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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
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Competitiveness and making business easier and faster in Europe are key priorities for this Commission. Its better regulation and regulatory tools (impact assessments, evaluations and stakeholders' engagement) support designing evidence-based policies and laws that achieve their objectives in the most effective and efficient way, responsive to the needs of EU citizens, businesses, and civil society.

Impact assessments provide evidence-based answers to key questions regarding the expected impact of a new initiative. They include an estimation of benefits and quantification of costs, including all compliance costs where this is feasible and proportionate. The Commission proposes laws and regulations where the benefits outweigh the associated costs.

The Better Regulation Guidelines¹ set several criteria to determine when an initiative needs an impact assessment. The main ones are that there must be a political choice and significant impacts to consider. Further to the Communication 'A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook'² more initiatives are to be accompanied by an impact assessment, including targeted or urgent initiatives, where feasible. Cases of exceptional urgency may require derogations. Moreover, several legislative proposals could be accompanied by one single impact assessment.

The Commission is pursuing ambitious simplification to lighten the EU regulatory burden, while maintaining high regulatory standards. Burden reduction targets (to lower the administrative burden by at least 25% for all businesses and by at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises) contribute to this ambition. To create a more cohesive and efficient single market, the Commission will ensure that new legislative proposals avoid regulatory complexity and fragmentation.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/swd2021_305_en.pdf.

² COM(2026) 380 final – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook' - https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:e3002437-4314-11f1-8095-01aa75ed71a1.0001.02/DOC_1&format=PDF.