



**Eurochambres
scoreboard:**



**EU 2024-2029
Regulatory Burden
Reduction**

Eurochambres scoreboard: EU 2024-2029 Regulatory Burden Reduction

Two and a half years since the Commission's first pledge to streamline reporting obligations and several commitments to prioritise the simplification agenda, businesses are still grappling with rising compliance costs and continue to navigate – at high costs for their operations – the growing EU regulatory maze.

Eurochambres' message is clear: this trend makes the EU a less attractive and less productive business location compared to global competitors, in a historical moment where investments are urgently needed to remain competitive and create growth in the EU.

Eurochambres welcomes the Commission's recalibration from the initial focus on streamlining reporting obligations to a broader and more ambitious target of reducing overall compliance costs by at least 25%, and by 35% for SMEs, by the end of the current mandate.

The Commission's roadmap for a simpler and faster Europe, as presented in the Communication¹ offers a new momentum to make substantial progress for more efficient and fit-for-purpose legislation and guarantee stronger commitment by all EU institutions towards Better Regulation principles. However, time is ticking, the stockpile of legislation grows, and so does the time spent by entrepreneurs on bureaucracy: political commitments, strategies, and roadmaps must now be followed by tangible actions.

Heads of state and government have repeatedly voiced strong political support for the Commission's simplification agenda and for reducing regulatory burdens. This is reflected in the practical approach of the Council Presidency, which is prioritising simplification and the improvement of framework conditions for European businesses.

Although the Commission estimates that its proposals could deliver €8 billion in compliance cost relief, this represents only a fraction of the €150 billion identified by Eurostat. Moreover, the wave of EU rules stemming from the European Green Deal increases the regulatory burden even further, making sustainability requirements increasingly unsustainable. Eurochambres therefore welcomes the Commission's plan to postpone the entry into force of the Deforestation Regulation.

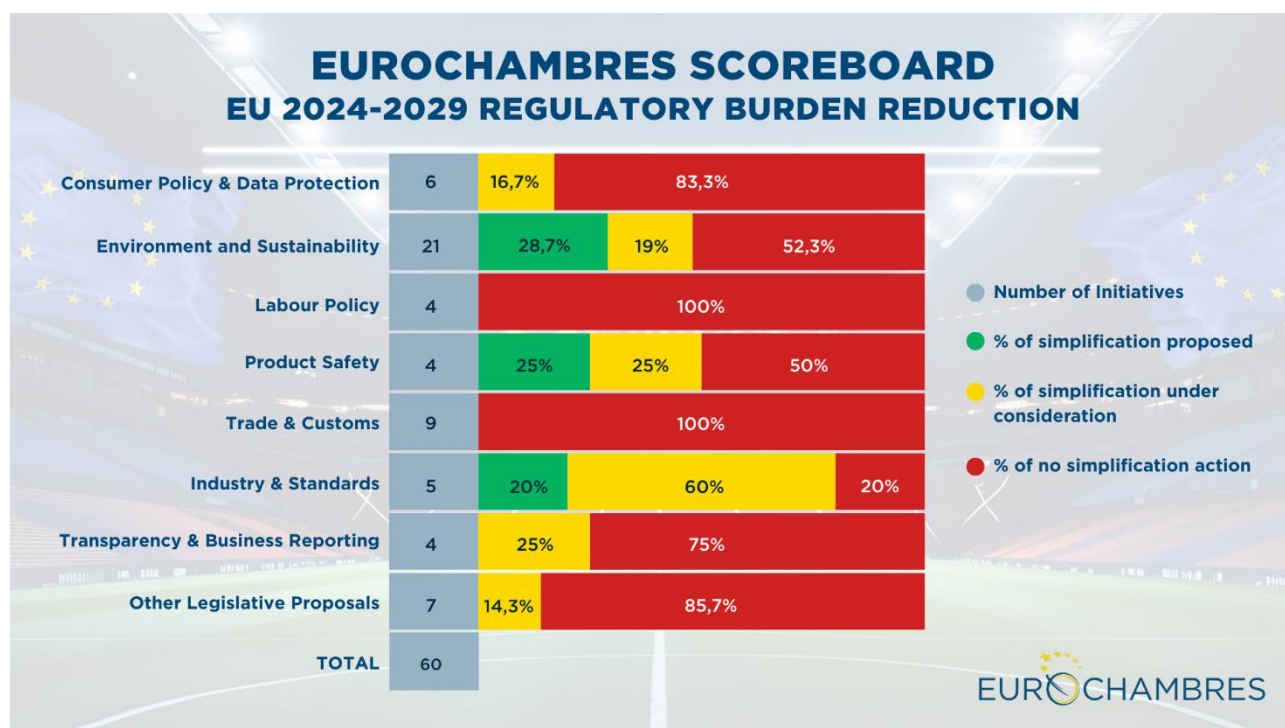
At the same time, initiatives such as the Omnibus Simplification packages, rolled out since early 2025, remain either too slow to provide legal predictability or too modest in scope. While the direction of travel is correct, the current pace and level of ambition make it unlikely that businesses will feel tangible relief from simplified rules and reduced bureaucracy.

So far, progress on our [60 proposals to reduce regulatory burdens](#) remains limited (see the scoreboard below), with only 8 out of the 60 proposed legislation (13%) having been partially or fully revised for simplification. Half of this legislation (4/8) belongs to the

¹ [A simpler and faster Europe: Communication on implementation and simplification](#)

“Environment and Sustainability” category, where the burden on businesses became particularly evident and harmful. With the first Omnibus Simplification package, the Commission responded to some of the concerns of the chamber network by proposing amendments to the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism Regulation (CBAM), and the Taxonomy Regulation.

Yet, despite good intentions, political discussions are progressing too slowly and risk becoming entangled in the legislative machinery. The result is unnecessary delays and persistent legal uncertainty for businesses, which undermines Europe’s competitiveness and discourages investment. Echoing Mario Draghi, who referred to such a situation by “inaction” and “complacency”, and with the vast majority of our 60 proposals still being untouched (41 out of 60, almost 70%), Eurochambres urges the EU institutions and national governments to take faster and more determined actions to achieve a regulatory environment that promotes entrepreneurship, rather than stifling it.



For instance, the upcoming Digital Package should propose more ambitious and targeted amendments to the GDPR, compared to those proposed with the IV Omnibus Simplification package. To achieve this, the chamber network has compiled a list of suggestions to better align data protection with practical business realities: [General Data Protection Regulation Simplification Proposals](#).

Similarly, as consultations on future environmental legislation simplification are ongoing, Eurochambres has prepared a new contribution highlighting the main regulatory hurdles faced by businesses in this area: [Eurochambres input on the Environmental Omnibus](#).

The Commission’s forthcoming first Annual Overview Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement should include a roadmap and scoreboard of expected targets for the next years. While simplification of legislation is the first step, such efforts should be complemented with effective compliance tools for businesses, particularly SMEs.

These should include single electronic reporting formats, clear guidelines for companies and auditors, and stronger awareness-raising efforts to highlight cost reduction opportunities at the initial stages of implementation. Digitalisation of compliance reporting, guided by the 'digital by default' and 'once-only' principles, must not simply replicate complexity in a digital form. Instead, it should be introduced gradually and pragmatically, so that entrepreneurs experience it as a genuine simplification.

Ensuring the broad uptake of digital reforms by local and regional authorities across the EU is essential. Chambers of commerce and industry already support administrations at all levels through training and capacity-building. Stronger synergies between all actors can accelerate the adoption of digital tools while tailoring services to the specific needs of local economies.

Ultimately, a more conducive and attractive business environment can only be achieved by addressing the most pressing challenges faced by European entrepreneurs. Eurochambres therefore encourages the Commission to build on practical experiences from the ground and to involve entrepreneurs and their representative organisations more closely to reverse Europe's decline in competitiveness.



Eurochambres – the association of European chambers of commerce and industry – represents more than 20 million businesses through its members and a network of 1700 regional and local chambers across Europe. Eurochambres is the leading voice for the broad business community at EU level, building on chambers' strong connections with the grass roots economy and their hands-on support to entrepreneurs. Chambers' member businesses – over 93% of which are SMEs – employ over 120 million people.

Previous contributions can be found [here](#).

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