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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(18.9.2025)

The Competitiveness Compass for the EU¹ sets the target of cutting administrative burden by at least 25% for all companies and at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises without undermining the respective policy goals. Making rules easier and cheaper to implement also contributes to preserving environmental goals.

As mentioned in its Single Market Strategy², the Commission intends to present in autumn 2025 a proposal to reduce administrative burden linked to environmental laws. The Commission consulted stakeholders on the initiative, through a Call for Evidence³ published on 22 July and with a feedback period until 10 September 2025. The specific content of the future proposal will be decided on after consideration of the responses to the consultation. In any event, the initiative aims to simplify and streamline administrative requirements related to the environment in the areas of waste, products, and industrial emissions. The initiative may also consider permitting challenges relating to environmental assessments.

More generally, the Commission services are stress testing the EU environmental legislation to identify significant potential for simplifying administrative tasks and carry out evaluations under the Better Regulation rules⁴ as applicable. Furthermore, the Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy held an implementation dialogue on permitting and environmental assessments in April 2025. The Commission is fully committed to simplifying EU laws so that they can be fully implemented.

¹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM (2025) 30 final: ‘A Competitiveness Compass for the EU’.

² Communication for the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, COM (2025) 500 final: ‘The Single Market: our European home market in an uncertain world. A Strategy for making the Single Market simple, seamless and strong’.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14794-Simplification-of-administrative-burdens-in-environmental-legislation-_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation_en.