



# EU deregulation wave & the corporate agenda What to investigate?



Corporate  
Europe  
Observatory

# Antwerp Declaration - VDL's big U-turn

- Deregulation
- Business-friendly decision-making
- More public subsidies



# Competitiveness Compass & 'Clean Industrial Deal'

- July 2024:  
VDL political guidelines
- 29 January 2025:  
Competitiveness  
Compass
- 26 February 2025:  
Clean Industrial Deal





# New inroads for industry: 17+ new tools

- 1) rollback of standards in existing EU legislation
  - Stress-testing
  - Omnibus laws
  - Implementation dialogues, 'reality check' workshops
- 2) exemptions and other escape routes for business to avoid regulation
  - SMEs, mid-caps
  - 28th Regime
- 3) new hurdles for future progressive EU regulation
  - Stronger SME test & competitiveness tests
  - Impact assessments of amendments in the European Parliament
- 4) shrinking national level progressive policy space
  - Single Market Strategy (May 21st); Single Market Barriers Prevention Act

## Example: Omnibus proposals

“We call for a comprehensive action plan to elevate competitiveness as strategic priority and create the conditions for a stronger business case in Europe. The action plan needs to include actions to eliminate regulatory incoherence, conflicting objectives, unnecessary complexity in legislation and over reporting.

We ask to **develop an Omnibus proposal to take corrective measures on all relevant existing EU regulations** as the first piece of legislation to be presented in the next EU institutional cycle.”

*Antwerp Declaration, February 24*

## Example: Omnibuses proposals

1. Sustainable reporting (CSRD, CSDDD, Taxonomy, CBAM)
2. Investment (InvestEU)
3. Midcaps reporting (GDPR, F-gas registration..)
4. Agriculture/CAP
5. Renewable energy
6. Defence
7. Digital (AI Act, DSA/DMA, GDPR?)

# Example: EC's 'Reality check workshop' on chemicals

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## Stakeholder Workshop on the Simplification of Chemicals Legislation – Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP)

### Engaged participants

305 out of 611 Slido participants engaged with polls or Q&A.



### Q&A engagement

Your Q&A received no questions.



### Poll engagement

304 out of 611 Slido participants voted in a poll.



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### Poll Insights

#### Font size



1. To what extent do you consider that CLP formatting requirements introduced by Regulation 2024/2865 create excessive burden and costs on chemical industry?



2. Would you see potential for simplification and burden reduction for formatting requirements?



3. What elements of formatting requirements could be simplified in your opinion?



4. What proposed options about font sizes established by Regulation 2024/2865 would simplify the rules and reduce the burden?



5. What proposed options regarding other formatting requirements would simplify the rules and reduce the burden?



6. Are there other solutions not mentioned above?



1. To what extent do you consider that CLP formatting requirements introduced by Regulation 2024/2865 create excessive burden and costs on chemical industry?

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Multiple Choice Poll 221 votes 221 participants

a. To a great extent – new formatting requirements impose significant and disproportionate burdens and costs that cannot be fully justified. - 165 votes



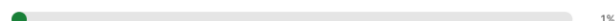
b. To a moderate extent – they create some additional burden and costs, but it is manageable or justified to some degree. - 31 votes



c. To a limited extent – the burden and costs are minimal or largely necessary for ensuring that labels are legible for end-users, especially the ones visual impairments. - 11 votes



d. Not at all – the requirements are appropriate and do not create unnecessary burden or cost. - 3 votes



e. Don't know/ no opinion. - 11 votes

# Example: What future for EU Agriculture?

- VDL: Strategic Dialogue
- Commissioner Hansen's Vision disconnected
- 'Simplification' means deregulation
- More 'cross-cutting proposals to come





# Implementation dialogues

Each Commissioner will hold regular implementation dialogues with stakeholders, twice a year, to understand implementation issues, hear business concerns and identify opportunities for simplification and burden reduction. Reality checks held by Commission services with stakeholders will further feed the stress testing of EU regulation.

# Upcoming Implementation Dialogues

- Renewable Energy/faster permitting
- Union of Skills/Education
- Defence/arms industry
- Climate/buildings/road transport
- The humanitarian landscape/international aid and relief
- Startups and scaleups/innovative companies
- High speed rail in Europe
- Environmental assessments and permitting
- Fishery

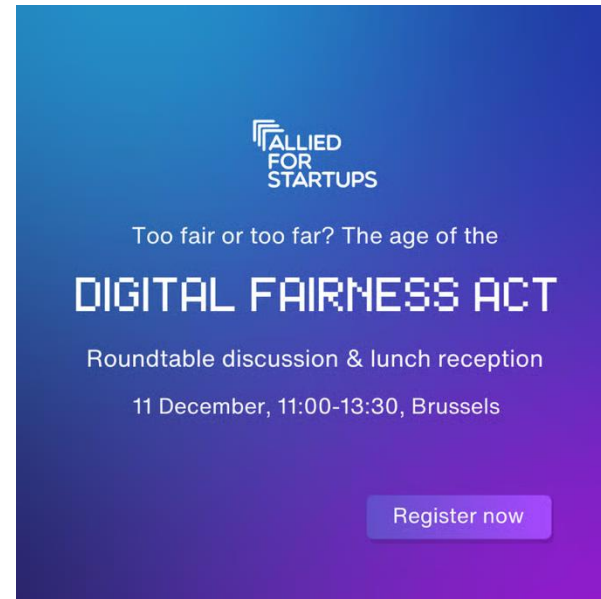
# Implementation dialogue on EU Defence



"Up to 40 Leaders/CEOs from the EU defence industry will be invited, ensuring representation from diverse sectors and company sizes. DG DEFIS will carefully select participants to achieve a balance in geographical, thematic, and company-scale representation."

# New hurdles for future progressive EU regulation

- Stronger SME Test, Competitiveness Test, Single Market Test
- Impact assessments of amendments in the European Parliament
- how will this impact the forthcoming Digital Fairness Act (2026)?



# Single Market Strategy & the 28<sup>th</sup> Regime

- Removing 'regulatory barriers' and 'goldplating'  
→ weakening social and environmental standards on the national level
- The role of industry complaints: the French government's ban on short-distance flights
- The 28th Regime (1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2026): enabling companies to opt out of national law and instead operate under lower EU-wide standards





# Investigating deregulation & lobbying

**IntegrityWatch:** <https://www.integritywatch.eu/ecmeetings.php>

- search on "simplification" shows the ERT met with Michael Hager on 7/5  
(Commissioner Dombrovskis's team)

[https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners/valdis-dombrovskis\\_en#transparency](https://commission.europa.eu/about/organisation/college-commissioners/valdis-dombrovskis_en#transparency)

**Lobbyfacts:**

<https://www.lobbyfacts.eu/datacard/european-round-table-of-industrialists?rid=25487567824-45>

**Access to documents:** <https://www.asktheeu.org/>

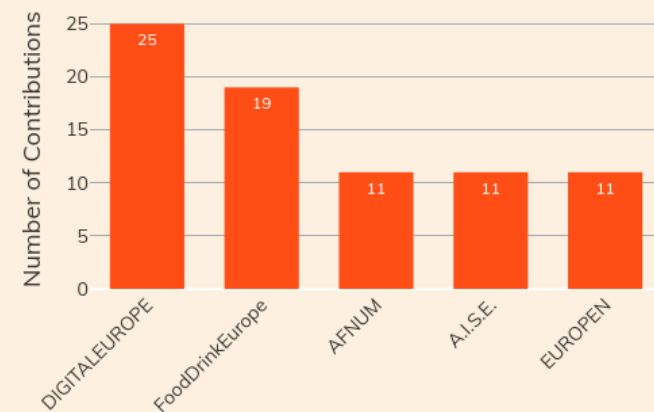
# New resources on deregulation & lobbying



## Explore the NotificationTracker Database

Discover thousands of national laws, browse by category and track who commented on them.

Top-5 commenting organisations



<https://notificationtracker.eu/>

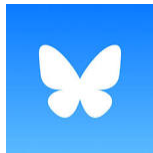
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