

100 days in office.

COMMISSION'S
WORK
COMMITMENTS
ASSESSED



SEVEN INITIATIVES

The European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen pledged to deliver **seven initiatives within the first 100 days** of her mandate, replicating the approach she took at the start of her first term.

The primary goal was to foster **competitiveness and innovation** across various sectors, from digital transformation to the agri-food industry. However, the ongoing war in Ukraine has posed unprecedented challenges for the EU, with **security emerging as a critical cross-sectoral concern** that requires urgent attention.

Von der Leyen stated that “the direction of travel was clear. What has changed is the sense of urgency. Because **something fundamental has shifted**”. The recent US decisions regarding Ukraine and the tariffs have pushed the EU to adopt quicker measures in many areas.

CLEAN INDUSTRIAL DEAL

The Clean Industrial Deal was intended to mark **the first major initiative** in the Von der Leyen second Commission mandate.

Its main goal is **to address the clean transition towards a decarbonized European economy and industries**, ultimately contributing to EU's global competitiveness. However, how the Commission would balance competitiveness-driven simplification efforts without compromising European Green Deal framework was a matter of debate.

The Clean Industrial Deal came on **February 26th** and met the industry's expectations. It outlined measures to reduce energy prices, introduced an Affordable Energy Action Plan and allocated €100 billion to stimulate demand for clean manufacturing.

However, **many other initiatives are still to come** under the deal, including the committed 90% emissions-reduction target for 2040 and the Industrial Decarbonization Accelerator Act, expected by late 2025.

100 days



EUROPEAN ACTION PLAN ON CYBERSECURITY OF HOSPITALS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

The Commission plan on cybersecurity of hospitals responded to the **growing number of cyberattacks** targeting hospitals and medical facilities in recent years.

Its objective was to improve threat detection, preparedness and crisis response within the healthcare sector by delivering an urgent cybersecurity strategy focused on resilience. The Action Plan on Cybersecurity was a **top priority in Von der Leyen's political guidelines**.

The initiative, announced on **January 15th**, addressed many stakeholders' demands. It outlined specific actions for 2025 and 2026, including the establishment of a Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers under the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA). It also aimed to provide healthcare professionals with cybersecurity learning resources.

Yet, **the main drawback on the plan was the money**, as the strategy did not clearly outline where the money to cover the costs would come from.

100 days



AI FACTORIES INITIATIVE

The European Commission's tech plan was **rooted in its strategic autonomy principle**. The initiative sought to reduce dependencies from the US computing industry while fostering European innovation in technology.

Following the Commission's launch of the first binding AI regulation -AI Act- at the end of the previous mandate, the AI Factories Initiative aimed at presenting **artificial intelligence as an innovative tool** for industry's competitiveness, rather than a burdensome new regulation.

The AI Factories Initiative arrived on **December 11th** with the selection of the seven AI-leading technology hubs in Europe for 2026. With a €1.5 billion investment, these hubs will provide cutting-edge AI infrastructure for developing and testing innovative AI models and applications across the continent. **This initiative will be further complemented** by a committed plan to mobilized €220 billion for AI hardware and the construction of four AI gigafactories in Europe.

Last Friday, the Commission advanced the selection of **six additional tech hubs for 2026** through investments totaling €485 million.

100 days



ENLARGEMENT POLICY REVIEW

“In the first 100 days, we will present our pre-enlargement policy reviews focusing on individual sectors such as the rule of law, single market, food security, defense and security, climate and energy and migration, as well as social, economic and territorial convergence more broadly”.

The Western Balkans, Ukraine and Moldova are taking steps toward obtaining EU membership in the coming years. In fact, the European Commission and EU leaders have already stated on several occasions that the EU is considering granting Ukraine membership by 2030.

However, **many countries remain skeptical about Ukraine joining the union.** Ukraine’s potential accession would mean cheaper products entering the single market, which could threaten the competitiveness of Member States in various sectors, particularly in agriculture. On the other hand, granting membership to Ukraine would require a reallocation of agricultural funding among Member States, as Ukraine is currently poorer than other EU countries.

Although a formal document has not been published yet, **significant work has already been done** in the area of enlargement, especially regarding the gradual integration of the Western Balkans.

100 days



WHITE PAPER ON DEFENCE

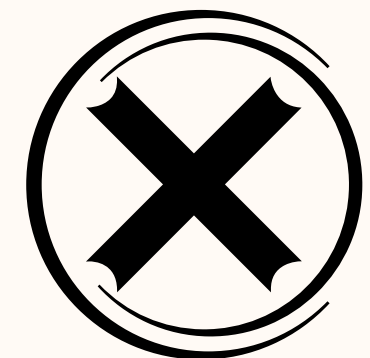
The debate on Europe's role in security and defence became **the elephant in the room** for the EU after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. "Central to the White Paper on Defence will be strengthening the EU-NATO partnership [...] to cover all threats", said Von der Leyen in her political guidelines.

The White Paper on Defence aimed to **deepen into transatlantic relations** by tightening cooperation with the US as well as boosting EU defence industry's development. Contrary to what strategic autonomy principle meant for the EU in other fields, the EU relied in the US for its own security and defence.

However, the new US administration's international approach to the war in Ukraine created an urgent need for the EU to accelerate its support for Ukraine, leading to a record defence spending framework announced by President Von der Leyen, which marked a **shift away from US transatlantic leadership**.

The White Paper on Defence is **expected to be presented on Wednesday**.

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A VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Farmers' extended mobilizations across Europe in early 2024 were critical in shaping the **EU's new approach to agricultural policy**. Strengthening farmers' position in the food supply chain, tackling unfair trading practices and simplifying farmers' access to funding were at the core of the agricultural sectors' demands.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food aimed to ensure a long-term competitive, innovative and sustainable agri-food sector. However, **how to drive competitiveness and simplification without undermining green policies** was a top concern for the European Commission.

The Vision for 2040 arrived on **February 19th** strongly focused on both farmers and environmental agenda, but lacked initiatives in the food and drink sectors. Although the plan was presented within the first 100 days of the mandate, it was **missing some important elements** and was seen as too bold without sufficient detail.

The Commission is expected to present its agricultural simplification package next month.

100 days



YOUTH POLICY DIALOGUES

“I will ask all Commissioners to organize their first annual Youth Policy Dialogues within the first 100 days of the mandate. These dialogues will be repeated annually. I want to make sure that young people can use their voice -their own voice- to help shape our future”.

This was likely **one of the most unconventional initiatives** the European Commission committed to in its first 100 days. Through this plan, President Von der Leyen aimed to give the youth a greater role in shaping EU policies by making the dialogues a permanent, annually reviewed feature.

The Youth Policy Dialogues were up to each commissioner to decide when to hold them within the first 100 days of mandate. In fact, 23 commissioners have already held their Youth Policy Dialogues within those 100 days, with **sixteen commissioners holding them just before the deadline**, in the week leading up to it.

The Youth Policy Dialogues will be a recurring event in the coming years. However, **to what extent these dialogues will influence Commission’ work** remains a significant question.

100 days





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