



2026 **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Simplification, Implementation & Enforcement

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1. Introduction

This report presents the achievements in the areas of simplification, implementation and enforcement between 1 August 2025 and 31 July 2026, under my responsibility as **Commissioner for Economy and Productivity**, with the support of the Directorates-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) and Eurostat (DG ESTAT).

Concerning **economic affairs**, the report focuses on the implementation of the Economic Governance Framework, as well as of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, which I co-lead with the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms. It also takes stock of the stress-testing of legislation and simplification in international fora.

Concerning **European statistics**, the report highlights sustained efforts in providing and developing high-quality statistical evidence supporting EU policies, while striving to further reduce statistical administrative burden and costs, including by employing innovative production methods, and reusing new data sources in cooperation with national authorities.

In my other role, as **Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification**, I have coordinated the College of Commissioners towards the adoption of 12 omnibus packages and several other simplification proposals that could generate cost savings of more than **EUR 22.3 billion** per year, representing **59.5%** of the target for the end of the mandate. In addition, progress has been achieved on stress-testing of EU acquis, and 1000 stakeholders were consulted via 49 implementation dialogues. A separate Overview Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement reports on these elements

2. Executive Summary

With the approaching deadline of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), efforts have focused on accelerating implementation, supporting Member States in submitting payment requests and during their processing. Following the Communication *“NextGenerationEU – The Road to 2026”*, published in June 2025, my services stepped up efforts to assist Member States in streamlining their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). Additionally, we also streamlined internal processes and documentation to facilitate the thorough and rapid assessment of payment requests.

As regards budgetary surveillance, on 2 October 2025, the Commission published a package on the EU economic governance framework to simplify the implementation of budgetary rules. The package proposed amendments to several pieces of legislation in order to align them with the outcomes of the comprehensive reform of the EU economic governance framework that entered into force in April 2024. The co-legislators reached an agreement on this package in June 2026, and the revised legislation is expected to enter into force by the end of 2026.

My services have also engaged in international fora to present the Commission’s simplification efforts and, in cooperation with the European Investment Fund, are undertaking a structured simplification and termination exercise for legacy mandates established in previous programming periods and now at the end of their implementation cycle.

In the area of European statistics, we have worked on implementing the multiannual plan for stress testing through the organisation of reality checks in business, transport, energy, agriculture, waste and social statistics. There was progress on the implementation of recent amendments to the [Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009 on European statistics](#), opening new opportunities for reducing administrative burden through improved access to administrative data and the possibility of accessing and reusing privately held data. Following the ‘simplicity by design’ approach, provisions aiming to minimise burden on national statistical offices and respondents, through the use of existing administrative and privately held data, are systematically included in legislative proposals – including for example the proposals for a regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics (EFAS) and for a regulation on non-financial commercial real estate statistics (CREI) that are currently under negotiation, and in the forthcoming proposals such as the regulation on integrated farm statistics (IFS) and regulation on tourism statistics.

I also held two implementation dialogues, one on [RRF implementation](#) and another on [agricultural farm statistics](#). Both discussions were fruitful and will contribute to the continued improvement of work on these files.

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and costs savings

Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility

To simplify and expedite the payment request process based on the experience of the past years, my services streamlined the template for Commission Implementing Decisions authorising disbursements under the Recovery and Resilience Facility. This was done by removing repetitive texts in the recitals that summarised assessments already detailed in the Commission's preliminary assessment of the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets.

This simplification eliminates duplications between documents, reduces administrative burden and streamlines internal procedures without undermining transparency since the Commission's preliminary assessment continues to contain the same detailed and thorough assessment of each milestone and target, is transmitted timely to the Economic and Financial Committee and to the European Parliament, and is subsequently made public.

European official statistics and data collection

Eurostat continued to produce relevant, comprehensive and comparable official European statistics, while limiting administrative reporting burden. Leveraging the new opportunities created with the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 223/2009, Eurostat has been systematically including relevant provisions in new Commission legislative proposals. The proposal for a regulation on integrated farm statistics, which was discussed during my second implementation dialogue on European official statistics, will incorporate amendments that address the issues raised during the implementation dialogue, with the aim to simplify reporting and reduce burden for farmers for the Agricultural Census 2030 and subsequent data collections, as well as to improve efficiency in statistical production. This will be achieved through the further expansion of the use of administrative data sources, privately held data, data linkage using unique identifiers and other innovative technologies and methods.

Work to support the practical implementation of the new provisions of the amended Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 is ongoing, including the development of guidelines for national statistical institutes of the European Statistical System (ESS) on engaging with private data holders and a standardised template for data requests endorsed by the European Statistical System Committee in May 2026 and of targeted communication strategies, ensuring that private data holders are fully informed of the new legal provisions and the ESS' commitment to fostering collaborative data partnerships. Use cases, strategies and implementation roadmaps for accessing privately held data in the domains of energy, labour market, price and tourism statistics are being developed.

In cooperation with the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA), took the initiative to eliminate the current double reporting by Member States on international protection data. Eurostat will re-use data already transmitted to the EUAA for the compilation of European statistics on international protection under Regulation (EC) 862/2007. Consequently, Member States will no longer need to send data separately to both the EUAA and Eurostat. Additionally, these statistics will be published faster and used for the European Annual Asylum and Migration Report.

Eurostat also established a data-sharing arrangement with the European Medicines Agency to reduce reporting burdens on Member States on veterinary medicinal products. Under this collaboration, Eurostat will re-use data already collected from Member States via the Antimicrobial Sales and Use Platform. The first data transmission is expected in late 2026, with Eurostat publishing the first official statistics in early 2027.

Stress testing the acquis

Fiscal Simplification Package

Building on the efforts initiated in 2024 and 2025 and in line with the stress-testing plan, my services continued their work to further streamline the EU budgetary framework. This work has culminated with the publication of a dedicated [simplification package on the EU economic governance framework](#) on 2 October 2025.

The package proposed amendments to several pieces of legislation¹ to align them with the comprehensive reform of the EU economic governance framework that took effect in April 2024. The amendments aim to remove inconsistencies, simplify procedures and eliminate unnecessary reporting requirements. The co-legislators reached an agreement on this package in June 2026, and it is expected to enter into force by end-2026.

The package also included a proposal to modernise financial assistance arrangements for non-euro-area Member States under the Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002 on the Balance of Payments Facility by introducing a diversified funding strategy, ensuring coherence with the updated economic governance framework and the Union's current funding practices. The Council approved this proposal, and the European Parliament was consulted.

Regulation on the Issuance of euro coins

DG ECFIN's multi-annual plan for stress tests included, for 2025, the stress testing of Regulation (EU) No 651/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the issuance of euro coins and of Council Regulation (EU) No 729/2014 on denominations and technical specifications of euro coins intended for circulation. On 3 June 2026, a reality check was held with retailers and related associations, building on an earlier written survey, with a focus on the possible discontinuation of 1- and 2-cent coins and introduction of harmonised rounding rules. Participants expressed broad support and highlighted that only action at EU-level would be able to achieve the intended results while divergent national approaches to rounding rules create complexity and uncertainty. Member States were also consulted through a questionnaire. The results of these consultations complete the legal and economic analysis to be finalised in 2026, and which could underpin a possible future Commission simplification proposal.

Prohibitions act

My services are stress-testing Council Regulation (EC) No 3603/93, which clarifies the Treaty provisions prohibiting central banks giving credit facilities to public authorities and undertakings, and Council Regulation (EC) No 3604/93, which specifies the types of acts concerned by the prohibition of measures establishing privileged access. Adopted more than three decades ago, these regulations are undergoing a technical review to identify obsolete provisions, and any need to update legal references and definitions, or clarify the scope and application and exceptions.

European statistics

The evaluation of the Regulation (EC) 2019/2152 on European business statistics, which covers most statistical reporting obligations for European businesses, has progressed and is expected to be finalised in the fourth quarter of 2026. In line with its 2025-2029 stress testing plan, Eurostat organised reality checks and implementation dialogues in 2025 and 2026, which yielded valuable insights into the fitness-for-purpose of existing EU statistical legislation. They acknowledged the progress achieved by the European Statistical System (ESS) in burden reduction by moving away from direct surveys to an increased use of administrative and privately held data sources. They also confirmed the relevance of efforts to intensify the reuse of data collected for official statistics, implementing the "collect once, use multiple times" principle, and called for aligning statistical concepts with those used in business accounting and for possibilities for automatic extractions of data from businesses' information systems.

¹ Regulation on Sanctions (Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011), the Regulation on Draft Budgetary Plans (Regulation (EU) No 473/2013), and the Regulation on Post-programme and Enhanced Surveillance (Regulation (EU) No 472/2013).

At a strategic level, in September 2026, under the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Irish Central Statistics Office will organise a High-Level Meeting of the Directors-General and Presidents of national statistical institutes of the ESS and Eurostat to discuss the next steps in simplification and administrative burden reduction in European statistics.

Simplification in international fora

The Commission's simplification agenda has also been showcased beyond the EU, notably in the context of the 2026 G20 Presidency. Through active contributions to discussions on business regulation, my services have shared the Commission's experience with regulatory simplification, while upholding policy objective and standards.

During the April 2026 G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting, the Commission presented the role of regulatory simplification in fostering competitiveness in line with the findings of the Draghi Report, notably by reducing administrative and reporting burdens, and improving the coherence and consistency of rules.

Additionally, together with the European Investment Fund, my services are undertaking a structured simplification and termination exercise for legacy mandates that were set up in past programming periods and have now reached the end of their implementation cycle. The initiative aims to streamline reporting obligations by reducing the scope and frequency of existing deliverables, discontinuing requirements that are no longer necessary, and simplifying contractual arrangements, thereby generating significant workload savings for all parties involved.

B. Implementation

Second Implementation Dialogue on the RRF

My [second implementation dialogue on the RRF](#) was held on 31 October 2025 in Brussels and focused on the **experience of stakeholders in applying for and accessing RRF funds**. It gathered representatives of local and regional authorities, the business sector, associations in the social sector, social partners, and RRF contractors.

Overall, stakeholders shared positive experiences with the RRF implementation, highlighting the benefits of its performance-based model for reforms and investments, improving administrative efficiency, and strengthening cooperation between public authorities and beneficiaries. Access to RRF funding was described as straightforward, depending on the tender procedures designed at the national level and the availability of support services for citizens and SMEs. Among the challenges, stakeholders pointed to tight implementation timelines, insufficient flexibility on some performance metrics, and delays in authorisations and payments at national level as well as their limited involvement in the design of Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) – important lessons for future instruments.

The dialogue was promoted via different tools, such as the dedicated webpage on Implementation Dialogues, social media and DG ECFIN's newsletter, and the summary conclusions are available online. The insights from stakeholders will also inform the on-going preparation of the ex-post evaluation of the RRF, which is due in 2028.

Implementation dialogue on agricultural farm statistics

My [second implementation dialogue on European statistics](#) took place on 24 March 2026 and focused on agricultural farm statistics. I exchanged with farmers, businesses, social partners and national authorities on the opportunities for simplifying data collection and reducing administrative burdens without compromising quality or relevance of statistics. Participants stressed the importance of improved data interoperability to maximise reuse, stronger collaboration between data holders and statistical authorities, and applying the "collect once, use multiple times" principle. They also highlighted the need for clearer scope and harmonised definitions and better communication of new requirements. Participants called for the future legal framework to facilitate the use of administrative and new data sources, such as farm machinery data and digital technologies, while supporting seamless data flows through unique farm identifiers that link separate registers. They advocated for broader reuse of existing data to compile EU statistics, ensuring that farm data remains timely, reflects emerging trends and better meets farmers' needs.

The outcomes of the implementation dialogue will feed into the development of a Commission proposal for a regulation on integrated farm statistics planned for adoption by the end of 2026.

To support the Member States in implementation, Eurostat is providing handbooks, trainings and data pre-validation tools to the statistical offices. Exchanges on best practices and challenges take place regularly in expert group meetings, thus fostering close cooperation with the partners of the European Statistical System.

Follow up work on the NextGenerationEU

Following the [Communication “NextGenerationEU – The Road to 2026”](#), published in June 2025, my services have undertaken renewed efforts to support Member States in streamlining their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) to bring the instrument to a successful conclusion. Since all milestones and targets need to be implemented by 31 August 2026, the Communication put forward multiple options to improve Member States’ ability to implement their RRPs swiftly and fully. In the period covered by this report, all plans were revised at least once.

As a result of these efforts, the number of outstanding milestones and targets has been reduced by approximately 20%. This has led to a significant reduction of the burden linked to the assessment of payment requests, both for the Member States and for the Commission. In addition, Member States have made use of some of the options laid out in the June 2025 Communication, such as equity injections in national promotional banks that help stimulate private investment, as well as national contributions to EU programmes for satellite communication. Crucially, this simplification effort was carried out while ensuring that all plans continue to fully comply with the requirements in the RRF Regulation, so that the Facility continues to deliver on its ambitious objectives.

With the RRF expiring on 31 December 2026, my services closely examined the operational aspects of implementing the Facility and simplified procedures wherever possible. This work was also reflected in the Commission’s *Guidelines for Member States on operational aspects related to the final phase and closure of the RRF* on 30 April 2026. These guidelines inform Member States about the final steps of programme implementation until the end of the year and explain how the Commission intends to operationalise key aspects of the Facility’s closure. The guidelines also clarify the Member States’ obligations beyond 2026 in areas such as monitoring, control, audit and data retention.

By the end of July 2026, disbursements to Member States under the RRF stood at EUR 430 billion, which corresponds to 75% of the RRF envelope meaning that 143 billion remained to be disbursed. Member States have stepped up implementation efforts as milestones and targets need to be completed by 31 August 2026.

C. Enforcement

My services are working closely with Member States to promote early compliance and prevent breaches from arising. When infringements do occur, we maintain close cooperation with them to monitor and address these cases.

In the area of economic and financial affairs, my services are currently handling 20 infringement cases. Five of these ([Luxembourg, Croatia, Slovenia, Belgium and Greece](#)) relate to the incomplete or incorrect transposition of [Directive 2014/62/EU on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting](#). In addition, there are two pre-infringement cases ongoing related to the non-conformity of the national legislation with this same directive (Romania and Lithuania). Since the last annual progress report, four infringement cases (Slovakia, Ireland, Malta and France) related to the incorrect transposition of Directive 2014/62/EU on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting have been closed

A further of 15 cases were launched in January 2026 and concern the lack of transposition of [Council Directive \(EU\) 2024/1265](#) of 29 April 2024 amending Directive 2011/85/EU on requirements for budgetary frameworks of the Member States (Slovenia, Romania, Portugal, Malta, Latvia, Luxembourg, Ireland, Croatia, France, Finland, Czechia, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Belgium, Austria). In addition, a pre-infringement dialogue case related to the legal tender status and acceptance of euro cash in Finland as provided under [Article 128\(1\) TFEU](#) and [Council Regulation No 974/98 on the introduction of euro](#) is ongoing.

Furthermore, since the last annual progress report, a case related to [Article 343 TFEU](#) and concerning the seizure of European Central Bank (ECB) information at the Central Bank of Slovenia in 2016 has been closed. In addition, four pre-infringement cases (Sweden, Romania, Poland and Czechia) related to [Article 131 of the TFEU](#) in the field of central bank independence have been closed and will continue to be monitored under the convergence report.

In the area of statistics, Eurostat cooperates closely with national statistical authorities through early exchanges and discussions in expert groups to ensure compliance and therefore prevent infringement cases, in line with the strategic approach to enforcement. During the reference period, Eurostat's monitoring has not identified any breaches of EU law that would require launching a pre-infringement dialogue or a formal infringement procedure.

More information about the enforcement tools of the Commission can be found [here](#). The Commission publishes information on its enforcement activities on this webpage, allowing for targeted searches and customised graphs.

4. Way forward

Over the coming year, my services will continue working on the implementation of the stress testing plan.

Regarding **the euro as single currency**, preparatory work has begun to stress tests Regulation (EU) No 1210/2010 concerning authentication of euro coins and handling of euro coins unfit for circulation and of Regulation (EU) No 1214/2011 on the professional cross-border transport of euro cash by road between euro-area Member States, foreseen in the stress testing plan for 2027. Written consultations with the main stakeholder categories were launched in summer 2026, and reality check meetings are planned for the second half of the year. This work is planned to be finalised in 2027.

In the field of **European statistics**, Eurostat will continue the stress testing of the statistical legislation under its responsibility, taking into account all input received, ensuring that the simplification and burden reduction priority is integrated in its upcoming legislative proposals and other statistical initiatives.

At their High-Level Meeting of Directors-General and Presidents of national statistical institutes of the European Statistical System and Eurostat in September 2026, the next steps in simplification and administrative burden reduction in European statistics will be discussed,

Following the conclusion of the evaluation of Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 on European business statistics, a proposal will be made for amending this Regulation with a view of simplifying and reducing burden on businesses. In the short term, amendments to the Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/1197, which sets out the majority of data requirements for European business statistics, will be considered.

I will be holding an **implementation dialogue** on the relevance and impact of country specific recommendations (CSRs) under the **European Semester** in the autumn. The CSRs played a central role under the Recovery and Resilience Facility, supporting reforms and investments that responded both to national challenges and common European priorities. Looking ahead, the Commission has proposed a role for the CSRs as part of the reference framework for the National and Regional Partnership Plans in the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

Annex: examples

Example	Description	Expected Outcome
Discontinue of the PensRef platform	The PensRef platform was originally meant to publish some information on pension systems and to be used by external users for research purposes.	<i>The use of the platform was limited and created significant administrative burden to the Member States in terms of reporting. The decision to take the platform offline will hopefully reduce the load on Member States reporting.</i>
Re-using already collected data on the energy consumption of data centres	Regulation (EC) 1099/2008 ("the Energy Statistics Regulation" or "the ESR") requires countries to report energy consumption in data centres. The recast Energy Efficiency Directive (Directive (EU) 2023/1791 or "EED") introduced a new database on energy performance of data centres ("the data centres database"), formalised in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1364. Eurostat and DG ENER collaborated to harmonise the two legal texts, aligning definitions and thresholds, eliminating double reporting and ensuring the reuse of collected information as foreseen by Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 for producing European statistics. In addition, Eurostat and national statistical authorities will be able to either access the database or to receive extractions to make sure that data centre operators only report the data once, for both EED and ESR purposes.	Statistical reporting burden reduction for producing European official statistics.
Elimination of double reporting on international protection statistics	In European international protection statistics, Eurostat, in cooperation with the EU Agency for Asylum (EUAA), took the initiative to eliminate the current double reporting by Member States on international protection data. Eurostat will re-use data already transmitted to the EUAA for compilation of European statistics on international protection under Regulation (EC) 862/2007. Consequently, Member States will no longer need to send data separately to both the EUAA and Eurostat. Additionally, these statistics will be published faster and used for the European Annual Asylum and Migration Report.	Eliminated double reporting; improved relevance and timeliness of European official international protection statistics.