

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000689/25
to the Commission
Massimiliano Salini (PPE)
(13 February 2025)**

Subject: Simplifying REACH

According to the Competitiveness Compass, one of the flagship actions that the Commission will present in 2025 is the ‘chemicals industry package’, a key component of which is the simplification of the REACH regulation. This measure is designed to secure the competitiveness of the chemicals industry, as well as to safeguard human and environmental health.

Given the vital significance of the package, it is essential that the Commission involve stakeholders, analyse the information gathered, carry out fitness checks, perform stress tests and prepare thorough impact assessments before revealing new initiatives, in line with the Better Regulation Guidelines. More specifically, the aim should be to reduce regulatory complexity and cut red tape, particularly for SMEs, while maintaining high safety and environmental protection standards.

As part of the Competitiveness Compass, the Commission has announced a new SME and competitiveness check to act as a stronger filter for new initiatives.

In light of the above:

1. When drawing up and implementing the legislative proposal on simplifying REACH, will the Commission see to it that the Better Regulation Guidelines, including the new SME and competitiveness check, are applied in full?
2. In particular, can it provide assurances that the initiative will involve extensive consultations with stakeholders, rigorous analyses and robust impact assessments, in line with the requirements laid down in the guidelines?

Submitted: 13.2.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Séjourné on behalf of the European Commission
(24 April 2025)**

The Commission is committed to apply the Better Regulation guidelines and toolbox ⁽¹⁾. The reinforced small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and competitiveness checks will be applied systematically to all envisaged legislation with foreseeable effects on companies, particularly on small businesses ⁽²⁾.

The proposal for a revision of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 concerning the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH) ⁽³⁾, planned for the fourth quarter of 2025, will respect the Better Regulation requirements.

The Commission has been working on the revision of REACH already under the previous mandate. This has allowed the Commission to carry out extensive consultations with stakeholders and a robust analysis of the expected impacts through the procurement of specific studies and the support of the Joint Research Centre and the European Chemicals Agency.

In the context of the Chemicals Industry Package and the objective of simplifying rules for the chemicals industry without compromising on safety and environmental protection, the Commission is currently updating the impact assessment accompanying the legislative proposal.

The updated impact assessment will focus on simplification and the analysis of impacts on SMEs and competitiveness. Moreover, the Commission will further consult and involve all relevant stakeholders to gather their views and recommendations.

For instance, a strategic dialogue on 25 March 2025 and dedicated discussions in an expert group meeting on 3 April 2025 have been organised to gather additional stakeholders’ perspectives.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation/better-regulation-guidelines-and-toolbox_en

⁽²⁾ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions — A simpler and faster Europe: Communication on simplification and implementation. COM(2025) 47 final.

⁽³⁾ OJ L 396, 30.12.2006.