

Question for written answer E-004132/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Reducing regulatory complexity and administrative burdens in the EU digital framework

A recent report by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), published in September 2026, highlights the growing complexity of the EU's digital regulatory framework. According to the study, the number of EU digital laws and regulations has more than quadrupled over the past decade, increasing from approximately 20 to 88, while the average length of new legislation has doubled over the past 20 years.

Beyond the growing volume of legislation, overlapping and inconsistent requirements impose significant administrative and compliance burdens on European businesses, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, potentially undermining innovation, investment and competitiveness.

For example, companies operating in the healthcare sector may face different cybersecurity and reporting obligations under the NIS2 Directive¹ and the European Health Data Space Regulation², creating legal uncertainty and additional compliance costs.

The report also highlights shortcomings in the EU legislative process, noting that only 60 % of Commission proposals under the ordinary legislative procedure are accompanied by impact assessments.

Against this background, how does the Commission plan to address regulatory overlaps, strengthen ex ante impact assessments and ex post evaluations, and make better use of its regulatory fitness and performance programme to simplify EU digital legislation while safeguarding its effectiveness?

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¹ Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 80, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2022/2555/oj>).

² Regulation (EU) 2025/327 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 February 2025 on the European Health Data Space and amending Directive 2011/24/EU and Regulation (EU) 2024/2847 (OJ L, 2025/327, 5.3.2025, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/327/oj>).