

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001280/26  
to the Commission  
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)  
(26 March 2026)**

*Subject:* EU competitiveness and regulatory burdens

Despite declarations of strengthening competitiveness, businesses in the EU are reporting increasing regulatory and administrative burdens. It is estimated that administrative costs run into hundreds of billions of euros annually, and new regulations are putting further pressure on businesses.

This raises the question of the actual impact of EU policy on the business environment.

Will the Commission:

1. identify specific legislative acts to be repealed in order to reduce regulatory burdens?
2. set out a measurable target for reducing administrative costs for businesses?
3. assess the impact of EU regulations on the relocation of business activities outside the EU?

Submitted: 26.3.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission  
(5 June 2026)**

The Commission Communication ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’ <sup>(1)</sup> contains a Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan with key policy areas which will be examined with the aim of modernisation and simplification.

It will tackle inconsistencies, outdated, overlapping or redundant provisions, or overly complex rules that hinder competitiveness and innovation.

The Commission has a target to lower the administrative burden by at least 25% for all businesses, and at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), requiring cutting recurring administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion by the end of the mandate.

To this end it puts forward omnibus proposals and other legislative initiatives with a significant simplification dimension. In 2025, the Commission proposed ten omnibus packages and other simplification proposals, with net recurrent cost savings of EUR 15 billion. Half of the proposals for the Commission work programme 2026 are simplification proposals.

Omnibuses proposals are part of the Commission’s ambitious simplification agenda. The objective is to lighten the EU regulatory burden while maintaining high standards.

Burden reduction targets, a new SME check and a reinforced competitiveness check to measure the impact of Commission’s proposals, stress testing and new consultation tools (implementation dialogues and reality checks) support this goal.

Many European industries are under pressure from third country overcapacities, export controls, and the weaponisation of dependencies, and, as consequence, are restructuring.

The relocation of businesses is monitored through the European Restructuring Monitor, which provides a rich repository of case studies and intelligence on restructuring trends.

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<sup>(1)</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9179202e-6dd0-4890-94b4-aa0b7d95d5c4\\_en?filename=com-2026-380\\_annex-1\\_en.pdf](https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/9179202e-6dd0-4890-94b4-aa0b7d95d5c4_en?filename=com-2026-380_annex-1_en.pdf).