

European Commission Communication on Better Regulation

The European Commission has adopted a Communication outlining several changes to the EU law-making process and the way it interacts with stakeholders. In this Communication, the Commission invites Member States and stakeholders to come together to help remove administrative burden, allowing faster deployment of investments from the NextGenerationEU programme. The Fit For Future (F4F) platform will be set up: a high-level expert group comprised of Member States, the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee and stakeholders representing Businesses and NGOs, and will support efforts by the Commission to improve and simplify and make EU laws.

A shared effort

The Commission repeated its call on the European Parliament and the Council to implement the inter-institutional agreement on better law-making so that the effects of their amendments to Commission proposals in terms of anticipated impacts are taken into consideration. Following the implementation of legislation, the Commission will invite Member States to provide feedback on the benefits and costs associated with that legislation, to help the Commission gather evidence for evaluations and subsequent revisions.

Better communication an increase transparency with stakeholders and the public

The consultation system will be more focused, clearer, and more user-friendly, by combining the two-step feedback approach into a single 'call for evidence' rather than asking for feedback on the inception impact assessment and the questionnaire-based consultations. This once-only consultation will be targeted and public consultations on what they call to be "very technical issues" will be avoided. The Commission also commits to keeping contributors informed on the next steps. The Commission also proposes establishing a "common evidence register" of the co-legislators and the Commission, accessible to everyone, which will compile all the evidence underpinning a legislative initiative.

Future simplification and burden reduction

The Commission has also introduced a 'one in, one out' approach to law making in the EU. This will strengthen the attention of decision makers for the implications and financial and administrative costs of applying legislation, especially for SMEs. This will not be applied mechanically (for example by proposing the withdrawal of existing legislation for every newly proposed act) but will rather seek to offset the administrative burdens (and when possible, the financial burdens) placed on businesses with savings in others in the same policy area.

Implementation of this principle will be reported on in the Annual Burden Survey. The one in, one out approach will be piloted in the second half of 2021 and will be implemented for the Commission Work Programme 2022.

General improvements

The United Nation's sustainable development goals (SDGs) will be mainstreamed to ensure that legislative proposals contribute to the sustainable development agenda, and the Commission commits to analyse how each proposal will support the achievement of the SDGs.

The Commission will promote the 'digital by default' principle in forthcoming EU legislative proposals as an important tool to support the digital transformation. This is in line with the Communication on the 2030 Digital Compass.

The role of the Commission's Regulatory Scrutiny Board (RSB) will be strengthened, giving it powers of outreach, independent from what is newly proposed. The RSB will also be given powers of oversight to ensure the Commission is correctly applying the new one in, one out principle.

The Malta Business Bureau shall keep monitoring developments and update the Maltese businesses community accordingly.

The full text of the Commission Communication can be found in the link below:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/better_regulation_joining_forces_to_make_better_laws_en_0.pdf

For questions or more detailed information please contact EU Affairs Manager Daniel Debono and Senior Advisor Mark Seychell from the Malta Business Bureau's Brussels Representative Office on:
infobrussels@mbb.org.mt

