



2026 **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

Simplification, Implementation & Enforcement

Stéphane Séjourné

*Executive Vice-President
of the European Commission
for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy*



1. Introduction

This Annual Progress Report covers the period from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026 and outlines the actions undertaken in my capacity as Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, supported by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), as set out in the [Communication on implementation and simplification 2024-2029, “A simpler and faster Europe”](#).

2. Executive Summary

The report highlights **achievements in simplification, implementation, and enforcement** to improve industrial competitiveness and the Single Market during the period 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026. During the reporting period, significant progress was made in delivering the simplification and competitiveness agenda. I engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, listened to their needs and challenges to form a full picture of the actions needed enhancing competitiveness through simplification.

I am responsible for 4 of the 12 **Omnibus packages** put forward by the Commission to date. Omnibus II (InvestEU) was adopted and entered into force, becoming fully operational on 10 June 2026. On Omnibus IV, introducing a new small mid-cap category and simplifying product compliance, and Omnibus VI, simplifying chemicals legislation, a provisional agreement was reached between the co-legislators in June 2026. During the reporting period the Commission also adopted Omnibus IX, streamlining vehicle testing and supporting electric vehicle production in December 2025.

Stress testing of the Single Market and industry acquis in DG GROW's remit was continued, reinforced by a **regulatory deep cleaning approach** in spring 2026. The screening of delegated and implementing acts translated into a cut of a significant share of envisaged implementing and delegated acts by end 2026. As planned in the [Commission Work Programme 2026](#), my services prepared further **initiatives that will have significant simplification potential**, such as the Public Procurement Act, to be adopted on 9 September 2026, the European Product Act and the Circular Economy Act, the latter in co-lead with the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV), both due to be adopted later this year, as well as the EU Delivery Act, due to be adopted at the beginning of 2027.

Progress has continued on **dismantling the "Terrible Ten"** most harmful barriers, as outlined in the [Single Market Strategy](#). Moreover, the Communication [“A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook”](#) adopted on 28 April 2026, targets several single market focus areas for strengthened enforcement¹. The structured cooperation was maintained with Member States via the Single Market Enforcement Task Force (SMET) and the Single Market Sherpas group. In line with the new **Annual Enforcement Agenda**, issues related to late payments and green construction barriers were addressed. My services also initiated several infringement actions and two Court referrals on price margin restrictions and public procurement failures, respectively, while guidance under the Single Market Transparency Directive strengthened preventive compliance. In terms of outreach to stakeholders, I led three **Implementation Dialogues**, two in 2025 on construction and banking integration - the latter together with Commissioner Albuquerque - and one in 2026 on postal reform, addressing administrative fragmentation, regulatory complexity, and cross-border barriers. Two **Reality Checks** to collect views of practitioners, one on the implementation of e-Invoicing and one on the Digital Product Passport (DPP), took place.

¹ 1) Product labelling, 2) circular economy, packaging and waste, 3) empowering consumers through electricity demand response, 4) posting of workers, 5) construction and installation services related to the green transition, 6) interoperable European railway systems, 7) multimodal travel information services, 8) late payments, 9) digitalisation of company law and cross-border mobility of companies, 10) bank consolidation, and 11) savings and investment.

In terms of interinstitutional cooperation, I attended **7 Structured Dialogues or Exchange of Views** in European Parliament Committees (twice in IMCO and ITRE, as well as in JURI, ENVI and EMPL), four hearings in a national Parliament (French National Assembly, Spanish Parliament, Italian Parliament and Hungarian National Assembly) and participated in **4 Competitiveness Council** meetings, where simplification, implementation and enforcement were also discussed.

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and costs savings

The “[One Europe, One Market](#)” roadmap was jointly signed by the Presidents of the Commission, Council and European parliament on 24 April 2026 with a commitment to strengthen competitiveness, including through simplification and burden reduction. I am responsible for 20 out of the 35 initiatives reflected in the roadmap. This includes agreement by the co-legislators on all pending omnibus Packages (IV, VI and IX) and the Industrial Accelerator Act by the end of 2026, as well as on the e-declaration for posting of workers (June 2026), the Circular Economy Act (Q3 2027), the Public Procurement Act (Q4 2027) and the European Products Act (Q4 2027).

[Omnibus II](#), proposed by the Commission in February 2025, adopted by the co-legislators on 11 December 2025 and entered into force on 24 December 2025, strengthens the **InvestEU** programme by increasing the EU guarantee and unlocking an additional **€55 billion in investment**. It also simplifies reporting requirements, reduces administrative burdens and improves access to financing for SMEs and startups through more proportionate rules and streamlined procedures.

The [Omnibus IV proposal on Small Mid-Caps \(SMCs\), digitalisation, and Common Specifications](#), proposed by the Commission on 21 May 2025 and provisionally agreed by co-legislators on 9 June 2026, introduces a new SMC category with targeted simplification measures. This removes the “cliff-edge” effect in regulatory obligations as firms grow beyond SME status. It amends 19 product legislations under the New Legislative Framework by digitalising key compliance obligations, while retaining paper formats to ensure accessibility for users with limited digital literacy. Where harmonised standards are absent, stakeholders may rely on Common Specifications.

[Omnibus VI \(Chemicals\)](#), proposed by the Commission on 8 July 2025 and provisionally agreed by the Council and the Parliament on 16 June 2026, simplifies EU rules on labelling of chemicals, cosmetics and fertilisers. Despite some partial reduction of simplification elements by the co-legislators, it reduces administrative and compliance burdens while maintaining high standards for health and environmental protection.

[Omnibus IX \(Automotive\)](#), adopted by the Commission on 16 December 2025 as part of a broader **Automotive Package**², simplifies vehicle approval and testing procedures to support the transition to clean and competitive mobility. Expected to deliver around **€50.8 million per year in administrative cost savings**, it expands the use of virtual testing, reduces technical requirements for certain electric vehicles, introduces a new category for small electric vehicles, and improves emissions labelling. These measures are designed to speed up compliance, reduce costs for producers, and harmonise regulations, making it easier to develop and sell cleaner vehicles across Europe. Negotiations with the co-legislators are progressing with a view to adoption before the end of 2026.

Another important initiative for boosting Europe’s industry is [the Industrial Accelerator Act \(IAA\)](#), which was proposed by the Commission on 4 March 2026. The IAA aims to streamline industrial development in key European

² The package is accompanied by a Commission Staff Working Document (SWD(2025) 1056) setting out the expected impacts.

sectors, such as clean technologies, steel, and automotive manufacturing, including by removing administrative obstacles corresponding to **annual recurrent cost savings of €1.3 billion** for public administrations. The proposal introduces a "one project, one digital submission" system via the **European Business Wallet**, replacing complex procedures with a single, efficient approval process to accelerate project delivery. The proposal also establishes **Industrial Acceleration Areas**, where fast-track permitting, including area-wide licensing and tacit approval, reduces delays. Simplifying regulatory frameworks, such as this, will boost industrial competitiveness 'made in Europe' while supporting the shift to low-carbon production.

As part of the stress testing exercise of the DG GROW acquis, my services held a [Reality Check on the implementation of e-Invoicing](#) across the EU on 27 April 2026. This was part of the consultation process towards the revision of the Directive on electronic invoicing in public procurement, announced in the [Single Market Strategy](#) in May 2025. The workshop with over 70 attending practitioners, in particular businesses, was organised to support the ongoing impact assessment and ensure that the proposed measures consider the needs of the stakeholders, while targeting harmonisation, simplification and reduction of administrative burden. Discussions provided feedback on operational realities, costs, and benefits associated with e-Invoicing in public procurement. The importance of greater harmonisation was reaffirmed, including a single European standard and improved interoperability, while highlighting the need to minimize costs and administrative burdens, particularly for SMEs.

As part of the Impact Assessment Study on the Revision of the New Legislative Framework, my services also organised a **Reality Check on the Digital Product Passport (DPP) as a compliance tool within the New Legislative Framework** on 24 June 2026. The Reality Check explored the practical implementation of the DPP, focusing on interoperability, data requirements and implementation challenges. It aimed to improve the understanding of how the DPP and digital CE marking can simplify product compliance for businesses.

Stress-testing of the acquis continued throughout the reporting period, with a focus on the **automotive and chemicals sectors**. This contributed to the adoption of the proposal on drug precursors, while evaluations of civil explosives and pyrotechnics were completed. Further reviews continue, including on cosmetics, fertilising products and Good Laboratory Practice. Finally, regarding the overall functioning of the **Single Market**, the evaluations of the Geo-blocking Regulation and of the Mutual Recognition of Goods Regulation are ongoing and preparatory work to revise postal services and parcel deliveries under the new EU Delivery Act is ongoing. In addition, the stress-testing of the **machinery and equipment policy area** has commenced, with several evaluations of existing legislation, finalised or ongoing, including those on lifts, pressure equipment, metrology (measuring instruments and non-automated weighing instruments) and recreational craft.

Regulatory deep cleaning of EU legislation under my responsibility followed in the spring of 2026, in the context of the 12 priority areas identified for deep cleaning annexed to the Communication '[A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#)' adopted on 28 April 2026. A particular focus was brought to the **priority areas of free movement of goods and services**. Ongoing work on the **European Product Act** includes impact assessments related to the revisions of the standardisation regulation and New Legislative Framework, in addition to an impact assessment with back-to-back evaluation for the revision of the Market Surveillance Regulation. A particularly significant component is **Public Procurement** where [the evaluation of the Public Procurement directives](#) was completed. An impact assessment of the Public Procurement Act has been prepared with a view to its adoption on 9 September 2026.

Last but not least, to further reduce complexity stemming from the regulatory environment, my services have continued the exercise of **screening DG GROW's legislation**, achieving the **de-prioritisation of almost half of delegated and implementing acts** foreseen for adoption until the end of 2026. More precisely, out of 151 acts expected to be adopted, 71 acts were identified to be deprioritised and 80 acts to be prioritised. For the prioritisation,

we have focussed on acts that are legally required and on acts that are necessary for the achievement of EU policy objectives, notably those needed to implement legislation, simplify it and provide benefits for citizens, businesses and administrations. Most deprioritised acts for the period scrutinised are to be found in the intellectual property policy area. In February 2026, I informed the relevant five Parliament Committees (IMCO, ITRE, ENVI, JURI, INTA) and three Council configurations (COMPET, ENV, ECOFIN) of this positive outcome.³

B. Implementation

Implementation dialogues

On 2 December 2025, I held an [Implementation Dialogue on the future of the construction ecosystem](#). Fifteen representatives of the European construction value chain provided targeted feedback on the practical application of EU legislation and support measures affecting the sector. Participants identified **administrative fragmentation and uneven national application of EU rules** as major barriers to competitiveness, investment and productivity. As a follow-up, the upcoming **Circular Economy Act** will be designed as potential catalysts for digitalisation, circularity, and offsite construction. Stakeholders urged simpler, more harmonised Single Market rules, noting that SMEs bear the heaviest administrative burden. The discussion also informed the **EU Strategy for Housing Construction** of 16 December 2025, which aims to strengthen productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness in the sector, and the future **Construction Services Act**, due for adoption in Q1 2027. To support technical capacity building in the construction sector for the implementation of the new **Construction Products Regulation**, my services organised a training on environmental sustainability obligations for representatives of industry and public administrations, focusing on stakeholders' needs and the application of the simplified procedures available in the legal framework.

Also on 2 December 2025, Commissioner Albuquerque and I hosted an [Implementation Dialogue to address EU banking integration and competitiveness](#), gathering stakeholder feedback on regulatory obstacles and ways to simplify the EU banking framework while strengthening competitiveness. Participants highlighted that, despite being resilient and well-capitalised, the EU banking sector is hindered by complex and fragmented regulation, inconsistent supervision, and barriers to cross-border activity, resulting in higher compliance costs and reduced competitiveness. They called for simpler, more harmonised rules, streamlined reporting, and stronger capital markets. These insights informed the Commission's report on banking sector competitiveness, published on 15 July 2026, as announced in the [Savings and Investments Union \(SIU\)](#) communication.

On 22 June 2026, I held an [Implementation Dialogue in view of the forthcoming EU Delivery Act](#) which will revise the **EU postal regulatory framework** (expected adoption in Q1 2027). Sixteen representatives from universal service providers, alternative delivery operators, e-commerce and delivery platforms, national regulators, business associations, trade unions, consumer associations and SMEs gathered together to focus on postal services fit for the future, including issues related to the level-playing field, seamless cross-border parcel delivery services, rights of delivery users, and ways to simplify EU postal rules. The main findings of this meeting will inform the preparation of the forthcoming proposal.

Implementation strategies, networks and tools

The elimination of Single Market barriers, with focus on the **"Terrible Ten"** – the most harmful barriers identified in the [Single Market Strategy](#) of May 2025 – continues to be a high priority this year. Work has progressed in the [Single Market Enforcement Task Force \(SMET\)](#) and in the high-level **Single Market Sherpa** group. During the

³ Additionally, in April 2026 my services held an exchange with staff members of the ENVI Committee.

reporting period, SMET focused on the Terrible Ten workstream: Of the 28 problems identified, 10 (covering 3 services-related issues, 3 digital issues, 2 business establishment issues and 2 goods-related issues) were addressed in four kick-off meetings at SMET Sherpa level. Following SMET's approval of the proposed way forward, technical work on these issues has commenced in the relevant expert groups. The Single Market Sherpas Network met twice during the reporting period to discuss the Terrible Ten at a more horizontal and political level.

The [Forced Labour Regulation](#), set to enter into force in **December 2027**, has seen steady preparatory progress. The [Union Network Against Forced Labour Products \(UNFLP\)](#), operational since November 2025, has convened three hybrid meetings and facilitated bilateral exchanges to assist Member State authorities. Enhanced cross-EU coordination was formalised through an [Implementing act in March 2026](#) which sets the creation of a forced labour module into the Market Surveillance Information System.

The [Expert Group on Forced Labour](#), formed in late 2025 and the UNFLP contributed to the preparation of the [Forced Labour Guidelines](#), published by the Commission in June 2026, after stakeholder input via a [Call for Evidence](#). These Guidelines, alongside the newly developed [Forced Labour Portal](#) and forthcoming Risks Database, aim to facilitate preparedness ahead of the Regulation's application, and support its implementation and enforcement. Concurrently, work continues on the [Single Information Submission Point](#) for reporting violations and other tools to support businesses and stakeholders.

The revised [Product Liability Directive \(PLD\)](#), which entered into force in December 2024 and must be transposed by Member States by 9 December 2026, requires the Commission to establish and maintain an easily accessible, publicly available database containing final judgments delivered by national courts and the Court of Justice of the European Union in proceedings brought pursuant to the PLD. The database is intended to improve transparency and accessibility for legal practitioners, academics, and the public. The Commission is currently developing the PLD database in cooperation with the Member States, and it is expected to become operational by the end of 2027.

Through plenary meetings **in the European Critical Raw Materials Board**, the Commission has guided Member States in implementing the Critical Raw Materials Act and the RESourceEU agenda, coordinating advancing measures, such as demand aggregation, joint purchasing and the **planned Critical Raw Materials Centre**. It has supported the assessment of Strategic Projects, and the rollout of implementation files - including enforcement. It has also helped Member States meet their legal obligations directly, by clarifying penalty systems⁴ and circulating a dedicated template to ease the reporting obligations⁵.

In line with the [Net Zero Industry Act \(NZIA\)](#), my services prepared the **NZIA public procurement guidance**, which provides explanations and clarifications to ease the application of the public procurement provision⁶ in NZIA. Member States, utilities and industry have all asked for such clarifications as provided in the guidance. The guidance is meant to be published by the end of July 2026. Additionally, within the reporting period, two **High-level (plenary) meetings of the Net-Zero Europe Platform** took place (17 Nov 2025 and 6 May 2026). The Commission has used the Net-Zero Europe Platform to steer Member States, industry, regions and financial institutions toward effective NZIA implementation, supporting the rollout of Single Points of Contact, Net-Zero Valleys, Strategic Projects and non-price market criteria. It has worked to unblock shared challenges - permitting delays, regulatory uncertainty and access to Union financing - by convening applicant projects, the European Investment Bank and industry stakeholders and by offering practical guidance and a forum for exchanging best practice. The work has been followed up as well by dedicated subgroups focussing on: (1) Strategic Projects & Financing, (2) Permitting & Net-Zero Acceleration

⁴ Article 47 of the Critical Raw Materials Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1252).

⁵ Article 45 of the Critical Raw Materials Act.

⁶ Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2024/1735.

Valleys, (3) Access to Markets, (4) Net-Zero Industry Academies (Skills), (5) Net-Zero Regulatory Sandboxes (announced for launch at the 6 May 2026 meeting).

Several digital governance mechanisms are in place, including the [Your Europe/Single Digital Gateway \(SDG\)](#) portal, the [Internal Market Information \(IMI\) system](#) and [Once-Only Technical System \(OOTS\)](#)⁷. These tools provide clear, easily accessible online information, assistance services, and digital procedures. Your Europe/SDG and IMI also offer problem-solving resources and facilitate the seamless exchange of information and cooperation between national authorities.

In 2025, my services coordinated the **Peer Review programme for market surveillance authorities**, helping Member States exchange good practices, address challenges and improve enforcement and cooperation across the EU. It also continued supporting the **European Product Compliance Network (EUPCN)**, the **Administrative Cooperation Groups (ADCs)** and other expert groups to strengthen technical coordination and mutual learning among national authorities. The Commission further invested in **digital tools to support market surveillance** and the implementation of EU legislation. This included expanding web crawlers to detect potentially non-compliant products online, advancing the digitalisation of compliance documents through generative AI, and upgrading shared systems such as ICSMS, including a new interface, a Customs Notifications module, and preparations to integrate Digital Product Passport data.

As part of the implementation of the **Short-Term Rental Regulation (STR)**, which entered into application on 20 May 2026, each Member State was required to develop and implement a national IT system enabling the exchange of data with STR platforms. To support this process, the Commission, with the assistance of an external contractor, developed the technical specification and established a prototype of an IT system. In addition, my services provided tailored technical support to individual Member States throughout the implementation process. This support remains ongoing and will continue to facilitate the completion of national IT developments and ensure the effective implementation of the Regulation.

Structured collaboration with Member States also continues beyond this topic, particularly through the [SOLVIT network](#) and SMET. In 2025–2026, **SOLVIT** has evolved from a **problem-solving tool** into a **policy-shaping instrument**, using case-based evidence to identify systemic Single Market obstacles. A **list of 17 obstacles** (transformed into 8 obstacles identified for citizens, feeding into the forthcoming **Citizens' Simplification Initiative**, Q4 2026), including misapplication of rules, administrative inefficiencies, legislative gaps, and inconsistent requirements across EU laws, was submitted to the Commission for follow-up.

Finally, the Communication [‘A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook’](#) adopted on 28 April 2026 announced concrete action on **tackling gold-plating**. It indicates that *“the Commission will work on an **anti-gold-plating toolkit** of best practices and criteria to help Member States identify and avoid gold-plating in the national transposition and implementation of EU legislation”*, which the Commission is mandated to deliver while also building on the ongoing work mentioned above. Preparatory work is underway. Member States and stakeholders are being **consulted via EU Surveys** accessible in all EU languages about the gold-plating cases, their economic impact, and mechanisms in place to detect and prevent gold-plating. The surveys will be followed up with in-depth analysis of gold-plating in selected sectors of the Single Market and opportunities to discuss the cases at stakeholder workshops. Internal work continues to also explore the possible use of AI-driven technologies to identify gold-plating of EU acquis. This will provide input for continuation of work on a toolkit in 2027.

⁷ [The benefits of ‘Once-Only’ for Competent Authorities](#).

C. Enforcement

In January 2026, the Commission adopted its first **Annual Enforcement Agenda** as part of the [Annual Single Market and Competitiveness Report](#). The 2026 Enforcement Agenda reflected the Commission's commitment to pursue appropriate legal action based on the Terrible Ten barriers identified in the [Single Market Strategy](#). The Enforcement Agenda identified **two enforcement priorities** where my services have and will continue to pursue horizontal investigations and specific enforcement actions: (1) Late payments in transactions between undertakings and public authorities, and (2) Obstacles in construction and installation services related to the green transition. The Communication '[A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#)' identified, beyond these two areas, two other single market focus areas under the remit of my services for enforcement: product labelling and posting of workers.⁸

Prevention mechanisms

The Commission issued new [guidance](#) under the **Single Market Transparency Directive (SMTD/TRIS)** to help EU Member States reduce unnecessary trade barriers while ensuring national regulations remain **effective and proportionate**. This strengthens the application of the principle of proportionality and aims to prevent new market obstacles, including those listed among the **Terrible Ten**. The guidance supports national authorities in designing measures that are strictly necessary for public interest objectives while minimising burdens on businesses, aligning with the EU's broader regulatory simplification efforts. The guidance therefore contributes to the objectives to better comply with and implement EU law, laid down in the Communication on "**A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook**" ([COM\(2026\) 380 final](#))⁹. During the SMTD procedures, Member States are asked to provide for mutual recognition clauses where appropriate, to prevent unnecessary barriers, and ensure that the definitions and terminology used in new national measures are well aligned with Union law, notably to avoid gold-plating. Great efforts are being made to increase transparency and strengthen the role of stakeholders under the [Services Directive \(EU\) 2006/123](#), notably through IT development aimed at upgrading the public website for Services Directive notifications to a level similar to the public TRIS database, including in particular allowing stakeholders to provide contributions directly to the notified service rules, and all actors to indicate consent with making their input publicly available.

Infringement procedures

During the reporting period, the Commission took 107 decisions related to infringement procedures in the Single Market¹⁰ within my service's remit. That is four times more than the previous reporting period (1 January 2025 to 31 July 2025). Forty percent of these 107 decisions (45) concerned late transposition and 21 were based on complaints. Out of the 107 decisions, 64 led to the launch of new infringement proceedings while 16 of them were related to the pursuit of existing procedures. Moreover, there were five referrals to the Court of Justice of the European Union. In 22 cases, the Commission did not pursue the cases further, mainly following the alignment of Member States' national law with EU law and the infringement procedures could be closed. Regarding cases for late transposition, which constitute a priority enforcement issue¹¹, the Commission has opened procedures for failure

⁸ The Communication identified 11 single market focus areas for enforcement in total (see [Annex II](#) to the Communication).

⁹ The principle of proportionality is a general principle of Union law binding both the Union and the Member States when implementing Union law. The principle is at the same time not always easy to apply in practice, and the guidance will help Member States to better reconcile the pursuit of legitimate policy objectives with the free movement of goods and services, thus preventing unnecessary barriers within the Single Market.

¹⁰ For more information, a website illustrates the Commission's enforcement activities and Member States' compliance with EU law in general through interactive maps and customisable graphs – See [Infringement cases in the EU](#).

¹¹ See Communication from the Commission, "EU law: Better results through better application", OJ C 18, 19.1.2017.

to transpose Directives (EU) 2024/2839¹² and Directive (EU) 2024/2749¹³ against 12 and 24 Member States, respectively. 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.

Furthermore, as a first measure and in response to the announcement of **late payments** as an enforcement priority and a single market focus area for enforcement, the Commission launched [pre-infringement dialogues](#) with 24 Member States to address the wide-spread issues of payment delays in the EU. In addition, another 13 pre-infringement dialogues were initiated in other sectors. In particular, my services opened a new case against Belgium ([INFR\(2025\)2130](#)) concerning systemic payment delays by municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region towards their suppliers. The Commission has also opened new cases against Spain ([INFR\(2026\)2049](#)) for failing to align payment terms for consumer goods with EU standards. The Commission also advanced the procedure against Romania ([INFR\(2024\)4004](#)) concerning the failure to ensure that pharmacies are paid on time for medicinal products dispensed to patients under the national health insurance programme, adopting an additional reasoned opinion in [January 2026](#) and, in the absence of compliance, referring Romania to the Court of Justice in [July 2026](#). This infringement was launched following a petition before the Parliament ([No 1002/2023](#)). Three cases were also closed, including two long-standing ones, after Spain ([INFR\(2015\)2049](#)) and Italy ([INFR\(2014\)2143](#)) achieved compliance with the [Late Payment Directive \(EU\) 2011/7](#), following reforms of budgeting and monitoring processes and the modernisation of national systems, demonstrating the positive impact of infringement action on the cash flow and financial stability of suppliers. The Italian case is particularly significant, as it also illustrates a Member State bringing its practices into line with EU law following a ruling of the Court of Justice ([C-122/18](#)).

The Commission has further started the work to tear down **obstacles in construction and installation services related to the green transition**, which was also announced as an enforcement priority and a single market focus area for enforcement, by [launching infringement procedures against 11 Member States](#) in July 2026 concerning issues related to services in energy efficient construction, and installation of renewable energy equipment. The aim of these enforcement measures is to reduce barriers preventing efficient deployment of resources, innovation transfer and cost efficiencies through easier cross-border provision of services and facilitation of establishment under the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and the Services Directive [2006/123/EC](#). Further enforcement action may follow depending on the results of the ongoing assessment of national laws in all Member States.

In the area of **posting of workers**, another single market focus area for enforcement, the Commission launched infringement proceedings against Germany in January 2026 because of the visa requirement imposed on posted third-country nationals ([INFR\(2025\)4025](#)), and in this context discussed issues with three further Member States as part of pre-infringement dialogues.

Following two judgments delivered by the Court of Justice in November 2025 ([C-499/23](#)) and January 2026 ([C-144/24](#)) on Hungarian **restrictions in the construction material sector**, the Commission launched procedures to ensure compliance with these rulings by the Hungarian authorities.

¹² Directive (EU) 2024/2839 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2024 amending Directives 1999/2/EC, 2000/14/EC, 2011/24/EU and 2014/53/EU as regards certain reporting requirements in the fields of food and food ingredients, outdoor noise, patients' rights, and radio equipment, OJL 07-11-2024.

¹³ Directive (EU) 2024/2749 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 October 2024 amending Directives 2000/14/EC, 2006/42/EC, 2010/35/EU, 2014/29/EU, 2014/30/EU, 2014/33/EU, 2014/34/EU, 2014/35/EU, 2014/53/EU and 2014/68/EU as regards emergency procedures for the conformity, assessment, presumption of conformity, adoption of common specifications and market surveillance due to an internal market emergency, OJL 08-11-2024.

Furthermore, the Commission [initiated a procedure against Poland for failing to comply with the ruling of the Court](#) of 19 June 2025 on the Polish pharmacy advertising ban ([Case C-200/24](#)). Moreover, the Court has upheld the Commission's position in two other cases, namely by the judgments concerning Greek legislation transposing the Proportionality Test Directive ([EU](#)2018/958 on 20 November 2025 ([C-518/24](#)) and concerning Belgian legislation on requirements related to professional liability insurance and guarantees on 26 February 2026 ([C-824/24](#)). All Member States concerned are working on changes to their national legislation. The Commission monitors compliance and may consider launching infringement procedures to ensure that national authorities adhere to these rulings.

In addition, the Commission has referred two infringement procedures to the Court opened during the last reporting period against Hungarian decrees imposing **price margin restrictions** in the food retail and drugstore retail sector ([INFR\(2025\)2052](#) and [INFR\(2025\)2102](#)). The Commission also initiated an infringement against Hungary concerning the long-term contract for waste management ([INFR\(2025\)4020](#)) and continued an infringement relating to contracts for mining operations ([INFR\(2025\)2051](#)). The Commission acted swiftly on **discriminatory fuel pricing** measures in Hungary ([INFR\(2026\)4008](#)) and Slovakia ([INFR\(2026\)4009](#), eventually closed in July 2026). In the field of **public procurement**, the Commission referred Spain to the Court for incorrectly transposing the public procurement directives ([C-802/25](#)), particularly concerning the types of contracting authorities, the types of contracts and the contract modifications that must comply with national legislation transposing the directives. Other relevant Court rulings related to enforcement actions have been issued in 63 cases.

In the area of **free movement of goods**, the Commission brought forward relevant procedures targeting mandatory national requirements affecting packaging labelling (see, notably, the referral adopted on 17 July 2025 in case [INFR\(2022\)4028](#), concerning the French mandatory 'Triman logo' and national waste packaging sorting instructions). National-only labelling requirements in non-harmonised areas, in fact, are listed among the **Terrible Ten**, as these can be considered to constitute disproportionate measures of equivalent effect prohibited by Article 34 TFEU, where other suitable options – less restrictive of trade between Member States – are available. As mentioned above, they were also identified as a single market focus area for enforcement in the Communication '[A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#)' in April. In the area of **free movement of services**, the Commission sent a reasoned opinion in October 2025 to Croatia for restricting disproportionately the freedom of establishment and free movement of **legal services** for EU lawyers and law firms ([INFR\(2023\)2189](#)). In December 2025, the Commission opened an infringement procedure against Italy because of the non-conformity of the national law on **multidisciplinary activities of accountants** with the Services Directive that states that service providers should not face unjustified restrictions to exercising different activities jointly or in partnership ([INFR\(2025\)2172](#)).

4. Way forward

Beyond the Public Procurement Act to be proposed by the Commission on 9 September this year, a bundle of **major initiatives** with a simplification angle for this year are in the pipeline, in line with the Commission Work Programme 2026, such as the Circular Economy Act – in co-lead with Executive Vice-President Roswall – the European Product Act, the Biotech Act II, the EU Delivery Act, the Construction Services Act, and the revision of the e-Invoicing Directive. Each proposal is due to deliver net administrative cost savings for companies and administrations.

I plan to host an **Implementation Dialogue** on SMEs in strategic value chains in autumn 2026, and my services will organise **Reality Checks** in relevant policy areas, such as the Apply AI strategy (Q4 2026).

I will continue to deliver concrete work in addressing the Single Market's most critical barriers – **the Terrible ten** – as a follow-up to the Single Market Strategy of May 2025, the Annual Enforcement Agenda and the “One Europe, one Market” roadmap adopted by the Commission, Council and European Parliament in April 2026.

In particular, my services will continue pursuing actions to tackle the single market focus areas set out in the Communication ‘[A Simpler, Clearer and Better Enforced EU Rulebook](#)’. In the areas of late payments in transactions between undertakings and public authorities, national labelling requirements, and obstacles in construction and installation services related to the green transition, my services will build on and continue the dialogue launched with all Member States to collect information and monitor the situation, and, where necessary, will continue ongoing infringement actions and initiate new ones to address violation of EU law. We will also continue monitoring other Member States' actions that can create barriers to the free flow of products and services within the Single Market, such as disproportionate national requirements for packaging. Preparatory work is already underway regarding an anti-gold plating toolkit for Member states, involving consultations and use of technology to support it. Finally, regarding posting of workers, my services' assessment is ongoing concerning further potential restrictions imposed by national legislation.

In conclusion, I remain fully committed to working closely with the Parliament and the Council to complete the next steps in our ambitious simplification agenda: aiming at strengthening Europe's competitiveness and unlocking the Single Market's full potential, thereby ensuring it works seamlessly for both businesses and citizens.

Annex: Examples

- The [Internal Market Information \(IMI\) system](#) has continued to simplify and digitalise cross-border administrative cooperation replacing fragmented processes with standardised, multilingual workflows, with 65% of users reporting faster work¹⁴. Its expansion into new areas will accelerate with the IMI Regulation revision. Your Europe now offers 68,000+ pages with AI search, while online assistance has helped 6.6 million users since 2020. [Once-Only Technical System \(OOTS\)](#) adoption is growing, with 14 Member States connected and five offering OOTS-enabled. The March 2026 Commission Communication “[Towards a 28th regime for EU companies](#)”, highlighted OOTS as critical for reducing administrative burdens, and my services are supporting faster implementation ahead of the 2027 “One Europe, One Market”.
- The [Internal Market Emergency and Resilience Act \(IMERA\)](#), of 29 May 2026, has been supported by 10 workshops for the authorities in Member States responsible for its implementation. These workshops addressed a broad range of topics to assist their efforts. Additionally, the Commission has issued guidance notes based on Member States' needs and held bilateral meetings to address national specificities, drawing on collected best practices. The first IMERA Board meeting took place in early June 2026.
- The [Single Market Programme](#) (SMP, 2021–2027) funds key simplification work, such as the evaluation of the Market Surveillance Regulation and supporting the Commission's burden reduction goals, including SME and stakeholder engagement on policy design and implementation of the Better Regulation Agenda. The forthcoming **Single Market and Customs Programme (SMCP)** will make it easier to access funding by reducing administrative burdens for beneficiaries. It will introduce simpler rules and procedures—aligned with the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) common rulebook – while expanding the use of simplified cost options.

Five examples of actions taken for obstacles detected through the [SOLVIT network](#):

- To facilitate the **exchange or renewal of driving licences in a cross-border context** and eliminate the long delays encountered, a new Driving Licence Directive [2018/1724/EU](#) was adopted on 22 October 2025 and should be transposed in 2028. Difficulties encountered when registering a car in another EU Member State are expected to decrease once the proposal for a revision of the current directive is adopted and transposed.

- Currently, **access to public services is not always possible with a E-ID** from another Member State. In general, the issue is covered by the European Digital Identity Framework Regulation 2024/1183/EU and European Digital Identity Wallets should be implemented by 24 December 2026. These wallets will ensure that individuals can access digital public and private services across the Union.
- In the same vein, **ID cards from one Member State** were not accepted in another Member State because of the lack of information about the issuing authority on the ID card. A change in law was proposed to allow the acceptance of these cards despite the lack of this information.
- A legislative [proposal](#) **introducing European Business Wallets for companies** is also underway. It provides business-specific functionalities to economic operators supporting secure and efficient cross border activity.
- Technical obstacles for **non-national Payment Service Providers in registering with CESOP** (Central Electronic System of Payment to combat VAT fraud in e-commerce), due to the inability to register without using a local intermediary and certificate, were further resolved through a change of rules in the country concerned.