



**#SOTEU**

# **STATE OF THE UNION 2021**

## **LETTER OF INTENT**

**TO PRESIDENT DAVID MARIA SASSOLI  
AND PRIME MINISTER JANEZ JANŠA**

Brussels, 15 September 2021

Dear President Sassoli,

Dear Prime Minister Janša,

Today will mark the tenth time a Commission President has delivered a State of the Union address to the European Parliament. The evolution in the themes of the previous speeches reflects the changing nature of our focus and the speed of the transitions in the world. They map the course of very different crises and recoveries. But they also remind us of an enduring truth: **our Union is only as strong and as ambitious as it is united and resolute.**

The achievements of the last year are a testament to this. We would like to thank the European Parliament and the Council for their support and their shared sense of purpose. This has enabled us to act fast and stay ambitious in the last year. **We can be proud of what the EU has achieved.**

Twelve months ago, vaccines were not yet approved. A year on, the European Union has now vaccinated more than 70 % of the adult population and is the largest vaccine producer in the world. We have delivered more than 700 million vaccines to our Union and more than 700 million to the rest of the world. We agreed in record time on an EU Digital COVID Certificate, which has enabled more than 400 million individual certificates to be generated since the beginning of the summer.

This helped people to travel and enjoy their summer, and it enabled our economy to reopen its doors and bounce back faster than was expected. Nineteen Member State economies are now expected to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year. This has also been made possible thanks to the historic agreement reached on our recovery programme. NextGenerationEU is now up and running, financing projects and reforms that invest in the recovery of today and the economy of tomorrow.

We have accelerated our work on the ambitious and transformative agenda that we first set out in the Political Guidelines. In the last year, the EU has approved the first European Climate Law, and we have presented our proposals to deliver it. The EU is the first major economy to concretely lay out how it will reach its climate goals. We have also made groundbreaking proposals on digital services, digital markets and digital identity, and we have updated our new industrial strategy and worked to strengthen our supply chains.

These common achievements give us confidence for the year ahead. But, as the pandemic lingers, we will need to show the same resolve we have shown over the past year. With wide disparities between vaccination rates in the EU and around the world, the first priorities will continue to be managing the pandemic and preserving lives and livelihoods.

We must also look at the indelible mark left by the crisis on people and on society. The continued implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the commitments agreed to in Porto earlier this year will be key priorities. We will continue to stand up for values, justice and equality, and to promote and defend the rule of law and media freedom across the EU. We

would like to focus on the future by advancing the work on the Conference on the Future of Europe and honouring all young people by making 2022 the European Year of the Youth.

The external challenges we face will also multiply as the world becomes more contested. We will further strengthen our partnership with NATO and our allies, and discuss a common way forward on defence and security. We will continue to develop global partnerships and support our neighbourhood, in particular the Western Balkans, at the upcoming summit organised by the Slovenian Presidency of the Council. Finally, we will remain committed to implementing our international agreements and will remain united in our support of Ireland and of peace on the island of Ireland.

Within the next 12 months, the Commission will enter the second half of its mandate. Up to now, we have focused on the design and the legislation needed to deliver the transformation we need. The focus now turns to delivery and implementation. We need to continue the work on the legislative proposals that have already been presented across all six of the Commission's headline ambitions.

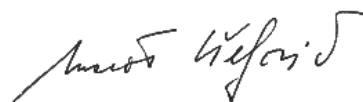
Below is a list of new initiatives to be proposed by the Commission, focusing on implementing our vision for Europe. For all of these initiatives we will take into account the lessons learnt from the crisis, as well as the need to give co-legislators time to reach an agreement. In parallel, we will continue to implement the Commission work programme for 2021.

The list draws inspiration from our discussions with the European Parliament and the Council. It is not exhaustive, and will be complemented by the upcoming Commission work programme, our interinstitutional dialogue and the Joint Declaration of Legislative Priorities to be signed by the three institutions.

Our Union has shown that we can do things better when we do them together. This is our commitment for the year ahead, and we look forward to working with you to make it happen.



**Ursula von der Leyen**



**Maroš Šefčovič**

## KEY NEW INITIATIVES FOR 2022

### A European Green Deal

- *Legislative proposal on integrated water management – surface and groundwater pollutants*
- *Legislative proposal on carbon removal certification*
- *Legislative proposal on the right to repair*
- *Legislative proposal on an EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions*
- *Legislative proposal to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment and to restrict the addition of microplastics to products*

### A Europe fit for the digital age

- *European Cyber Resilience Act*
- *European Chips Act*
- *Roadmap on security and defence technologies*
- *Legislative proposal on building an EU space-based global secure communication system*
- *Review of competition policy: – fit for new challenges*
- *Proposal for a Council Recommendation on improving the provision of digital skills*
- *Legislative proposal on a Single Market Emergency Instrument*
- *Legislative proposal on multimodal digital mobility services*

### An Economy that Works for People

- *Legislative proposal on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work*
- *Legislative proposal to facilitate small and medium sized enterprises access to capital*
- *Initiative on instant payments in the EU*
- *Implementation of the Capital market Union Action Plan including the Initiative on harmonising certain aspects of substantive law on insolvency proceedings*
- *Legislative proposal on the implementation of the OECD global agreement on re-allocation of taxing rights*

- *Legislative proposal on the implementation of the OECD global agreement on minimum effective taxation*

## **A Stronger Europe in the World**

- *Global Gateway Initiative on connectivity*
- *Amendment of the Blocking Statute Regulation*
- *Strategy on International energy engagement*
- *Joint Communication in international ocean governance*
- *Joint Communication on a partnership with the Gulf*

## **Promoting our European Way of Life**

- *European Care Strategy*
- *Legislative proposal on the obligation of carriers to communicate advance passenger data*
- *Legislative proposal on a framework for reciprocal access to security-related information for front-line officers between the EU and key third countries to counter shared security threats*
- *Proposal to update the Council Recommendation on cancer screening*

## **A New Push for European Democracy**

- *Media Freedom Act*
- *Legislative initiative on transfer of criminal proceedings*
- *Legislative proposal on the recognition of parenthood between Member States*