

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000828/25
to the Commission
Georgios Aftias (PPE)
(24 February 2025)**

Subject: Measures to reduce red tape

Addressing Parliament, the European Central Bank's former president and former prime minister of Italy, Mario Draghi, stressed that 'progress is now happening outside of Europe' and that 'Europe's internal barriers are equivalent to a tariff of 45% for manufacturing and 110% for services'.

The EU has wound up being a single market of obstacles rather than of unhindered access to markets and services, which was the initial idea behind the European project. It is therefore losing the main advantage upon which it was founded. All obstacles must be overcome. For instance, European regulatory rules on tech companies alone pose a significant burden, as the cost of complying with the GDPR has reduced profits for small European tech companies by up to 12%. As a result, bureaucracy and over-regulation are leading European companies to boost trade with non-EU countries, such as the US and China, which have simpler legislative frameworks.

Based on the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it intend to take measures to reduce red tape within the EU, while boosting transparency and trade?
2. Will it introduce self-help financing schemes that will strengthen the EU's domestic industries so as to reduce its dependence on third partners?
3. Is it aiming to introduce single energy prices?

Submitted: 24.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(17 July 2025)**

1. The President of the Commission has made the reduction of red tape a priority for the new mandate. The Commission started to act immediately and adopted the Competitiveness Compass⁽¹⁾, one element of which is aiming at reducing administrative burden. The communication 'A simpler and Faster Europe'⁽²⁾ sets out the tools and initiatives to radically lighten the administrative burden. The Commission's 2025 work programme⁽³⁾ contains 11 legislative measures (out of 18) which contribute to the simplification, with the first Omnibus proposals⁽⁴⁾ already adopted on 26 February 2025.

Those Omnibus proposals cover sustainability reporting⁽⁵⁾, sustainability due diligence⁽⁶⁾, the taxonomy⁽⁷⁾, the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism⁽⁸⁾. In line with the Draghi Report's recommendation, the InvestEU programme⁽⁹⁾ is to be reinforced to provide more support to companies seeking funding for investments. The proposed measures aim to ensure that the transition to a decarbonised economy is achieved in the simplest, most cost-effective and least burdensome way for EU businesses. Since then, the Commission adopted three more Omnibus proposals covering agricultural policy⁽¹⁰⁾, small mid-caps, small and medium-sized enterprises and digitalisation⁽¹¹⁾, and defence⁽¹²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness_en#:~:text=In%20January%202025%2C%20the%20Commission%20presented%20the%20Competitiveness,restore%20Europe%E2%80%99s%20dynamism%20and%20boost%20our%20economic%20growth.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/8556fc33-48a3-4a96-94e8-8ecacef1ea18_en?filename=250201_Simplification_Communication_en.pdf.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme_en

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-i_en; https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-ii_en.

⁽⁵⁾ https://finance.ec.europa.eu/capital-markets-union-and-financial-markets/company-reporting-and-auditing/company-reporting/corporate-sustainability-reporting_en.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/doing-business-eu/sustainability-due-diligence-responsible-business/corporate-sustainability-due-diligence_en.

⁽⁷⁾ https://finance.ec.europa.eu/sustainable-finance/tools-and-standards/eu-taxonomy-sustainable-activities_en

⁽⁸⁾ https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/carbon-border-adjustment-mechanism_en.

⁽⁹⁾ https://investeu.europa.eu/investeu-programme_en.

⁽¹⁰⁾ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/eu-actions-address-farmers-concerns_en#ref-2025-cap-simplification-and-competitiveness-package.

⁽¹¹⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/single-market/simplification_en.

⁽¹²⁾ https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/defence-readiness-omnibus_en.

2. The Clean Industrial Deal will mobilise over EUR 100 billion to support EU-made clean manufacturing and strengthen EU domestic industries. Additionally, tailored state aid frameworks, including important projects of common European interest, are being utilized to address market failures effectively. These are concrete actions to turn decarbonisation into a driver of growth for European industries, while fostering industrial resilience and strategic autonomy.

3. Energy prices are driven by supply and demand which differ across Europe and make it impossible to have a single energy price. The Commission supports a fully integrated internal electricity market to achieve electricity price convergence between Member States. To mitigate energy price rises, the Commission has been actively working on initiatives such as the REPowerEU initiative ⁽¹³⁾, the EU Action Plan for Grids ⁽¹⁴⁾, and the action plan for Affordable Energy ⁽¹⁵⁾.

⁽¹³⁾ COM(2022) 230.

⁽¹⁴⁾ COM(2022) 230.

⁽¹⁵⁾ COM(2025) 79.