

**Question for written answer E-003794/2026/rev.1
to the Council**
Rule 144
Marieke Ehlers (Pfe)

Subject: Member States' call for a 'year of simplification'

11 Member States have called for a 12-month pause on new EU legislation. Their initiative reflects growing frustration with a Brussels regulatory agenda that continues to create new obligations while citizens, businesses and national administrations are still struggling with the existing rulebook.

1. Does the Council support the call for a genuine 'year of simplification', including a temporary halt to non-essential new EU legislative initiatives, so that the EU can finally start reducing, rather than continuously expanding, the regulatory burden?
2. How does the Council intend to force the Commission to take this demand seriously, rather than allowing another round of promises, Omnibus packages and bureaucratic 'simplification' exercises without a meaningful reduction in the EU rulebook?
3. Will the Council make the reduction of EU regulatory overreach and cumulative administrative burdens a clear political priority, including by demanding a systematic sector-by-sector review of existing EU legislation and the withdrawal of rules that are unnecessary, duplicative or disproportionate?

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