REFIT implementation is in full swing.

In 2014 European Commission withdrew 53 pending legislative proposals (e.g. simplification of VAT obligations). Since 2005 almost 300 pending proposals have been withdrawn.

The European Commission halted a number of proposals in order to assess the added-value (e.g. occupational safety and health for hairdressers).

European Commission is preparing repeals of existing EU legislation as foreseen (e.g. steel statistics and retrofitting of mirrors to heavy goods vehicles).

Evaluations and fitness checks have started (e.g. on waste, Natura 2000, passenger ship safety and General Food Law).

Lighter regimes for SMEs and exemptions for micro-companies are applied wherever appropriate.

Council and European Parliament have adopted important proposals for simplification and burden reduction (e.g. professional qualifications, public procurement, tachographs). MS have an important responsibility to apply EU law in the least burdensome way and make use of simplification options.

A new annual scoreboard published on 18 June details progress for each REFIT initiative.

more info: ec.europa.eu/refit
REFIT – making EU law lighter, simpler and less costly

PROPOSALS WITHDRAWN BY THE COMMISSION 2006-2014

Total 293
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Examples of new REFIT initiatives presented on 18 June 2014*

Proposals for simplification and burden reduction
- identity and travel documents
- business statistics
- one stop shop and EU VAT web portal

Further withdrawals of pending proposals
- aviation security charges
- pregnant workers
- exemptions for micro companies in food hygiene

Further repeals of existing EU legislation
- energy labelling
- transport rates and conditions
- standardized reporting in the area of environment

Launching new evaluation and fitness checks including
- application of the mutual recognition principle
- carbon capture and storage
- telecoms

*to be included in 2015 Work Programme of the Commission
Success of smart regulation / REFIT depends on:

- Clear political priorities ("big on big things, smaller on small things").
- Ownership by all institutions and Member States. Council and EP to step up their impact assessment capacities. MS to implement and apply EU law in the least burdensome way + by making use of simplification options.
- Evidence-based policy-making
- Active involvement of stakeholders in the entire policy cycle.
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Examples of administrative burden reduction measures already adopted

- Fully electronic VAT invoicing system saving businesses €18 billion a year
- Simplification of Accounting/Financial reporting; 5 million micro-companies to benefit from a simple system of financial reporting (estimated annual savings of about €6.3 billion)
- REACH (Chemicals Legislation) – registration fees for SMEs reduced by 35% to 95%
- Unitary patent; administrative cost are reduced by up to 80%
- Public Procurement; new electronic procurement saves up to 20% of procurement costs
- New digital tachographs in road transport; increase road safety and reduce red tape saving businesses more than €400 million a year
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Facts and Figures

74% of Europeans believe that the EU generates too much red tape (EB 79)

Almost 200 REFIT actions are being implemented (see REFIT Scoreboard 2014)

More than 6,100 legal acts have been repealed since 2005

53 legislative proposals have been withdrawn in 2014 alone and almost 300 since 2006.

Administrative burdens for businesses have been reduced by more than 26% in 13 priority areas since 2007 leading to savings of more than €32 billion per year

Since 2010, over 350 impact assessments have been carried out before proposing new legislation

whereas...