



European
Commission

SIMPLIFYING EU RULES FOR CITIZENS AND BUSINESS

Findings from the 2022 Annual Burden Survey

12 September 2023

The Annual Burden Survey

The Commission has been publishing Annual Burden Surveys since 2017. They present the Commission's action to simplify and modernise EU rules and explain with concrete examples what was achieved with the REFIT (Regulatory Fitness and Performance) programme, the 'one in, one out' approach and the Fit for Future high-level expert group. This year in particular, it reports on the very positive results of the first year of implementation of the 'one in, one out' approach. The Annual Burden Surveys are part of the Commission's Better Regulation agenda.

The Better Regulation agenda

The Commission is committed to ensuring that EU legislation achieves its objectives and avoids unnecessary costs, both when it proposes legislation and when it revises it. The Commission's better regulation system is internationally recognised and ranked as one of the most advanced by the [OECD](#). It systematically assesses the economic, social, and environmental impacts of policy action and ensures a consistently high quality of proposed legislation.

REFIT achievements 2022

In 2022, the Commission finalised 18 evaluations and fitness checks of existing legislation, while 24 are ongoing. Co-legislators adopted 39 initiatives including significant simplification and burden reduction measures based on the Commission proposals, while another 76 REFIT initiatives are pending adoption. These initiatives will bring significant burden reduction and simplification benefits to citizens, businesses and authorities.

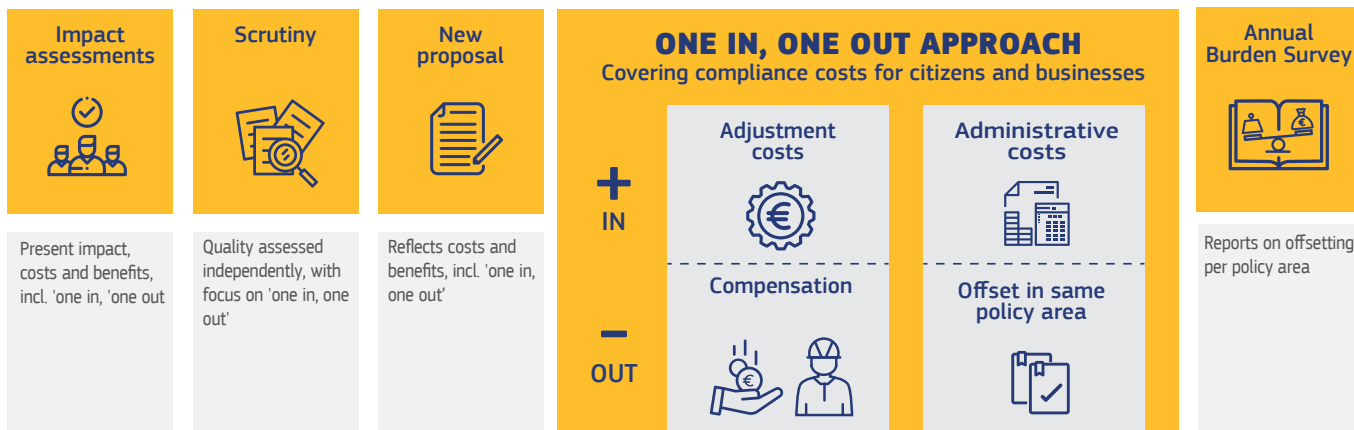
Examples of burden reduction and simplification:

- The proposal to revise the Design Directive and the Community Design Regulation is expected to save costs of up to EUR 1.6 million, while the proposed liberalisation of the spare parts markets could lead to costs savings of up to EUR 544 million per year.
- The revised guidelines on State aid rules for broadband networks, and for climate, environmental protection and energy aim to cut red tape for businesses and public authorities and improve legal certainty for Member States and other stakeholders.
- The proposal to revise the Advanced Passenger Information Directive would allow faster border checks for air travellers, with annual cost savings of around EUR 88 million for the airline industry.

The [REFIT scoreboard](#) presents all achievements since 2015.

Results of 'one in, one out' in 2022

The 'one in, one out' approach helps businesses and citizens by reducing existing burdens in a policy area where new burdens are added. The 52 initiatives under this approach proposed in 2022 are expected to **reduce administrative burdens by EUR 7.3 billion**.

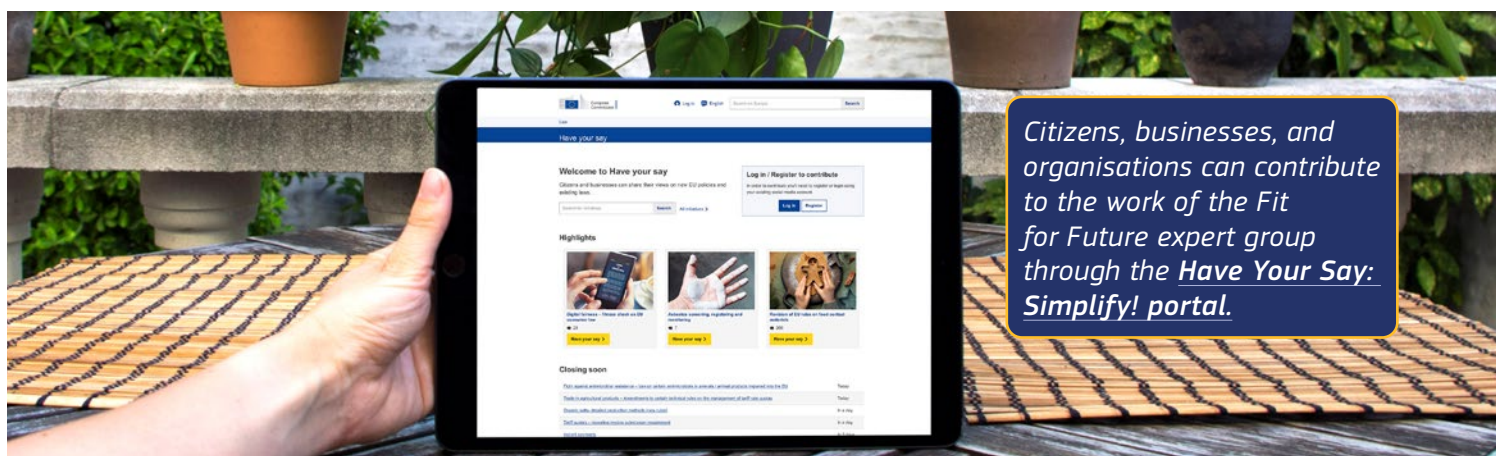


Achievements of the Fit for Future high-level expert group in 2022

The Fit for Future platform is a high-level expert group bringing together expertise from national, regional and local authorities, businesses and non-governmental organisations. The platform established its work programme based on suggestions from its members, the SME envoys network, the RegHub network and suggestions received through the [Have Your Say: Simplify! portal](#). In 2022, the platform **discussed 10 topics** and **proposed 56 concrete suggestions**, based on **136 contributions**.

The Commission is following up on all opinions of the platform concerning:

1. [Interconnectivity between the digital and the green transitions](#)
2. [Enterprise friendly VAT in the Digital Age](#)
3. [Regulation on Governance of Energy Union and Climate Action](#)
4. [SMEs' access to capital](#)
5. [End-of-life vehicles directive and the directive on the type-approval of motor vehicles](#)
6. [Revision of the victims' rights acquis](#)
7. [Food waste and donation](#)
8. [Governments interoperability strategy](#)
9. [REACH Regulation](#)
10. [Biosolutions](#)



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