

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2006/2006(INI)	Procedure completed
Strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment, implementing the Lisbon strategy		
Subject 8.50.02 Legislative simplification, coordination, codification		

Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed	
	JURI Legal Affairs		29/11/2005	
		PPE-DE GARGANI Giuseppe		
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	AFET Foreign Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	DEVE Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	BUDG Budgets	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	CONT Budgetary Control	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs		14/03/2006	
		PSE BERÈS Pervenche		
	EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety		07/02/2006	
		PSE HEGYI Gyula		
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	IMCO Internal Market and Consumer Protection	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	TRAN Transport and Tourism	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	REGI Regional Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
	PECH Fisheries	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
CULT Culture and Education	The committee decided not to give an opinion.			
LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	The committee decided not to			

give an opinion.



AFCO Constitutional Affairs (Associated committee)		24/01/2006
	PSE REYNAUD Marie-Line	
FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
PETI Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Council of the European Union

Council configuration	Meeting	Date
General Affairs	2718	20/03/2006
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2716	14/03/2006
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)	2715	13/03/2006
Environment	2713	09/03/2006
General Affairs	2711	27/02/2006
Economic and Financial Affairs ECOFIN	2707	14/02/2006
General Affairs	2705	30/01/2006

European Commission

Commission DG	Commissioner
Legal Service	

Key events			
25/10/2005	Non-legislative basic document published	COM(2005)0535	Summary
19/01/2006	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
19/01/2006	Referral to associated committees announced in Parliament		
30/01/2006	Debate in Council	2705	
14/02/2006	Debate in Council	2707	
27/02/2006	Debate in Council	2711	
09/03/2006	Resolution/conclusions adopted by Council		
13/03/2006	Debate in Council	2715	
14/03/2006	Debate in Council	2716	
20/03/2006	Debate in Council	2718	
21/03/2006	Vote in committee		Summary
23/03/2006	Committee report tabled for plenary	A6-0080/2006	
04/04/2006	Debate in Parliament		
16/05/2006	Results of vote in Parliament		
16/05/2006	Decision by Parliament	T6-0205/2006	Summary

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2006/2006(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/6/32976

Documentation gateway					
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2005)0535	25/10/2005	EC	Summary
Committee draft report		PE369.937	08/02/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	ENVI	PE370.157	23/02/2006	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE370.306	07/03/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	AFCO	PE368.068	20/03/2006	EP	
Committee opinion	ECON	PE370.257	20/03/2006	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A6-0080/2006	23/03/2006	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T6-0205/2006	16/05/2006	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)2902	22/06/2006	EC	
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2006)3065-2	01/08/2006	EC	
Non-legislative basic document		COM(2006)0690	14/11/2006	EC	Summary
Follow-up document		COM(2009)0017	28/01/2009	EC	Summary

Strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment, implementing the Lisbon strategy

PURPOSE : to put in place [a](#) strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment in the framework of the Community Lisbon programme.

CONTENT : Following its Communication of March 2005 in which it identified simplification as one priority action for the EU, the Commission presents its strategy to simplify EU-legislation and enhance its quality. The strategy is fully embedded into the revised Lisbon strategy for achieving growth and jobs in Europe and therefore focuses on those elements of the acquis that concern the competitiveness of enterprises in the EU. Its overall objective is to contribute to a European regulatory framework that fulfils the highest standards of law making respecting the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. Following these principles, the EU should only regulate if a proposed action can be better achieved at EU level. Any such action should not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the policy objectives pursued.

The Commission emphasises that better regulation is not de-regulation. The review of the acquis must become a continuous and systematic process enabling the legislator to revise legislation taking all legitimate private sector and public interests into account. Accordingly, the Commission presents a rolling programme anchored in stakeholders' practical experience. The programme specifies those pieces of legislation that the Commission envisages reviewing and assessing with the view to simplifying them in the next three years. To pursue the evaluation of the acquis beyond the present simplification programme, the Commission will identify the need for simplification from a sectoral perspective.

Starting with a working programme based on input from the Member States and stakeholders, the Commission will develop its simplification priorities following:

- a comprehensive analysis of selected sectors regarding the impact of legislation, including economic, environmental and social aspects;
- a simplification method drawing on techniques such as repeal, codification, recasting and changing implementing methods;

- a legislative method entailing a clear preference for essential requirements rather than technical specifications, the increased use of co-regulation, the promotion and increased use of information technologies;

- an increased use, as appropriate and on a case by case basis, of regulations instead of directives as well as of review clauses;

In order to secure the implementation of simplification priorities on time, the Commission will streamline its internal working methods to ensure a comprehensive monitoring and follow-up of the simplification process, both at administrative and political level. In addition the Commission will continue to consult regularly with stakeholders on how the simplification programme should be further developed over the coming years.

Considering the need for shared commitment to simplification by the Institutions, the Commission invites the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions to react to this Communication.

Strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment, implementing the Lisbon strategy

The committee adopted the own-initiative report drawn up by its chair, Giuseppe GARGANI (EPP-ED, IT), in response to the Commission's strategy paper on simplifying the regulatory environment. It strongly supported the Commission's proposals, although it warned that the process should be conditional upon full involvement of Parliament in the adoption of legislation, upon wide-ranging consultation of all relevant stakeholders, including NGOs, and upon improving the general transparency of the regulatory process, in particular by opening legislative discussions in the Council to public scrutiny. MEPs also stressed the importance of close collaboration between the Member States and the Commission for the purpose of identifying the legislation which should be simplified.

The report welcomed in particular the intention to reduce unnecessary burden on SMEs and said that one of the aims of simplifying the EU's regulatory environment should be to make legislation simpler and more effective and hence more "user-oriented".

MEPs stressed that the repeal of irrelevant and obsolete acts was a priority requirement and that the Commission should act without delay. They also said that codification and recasting were the primary means of simplifying the *acquis communautaire* and that these should be used more widely. The report added that the institutions might usefully determine whether a third type of operation might be provided for, alongside codification and recasting, so as to afford the most appropriate means of simplifying Community legal acts. The Commission was urged, in the light of all these recommendations, to submit a proposal without delay with a view to recasting the interinstitutional agreements governing the quality of EU legislation.

Strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment, implementing the Lisbon strategy

The European Parliament adopted a resolution based on the own-initiative report drafted by Giuseppe GARGANI (EPP-ED, IT), in response to the Commission's strategy paper on simplifying the regulatory environment. It strongly supported the process of simplification of the Union's regulatory environment, but stressed that such a process must be based on a number of preconditions: full involvement of the European Parliament in the adoption of the legislation subject to the "simplification process"; consultation of all relevant stakeholders, thus including not only Member States and business but also non-governmental organisations; strengthening of the general transparency of the regulatory process, in particular by opening Council discussions to the public when the Council is acting in its legislative capacity. Parliament welcomed the intention to reduce the unnecessary burden on SMEs and to reinforce the use of information technology.

It felt, however, that the simplification process should not entail lowering the standards set by current legislation, and warned against an excessively narrow and exclusively financial and administrative analysis of the costs and benefits of the legislation concerned. Any assessment with a view to simplification must take account equally of economic, social, environmental and health aspects, and should not restrict itself to short-term considerations.

Parliament took the view that the repeal of irrelevant and obsolete acts was a priority requirement with which the Commission must comply without delay. However, when Community legislation is repealed on those grounds, a Community act must be put in place at the same time to prevent Member States from regulating matters that have been deregulated at Community level. In addition, Parliament pointed out that, while there may be over-regulation in some areas, this state of affairs was due in large measure to the lawmaking activity of the Member States and that, therefore, if Community legislation was to be repealed, this must be followed by repeal of the corresponding national provisions. The Commission should constantly monitor such national legislation as might remain in force after the Community legislation that gave rise to it has been repealed.

Parliament went on to state that codification and recasting were the primary means of simplifying the *acquis communautaire* and should be used more widely. It supported the codification of the *acquis communautaire* but was sceptical about its total recasting, as this might well lead to diverging interpretations among the EU institutions. It warned that simplification should not lead to a re-writing of the *acquis* outside democratic control.

Parliament considered that the institutions might usefully determine whether a third type of operation might be provided for, alongside codification and recasting, so as to afford the most appropriate means of simplifying Community legal acts. It felt that the Interinstitutional Agreement on recasting should spell out the procedure to follow in cases where, during a legislative procedure, it proves necessary to alter the codified parts of the act, and called on the Commission to submit a proposal with a view to recasting the interinstitutional agreements governing the quality of Union legislation. The Committee on Constitutional Affairs was asked to determine what amendments might be made to the Rules of Procedure to enable the agreement on recasting to be effectively implemented, not least with a view to making greater use of the simplified procedures laid down in the Rules of Procedure.

Traditional legislative instruments must continue to be used as a general rule to attain the objectives laid down in the Treaties. The use of alternative regulatory methods such as co-regulation and self-regulation could usefully supplement legislative measures where these methods make improvements of equivalent or broader scope than legislation can provide, but any use of alternative regulatory methods must comply with the interinstitutional agreement on "better law-making".

Finally, Parliament stated that it was surprised that the issue of reforming the current system of delegating rule-making ("comitology") received

only a brief mention in passing in the Commission communication of 2005, even though such a reform could make a major contribution to simplifying secondary Community law by allowing the Commission to adopt implementing provisions using faster procedures.

Strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment, implementing the Lisbon strategy

This third progress report on the strategy for simplifying the regulatory environment complements the third strategic review of Better Regulation in the European Union and the Commission Working Document on reducing administrative burden. It reviews the considerable ground covered since the launch of the strategy, highlights success stories and maps areas for future simplification action.

Since the launch of the strategy for simplifying the regulatory environment in 2005, simplification has been mainstreamed into the work of the Commission. Through a range of coordinated activities, the Commission has built up a political and practical framework of action delivering tangible benefits for citizens, businesses and public administrations. In an effort to make legislation more clear and understandable, some 1 300 acts, representing around 10% of the acquis, have been proposed for removal from the EU statute book.

Simplification is a continuous process. The snapshot provided by the screening of the acquis prepares the ground for future work. A programme which started with a limited number of dispersed initiatives now covers all policy areas and is taking an increasingly sectoral approach. This means examining the entire body of legislation that affects a given policy area to identify overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies and excessive regulatory burdens. The aim is to assess the overall effectiveness of the regulatory framework sector by sector.

In driving forward the simplification agenda, the Commission will require political support from the other EU institutions and the Member States. The European Parliament and the Council are invited to do their utmost to adopt pending proposals as soon as possible and to preserve their simplification content during the decision-making process. The Member States are encouraged to carry forward their own simplification programmes and to apply EU law in a spirit of simplification, without adding unnecessary measures on the back of EU law.

On a daily basis, European citizens and businesses are confronted with a mix of EU, national and regional legislation. Only a coordinated simplification effort at all these levels can ensure that this regulatory framework serves its purpose in the best possible way ? safeguarding growth and welfare, while keeping burdens to the minimum necessary.