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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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Regulatory complexity can affect competitiveness. This is why the Commission is pursuing modernisation and simplification of European legislation and is effectively reducing the administrative burdens for companies.

The Commission has a target to lower the administrative burden by at least 25% and at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises. To this end, it has so far proposed 12 omnibus packages and other simplification proposals, with net recurrent cost savings of some EUR 18 billion. Half of the proposals for the Commission work programme 2026 are simplification proposals.

Looking ahead, the recent Communication ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’¹ contains a Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan with 12 policy areas, including the energy, financial, food and transport sectors mentioned in the question. It will tackle inconsistencies, outdated, overlapping or redundant provisions, or overly complex rules that hinder competitiveness and innovation. The Communication also includes simplicity by design as a new way of making legislation.

The Commission is acting decisively and swiftly to address EU loss of competitiveness. It is a shared responsibility with co-legislators to make this ambition a concrete deliverable.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/75b997e8-eb0-4954-9705-6b61bdb05b87_en?filename=com-2026-380_en.pdf.