



European Commission



Better regulation: big on the big things and small on the small things

May 2019

TOWARDS A MORE UNITED, STRONGER AND MORE DEMOCRATIC UNION



‘Yes, I am an advocate of a stronger Europe in some fields. But I do not believe in more Europe for the sake of more Europe. I want a better Europe. A Europe that is big on big things and small on small things. When I am President of the next Commission I will work to do just that. This means that we will stop regulating each and every corner and every aspect of the daily lives of our citizens.’

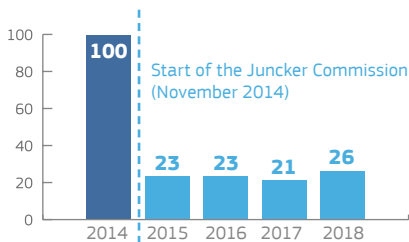
Then candidate for European Commission President, Jean-Claude Juncker, Athens, 19 May 2014

ACTING ONLY WHERE EUROPE ADDS VALUE: 75% LESS INITIATIVES EACH YEAR

Citizens do not want a Europe that intrudes on their everyday lives unnecessarily. This is why the **Juncker Commission** does not regulate things like oil cans or showerheads, but **concentrates on what we can do better together rather than alone** - such as tackling the refugee crisis, securing our external borders, or leading the fight against climate change.

The Juncker Commission is focused on a core set of [10 political priorities](#), **acting only where the EU adds value, and leaving other issues to national and local authorities.**

PRIORITY INITIATIVES



PROPOSALS FOR WITHDRAWAL



LAWS FOR REPEAL



INITIATIVES FOR REGULATORY SIMPLIFICATION



DELIVERING MORE EFFICIENTLY: ALL PLANNED PROPOSALS ALREADY TABLED

Delivering results where they are most needed requires that the EU Institutions work closely together.

With a President elected by both the European Parliament and the European Council, based on a popular mandate, **the Commission has worked much more efficiently with the legislators than in the past.**

Because the three Institutions have agreed on which proposals require priority treatment in the legislative process, they are delivered and adopted faster than before.

By summer 2018, the Juncker Commission had tabled all of the legislative proposals it committed to at the start of its mandate. In total, the Commission made **471** new legislative proposals and carried over an additional 44 presented by previous Commissions. Of these, **348** proposals have been adopted or agreed by the European Parliament and the Council. Remarkably, in around 90% of the cases, the final compromise was approved by consensus in the Council of Ministers, and thus supported by all 28 Member States.

In around **90% of agreed proposals**, the final compromise was approved by consensus in the Council.

EVIDENCE-BASED LAW-MAKING: INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

The Juncker Commission, committed to acting only where the EU adds value. The recent stock-taking exercise showed that our efforts to put better regulation at the heart of the decision-making process have been successful. These efforts have been recognised internationally by the OECD, which ranked the EU's regulatory policy as one of the very best in 2018. This success should be consolidated and sustained.

DELIVERING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL

As outlined, in the White Paper on the Future of Europe, taking decisions at the most appropriate level means, for example, that **96% of State Aid decisions are now in the hands of national rather than European authorities** thanks to Commission reforms. This is an increase of 28 percentage points compared to 2013.

96% of State aid Decisions handled directly at national level.

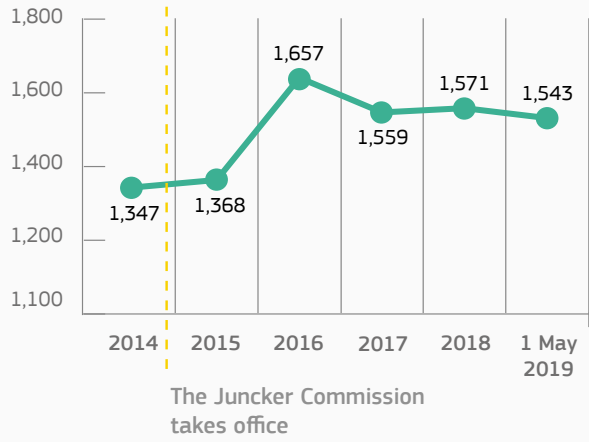
President Juncker set up a dedicated **task force** to help the Commission act on 'big things' and where it can actually achieve better results than Member States acting alone. In 2018 the Task Force looked at **'Doing Less More Efficiently'**, and reported to President Juncker with recommendations on how to better involve local, regional and national authorities in the EU policy-making. Building on the recommendations, the Commission set out in October 2018 the way forward to strengthen the **principles of subsidiarity and proportionality** to ensure that political priorities are delivered more efficiently.

APPLYING EU LAW PROPERLY

Law has no value to citizens and businesses if it is not correctly applied or enforced correctly. So the Commission has increased its efforts to both open and close infringement cases where EU legislation is not applied. In order to increase the effectiveness of enforcement, the Commission has applied a policy based on greater prioritisation. There are over 1,500 cases open, across all our Member States, which the Commission is working hard with the Member States to resolve, if possible without having to go to Court.

The Juncker Commission has closed over 500 cases each year since taking office in November 2014, without needing to go to Court, which shows our effective way of working with national authorities.

Infringement cases open at year-end 2014 - 1 May 2019



Infringement cases closed before going to the Court of Justice

