

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001034/25
to the Commission
Bert-Jan Ruissen (ECR)
(10 March 2025)**

Subject: Reducing regulatory burden for the fisheries sector

The Commission is seeking to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses. Scrapping and simplifying existing rules is badly needed, as is averting obstructive new rules. The European fisheries sector urgently needs there to be a comprehensive review of fisheries and environmental policies. That must go beyond merely scaling back and digitising reporting obligations. At his hearing in Parliament on 6 November 2024, Commissioner Kadis announced that, within DG MARE, the entire rulebook would be screened, the aim being to shrink it by 30-35%.

1. Does the Commission agree that digitising the rulebook is not enough to bring about a substantial cut in regulatory burden, but that rules should actually be scrapped?
2. In addition to the internal departmental screening, does the Commission intend to enter into a dialogue with the fisheries sector on reducing regulatory burden?
3. Is the Commission prepared to revisit new laws, such as the Nature Restoration Act and the revised Control Regulation, as part of this review?

Submitted: 10.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Kadis on behalf of the European Commission
(7 May 2025)**

The Commission is dedicated to strengthening EU competitiveness and growth while upholding high standards and achieving economic, social, and environmental goals.

For this, it aims to streamline rules and reduce the administrative burdens for businesses by 25%, and by 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises by the end of this mandate.

The Commission will continue to systematically evaluate EU legislation, including opportunities to simplify and reduce administrative burden, without undermining its policy objectives.

Dialogue with stakeholders is key. As indicated in their mission letters and the 2025 Communication on implementation and simplification ⁽¹⁾, each Commissioner will host at least two Implementation Dialogues a year.

Regular exchanges between the Commission and the advisory councils ⁽²⁾ also provide an opportunity to jointly explore ways to simplify EU legislation and reduce administrative burden that stems from it.

The Nature Restoration Regulation ⁽³⁾ (NRR) does not impose direct obligations on companies or stakeholders. It leaves wide flexibility to national authorities to identify in their national restoration plans ⁽⁴⁾ the measures needed to achieve the different restoration objectives. The implementation of the NRR is still at an initial stage.

It would be premature to draw conclusions regarding its impact on stakeholders. The Fisheries Control Regulation was revised only recently, and the focus should now be on its implementation.

On the basis of the empowerments granted by the co-legislators in the revised Fisheries Control Regulation, the Commission is currently preparing the relevant delegated and implementing acts. Simplification and limiting red tape are guiding principles in this process.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0047>

⁽²⁾ https://oceans-and-fisheries.ec.europa.eu/fisheries/scientific-input/advisory-councils_en

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/1991/oj/eng>

⁽⁴⁾ The national planning efforts will be supported by a digital tool, currently being developed by the European Environment Agency, that will reduce administrative burden for Member States to the strictly necessary, notably by reusing existing information ('report once' approach) and allowing for a bottom-up approach, where feasible.