

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003487/26
to the Commission
Erik Kaliňák (NI)
(3 September 2026)

Subject: Member States and businesses have to comply with increasingly stringent rules. When drafting those rules, however, the Commission itself abandons its own principles

The Commission is currently putting forward several packages of so-called omnibus measures, which it presents as tools for tackling excessive bureaucracy. In several proposals, however, citing urgency, it is restricting consultations and impact assessments that it itself requires under the Better Regulation framework. Simplifying legislation must not be used as a pretext for the Commission to change the rules before their consequences can be properly assessed.

1. Why is the Commission restricting consultations and impact assessments if it labels its proposal urgent?
2. Why, according to the Commission, should Member States and businesses comply with increasingly stringent EU regulation when the Commission itself does not follow its own Better Regulation principles when proposing legislation?
3. Why is the Commission using omnibus packages to ‘repackage’ rules that it itself introduced, instead of abolishing unnecessary obligations?

Submitted: 3.9.2026

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

1. The Commission’s Better Regulation system is widely regarded as one of the best in the world. It is designed to ensure that even when urgent action is needed, proposals are supported by the strongest possible evidence. In 2025 the Commission adopted a record number of urgent Omnibus proposals, all backed by analytical evidence and consultation activities, including reality checks and other targeted consultations.

The system has recently been further strengthened in the sense that the Commission has expanded the range of proposals to be covered by impact assessments and consultations ⁽¹⁾, clarified the situations in which urgent action may be needed and indicated that also urgent proposals are subject to public consultation and supported by impact assessments scrutinised by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

2. The aim of Better Regulation is to ensure high-quality policymaking while enabling the EU to act effectively even in exceptional or urgent circumstances. The Commission is following its Better Regulation principles, which provide the flexibility needed to respond rapidly to urgent situations. While the need for urgent action may justify adjustment of procedures, such adjustments are foreseen and subject to safeguards to continue to ensure the quality and transparency of policy making.

3. Omnibus proposals are intended to reduce burden in a targeted, cross-cutting way by addressing overlaps, inconsistencies and unnecessary requirements across related pieces of legislation. Depending on the subject matter, this is best achieved by using this legislative tool, since it allows to consider all related changes together. To date, the Commission has adopted 12 Omnibus proposals which, together with simplification proposals adopted in 2025, are expected to generate EUR 17 billion in savings for businesses and administrations, depending on the co-legislators.

⁽¹⁾ Communication ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’, COM(2026) 380 final.