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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission has taken unprecedented action to reduce burdens and avoid new ones. The Commission has introduced stress tests so that each Commissioner screens all existing legislation to identify inefficiencies and obsolete or redundant obligations that cumulatively weigh on companies. This is done using input from stakeholders, including through implementation dialogues and reality checks with companies and administrations directly applying EU rules. Moreover, when preparing new legislation, a reinforced competitiveness check explores the current competitive position of the sectors most affected by the proposal to avoid introducing new burden on sectors under stress due to the cumulative impacts of regulation or other factors.

The reduction of excessive burdens including reporting obligations is an essential aspect of the Commission's competitiveness agenda. The Commission has set highly ambitious targets to reduce administrative burdens by at least 25% and by at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Meeting the goal requires cutting recurring administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion by the end of the mandate with dedicated measures for SMEs. Since February 2025, the Commission has put forward six omnibus proposals bringing over EUR 8 billion annual costs savings including sustainability reporting, investments, small middle capitalisation companies, agriculture, defence and chemicals. These proposals include specific measures to relieve SMEs and are currently being negotiated by the co-legislators.