

Question for written answer E-003793/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Marieke Ehlers (Pfe)

Subject: A ‘year of simplification’ and EU regulatory overreach

11 Member States have called for a 12-month pause on new EU legislation, in what they are calling a ‘year of simplification’. Their message is straightforward: Brussels cannot keep piling new rules on citizens, businesses and national administrations while existing legislation is still being implemented, reviewed and enforced. The Commission has repeatedly promised ‘better regulation’ and simplification, yet the flow of new legislation has continued. This raises the more fundamental question of whether the problem is not simply excessive red tape, but a Commission culture of regulatory overreach.

1. What assessment has the Commission made of the proposal for a year of simplification by this blocking minority in the Council?
2. Does the Commission recognise that the sheer volume and cumulative effect of EU legislation has itself become a problem, and is it prepared to conduct an honest self-reflection on its own role in creating regulatory overreach, including by identifying areas where it has proposed legislation without a sufficiently demonstrated need for action at EU level?
3. Which legislative proposals currently under preparation does the Commission consider unnecessary, duplicative or suitable for postponement or withdrawal, and will it commit to putting them on hold during a year of simplification?

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