



REFIT

Making EU law lighter,
simpler and less costly

What is REFIT?

REFIT is the European Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme. With REFIT, the Commission is taking action to make EU law 'fit for purpose': to simplify and reduce regulatory costs while maintaining benefits. A clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework is an essential support for growth and jobs.

REFIT is a key component of the Commission's Better Regulation Agenda. It makes sure EU legislation is of the highest quality and delivers its benefits with the least burden - through a system of impact assessments, retrospective evaluations and stakeholder consultations.

Over 200 individual actions have been identified since end 2012 in order to simplify legislation, reduce regulatory burden, withdraw pending proposals, repeal laws no longer necessary and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of EU legislation.

REFIT is following on the red-tape reduction programme of 2007-2012 which led to a cost reduction of 33% or €41 billion in priority areas. In 2015 REFIT was fully integrated into the Commission's annual work programme and the related political dialogue with the European Parliament and Council. Potential benefits and cost savings of each new proposal will be better monitored and more systematically quantified.

What has been done?

- **Electronic VAT Invoicing:** a fully electronic VAT invoicing system potentially 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 costs 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, reduce red tape and are expected to save businesses **more than €400 million a year.**



More than **200**

REFIT actions are being implemented since **2012** (see state of play REFIT Scoreboard **2015***)



More than **6,100**

legal acts have been repealed since **2005**



93 legal proposals

have been withdrawn in **2015** or are set for withdrawal until end **2016** and

almost **400** since **2006**



Administrative burdens for businesses have been

reduced by **33%**

in **13** priority areas since **2007** leading to savings of

€41 billion

* http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/better_regulation/documents/swd_2015_110_en.pdf

What actions are underway?

Over 40 REFIT initiatives are planned under the Commission Work Programme 2016, including actions to:

- simplify rules and reduce regulatory burdens in areas like renewable energy and VAT;
- follow up on the results of evaluations in areas like fuel quality and health and safety at work;
- evaluate regulations in the areas of consumer protection cooperation and telecoms to assess whether they remain fit for purpose.

What is the role of the REFIT Platform?

In 2015, the Commission established the REFIT Platform. Under the chairmanship of First Vice-President Frans Timmermans, it provides broad-based advice on suggestions to reduce regulatory burdens and simplify EU law while maintaining its objectives.

The REFIT Platform includes 28 high-level experts from Member States and 20 high-level experts from social partners, business and civil society as well as from the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

Further information on the work of the REFIT Platform can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/refit/refit-platform/index_en.htm

Who else is involved?

REFIT requires a common effort between the **European Commission** (proposing actions for simplification and burden reduction), the **Council** and the **European Parliament** (adopting legislation), **Member States** (implementing EU legislation) and **stakeholders** (providing feedback on implementation on the ground). All sides need to be involved to ensure that the benefits of EU legislation are realised for citizens and business at least cost.

Read more about REFIT at:

http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/refit/index_en.htm

Have your say

Please give us your comments and suggestions for the Commission's REFIT agenda:

http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/refit/simplification/consultation/consultation_en.htm

