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Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.1.2026)

The Commission prepares impact assessments where the expected economic, social or environmental impacts of the proposal are likely to be significant, for major spending programmes, and where there is a policy choice. In the preparation of the next multiannual financial framework, the Commission has carried out seven impacts assessments supporting 17 legislative proposals and four ex-ante evaluations, in line with the better regulation principles.

The Commission's commitments on better regulation do not mean that an impact assessment should accompany all proposals under ordinary legislative procedure. Presenting statistics on this basis therefore does not give an indication of follow-up to the commitment made in the Interinstitutional agreement on better law-making¹.

The Commission is committed to evidence-informed policymaking and prepares its proposals in line with its own principles, consistent with paragraph 17 of the Interinstitutional agreement on better law-making. When an impact assessment is due, but for urgency reasons it cannot be prepared, the Commission publishes a staff working document presenting all the evidence supporting the proposal within three months of its adoption. Moreover, certain policy proposals do not warrant the preparation of an impact assessment because either the impacts are not expected to be significant or there is no policy choice (for example, when integrating international rules into EU legislation). The staff working documents prepared instead of impact assessments contain the relevant analysis supporting the proposals. All relevant staff working documents are publicly available. The Commission is fully committed to evidence-based policy making, implementing the Interinstitutional agreement. It calls on the co-legislators to do the same and assess the impacts of their substantial amendments to Commission proposals.

¹ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/agree_interinstit/2016/512/oj/eng.