(English version)

Question for written answer E-002994/26
to the Commission
Moritz Körner (Renew)
(15 July 2026)

Subject: Bureaucracy

President Ursula von der Leyen and the Commission have vowed to cut the administrative burden on companies by at least 25% and on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by at least 35%. In light of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. By what percentage has the administrative burden on companies generally and on SMEs specifically been reduced so far, compared with the Commission's reduction targets of 25% and 35% respectively?

2. How big was the EU regulatory volume when the von der Leyen Commission took office in 2019 and how big is it today, in terms of both a) the number of legislative acts in force and b) the total number of pages making up the EU regulatory volume?

3. How many new EU legislative acts have been adopted since the von der Leyen Commission took office in 2019 and, in the same period, how many have been repealed, rendered inoperative or withdrawn in their entirety?

Submitted: 15.7.2026

Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(16 October 2026)

A high-quality EU regulatory framework contributes to Europe meeting its policy objectives, boosting competitiveness, reinforcing legal certainty, and delivering faster and more effective responses to pressing needs.

The Commission's target is to lower the administrative burden by at least 25% for all businesses, and by at least 35% for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

The burden reduction target translates in cutting recurring administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion over the Commission's mandate. Since 2025, the Commission put forward 12 Omnibus and other simplification proposals that will result in EUR 22.3 billion administrative savings per year.

Overall, more than half of legislative proposals in the 2026 Commission work programme are proposals with a significant simplification dimension.

The Overview Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement to be published in October 2026 will provide the overall progress of the Commission's simplification efforts and key figures and towards the burden reduction targets.

Information on EU legal acts, including acts currently in force and acts that have been repealed or have expired, is publicly available in the EUR-Lex database ([1]), which can be searched by type of act, date and status. The Commission does not maintain aggregate figures on the total number of pages making up the EU regulatory volume.

As announced in the communication 'A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook' ([2]), going forward, the Commission is putting great focus on designing from the outset rules that are 'simple by design'.

This means applying regulatory discipline and proposing initiatives that are more focused, disciplined, leaner, more accessible, easier to implement and properly enforced.

([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/advanced-search-form.html?action=update&qid=1788779400441.
([2]) COM(2026) 380.