

Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	2021/2166(INI)	Procedure completed
Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws		
Subject		
8.50.01 Implementation of EU law		
8.50.02 Legislative simplification, coordination, codification		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	 Legal Affairs		21/10/2021
		 WÖLKEN Tiemo	
		Shadow rapporteur	
		 REGIMENTI Luisa	
		 TOOM Yana	
		 HAUTALA Heidi	
		 MAUREL Emmanuel	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	 Development		27/09/2021
		 SAGARTZ Christian	
	 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Chair on behalf of committee	03/06/2021
		 CANFIN Pascal	
	 Industry, Research and Energy	Chair on behalf of committee	14/07/2021
		 BUȘOI Cristian-Silviu	
	 Foreign Affairs		23/02/2022
		 ARENA Maria	
	 Petitions		26/10/2021
		 BARRENA ARZA Pernando	
	 Constitutional Affairs		10/02/2022
		 SCHOLZ Helmut	

Key events

07/10/2021	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
17/05/2022	Vote in committee		
30/05/2022	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0167/2022	
07/07/2022	Results of vote in Parliament		
07/07/2022	Debate in Parliament		
07/07/2022	Decision by Parliament	T9-0301/2022	Summary

Technical information

Procedure reference	2021/2166(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Other legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 159
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	JURI/9/07121

Documentation gateway

Committee draft report		PE700.700	20/01/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	PETI	PE700.410	07/02/2022	EP	
Specific opinion	ITRE	PE719.643	03/03/2022	EP	
Specific opinion	ENVI	PE699.091	04/03/2022	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE719.944	07/03/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	AFCO	PE704.776	18/03/2022	EP	
Committee opinion	DEVE	PE704.678	23/03/2022	EP	
Specific opinion	AFET	PE729.925	25/04/2022	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0167/2022	30/05/2022	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0301/2022	07/07/2022	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2022)484	20/10/2022	EC	

Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws

The European Parliament adopted by 453 votes to 26, with 87 abstentions, a resolution on better regulation: joining forces to make better laws.

Parliament welcomed the Commission's aim of ensuring that EU legislation delivers maximum benefits to citizens and businesses, especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and its intention to make the better regulation approach more dynamic and adaptable to future developments.

Members welcomed the Commission's intention to improve the analysis and reporting of the impacts of proposals, including on competitiveness and SMEs, territoriality, sustainability, equality, subsidiarity and proportionality, as well as the Commission's commitment to mainstream the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into all its legislative proposals, to pay greater attention to gender equality and equality for all, and to ensuring that the do no significant harm and precautionary principles are applied across all policy areas.

Member States and the Commission are invited to recognise the need for better regulation and simplification that takes account of economic, environmental, social and gender impacts in an integrated and balanced way.

Coherence with the EU's climate neutrality objective

Members believe that the Commission should fully comply with the provisions of Article 6(4) of the European Climate Law, which provides that any draft measures and legislative proposals need to be consistent with the fulfilment of the Unions climate neutrality objective by 2050. To this end, the Commission must assess the consistency of all draft measures or legislative proposals, including budgetary proposals, with climate neutrality objectives and whether they ensure progress on adaptation to climate change.

The Commission should apply EU climate law compliance checks in impact assessments and evaluations in a systematic way from the outset of the preparation of new draft measures or quality reviews of existing legislation, in order to effectively inform the choices of policy makers.

Environmental impacts and sustainability

Sustainability should be at the heart of good legislation that places social, economic and environmental considerations on an equal footing.

Parliament supports the commitment to improved analysis and reporting of environmental impacts in all EU policies through mandatory assessment of the do no significant harm principle, and the fact that this assessment is to be applied to proposals from across all policy areas, in order to avoid uneven application. It recommended that the Commission consider implementing a sustainability-first approach and adopt it in the development and assessment of all policies. In this context, it called for the systematic consideration of reports such as those of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Protection and defence of human rights and democracy

Parliament stressed the importance of taking into account the human rights implications, especially for vulnerable groups, of all the Union's external policies, including trade policy and development cooperation. The aim is to ensure that human rights are duly and systematically taken into account, so as to prevent the Union from taking any action that would prevent or hinder respect for human rights. Gender implications should be mainstreamed in all reporting. In addition, Parliament called for children's rights to be mainstreamed into EU legislation by providing for children's rights impact assessments of the legislative proposals.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

The resolution pointed out that there are 22.6 million SMEs in the EU and that the Commission should therefore not only perform the SME test more systematically but should also provide for a mandatory SME test to be performed in all legislative proposals where this is applicable. Such a test should clearly identify how simplification could be attained in terms of costs and benefits, and, where possible, formulate additional recommendations to avoid unnecessary administrative or regulatory burdens for SMEs.

Impact assessments

Ex-ante and ex-post impact assessments, public consultations and the 'evaluate first principle' principle are essential tools for an informed, higher quality, efficient, accountable, transparent and beneficiary-oriented legislative process. These tools help to quantify impacts, including cost-benefit.

Parliament called on the Commission to carry out impact assessments on all legislative proposals, without exception. It called for impact assessments to be given sufficient resources and time to ensure their quality. However, it recalled that impact assessments help to inform policy-making but should never replace or unduly delay the legislative process.

Impact assessments should give equal attention to the evaluation of the economic, social, health and environmental consequences of the Commissions proposals in particular, and that the impact on the fundamental rights of citizens and on equality between women and men must be assessed.

The Commission is called upon to pay greater attention to the impact of EU legislation on developing countries and to respect and promote the objectives of development cooperation in these initiatives.

Parliament also insisted, inter alia, on:

- the development of new forms of digitisation processes in the decision-making of the three institutions to enhance the quality of the EU's legislative process in the digital era;
- the need to ensure that multilingualism is respected and that all publicly accessible EU websites on funding opportunities and tenders are translated simultaneously into all official EU languages;
- the importance of giving citizens easy access to the sources of legislation;
- the improvement of transparency in the Council's decision-making process, which therefore applies to access to trilogues documents;
- the obligation to keep the European Parliament immediately and fully informed at all stages of the procedure for the conclusion of agreements between the Union and third countries or international organisations;

- the need to avoid unnecessary additional administrative burdens in the design, transposition and implementation of EU legislation, which should not, however, result in deregulation or 'no-regulation';
- strengthening the right of legislative initiative of the European Parliament, the only democratically elected body in the Union directly representing European citizens.