

EN

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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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Well-designed EU rules simplify life for citizens and businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including in areas where they replace the patchwork of 27 national frameworks with a single set of rules. The Commission's aim is burden reduction and simplification without undermining its policy goals. This will ensure that doing business will be easier and faster in Europe and also facilitate innovation.

The Commission committed in 2023 to reduce reporting burdens by 25% and tabled already a first set of 41 proposals in its work programme for 2024, covering many areas¹, such as posting of workers, customs code, transport, statistics and sustainability reporting. It also carried out a call for evidence², which received about 200 contributions from stakeholders highlighting areas of particular concern and rationalisation ideas. These areas are aligned with the sectors depicted in Mr Draghi's report as being under international competition³. It is in these areas, where the Commission will first prioritise its efforts.

Looking forward, the President of the Commission made implementation and simplification key political priorities for the new College. Each Commissioner will hold implementation dialogues with stakeholders at least twice per year to identify simplification priorities. Working with the Commissioner for implementation and simplification, they will stress-test the acquis and table proposals to eliminate overlaps, contradictions and be fully digitally compatible, while maintaining high standards. This will contribute to reducing reporting obligations by at least 25% - and for SMEs by at least 35%. Moreover, each impact assessment includes estimates of all compliance costs whenever data are available. The Commission is further finalising its work on the estimation of the overall administrative burden due to EU legislation.

¹ See 2024 Commission Work Programme: https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/812f6e9c-15da-4913-8fd2-aea6c26674c0_en?filename=COM_2023_638_1_annexes_EN.pdf

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/13990-Administrative-burden-rationalisation-of-reporting-requirements_en

³ Energy, critical raw material, digitalisation and innovation technologies, high speed/capacity broadband networks, computing and AI, semi-conductors, energy-intensive industry, clean tech, automotive, defense, space, pharma, transport.