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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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The European Commission is pursuing an ambitious simplification agenda to lighten the EU regulatory burden, while maintaining high regulatory standards. To achieve this, the Commission introduced burden reduction targets, a new small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) check and a reinforced competitiveness check, the stress testing of existing legislation, regulatory deep cleaning of the *acquis* and new consultation tools (implementation dialogues and reality checks).

The Commission has put a target to lower the administrative burden by at least 25% for all businesses and by at least 35% for SMEs. This target requires cutting recurring administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion over the Commission's mandate. The 12 Omnibus and other simplification proposals put forward by the Commission by mid-2026 will translate in more than EUR 18 billion of annual administrative cost savings for companies of all sizes. In particular the SMEs would benefit from significant savings, for instance through the digital omnibus (EUR 860 million of administrative burden reduction) or through the proposed targeted revision of the EU rules for medical devices and in vitro diagnostics (EUR 1.5 billion of administrative burden reduction).

The evidence and methodology for these estimates are laid out in Impact Assessments or Staff Working Documents accompanying the Commission's proposals. The Regulatory Scrutiny Board, an independent body, provides central quality control and support for the Commission Impact Assessments. In April 2026 the Commission adopted its Communication 'A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook'¹, which will result in more quality control being performed on a wider range of assessments supporting policy proposals.

¹ COM(2026) 380 final: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:e3002437-4314-11f1-8095-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.