

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000183/25
to the Commission
Sander Smit (PPE)
(16 January 2025)

Subject: Reduction of reporting obligations

In early November 2024, EU leaders called for proposals from the Commission to cut reporting requirements by at least 25% by mid-2025. ⁽¹⁾ The same ambition can be found in the March 2023 Commission communication ⁽²⁾, on which a status update was provided in October 2023 ⁽³⁾, indicating the need to establish a comprehensive baseline for reporting obligations to be able to measure progress and announcing further status updates in the Annual Burden Survey for 2023 (which was due to be published in 2024). Furthermore, the Commission indicates that it will only reduce reporting requirements provided that legislative objectives and purposes are not ‘put at risk’.

1. What is the status of the 2023 Annual Burden Survey and the ‘baseline overview’ needed to assess the contribution of the proposals (for mid-2025) to the 25% reduction goal?
2. Does the Commission agree that the principle of proportionality requires balancing costs and benefits, and that certain goals should be reconsidered (i.e. put at risk) if their costs are disproportionate?
3. If so, is the new Commission prepared to distance itself from the limitations imposed on reporting reductions and publicly commit to an impartial and transparent cost-benefit analysis in its 2025 work programme?

Submitted: 16.1.2025

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(26 February 2025)

The Political Guidelines for 2024-2029 express the Commission’s clear focus on making business easier and faster in Europe. Underlining this focus, the Commission set the goal to reduce reporting obligations by at least 25%, and 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Reporting burdens are a subset of all administrative burdens. Thus, to further increase our ambition, the 25% and 35% targets will in the future refer to the costs of all administrative burdens, not only reporting requirements.

Eurostat helped provide an approximation of the baseline for this, resulting in a goal of reducing around EUR 37.5 billion of recurring costs until the end of the mandate. Dedicated measures for SMEs will aim to meet the 35% target.

The Commission will regularly report on the progress towards these targets. The information in annual burden surveys will also continue to be reported. Given the transition year, relevant information for 2023 and 2024 will be provided as part of the Commission’s reporting on implementation and simplification.

The Commission is fully committed to the principles of proportionality and subsidiarity, to deliver tailored, easy to implement and efficient legislation.

A cost-benefit analysis underpins all impact assessments showing that benefits outweigh costs. New administrative costs are offset within the one-in one out approach.

All legislative measures with significant impacts and policy options are accompanied by an impact assessment or, in case of urgency, a staff working document, analysing the most significant economic, social and environmental impacts and presenting a compulsory competitiveness check.

This is the case for significant legislative initiatives included in the 2025 Commission Work Program.

¹ European Council, *Budapest Declaration on the New Competitiveness Deal*, 8 November 2024.

² Commission communication of 16 March 2023 entitled ‘Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2030’ (COM(2023)0168).

³ Annex II to Commission communication of 17 October 2023 entitled ‘Commission work programme 2024: Delivering today and preparing for tomorrow’ (COM(2023)0638).