

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002910/25
to the Commission
Pietro Fiocchi (ECR)
(16 July 2025)**

Subject: REACH review presented at CARACAL

Commission President von der Leyen has clearly indicated that the focus of the new Commission is simplification and competitiveness. Nevertheless, it is striking that, despite this commitment, several legislative files are still being dealt with in a 'business as usual' way.

The review of the regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH), presented at the meeting of Competent Authorities for REACH and Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) (CARACAL) on 3 April 2025, does not seem to include any proposed simplifications that reduce the administrative burden for industry. The Commission seems intent on persisting with the same ideas and approach, even though they have proven ineffective. The comments received from EU industry stakeholders are highly critical, saying that it seems as though the Commission services live in a different world from their political leadership and president. Furthermore, they consider it absurd to call the proposals 'simplification' because it is as if the Competitiveness Compass, Clean Industrial Deal or economic crisis simply do not exist.

1. How are the relevant services ensuring that the new Commission's political orientation is being implemented in their directorates-general to align legislation with the Competitiveness Compass?
2. Has the Commission assessed the economic impact of this 'internal miscommunication' that risks driving industry away from the EU and towards other more appealing markets?

Submitted: 16.7.2025

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

The Competitiveness Compass ⁽¹⁾ and the 2025 Commission Work Programme ⁽²⁾ focus strongly on simplification and on making EU policies and laws work better and faster to strengthen the EU's competitiveness.

In line with the above, and as announced in the action plan for the Chemicals Industry ⁽³⁾, the Commission is working on a proposal for a targeted revision of the regulation on the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH) to be adopted by end 2025.

The proposal will have the ambition to simplify the rules and speed up the procedures for industry, taking into account competitiveness, safety, security and sustainability considerations, while ensuring a high level of protection of human health and the environment.

The discussion at the CARACAL ⁽⁴⁾ expert group referred to by the Honourable Member was part of the consultation of Member States and stakeholders.

The Commission services are following and implementing the commitments of the 2025 Commission Work Programme, in line with the political guidelines.

As per the Better Regulation guidelines, the Commission Services have considered and assessed several options to revise the REACH Regulation. To benefit from the discussion, various options were presented at technical level as well as views by CARACAL members and observers invited.

The Commission services have always been clear that no decision on those options with respect to the Commission proposal had been taken.

Moreover, the final REACH revision will also depend on the final decisions in the European Parliament and the Council during the ordinary legislative procedure.

Therefore, the Commission does not consider there was an 'internal miscommunication' on the REACH revision.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2025_en#:~:text=The%202025%20Work%20Programme%20sets%20out%20the%20key,to%20build%20a%20strong%2C%20secure%20and%20prosperous%20Europe.

⁽³⁾ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-chemicals-industry-action-plan_en.

⁽⁴⁾ Competent Authorities for REACH and Classification, Labelling and Packaging.