



2026 **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Simplification, Implementation & Enforcement

Michael McGrath

*European Commissioner for
Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law,
and Consumer Protection*



1. Introduction

Guided by the principles in my Mission Letter and the Communications on “[Simpler and Faster Europe](#)” and on “[Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#)”, I have consistently aimed to streamline and accelerate Europe's operations and interactions with its citizens in my role as Commissioner responsible for democracy, justice, the rule of law, and consumer protection. The policies under my portfolio contribute to achieving clear specific objectives for the EU:

- The justice system is adapted to the challenges and opportunities of the digitalisation transition: a modern and effective European area of justice with enhanced judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters
- Improved conditions for companies, including SMEs, through EU company law and corporate governance rules, to set up, attract investment and grow sustainably in the Single Market
- A more effective fight against violations of EU restrictive measures
- Consumers are empowered and better protected
- Strengthened democratic resilience, rule of law and fundamental rights in the EU
- An improved framework to protect democracy, including through the setting-up of the European Centre for Democratic Resilience, and the implementation of the European Media Freedom Act, and civil society across the EU

Simplification is a guiding principle when preparing the wide range of tools to achieve these objectives (such as targeted legislative actions, non-legislative actions, policy initiatives, dedicated funding programmes and implementation and enforcement tools) while enforcement, where appropriate, may prove necessary to promote the general interest of the Union and to ensure the application of the Treaties. **This Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement** presents these actions undertaken from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026. I am looking forward to discussing the findings of this report with the co-legislators.

2. Executive Summary

Since August 2025, I advanced the Commission's simplification agenda through a series of targeted legislative reforms. In December 2025, a final political agreement was reached on the first Omnibus package. This significantly simplified the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), narrowing its scope, removing the obligation for climate transition plans and postponing its application until 2029. In June 2026, agreement was also reached on the Small Mid-Caps Omnibus package, which introduced a simplified General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) record-keeping obligation for companies and organisations with fewer than 1,000 employees.

In November 2025, the Commission proposed the Digital Omnibus, including amendments to several GDPR provisions, aimed at making the rules clearer, reducing administrative burdens particularly for smaller operators, and supporting innovation in artificial intelligence and scientific research. In 2026, the Commission also proposed simplification measures to the law enforcement and criminal justice provisions of the Regulation on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies (EUDPR). Furthermore, the proposal for the 28th regime corporate legal framework (“EU Inc.”) was adopted in March 2026. It aims to harmonise the corporate legal regime for businesses and in particular innovative companies and startups across all Member States.

Together with DG JUST, I continue to prioritise the timely, complete and correct implementation of EU law within the remit of my portfolio. Since August 2025, the emphasis has been put on the support for transposition and future guidance on corporate sustainability due diligence, practical tools to help businesses apply the Data Act, major advances in the digitalisation of justice, judicial training and digital judicial cooperation. In consumer policy, particular attention has been put on the strengthening of enforcement and redress through EU funding, digital tools, guidance and capacity-building for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) bodies, qualified entities under the Representative Actions Directive, judges, European Consumer Centers and national authorities. In May 2026, I held an implementation dialogue on cross-border enforcement cooperation in the area of consumer law, the outcomes of which will inform the upcoming revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation. Further, the

Commission continued to support the transposition of the Environmental Crime Directive, the Anti-SLAPPs Directive as well as the implementation of the e-evidence package. Additionally, efforts continue to facilitate the application of EU data protection laws for SMEs, SMCs and organisations with a similar number of employees.

In the reference period, DG JUST's enforcement actions covered all my portfolio. The Commission's opened 49 pre-infringement dialogues, sent 145 Letters of Formal Notice, 17 Reasoned Opinions, made 3 Referrals to the Court, and closed 51 infringement procedures.

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and costs savings

Simplification measures

A final political agreement on the [Omnibus I proposal](#) was reached on 9 December 2025. As regards the **Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) (Directive (EU) 2024/1760)** the political agreement: (i) significantly narrows its scope (by around 75%, from around 6 000 EU companies and 900 non-EU companies to around 1600 EU and 300 non-EU companies), (ii) simplifies the process of identification of adverse impacts, (iii) removes the obligation to adopt climate transition plans, (iv) postpones its entry into application (to July 2029), (v) sets a fixed cap for penalties for the most serious violations of 3% of worldwide turnover and (vi) removes of the harmonised EU civil liability regime. Formal adoption was completed in February 2026 ([Directive \(EU\) 2026/470](#)).

In November 2025, the Commission adopted its proposal for the [Digital Omnibus](#). The proposal includes a set of targeted amendments that aim to harmonise, clarify and simplify several **GDPR (Regulation (EU) 2016/679)** provisions.¹ For instance, the proposed changes to the GDPR (i) provide more legal certainty to operators, (ii) reduce administrative burden especially for smaller operators without lowering the level of data protection, and (iii) support EU innovation by clarifying the conditions for personal data processing for scientific research purposes and the development and operation of AI. The proposed amendments follow the [Implementation Dialogue on the application of the GDPR](#) in July 2025. The discussions on the proposal are advancing both in the European Parliament and Council.

The final political agreement on the [Omnibus IV package](#) ('SMC Omnibus'), including amendments to the GDPR, was reached on 9 June 2026. The compromise text entails the **simplification of the GDPR record-keeping obligation**, which is targeted at companies and organisations with less than 1000 employees. It provides these entities with more legal certainty and more flexibility in choosing the most appropriate tools for ensuring their compliance with the GDPR in their low-risk processing activities.

In 2026, the Commission also proposed targeted amendments to the law enforcement and criminal justice provisions of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies \(EUDPR\)](#). The initiative aims to eliminate fragmentation in the data protection rules governing the processing of operational personal data by EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies, notably Europol, Eurojust and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), and, to a more limited extent, Frontex. It will contribute to a more coherent and streamlined EU data protection framework for the processing of operational data, while maintaining a high level of protection for personal data.

¹ Where relevant these amendments are reflected in [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies.

DG JUST continued to assist the co-legislators in the negotiations on the proposal of November 2023 to amend the **2015 Package Travel Directive (Directive (EU) 2015/230)**, leading to a political agreement in December 2025. The European Parliament and the Council formally adopted the **amending Directive (EU) 2026/1024 to make the protection of travellers more effective and to simplify and clarify certain aspects of that Directive** on 29 April 2026. Next to measures aiming to increase legal certainty and make the Package Travel Directive more crisis-proof, the amending Directive also brings about significant simplification through the removal of the concept of linked travel arrangements, including the deletion of five information forms.

On 18 March 2026, the Commission adopted the [proposal](#) for the **28th regime corporate legal framework 'EU Inc.'**. It is expected to strongly benefit companies through simpler and less burdensome procedures. These include, among others, the fully online digital corporate procedures throughout the company's lifecycle, such as a quick (within 48 hours) and cost-efficient (100 EUR) fast-track registration, online shareholder and board meetings and simplified insolvency procedures, an EU-ESO scheme for issuing employee stock options with harmonised timing of taxation and an innovative and modern financing framework to allow EU Inc. companies to attract investment and scale up. This corporate framework aims to respond to the needs of startups and scaleups but is legally open to all founders and companies. The administrative burden reduction is expected to amount to between EUR 328 million to EUR 440 million for the estimated 308 000 EU Inc. companies over a period of 10 years. The proposal is a key deliverable of the [Competitiveness Compass](#) and included as a flagship initiative in the [2025 Strategies on the Single Market and on Start-ups and Scale-ups](#). In the field of insolvency law, DG JUST continued to assist the co-legislators on the proposal of Directive (EU) 2026/799 harmonising certain aspects of insolvency law, which led to a political agreement and final adoption on 30 March 2026.

Stress-testing and regulatory deep-cleaning

I decided in the past year to focus the stress-testing efforts in the company law policy area and consumers. On company law, the Commission has adopted the [proposal of the 28th Regime](#) and has started with the evaluation and review of the **Shareholders Rights Directive (Directive 2007/36/EC)**. On consumers, the last implementation dialogue in May 2026 focused on the functioning of the cross-border enforcement of consumer protection based on **Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2017/2394)** while the reality check planned for end of 2026 will be used to stress-test how the **General Product Safety Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/988)** is applied in practice by businesses.

In February 2026, the European Commission launched a "regulatory deep cleaning" to modernise and simplify EU laws in 12 priority policy areas by 2027, the [Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan](#). The objective is to cut red tape, eliminate outdated or redundant rules, and improve transparency, thereby boosting competitiveness, innovation, and regulatory efficiency. The above-mentioned review of the **Shareholders Rights Directive** contributes to this exercise. The objective is to remove barriers and inefficiencies in the interaction between companies, their shareholders, and intermediaries, as well as to simplify rules and modernise procedures applicable to them. This will help build a more integrated, efficient, and competitive EU capital market that drives growth and facilitates investments, in particular across borders.

In addition, the following evaluations and impact assessments have been published in 2026 or are ongoing, and in line with better regulation rules all of them systematically consider simplification and burden reduction:

- Evaluation of the Whistleblower Protection Directive
- Evaluation of the European Public Prosecutor's Office Regulation
- Evaluation of the PIF Directive
- Evaluation of the European Enforcement Order Regulation
- Evaluation and parallel review of the Brussels Ia Regulation
- Impact Assessment of the Digital Fairness Act
- Impact Assessment for the Revision of Eurojust
- Impact Assessment for the Revision of the CPC Regulation

Simplification and burden reduction are systematically pursued in the preparation of current and future justice policy initiatives. For example, the ongoing evaluation and parallel review of the Brussels Ia Regulation, to be adopted in 2027, examine the legal framework governing jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters to identify opportunities for simplification and clarifications.

B. Implementation

With the support of DG JUST, I am steadily working to raise Member States' attention to the importance of timely, complete and correct implementation of EU law. Against this backdrop, my services have elaborated a general implementation strategy which is meant to serve as a framework for the implementation of Directives under DG JUST's remit and provided Member States with continuous support since the early stages of the transposition period, by way of expert groups meetings, workshops, templates, roadmaps and bilateral meetings.

In addition, through the implementation of the Justice Programme, the Single Market Programme and the Digital Europe Programme, DG JUST was able to fund and support the digitalisation of justice, judicial training and digital economy policies, as well as consumer protection.

A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness

As regards [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence](#) (amended by [Directive \(EU\) 2026/470/Omnibus I](#)), a second transposition workshop was held with Member States on 9 June 2026, and a [public consultation](#) was launched in June 2026 to gather input from a broad range of stakeholders in view of preparing the implementation guidelines due by July 2027. Member States have until July 2028 to transpose the Directive, and it will start applying from July 2029.

In the area of digitalisation of justice, the [DigitalJustice@2030 Strategy](#) was adopted on 20 November 2025 with the objective to accelerate the digitalisation of national justice systems to improve efficiency, resilience and access to justice. Building on the ideas and support from stakeholders in the high-level dialogues held at the beginning of 2025, the Strategy aims to make legal and judicial data easily accessible, reusable, and searchable through the [European Legal Data Space](#), to map existing IT tools for justice, to create an IT Toolbox where Member States can upload digital tools they are willing to share and to support AI uptake by engaging in exchanges on best practices for the use of AI in justice.

Furthermore, the [European Judicial Training Strategy 2025–2030](#), adopted also on 20 November 2025, aims to create a supportive environment for the digital transformation of justice by strengthening the digital skills, knowledge and cooperation of justice professionals across the EU. Its implementation will be guided by roadmaps developed by stakeholders at the European Judicial Training Conference in February 2026 and supported by Justice Programme funds, allocated annually through calls for proposals and as an operating grant to the European Judicial Training Network.

The implementation of the [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2844 on digitalisation of judicial cooperation](#) continued throughout the reporting period with 17 committee and working group meetings. An important milestone during the period was the decision to switch to IT implementation fully based on e-CODEX standards.

A new era for European defence and security

On 8 December 2025 and 28 May 2026, DG JUST organised meetings of the **Task Force Freeze and Seize**, which discussed the implementation of [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1226 on the definition of criminal offences and penalties for the violation of Union restrictive measures](#).

Supporting people, and strengthening our societies and our social models

On 6 May 2026, I held an [Implementation Dialogue on cross-border enforcement cooperation in consumer law](#). The objective of the implementation dialogue was to collect stakeholders' ideas on the possible ways to strengthen the enforcement system in view of the forthcoming revision of the CPC Regulation in the fourth quarter of 2026. Overall, stakeholders expressed positive feedback on the CPC Regulation and entirely supported the revision. They underlined the importance of centralising enforcement and sanctioning powers in the Commission for

certain high-impact cases. They also insisted on the need to enhance the current system of CPC coordinated actions, attain a better level of consumer protection and in turn support competitiveness and consumer trust.

Against this background, I recognised the common ground on ensuring a high level of consumer protection and a level playing field for businesses operating across the EU. I stressed that the CPC Regulation should complement, not replace, the work of national authorities, and that any future Commission's enforcement role must be clearly defined in terms of scope and responsibilities.

Still in the area of consumer enforcement and redress, under the Single Market Programme, EISMEA launched the 2026 call for grants for alternative dispute resolution (ADR) under [Directive 2013/11/EU](#) and qualified entities under [Directive 2020/1828](#) to raise awareness, capacity building and improve their infrastructure e.g. digitalisation of case-handling systems. The envelope for 2026 grants amounted to EUR 1.5 million. Evaluation by DG JUST and EISMEA is ongoing. In addition, my services and EISMEA have launched a study on artificial intelligence in consumer ADR, which will map solutions to make ADR more efficient and accessible for consumers and traders.

Furthermore, awareness raising and capacity building continue to be key elements of the effective implementation of the [Directive \(EU\) 2020/1828 on representative actions](#). To further support consistent application of the Directive across the EU, the Commission carried out specific projects, such as the **Communication Toolbox to support qualified entities in communicating with consumers on representative actions**, and the **Practical Guide for Judges**. Both projects are integrated into a secured and restricted collaboration platform [EC-REACT](#).

With the support of the Digital Europe Programme, the national consumer protection authorities continued to benefit from the **common digital enforcement toolbox (EU eLab)**. This state-of-the-art toolbox supports authorities in proactive detection of violations of consumer law, for example, by means of a [joint screening of price marketing practices](#). This programme also supported the multilingual interactive information tool under the [Directive \(EU\) 2025/2647 on the Consumer Redress Portal](#) to empower consumers to enforce their rights.

In this context, DG JUST is working closely with the enlargement partners to ensure capacity building in time of their accession through, e.g., TAIEX programmes, study visits, and participation in events by the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

On 26 March 2026 and 2 July 2026, DG JUST organised two final transposition workshops regarding [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1799 on common rules promoting the repair of goods](#), which entered into application on 31 July 2026. It also continued the development of the European online platform for repair and adopted the [Commission Delegated Directive \(EU\) 2026/74](#), which added domestic local space heaters to the Annex II of Directive (EU) 2024/1799, which sets out the categories of goods subject to the obligation to repair laid down in this directive. With regards to [Directive \(EU\) 2024/825 on empowering consumers for the green transition](#), DG JUST prepared explanatory documents for the transposition as well as updated transposition roadmaps, highlighting points of attention, providing Member States with technical support and informing them on the next planned actions. DG JUST also facilitated coordination within the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Network concerning 'old stock' situations and the application of the Directive. The CPC authorities published a [Common Understanding](#) to support a coherent and proportionate enforcement approach across the EU on the matter, with the aim to keep costs for companies as low as possible.

Protecting our democracy, upholding our values

Within the reference period, explanatory documents for the transposition have been prepared for [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1203 on the protection of the environment through criminal law](#) and [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1069 on strategic lawsuits against public participation](#). For the same Directives, my services also prepared or updated transposition roadmaps, highlighting points of attention, providing Member States with contact details and informing them on the next planned actions. Further to the transposition workshops held on 25 November 2024 and 12 June 2025, DG JUST, together with DG ENV, organised a third transposition workshop for Directive (EU) 2024/1203 on environmental crime on 12 December 2025.

On 27 November 2025, DG JUST organised a third and final transposition workshop on [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1069](#). In parallel with the transposition deadline of 7 May 2026, DG JUST organised [on 7-8 May a High-Level event on Combating Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation \(SLAPPs\)](#) as announced in the **European Democracy Shield**. During this event the transposition of the Directive was discussed in the wider framework of the implementation and follow-up of Commission's Anti-SLAPP package (Directive and Recommendation), focussing on the recent trends and key takeaways to increase the efficiency of Commission's actions against SLAPPs.

To support the application of the **Political Advertising Regulation 2024/900**, the Commission adopted guidance in October 2025, set-up an expert group and engaged regularly with the Member States network of focal points and with stakeholders.

Furthermore, the European Media Freedom Act (EMFA), most provisions of which are applicable from August 2025, strengthens media freedom and pluralism within the EU's internal market. The implementation and enforcement of the EMFA remain a Commission priority. During the reporting period, the Commission has continued to closely monitor the alignment of national laws with the EMFA and their implementation. In December 2025, the Commission services sent letters to the Member States that were not yet aligned with the EMFA.

As announced in the European Democracy Shield, we continued to engage in an active dialogue with relevant industry players and civil society organisations to ensure the effective application of the safeguards and mechanisms provided by the EMFA across the EU. In addition, the Commission adopted guidelines to facilitate the effective implementation of the functionality set out in Article 18 of the EMFA specifying the treatment of content from media service providers on very large online platforms.

Furthermore, since February 2026, with the participation of all Member States, the **European Centre for Democratic Resilience** started to work as a strategic cooperation and coordination hub to withstand evolving common threats to the democratic systems. Its work on several priority projects is ongoing, focusing on information sharing, operational support and capacity building.

In the area of data protection, the Commission continues its efforts to facilitate the compliance with the GDPR, in particular among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), small mid-cap enterprises (SMCs) and organisations with a similar number of employees. Moreover, the network of Data Protection Officers from competent authorities, Justice and Home Affairs agencies and the European Public Prosecutor's Office continues to serve as an effective platform, meeting twice yearly, for practitioners to share knowledge, exchange experiences, and discuss good practices in the application of the **Law Enforcement Directive (LED)** ([Directive \(EU\) 2016/680](#)). Furthermore, in June 2026, I participated in a plenary meeting of the European Data Protection Board and underlined to Data Protection Authorities the importance of consistent and harmonised enforcement.

In the area of **judicial cooperation in criminal matters**, with regard to the **e-evidence package**, which consists of [Directive 2023/1544](#) and [Regulation \(EU\) 2023/1543](#), DG JUST (together with DG HOME) organised 6 expert meetings on implementation in 2025. During these meetings, the Commission and Member States exchanged on legal and practical aspects of the implementation and transposition of the package. In parallel, DG JUST organised 6 expert meetings with Member States experts and service providers on the development of the decentralised IT system to be used under the e-evidence Regulation.

In the area of **judicial cooperation in civil matters**, the European Judicial Network in civil and commercial matters (EJN-civil) has provided an effective forum for the Commission and the Member States to address issues in the application of EU legislation. During the reporting period, six two-day plenary meetings were held, bringing nearly 800 legal practitioners together. In addition, a [new edition of the Compendium of European Union Legislation on Judicial Cooperation in Civil and Commercial Matters](#) has been published. This new version provides a complete and up-to-date collection of EU law in force in the field, and has been designed in a very user-friendly way, to help readers quickly find the information they need.

C. Enforcement²

In the area of substantive **criminal law**, Reasoned Opinions were sent to [Slovenia](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Belgium](#), [Spain](#), [Austria and France](#) for their lack of full transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2024/1226](#) **criminalising the violation**

² The [Europa webpage](#) on infringement cases, pre-infringement dialogues and transposition of directives provides up-to-date statistical information on the Commission's enforcement activities and Member States' compliance with EU law, including trends per policy area, topic and Member State.

of Union restrictive measures, while the cases against Romania, Portugal, Croatia, Greece, Cyprus and Germany were closed.

Reasoned Opinions were issued for the non-conformity of national legislations in [Poland](#), [Hungary](#) and [Sweden](#) with legislation with [Directive \(EU\) 2017/1371 on the fight against fraud to the Union's financial interests](#) by means of criminal law. Closure was decided for Sweden after legislative amendments following the abovementioned reasoned opinion and a case for incorrect transposition of the [Framework Decision on combating racism and xenophobia](#) by Bulgaria was closed.

As concerns **procedural criminal law**, Letters of Formal Notice have been issued against [Croatia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Romania](#), [Slovakia](#), [Czechia](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Poland](#), [Hungary](#) and [Greece](#) for their incorrect transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2016/1919 on legal aid](#), and a Referral to Court was adopted for the incorrect transposition by [Poland](#) of [Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer and to communicate upon arrest](#), while the cases against Italy and Estonia were closed. Furthermore, the infringement opened for the partial transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children](#) by Estonia and Greece were also closed.

A closure was also decided for the incorrect transposition of [Directive 2012/13/EU on the right to information in criminal proceedings](#) by Latvia.

In the field of **judicial cooperation in criminal matters**, Letters of Formal Notice were sent to Austria, Slovenia, Sweden, Romania, Portugal, Poland, the Netherlands, Malta, Latvia, Luxembourg, Lithuania, Ireland, Hungary, France, Finland, Spain, Greece, Estonia, Czechia, Cyprus, Bulgaria and Belgium for failure to transpose [Directive \(EU\) 2023/1544 on the designation of designated establishments and the appointment of legal representatives for the purpose of gathering electronic evidence in criminal proceedings](#). Moreover, concerning the [Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant](#), the case of incorrect transposition by Finland was closed, while [Hungary](#) and [Czechia](#) were referred to Court and a second Additional Letter of Formal Notice was sent to [Slovenia](#).

My services have been in close contact with the authorities of the Member States with respect to other pending infringements in the area of judicial cooperation in criminal matters and procedural criminal law.

The policy area of the **digitalisation of company law and cross-border mobility of companies** was identified as one of the “Single market focus areas for enforcement” outlined in Annex II to the Communication [A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#). In this context, **pre-infringement Dialogues** were opened with Estonia, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Czechia, Austria, Germany and Spain to assess the transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2019/1151 on the use of digital tools and processes in company law](#), and the assessment of the conformity of national transposition measures with the **Company Law Mobility Directive** ([Directive \(EU\) 2019/2121](#)) is ongoing. As regards the rights of shareholders, a Reasoned Opinion was issued for the non-conformity of [Italian](#) legislation with [Directive 2007/36/EC on the exercise of certain rights of shareholders in listed companies](#). Concerning the non-transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2017/828 as regards the encouragement of long-term shareholder engagement](#), three infringement cases, one against Malta and two against France, were also closed and **pre-infringement Dialogues** were started with all the Member States to assess its transposition.

In the area of **judicial cooperation in civil matters**, three closures were adopted in favour of Ireland, Poland and Austria on the infringements opened for their lack of transposition of **Restructuring and Insolvency Directive** ([Directive \(EU\) 2019/1023](#)). An EU Dialogue was opened with France following a multiple complaint regarding a possible infringement of the **Succession Regulation** ([Regulation \(EU\) 650/2012](#)), specifically of the possibility for a testator to choose the law of the State of their nationality to govern their succession. The case was closed after adequate measures were adopted by France to remove the legal uncertainty created by a national provision.

By 1 June 2026 20 of the 27 Member States have started using the decentralised IT systems of the **Service of Documents Regulation** ([Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1784](#)) and **Taking of Evidence Regulation** ([Regulation \(EU\) 2020/1783](#)) fully and 6 Member States (Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Sweden) have started using the decentralised IT systems for some of their authorities and work on deploying the missing authorities as soon as possible. Only Finland has not deployed yet at all but is making steady progress. The uptake of the decentralised IT systems is also visible from the steady and significant drop in the number of dynamic forms under the two Regulations created on the e-Justice portal (about 30% compared to September 2025).

In the area of **digitalisation of judicial cooperation**, my services launched EU Dialogues with 26 Member States, to investigate the state of play of the implementation of Articles 5 and 6 the **Digitalisation Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2023/2844)** on remote hearings in civil and criminal matters. The responses are being assessed.

In the area of **consumer protection**, a Letter of Formal Notice has been sent to [Poland](#), [Latvia](#) and [Portugal](#) for the incorrect transposition of the **Modernisation Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/2161)**, while [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#), [Romania](#), [Portugal](#), [Poland](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Malta](#), [Latvia](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Ireland](#), [Croatia](#), [Finland](#), [Spain](#), [Greece](#), [Estonia](#), [Germany](#), [Czechia](#), [Cyprus](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Belgium](#) and [Austria](#) received them for the lack of transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2023/2673](#) on financial services contracts concluded at a distance. [The same Member States](#), with the addition of Lithuania, received a Letter of Formal Notice also for the lack of transposition of [Directive \(EU\) 2023/2225 on credit agreements for consumers](#).

Cases against Slovakia, Luxembourg, Italy, France, Greece, Estonia, Germany and Austria for the lack of transposition of the **Representative Actions Directive (Directive (EU) 2020/1828)** were closed, while a Reasoned Opinion was sent to [Spain](#) within the April infringement cycle. My services also entered into **pre-infringement Dialogues** with Finland and Italy in relation to the Directive 2013/11/EU.

In the area of **EU citizenship** and **free movement of persons**, the Commission continued its dialogue with Malta after the Court of Justice upheld the Commission's infringement regarding Malta's investor citizenship scheme. Following Cyprus' repeal of national legislation, the infringement procedure³ concerning [Cyprus](#)' investor citizenship scheme was closed. The Commission also adopted several decisions regarding the incomplete or incorrect transposition of the **Free Movement Directive (Directive 2004/38/EC)**: a Reasoned Opinion against [Poland](#), an Additional Reasoned Opinion against [Austria](#), and one Additional Letter of Formal Notice against [Czechia](#). Additionally, a case related to the same Directive concerning Germany was closed. The Commission also closed a number of infringements regarding the lack of transposition of the **EU Emergency Travel Document (Directive (EU) 2019/997)** (against Poland, Lithuania, Greece and Germany) and its accompanying [Delegated Directive \(EU\) 2024/1986](#) (against Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Greece, Germany and Cyprus).

In the field of **fundamental rights and Rule of Law**, Letters of Formal Notice were issued against Slovakia for its [violation of the general principles](#) of primacy, autonomy, effectiveness and uniform application of EU law by constitutional amendments and for [breaches of its obligations](#) under the **Whistleblower Directive (Directive (EU) 2019/1937)** and the **Charter of fundamental rights**; in the latter case, further legislative amendments allowed to close the case. A Letter of Formal Notice for failure to comply with a judgment of the Court of Justice was sent to [Spain](#) because national provisions of the legal regime for the public sector are in breach of the principle of effectiveness.

Rule of law was also upheld by the Court of Justice in a landmark judgment on 18 December 2025 ([Case C-448/23](#)) regarding Poland's failure to fulfil its obligations under the principles of autonomy, primacy, effectiveness and the uniform application of EU law, granting the Commission's request to declare that the Polish Constitutional Court does not meet the requirements of an independent and impartial tribunal previously established by law.

Protection of EU values and fundamental rights were further upheld by the Court of Justice in its ruling of 21 April 2026 ([Case C-769/22](#)) concerning measures put in place by Hungary that interfered with rights of LGBTIQ+ people and led to stigmatisation. The Court found, for the first time in an action brought against a Member State, an infringement of Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) which establishes the EU values.

In the area of **data protection**, on 4 June, the Commission addressed the Letter of Formal Notice to [Spain](#) for failing to comply with the **Law Enforcement Directive (LED) (Directive (EU) 2016/680)** as regards the collection and retention of travellers' data. Further, on 8 July, the Commission launched infringement proceedings against [Belgium](#), [Bulgaria](#), [Czechia](#), [Netherlands](#), [Poland](#) and [Slovenia](#) for incorrect transposition of the LED and sent a reasoned opinion to Germany for the partial transposition of the Directive. Two cases, against Spain and Bulgaria, were launched following complaints and petitions received from citizens. Furthermore, the Commission closed the infringement proceedings against Sweden and Slovenia for failure to fulfil their obligations stemming from the GDPR. Sweden and Slovenia have resolved the issues raised by the Commission by adopting legislative amendments of their national data protection legal framework.

³ This infringement procedure was initially launched following petitions received from citizens.

In the area of media freedom, in December 2025, the Commission opened an infringement procedure against [Hungary](#) for failing to comply with several provisions of the EMFA, in particular those concerning the interference in the work of journalists and media outlets, the protection of journalistic sources and confidential communications, as well as the requirements relating to public service media, the transparency of media ownership, the assessment of media market concentrations, and the allocation of state advertising. The monitoring of developments is ongoing and a dialogue is open.

4. Way forward

Supported by DG JUST, I will continue our efforts to make the EU faster and simpler. My work will focus on the following areas:

- The adoption of an initiative aimed to make Europe simpler and faster for its citizens, laying down a roadmap to reduce administrative burden in EU legislation directly impacting the daily lives of citizens. It will seek to ensure that they can fully benefit from the Single Market without facing disproportionate administrative or legal barriers, notably in cross-border situations. The initiative is planned for the last quarter of 2026.
- The revision of the Consumer Protection Cooperation (CPC) Regulation, aimed at strengthening enforcement cooperation of consumer protection authorities across Member States and, where necessary, centralise enforcement for consumer law at the EU level. This is planned for the last quarter of 2026.
- The Digital Fairness Act (DFA), which will address identified gaps of consumer protection in the digital environment. It will introduce targeted amendments to update EU consumer law and include simplification measures that aim to address issues raised through [Digital Fairness Fitness Check](#) (completed in 2024) and the [Implementation Dialogue](#) (hosted in 2025). This is planned for the last quarter of 2026.
- The simplification of corporate governance rules, which will start with the review of the Shareholder Rights Directive in the first quarter of 2027.

In addition, as part of a larger legislative proposal in the banking sector set out in the Commission's [report on the competitiveness of the EU banking sector](#), for my part, I will present how the remuneration rules of directors and other key staff should be modernised.

Furthermore, I will continue to cooperate closely with the co-legislators to facilitate progress on key files, notably the Digital Omnibus, with a view to delivering meaningful clarifications and simplifications of the GDPR, and on the negotiations on the 28th regime corporate legal framework.

My services will continue their work on implementation and enforcement in all the areas of their remit, particularly where significant implementation shortcomings were detected, such as on the protection of environmental crime, on consumers' protection against unfair practices on financial services contracts concluded at a distance and on gathering electronic evidence in criminal proceedings. On implementation, among the legislative acts concerned are Directive (EU) 2025/25, to further expand and upgrade the use of digital tools and processes in company law, and Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 focused on the uniform digitalisation of judicial cooperation. Transposition workshops for Directive (EU) 2025/2647 on alternative dispute resolution for consumers are also planned in the third quarter of 2026.

On enforcement, to ensure the full and correct transposition of EU rules on company law digitalisation and on cross-border company mobility, in accordance with the focus area for enforcement⁴, my services will continue assessing the conformity of national transpositions of Directive (EU) 2019/1151 and Directive (EU) 2019/2121. Particularly in the context of the transposition of Directive 2019/1151, the Commission will pursue enforcement actions and launch EU dialogues, if necessary. Additionally, my services will continue assessing the conformity of national transposition measures of Directive 2016/680 and, if necessary, launch EU dialogues or infringement actions.

Furthermore, with the support of DG JUST, I will organise an implementation dialogue on the Political Advertising Regulation 2024/900 in the second half of 2026 to draw insights as necessary from the application of the rules.

Lastly, I will step up the monitoring and support towards enlargement partners, focusing on Montenegro.

⁴ European Commission, [Communication to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#) COM(2026) 380 final, 28 April 2026.

Annex: examples

Draft Recommendation on non-binding model contractual terms on data access and use and non-binding standard contractual clauses for cloud computing contracts

On 19 November 2025, the Commission facilitated the application of the [Data Act](#) by adopting the [Draft Recommendation on non-binding model contractual terms for data sharing \(MCT\) and standard contractual clauses for cloud computing \(SCC\)](#).⁵ These model terms and clauses help the contractual parties, especially SMEs, implement the provisions of the Data Act, while cutting costs and increasing legal certainty. The use is voluntary and open to amendments. As announced in the [Data Union Strategy](#), the Commission is preparing a monitoring study to analyse the market uptake of these models, which will be financed under the Single Market Programme.

European Consumer Centres

The **European Consumer Centres (ECCs)** are co-financed by the Single Market Programme to assist consumers with cross-border disputes and to educate them on their rights in the single market. For the reference period, all action grants with the ECCs have been signed with EISMEA. The Commission allocates over EUR 9 million per year to ECCs. ECCs' workload has increased significantly which reflects the excellent service the [ECC-Net](#) has been providing to consumers for over 20 years. In 2025, the ECC-Net assisted over 150,000 consumers free of charge and managed to recover around EUR 11 million on behalf of consumers through trader interventions.

GDPR Implementation for SMEs, SMCs, and similar organisations

On 26 February 2026, the Commission launched a call for proposals to national data protection authorities on reaching out to stakeholders in data protection legislation. The objective of this call is to provide financial support for activities of data protection authorities that aim to facilitate compliance with the GDPR among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), small mid-cap enterprises (SMCs) and organisations with a similar number of employees. The call builds on the findings of the [second report on the application of the GDPR](#) and the [Implementation Dialogue](#) of July 2025, where the need for tailor-made support and development of GDPR compliance tools was highlighted, especially for smaller operators.

⁵ Draft Recommendation on non-binding model contractual terms on data access and use and non-binding standard contractual clauses for cloud computing contracts, Brussels, 19.11.2025, (2025) C 7750 final.