

Ms Roberta METSOLA  
President of the European Parliament

GEDA ref.: D (2025) 13147

Dear President,

As you are aware, the Commission Work Programme for 2025, adopted on 11 February 2025, contains in its Annex IV a list of thirty-seven envisaged withdrawals. The Commission considers the inclusion of these envisaged withdrawals in its Work Programme as the official consultation of Parliament, in accordance with §9 of the Interinstitutional Agreement of 13 April 2016 on Better Law-Making.

On 11 March 2025, I have asked Committee Chairs to carefully examine the list of planned withdrawals and to inform me of any possible concerns. In this context, I have received the following committee positions:

- The Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) agrees with all of the proposed TRAN-related withdrawals and repeals listed in Annexes IV and V with the exception of one withdrawal, namely the *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for the allocation of slots at European Union airports (COM(2011)827, 2011/0391 (COD))*. The TRAN Committee would like to invite the Commission to maintain this proposal at least until the fitness check on the underlying legislation has been completed, expected by the end of 2025. At this point, a new assessment on whether to withdraw the proposal should be made.
- The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) (and the Committee on Women's Rights (FEMM) in its capacity as opinion-giving committee) strongly oppose the planned withdrawal of the *Proposal for a Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment outside the labour market, irrespective of age, disability, sexual orientation or religious belief, COM(2008)0426, 2008/0140(CNS)*. This proposal dates back to 2008 and aims to introduce a horizontal equal treatment directive to address gaps in existing EU anti-discrimination legislation and ensure protection for all EU citizens.

Although the European Parliament adopted its position in 2009, the Council failed to achieve unanimity, leaving the draft proposal blocked. Nevertheless, in recent years, Council Presidencies, notably the Belgian Presidency, have made worthy efforts to reach a compromise. The LIBE and FEMM Committees stress the need for continued cooperation between the EU institutions and the Member States to end the political deadlock.

In order to advance discussions, shed more light on the Commission's intentions for the proposed legislation and to discuss tangible next steps, the LIBE Committee will hold an exchange of views on 12 May 2025 with Ms Hadja LAHBIB, Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, to which the FEMM Committee has been invited.

- The Committee on Legal Affairs (JURI) objects, by a large majority, to the proposed withdrawals of the following two files:
  - *Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on standard essential patents and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/1001, (2023/0133(COD)); and*
  - *Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on adapting non-contractual civil liability rules to artificial intelligence (AI Liability) (2022/0303(COD)).*

The European Parliament has already adopted its first-reading position on the Standard Essential Patents (SEPs) file<sup>1</sup> and the Polish Presidency has scheduled meetings on this topic. The proposal remains highly relevant due to its impact on competitiveness, transparency, and innovation, particularly for SMEs. In view of the fact that the Commission has not justified its position that "no foreseeable agreement" is within reach, that the Council is actively engaged and that no clear alternative was presented, withdrawing the proposal appears inappropriate.

Regarding the AI Liability Directive (AILD), the short pause in the legislative process in Parliament and the Council was to allow for the finalisation of the general AI framework, rather than due to any lack of "foreseeable agreement". Progress has since continued in line with a well-defined timetable and supported by valuable studies. The withdrawal of this proposal would risk fragmenting the AI internal market and undermining legal certainty for market operators, contrary to the Commission's stated aims.

No other objections have been raised with regards to the remaining envisaged withdrawals.

I would be grateful if you could inform the Conference of Presidents of the committees' positions and transmit them to Commission President von der Leyen, so that they can be duly taken into account when the Commission will proceed to the finalisation of the list of envisaged withdrawals.

Yours sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> (P9\_TA(2024)0100)

Bernd LANGE

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