

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000957/25
to the Commission
Isabella Tovaglieri (Pfe)
(6 March 2025)**

Subject: Commission contradictions over the regulation of corporate sustainability

The Commission has brought forward the simplification omnibus package, which is a set of measures designed to simplify the rules on corporate sustainability in relation to regulations adopted by President von der Leyen, at her own initiative, during the last parliamentary term.

In particular:

- 80% of companies have been excluded from the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, which clearly shows the approach originally adopted to have been a mistake;
- 90% of companies have been exempted from the obligations under the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, which signals a further rethink of climate strategies;
- the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive has been amended to alleviate the burden on large companies.

Given the need to simplify and deregulate in order to mitigate the impact on companies of multiple and excessive regulatory burdens, can the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Will it review the arrangements for assessing impacts and consulting with stakeholders so as to ensure a more precise analysis that takes into account the effects on the competitiveness of European companies?
2. Can it quantify the costs already incurred by companies in adapting to the (now-simplified) regulations, and is it considering means of compensating for these costs?
3. Will it adopt a better-integrated approach, assessing the overall impact of legislative packages rather than that of individual proposals, so as to avoid cumulative adverse effects on companies that necessitate regulatory reviews in the short term, hence creating legal uncertainty?

Submitted: 6.3.2025

**Answer given by Ms Albuquerque on behalf of the European Commission
(9 July 2025)**

The Commission agrees on the importance of a thorough assessment of competitiveness in impact assessments. This is why a compulsory competitiveness check is implemented with a stronger focus on sectorial impacts, to better reflect the impacts on sectors, particularly those exposed to international competition.

New consultation approaches, such as implementation dialogues and reality checks with stakeholders that are impacted by regulatory initiatives are also being implemented to seek their views, including on the best possible ways to shape these initiatives to secure the competitiveness of Europe's economy.

They come on top of the Commission's existing consultation tools, ranked first by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ⁽¹⁾.

The original legislative measures that the Omnibus package adopted on 26 February 2025 ⁽²⁾ aims to simplify were subject to comprehensive impact assessments ⁽³⁾ and preceded by extensive stakeholder consultation.

However, the multiple and complex crises and events happening in the meanwhile have strong impact on the competitiveness of Europe's economy. A recalibration is now needed to address areas where EU companies may be at a competitive disadvantage.

This approach clearly signals that the Commission intends to stay the course on building a greener and fairer society and economy, but to do so in the simplest manner possible and by boosting the competitiveness of our economy at the same time.

⁽¹⁾ See the OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2025, https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-regulatory-policy-outlook-2025_56b60e39-en.html.

⁽²⁾ See https://commission.europa.eu/publications/omnibus-i_en.

⁽³⁾ See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52018SC0264>, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52021SC0150> and <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52021SC0643>.

If these first Omnibus proposals are adopted and implemented, conservatively estimated total savings in annual administrative costs of around EUR 6.3 billion can already be achieved ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽⁴⁾ See Staff Working Document Accompanying the documents COM(2025) 80 — COM(2025) 81, https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/1da93ca2-7911-4e1f-9ce6-cecd09a85250_en?filename=SWD-Omnibus-80-81_En.pdf.