

10 Point Plan for EU Smart Regulation

In its forthcoming Smart Regulation Communication, the Commission should commit to further ambitious efforts to advance the agenda on smart regulation and cut red tape at EU level, in particular by reducing the overall EU regulatory burden as part of the EU's agenda for growth and competitiveness. We welcome the Commission's recent efforts to reduce regulatory burdens in particular for SMEs. We now call on the Commission to:

1. Go beyond looking at administrative burdens (also including compliance costs); consider sectoral targets to bring tangible benefits to business; and work with European businesses and Member States to produce a roadmap to reduce the overall regulatory burden over the next 2 years.
2. Publish an annual statement of the total net costs to business of new legislative proposals adopted by the Commission
3. Seek to offset burdens from new legislative proposals by reductions of a similar size, so that the annual balance of net costs to business is close to or below zero
4. Strengthen the role of the Impact Assessment Board (IAB) by giving greater consideration to IAB opinions on Commission Impact Assessments before it adopts a proposal, and by making regular use of independent expert knowledge
5. Preface each Impact Assessment with a concise, standardised summary, to be provided in all official languages as quickly as possible
6. Publish Impact Assessments during the consultation stage providing estimates of the net cost to business of regulatory proposals
7. Commit to rigorous application of the 'Think Small First' principle and bring forward further proposals to reduce unnecessary EU regulatory costs on small businesses
8. Commit to conduct more reviews of the stock of existing EU legislation (for example, through extending the current programme of fitness checks), focusing on minimising unnecessary burdens on business, particularly those in sectors important for sustainable, intelligent and inclusive growth.

9. Move towards the principle of Common Commencement Dates as far as possible so that EU legislation comes into force on a limited number of specific dates each year if this brings benefits to business
10. Commit to give more serious consideration to alternatives to EU-regulation, in particular at consultation stage

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