

# Making Europe simpler and faster

## Simplification and reduction of administrative burden



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DG MARE A4: Economic Analysis, Markets  
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„We need to make business easier and faster in Europe.

I will make speed, coherence and simplification key political priorities in everything we do.

Each Commissioner will be tasked with focusing on reducing administrative burdens and simplifying implementation: less red tape and reporting, more trust, better enforcement, faster permitting.”

*Ursula von der Leyen’s Political Guidelines for the next European Commission 2024–2029 “Europe’s choice”*

## Topics

- Simplification and reduction of reporting burden are amongst top priorities over the next five years.
- What we plan to do in DG MARE.

The operational collective target for reducing administrative costs until the end of the mandate is set for at least 25% for all businesses or EUR 37.5 bn, and at least 35% for SMEs.

# Objective: simple and efficient legislation

## Evolving concept over time



EU actions based  
on evidence



Making simpler and  
better EU laws



Involving citizens,  
businesses and  
stakeholders in the  
decision-making  
process

*2012 REFIT (Regulatory Fitness and Performance) Programme*  
COM(2012)746 'EU Regulatory Fitness'  
Communication

*2015 Commission's 'Better Regulation' agenda*  
COM(2015)215 'Better regulation for better results - An EU agenda' Communication

*2023 „Fresh push” by Competitiveness*  
*Communication – 25% reduction target*  
COM(2023)168 'Long-term competitiveness of the EU: looking beyond 2023' Communication

### REFIT PROGRAMME OVERVIEW: SIMPLIFYING AND REDUCING THE BURDEN IN A NUTSHELL

#### REFIT PROGRAMME IS INTEGRATED IN THE COMMISSION'S BETTER REGULATION AGENDA

##### General objective of REFIT Programme

EU legislation is fit-for-purpose and up-to-date. Policy objectives and high standards are achieved at minimum costs:

- Reduce all types of unnecessary regulatory costs for citizens, businesses and public administrations.
- Modernise existing EU legislation, in particular through digitalisation.
- Simplify the body of EU law (acquis).

##### Activities under REFIT Programme:

- **Consultation of stakeholders** in the policy making on simplification and burden reduction (Have your say and Have your say: Simplify!).
- **Evaluations** (including fitness checks) and **impact assessments** analyse the burden reduction and simplification potential of EU legislation.
- **Revisions** with significant potential identified annually by the Commission work programme (Annex II).
- **Monitoring and reporting** on progress through the REFIT scoreboard and the annual burden surveys.

#### EXTENDING THE REFIT FOCUS BEYOND EXISTING LEGISLATION TO NEW LEGISLATION

##### 'One in, one out'

Quantification focus on costs and cost savings that strengthens burden reduction efforts and helps to manage accumulated burden.

- Systematically and proportionally reducing burdens imposed by existing legislation for businesses and citizens when introducing burdens through new proposals.

##### Fit for Future Platform

High-level expert group assisting the Commission

- Recommendations on how to make EU legislation simpler, more efficient and innovation- and future proof.

# A simpler and faster Europe

COM(2025)47 Communication on implementation and simplification

## ***In the centre: Simplification and administrative burden reduction***

*„To better achieve our policy objectives, we will simplify existing rules wherever necessary and ensure that they are better implemented. We will review and adapt our regulatory framework to make it more responsive to the needs of people and businesses. ... New better regulation and simplification tools will ensure that future laws are designed with implementation and simplification in mind right from the outset. Through all these actions, we will pursue a more effective and efficient delivery on our economic, social and environmental goals.”*

## Tools to deliver simpler rules and more cost-effective implementation:

- new forms of stakeholder consultation, namely high level ***implementation dialogues*** with stakeholder and '***reality checks***' (direct outreach to stakeholders on the ground),
- ***goals*** to reduce burden (at least 25% for all companies, at least 35 for SMEs),
- ***gradual stress-testing*** i.e. screening of the EU acquis to make proposals to simplify, and
- a ***closer partnership*** between EU institutions and Member States.

## What we do in MARE

Roadmap for our Commissioner on the streamlining and simplification of DG MARE acquis for 2025-2029.

This roadmap outlines and describes

- the stress testing of all DG MARE legislation,
- systematic evaluations of DG MARE legislation,
- implementation dialogues and
- reality checks with stakeholders on the ground.

# Evaluations

- Systematic evaluations of MARE acquis following the respective life cycles with particular attention to opportunities to simplify and reduce administrative burden.
- These evaluations carry out comprehensive analyses of effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, EU added-value and relevance of a given piece of legislation or several related pieces of legislation in the policy area.

Legislation / policy area evaluated	Start date	(Planned) End date
Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) Regulation	2024	Q2 2026
Ex-post evaluation of European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) 2014-2020	2023	Q4 2025
Mid-term evaluation of the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027	2023	Q4 2025
Individual evaluation of Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements (SFPAs)	Ongoing	
Autonomous tariff quotas (ATQs) (Back-to-back evaluation/impact assessment)	2024	Q1 2026
Single-use plastics Directive (in relation to fishing gear rules)	2024	Q2 2027
Sustainable management of external fishing fleets (SMEFF) Regulation	2025	2026
Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive	2025	2026



## Gradual stress-testing of EU acquis I.

Stress-testing will be a continuous process to screen MARE acquis with the help of specific analyses for instance,

- **legal analysis** to map the acquis and identify inconsistencies, contradictions, and instances of insufficient clarity and of potential consolidation or simplification, and
- **economic analysis** to identify the main impacts of legal provisions, consider the health of the affected sectors, and quantify the potential impact of simplification.

Complementary to existing better regulation tool such as evaluations or various forms of stakeholder consultations

We have mapped our acquis according to the main policy areas and (sub-)topics and established a kind of order of priority for this screening exercise.

Our primary focus is the **evaluation of the CFP Regulation** (Regulation (EU) No 1380/2013).

## Gradual stress-testing of EU acquis II.

**Control Regulation** (Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009) has been identified as a relevant source of regulatory costs within the fisheries policy, as relevant parts of the reporting obligations directly concerning business operators stem from this regulation.

Therefore, we have begun **preparing a study that aims to identify and analyse the costs and benefits of the implementation of the control regulation** with special regard to the new measures that gradually enter into force as a consequence of the revision of the Regulation in 2023.

A major improvement towards simplification and reduction of administrative burden: moving the reporting from paper to ‘electronic transmission’.

Reduce administrative work for both control authorities and operators.

In addition, we are also developing a specific **cost analysis** study of the fisheries sector from a **business operators’ perspective** that should identify and map the costs of fisheries-related stakeholder groups (such as fishers, aquaculture producers, processors etc.) in relation to their daily business activities. This analysis also aims to investigate the sources of these costs – what legislation frames/ affects the stakeholders’ daily work and to what extent.

It is planned to launch both studies in the next months.

# Implementation dialogues

It is a high level consultation form that is chaired by the Commissioner.

The aim of the dialogues is to take stock of progress towards set objectives, identify possible obstacles to the proper implementation by seeking concrete feedback from stakeholders, collect ideas on measures to facilitate implementation and solutions to overcome identified obstacles as well as possible simplification measures.

Each Commissioner should organise at least two dialogues per year.

The first implementation dialogue take place on the **implementation of Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) Directive** in Brussels on 1 July 2025. This first dialogue gathered 26 participants representing a broad and diverse group, including Member States (both national and autonomous regions), regional organisations, environmental NGOs, as well as industry, fishermen and ports associations.

The preparation has already begun on the second implementation dialogue that is planned to take place in Brussels on 24 November to address **small-scale coastal fisheries (SSCF)**.

There has no decision been made on the following dialogues for 2026.

## Reality checks

So-called “reality check” is also a new consultation tool that aims to directly outreach to stakeholders on the ground (i.e. practitioners, usually individual businesses) to collect detailed technical feedback on the implementation of EU rules and programmes, including on measures to simplify them and facilitate their implementation.

In the upcoming 12-18 months we intend to carry out a series (10-12 or more) of **reality checks in a workshop format**. These reality checks will be developed and implemented with the help of an external consultancy, together with the above mentioned two studies. The results are expected by the end of 2026 or later.

The program of workshops will be standardised and a contractor will also assist us in the animation of the workshops, the drafting a summary report for each of the workshops, as well as to prepare a synthesis report of all reality checks. We plan to identify the participants (around 15 per workshop) through a targeted survey consultation as part of the above-mentioned cost analysis study as well as with the help of the unique network of advisory councils (ACs), including MAC.

These workshops are organised according to EU languages or group of languages rather than according to topics. Having reality checks on the mother tongue of stakeholders on the ground might allow break language barriers.

## Common effort – how you can assist us

- We encourage you to clearly communicate us what are the rules that you are mostly concerns you as burdensome.
- Redundant rules, implementation issues, problem with the proper application of the rules at EU or at nation/regional level - please inform us.
- We are looking forward not only MAC level feedback, feedbacks from individual member of your sector are also welcomed.
- We would also need underpinning information, evidence, cost implications etc. that allow us to come up with concrete simplification and administrative burden reduction proposals.

## References

- [Priorities 2024-2029 - European Commission incl. Political Guidelines](#)
- The mission letters to the Commissioner's candidates in [Commissioners-designate \(2024-2029\) - European Commission](#)
- [A simpler and faster Europe: Communication on implementation and simplification - COM\(2025\) 47 final](#)
- [Commission work programme 2025 - European Commission](#)
- [Better regulation - European Commission](#)
- [Competitiveness - European Commission](#)
- [Simplification and Implementation - European Commission](#)
- [Simplification - European Commission](#), incl. [Simplification initiatives planned in the Commission work programme 2025](#)

# Thank you!



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