

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004283/25
to the Commission
César Luena (S&D)
(31 October 2025)**

Subject: Deregulatory drift in the Commission's simplification agenda and weakening of the European Green Deal

For several months, MEPs and environmental and scientific organisations have been warning that the Commission's 'simplification' agenda is a process of progressive deregulation that puts European Green Deal objectives at risk at a time when we are seeing the consequences of climate and environmental crises worsening across Europe. Despite this, the Commission is committed to maintaining this focus on 'simplification' in the name of reinforcing competitiveness and reducing the administrative burden.

Despite stating that the Commission is 'committed to stay the course on the Green Deal and is proposing simplification not deregulation' in its answer to Question E-002874/2025 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission recently reopened the regulation on deforestation-free products, withdrew the proposal for a regulation concerning monitoring of forests and, in the new Multiannual Financial Framework, proposed drastically reducing the weight of environmental programmes — such as the LIFE programme — and removing the specific objective for biodiversity.

In light of the above:

1. How does the Commission justify the fact that it is promoting decisions that, in practice, weaken the Green Deal, despite its claims to the contrary?
2. Why does the Commission not introduce an environmental non-regression clause in future legislative reforms and its financial instruments?

Submitted: 31.10.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 January 2026)**

In line with the Competitiveness Compass, the Commission is committed to simplify Union legislation ⁽¹⁾. The Commission remains firmly committed to the Union's environmental objectives and has made clear that simplification and efficient achievement of policy objectives should go hand in hand.

Article 5 of Protocol (No 2) of the Treaties requires that draft legislative acts minimise financial burdens on public authorities, citizens and economic operators commensurate with the objectives to be achieved.

The Commission's longstanding policy on Better Regulation ⁽²⁾ integrates these aspects and aims to achieve policy objectives as efficiently as possible.

This policy predates the European Green Deal ⁽³⁾. For this mandate, the Political Guidelines ⁽⁴⁾ focus on reducing administrative burdens and simplifying implementation: less red tape and reporting, more trust, better enforcement, faster permitting. The aim is to achieve the objectives of the laws with a leaner legal framework that is easier and less costly to implement.

When exercising its prerogative to initiate legislation, the Commission respects the parameters of the appropriate legal basis and supports its proposals with relevant evidence, and wide consultation as required by Protocol (No 2) taking into account the interinstitutional agreement on better-law-making from 2016 ⁽⁵⁾.

It is always open to discuss amendments by the co-legislators to the Commission's proposals in line with the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

¹ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2025-002874_EN.html

⁽¹⁾ COM(2025) 30 final of 29 January 2025, A Competitiveness Compass for the EU.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-making-process/better-regulation_en.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/towards-new-commission-2024-2029_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Interinstitutional Agreement between the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission on Better Law-Making; OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p.1.