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COMMISSION DECISION

of 28 April 2026

establishing the Simplification Platform

(C/2026/3005)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Whereas:

(1) The Commission made simplification and burden reduction one of its key political priorities, embedded in its longstanding Better Regulation agenda. It set out to speed up, simplify and improve EU policies and laws, make rules clearer and easier to understand and faster to implement, without undermining their objectives or lessening the Union's social and environmental ambitions.

(2) The overarching goal of the Commission's simplification and implementation efforts is to unleash opportunities, innovation and growth to strengthen the competitiveness, prosperity and resilience of the Union.

(3) The Commission is committed to deepening cooperation with all relevant institutions and stakeholders so that shared responsibility drives better results. The REFIT Platform (2014-2019) and the Fit for Future Platform (2020-2024) were established by Commission Decision C(2015) 3261 ([1]) and by Commission Decision C(2020) 2977 ([2]) to support those efforts and help the Commission to identify areas with the potential to simplify the legislation and cut administrative burdens.

(4) To uphold its ambition to deliver maximum benefits for businesses and people while avoiding unnecessary regulatory burdens, the Commission needs to continue drawing on the expertise of specialists and gather evidence on the ground.

(5) Building on the experience with the REFIT and the Fit for Future platforms, the Commission has decided to set up a new expert group – the 'Simplification Platform'. The Platform will bring together Member States' national, regional and local authorities, the Committee of the Regions supported by the Network of Regional Hubs ('RegHubs'), the European Economic and Social Committee, social partners, small and large businesses, consumer and environmental organisations and other non-governmental organisations.

(6) The Platform will work on simplification and burden reduction to gather evidence on the implementation of EU rules, including where relevant delegated and implementing acts, at the national, regional and local levels. The Platform will help identify gold-plating practices that could result in fragmentation of the single market. It will facilitate exchanges and coordination on simplification and burden reduction strategies and, in this context, provide input to the Better Regulation agenda.

(7) Emerging technologies offer significant economic and social opportunities driven by rapid innovation. Legislation should facilitate the growth-conducive use of those technologies and enable the Union to reap their full benefits. However, as changes accelerate, businesses – particularly smaller ones – risk being caught between the speed of transformation and the ability to adapt quickly, mindful of the associated costs. It is therefore essential that regulation avoids additional burdens and eliminates the ones that are unnecessary or excessive. In this respect, the Platform can help the Commission identify and address regulatory obstacles that hinder proper implementation of Union legislation on the ground.

([1]) Commission-decision-establishing-refit-platform_may_2015_en.pdf.
([2]) Commission Decision of 11 May 2020 establishing the Fit for Future Platform C(2020) 2977 eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32020D0512(01).

(8) The Platform will also assist the Commission in identifying digitalisation opportunities and solutions that could further reduce administrative burdens for citizens and businesses, enhance efficiency in regulatory processes and support implementation.

(9) The Platform will work on an agenda proposed by the Commission and deliver timely and practical input to support simplification, implementation and burden reduction, including ways to address gold-plating. It should respond to any Commission request for information, evidence and engagement with stakeholders on issues related to its simplification and burden reduction work. Input should be provided on an individual or voluntary collective basis; there should be no requirement to reach a compromise or to adopt contributions by consensus.

(10) The Platform can help identify policy areas and legislation where unnecessary costs may arise for businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as for citizens and public administrations, as a result of Union legislation and suggest ways to address this. The Platform will advise the Commission on how to improve the efficiency and coherence of Union legislation, including issues of legislative density ([3]) and complexity. To the extent possible, the Platform will identify whether additional burdens stem from the Union legislation or from the implementation of Union legislation in the Member States.

(11) Rules of procedure and on the disclosure of information should be laid down.

(12) Personal data should be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([4]).

(13) This Decision should apply for a limited period.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Subject matter

The Simplification Platform ('the Platform') is set up.

Article 2

Tasks

1. The Platform shall assist the Commission in its work on simplification and burden reduction by providing actionable input on the issues identified by the Commission, with a particular focus on implementation of Union legislation at the national, regional and local levels.

2. The Platform members can suggest policy areas where there is a perceived need for further simplification, identify relevant issues in that regard, provide evidence and suggestions on how to address those issues. On the issues identified, the Platform will:

(a) assist the Commission in assessing whether Union legislation continues to deliver its objectives effectively and efficiently, and in identifying opportunities to reduce complexity or compliance and administrative burdens, including through the use of digital and electronic tools where appropriate;

([3]) In the case of legislation, 'density' relates to the sufficiency of establishing principles and objectives against the need for setting out detailed technical prescriptions on how the objectives are to be attained which may influence the degree of discretion for national, regional and local authorities when implementing the legislation (as defined in the work of the Task Force on Subsidiarity, Proportionality and 'Doing Less More Efficiently').

([4]) Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC (OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2018/1725/oj).

(b) provide the Commission with insight and advice concerning practical issues in the implementation of Union legislation at all levels with a view to identify the potential to reduce burdens and gold-plating, and to simplify Union legislation, including by digitalisation;

(c) exchange and provide input on issues related to better regulation work within the simplification and burden reduction agenda at EU, national, regional and local levels, including related stakeholder consultation activities.

The Platform may exchange on the progress of the simplification agenda at EU and national levels.

Article 3

Membership

1. Members of the Platform shall be:

(a) up to 15 individual experts appointed by the Commission's Secretary-General resulting from the selection procedure referred to in Article 4, who shall represent a common interest shared by stakeholders in a particular policy area;

(b) Member States' competent authorities either from the national or local or regional level;

(c) the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee.

2. The experts appointed to represent a common interest referred to under paragraph 1(a) shall not represent an individual stakeholder, but a policy orientation common to different stakeholder organisations. They shall represent business, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises, social partners and civil society organisations having direct experience in the application of Union legislation.

3. Members of the Platform referred to under paragraph 1, point (c), shall nominate three representatives each and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representatives provide a high level of expertise in the areas referred to in Article 2(2).

4. Members of the Platform referred to under paragraph 1, point (b), shall nominate one representative each.

5. All members of the Platform shall be appointed for a limited period corresponding to the mandate of the Commission.

6. Members representing a common interest who are no longer capable of contributing effectively to the work of the Platform or who, in the opinion of the Commission's Secretariat-General, do not comply with the conditions set out in Article 339 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or who resign, shall no longer be invited to participate in any meetings of the group and may be replaced for the remainder of their term of office by another candidate from the reserve list referred to in Article 4(4).

Article 4

Selection process

1. The selection of the members representing a common interest shall be carried out through a public call for applications, published in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities ([5]) ('the Register of expert groups'). In addition, the call for applications may be published also through other means, including on dedicated websites. The call for applications shall clearly outline the selection criteria, including the required expertise and interests to be represented in relation to the work to be performed. The minimum deadline for applications shall be four weeks.

2. Registration in the Transparency Register ([6]) is required for individuals representing a common interest to be appointed.

([5]) https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/home?lang=en.
([6]) https://transparency-register.europa.eu/index_en.

3. Individuals representing a common interest shall be appointed by the Commission's Secretary-General from specialists who have responded to the call for applications and fulfil the selection criteria outlined in the call for applications.

4. The Commission's Secretariat-General shall establish a reserve list of suitable candidates that may be used for any needed replacement of members representing a common interest. The Commission's Secretariat-General shall ask applicants for their consent before including their names on the reserve list.

Article 5

Chair

The Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification shall chair the plenary meetings of the Platform. The Commissioner may be replaced where necessary. Other meetings than the plenary meetings shall be chaired by officials of the Secretariat-General.

Article 6

Operation

1. The Platform shall act at the request of its Chair supported by the Commission's Secretariat-General, in compliance with the horizontal rules.

2. Individual members and members' representatives shall attend the meetings of the Platform. The Platform will be convened by the Commission normally twice a year in a plenary meeting. Plenary meetings of the Platform shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises. Other meetings shall, in principle, be held by videoconference.

3. The Commission shall submit a draft agenda and the issues on which it seeks input ahead of each plenary meeting. The Platform will normally not look at topics falling under the following exclusion criteria:

(a) legislation that is being examined by the European Parliament and the Council as part of the legislative procedure at the time the topic suggestion is submitted;

(b) an issue with no clear and demonstrable link to burden reduction, simplification or more efficient implementation of Union law or requiring technical or scientific analysis outside the Platform's remit, or both;

(c) an issue that is subject to a planned or ongoing consultation of the social partners.

4. Input provided by members of the Platform shall be directly actionable, offering practical and evidence-based input that can be readily used by the Commission's services in their policy and implementation work.

5. Input shall be provided on an individual or voluntary collective basis; there is no requirement to reach a compromise on inputs or to adopt input contributions by consensus.

6. The Secretariat-General of the Commission shall act as secretariat of the Platform and provide it with administrative support.

7. In agreement with the Secretariat-General of the Commission, the Platform, by simple majority of its members, can decide that deliberations shall be public.

8. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the Platform.

9. The Network of SME Envoys shall, at the request of the Chair and in coordination with the Secretariat-General of the Commission, contribute to the Platform's work, in particular by providing input and advice on the burdens and complexity of legislation affecting small and medium-sized enterprises.

10. The Platform's secretariat, under the responsibility of the Chair, shall draft minutes of each plenary meeting. The minutes shall be meaningful and complete, reflecting prior input submitted by the Platform members on the agenda items, the outcome of the discussion, and any committed follow-up actions.

11. To ensure efficiency, preparatory works ahead of the plenary meetings may be carried out in advance through written consultations, meetings in videoconference or electronic exchanges.

Article 7

Invited experts

1. The Chair may, on an ad hoc basis, invite external experts with specific expertise in a subject on the agenda, including experts from local and regional authorities and their associations, to participate in a plenary meeting of the Platform.

2. In agreement with the Commission's Secretariat-General, the Committee of the Regions may invite representatives of the RegHubs to the plenary meetings of the Platform or on an ad hoc basis.

3. The Chair will invite a representative of the Network of SME Envoys to the plenary meetings.

Article 8

Rules of Procedure

On a proposal by and in agreement with the Commission's Secretariat-General, the Platform shall adopt the rules of procedure based on the standard rules of procedure for expert groups, in compliance with the horizontal rules.

Article 9

Professional secrecy and handling of classified information

Members of the Platform and their representatives and invited experts are subject to the obligations of professional secrecy, which by virtue of the Treaties and the rules implementing them apply to all members of the Institutions and their staff. They are also subject to the Commission's rules on security regarding the protection of Union classified information laid down in Commission Decisions (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 ([7]) and (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 ([8]). Should they fail to respect these obligations, the Commission may take all appropriate measures.

Article 10

Transparency

1. The Platform shall be registered in the Register of expert groups.

2. As to the composition of the Platform, the following data shall be published in the Register of expert groups:

(a) the name of individuals appointed to represent a common interest; and interest represented;

(b) the name of the EU bodies members of the Platform (Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee);

(c) the name of Member States' authorities.

([7]) Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/443 of 13 March 2015 on Security in the Commission (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 41, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/443/oj).

([8]) Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2015/444/oj).

Individuals who do not wish to have their names disclosed may submit a request to the Secretariat for a derogation from this rule. A derogation shall be granted where justified on compelling legitimate grounds in relation to the specific situation of the individual, in particular where disclosure of the experts' name could endanger their security or integrity.

3. All relevant documents, including the agendas, complete minutes and the participants' submissions shall be made available either on the Register of expert groups or via a link from the Register to a dedicated website where that information can be found. Access to that dedicated website shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, the agenda and other relevant background documents shall be published in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by the publication of minutes in a timely manner. Exceptions to publication shall only be allowed where disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([9]).

4. The Platform shall have a dedicated website.

Article 11

Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the Platform shall not be remunerated for the expertise they offer.

2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the Platform shall be reimbursed by the Commission. Reimbursement shall be made in accordance with the provisions in force within the Commission and within the limits of the available appropriations allocated to the Commission departments under the annual procedure for the allocation of resources.

Article 12

Applicability

This Decision shall apply until 31 October 2029.

Done at Brussels, 28 April 2026.

For the Commission
Valdis DOMBROVSKIS
Member of the Commission

([9]) Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents (OJ L 145, 31.5.2001, p. 43, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2001/1049/oj).'.