

(English version)

**Priority question for written answer P-001751/26
to the Commission
Christian Doleschal (PPE)
(29 April 2026)**

Subject: Implementation and measurability of cutting red tape in the context of COM(2026)0380

The Commission communication entitled ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’ stresses that cutting red tape effectively is vital when it comes to making the European Union more competitive in a challenging geopolitical environment. This raises questions as to the practical implementation and measurability of the measures envisaged.

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the quality and consistency of impact assessments can remain at a high and comparable level, taking into account the plans to give the Regulatory Scrutiny Board a wider range of tasks?
2. Is the Commission planning to develop a uniform methodology for measuring and cutting cumulative compliance costs and reporting obligations across all policy areas, and if so, what specific form will that methodology take?
3. How does the Commission intend to monitor the progress of the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan (Annex I) until 2027 and measure it using specific indicators, in particular as regards the wide range of policy areas covered?

Submitted: 29.4.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(28 May 2026)**

The Commission Communication ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’ ⁽¹⁾ introduces a more focused and efficient system for assessing impact of future initiatives that is agile in responding to crises and opportunities while ensuring analytical rigour and consultations.

In line with its provisions, the Commission will carry out more impact assessments and the role of the Regulatory Scrutiny of the Board will be extended.

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

It requires cutting recurring administrative costs by EUR 37.5 billion, as estimated using the EU Standard Cost Model. In addition, the Commission will continue to pursue meaningful reductions in other regulatory compliance costs whenever possible. Stress-testing of EU legislation reviews the entire EU *acquis* to capture potential inconsistencies, and to simplify it.

In addition, the reinforced SME and competitiveness checks have a stronger sectoral focus to better understand the cumulative impacts in certain areas.

Building on the comprehensive stress-test of the *acquis*, and, where relevant, reality checks and implementation dialogues, the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan ⁽²⁾ is expected to result in legislative or other measures that address outdated provisions, overlaps, inconsistencies or redundant requirements that create unnecessary burden.

The Commission will continuously monitor and report on the progress of its simplification agenda including the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan, in the annual progress reports on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement and its overview report, including against its burden reduction targets.

⁽¹⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/publications/simpler-clearer-and-better-enforced-eu-rulebook_en.

⁽²⁾ Please see Annex I of the communication ‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’, as referenced in footnote 1.