace Facility.
* Activation of the Temporary Protection Directive to ensure access to jobs, housing, education, and healthcare for Ukrainian refugees.
* Provision of over 70,000 tonnes of aid to Ukraine through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, including food, water, shelter, and healthcare.
* Mobilization of EUR 600 million from the European Development Fund to support food security in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.
* Establishment of a new European Hydrogen Bank to invest EUR 3 billion into kick-starting a hydrogen market in the EU.
* Introduction of food waste reduction targets and measures to improve textile recycling as part of the comprehensive framework for sustainable food systems.
* Launch of the European Year of Skills in 2023 to promote reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.
* Proposal for a digital euro to ensure the common currency is fit for the digital age.
* Development of a European Health Data Space to strengthen healthcare quality and continuity.
* Proposal for a European disability card to ensure mutual recognition of disability status across Member States.
* Implementation of the European Democracy Action Plan, including the proposal for the European Media Freedom Act to safeguard media freedom and pluralism.

## Commitments

* Provide EUR 100 million for the rehabilitation of damaged Ukrainian schools.
* Mobilise EUR 600 million from the European Development Fund to increase support for food security in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.
* Create a new European Hydrogen Bank to invest EUR 3 billion into kick-starting a hydrogen market in the EU.
* Propose food waste reduction targets as part of measures to reduce waste and environmental impact in 2023.
* Set a target to halve pesticide use by 2030.
* Propose a comprehensive reform of the EU electricity market in early 2023.
* Launch the European Year of Skills in 2023 to deliver necessary reskilling and upskilling of the workforce.
* Present a proposal for a second basket of new own resources in 2023.
* Carry out a mid-term review of the multiannual financial framework (MFF) 2021-2027 in 2023.
* Propose a digital euro framework before its potential issuance by the European Central Bank.