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Enforcement of Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis

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Delegations will find in Annex the above-mentioned report.

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**2025**  
**ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

*Simplification,  
Implementation  
& Enforcement*

**Valdis DOMBROVSKIS**

European Commissioner  
for Economy and Productivity,  
and European Commissioner  
for Implementation and Simplification



SEPTEMBER 2025

## 1. Introduction

The simplification and implementation of EU policies and laws are essential to making business easier and faster in Europe, strengthening European competitiveness, and realising our ambitious economic, social and environmental goals. To be successful, simplification and implementation need to be shared objectives among the European Institutions, and benefit from a high level of consultation and transparency. Accordingly, as outlined in the Communication on implementation and simplification 2024-2029, [“A simpler and faster Europe”](#), this annual progress report provides information on the simplification, implementation and enforcement actions that I have taken over the reporting period, with the support of the Directorates-General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN) and Eurostat (DG ESTAT), in carrying out my mission as Commissioner for Economy and Productivity.

This first annual report covers actions that I have taken between 1 January 2025 and 31 July 2025 in my capacity as Commissioner for Economy and Productivity. The report focuses on the coordination of national economic and social policies through the European Semester; on the effective and consistent implementation of the reformed Economic Governance Framework; and on the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), which I co-lead together with the Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms. It also considers the promotion of investment through the coordination with the European Investment Bank (EIB), the European Investment Fund (EIF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and other international financial institutions.

As regards statistics, the report considers Eurostat’s work to further enrich statistical evidence and support the enlargement process and international cooperation on statistics. By providing reliable and comparable statistical information, Eurostat supports evidence-based policymaking in the EU and the implementation of the EU policies. To this end, Eurostat develops and promotes standards, methods, procedures, practices and tools that enable the cost-effective development, production and dissemination of European statistics.

In my other role, as Commissioner for Implementation and Simplification, I am responsible for coordinating the work of the College of Commissioners in this area. Over the reporting period, the Commission has adopted six packages of initiatives (Omnibus) and other proposals that aim at reducing burdens and simplifying legislation, reducing costs by over EUR 8.4 billion. In addition, progress has been achieved on stress-testing of EU acquis in several areas, and over 550 stakeholders were consulted via 28 implementation dialogues organised by the Members of the College. A separate Overview Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement reports on these elements.

## 2. Executive Summary

In the first seven months of 2025, the Commission pursued several practical simplification efforts in the field of economic and financial affairs.

In February 2025, the Commission adopted the Omnibus II package which included a set of proposals to cut red tape and simplify existing rules under the InvestEU program. The proposed changes will increase the size of EU guarantee and streamline reporting requirements for implementing partners. These efforts result from close cooperation between my services and the EIB. Efforts are also ongoing to simplify the EFSD+ mandate focusing on merging guarantee agreements, reducing blending complexity, and easing reporting obligations.

In June 2025, in its [Communication](#) “NextGenerationEU – The Road to 2026”, the Commission laid out options for Member States to make the most out of their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) in view of the legal deadlines in 2026. It encouraged Member States to review and streamline their plans while preserving their level of ambition.

When it comes to the implementation of the revised Economic Governance Framework, the Commission assessed progress made by the Member States based on the streamlined fiscal criteria and reporting requirements that entered into force in 2024. The 2025 Spring Package also included a simplification of country-specific recommendations, which eased reporting obligations for Member States to improve policy coordination and monitoring efforts.

In the area of statistics, stress testing started with the evaluation of the European business statistics regulation (2019/2152), followed by the screening of two regulations in the area of tourism and agriculture statistics. The implementation of recent amendments to the Regulation (EC) No 223/2009 on European statistics started, opening new opportunities for reducing administrative burden through improved access to administrative data and the possibility of accessing and reusing privately held data for compiling official European statistics.

The Commission also adopted the [proposal for a Regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics](#), which is expected to reduce statistical reporting burden by reusing administrative data already collected by the European Commission for the compilation of official European statistics on fisheries and aquaculture.

I have also held [two implementation dialogues](#) in the first half of the year. These took place on 27 June 2025 [on the Recovery and Resilience Facility \(RRF\)](#) and [on European statistics](#). The feedback on the RRF was overall positive, while also providing important practical suggestions to facilitate the implementation of the Facility until the end of 2026 as well as insights on performance-based instruments which will be useful to inform future instruments. The feedback on European statistics welcomed the simplification and burden reduction efforts of the Commission and called for increased digitalisation and re-use of data.

### 3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

#### A. Simplification and stress tests

##### Omnibus II - Investment programme

**The Commission and the EIB Group have been working together to simplify the mandates for funding solutions they manage jointly, both inside and outside the EU.** Out of the 50 mandates currently managed, 38 are from past programming periods but still require monitoring and reporting.

**To simplify this workstream, the Commission proposed changes in the Omnibus II package**, which includes amendments to the InvestEU regulation. The proposed modifications would allow for (i) an increase of the EU guarantee by EUR 2.5 billion with the corresponding provisioning of additional EUR 1 billion stemming from reflows becoming available in 2025, 2026 and 2027 from the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) and other legacy instruments, (ii) the combination of InvestEU products with predecessors from legacy mandates, and (iii) simplification of reporting requirements.

**Additional efficiency gains are expected from non-legislative measures** such as the update of guarantee agreements. The Commission is engaging with the EIB Group and other Invest EU implementing partners to reduce the reporting burden through contractual simplifications where no legislative amendment is needed. In the case of the EIB Group, the measures could also cover past mandates like InnovFin, Easi and COSME<sup>1</sup>.

The reporting simplification measures to be implemented via legislative amendments as well as via non-legislative means are **estimated to save around EUR 350 million**.

**The Commission has also been working to simplify the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) mandate to promote sustainable investments in partner countries outside the EU.** This includes

<sup>1</sup> InnovFin - EU Finance for Innovators, Easi Financial Instruments (under European Commission's Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), COSME, the programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs).

merging guarantee agreements, simplifying and reducing blending processes and reporting requirements. These changes were included in the legislative proposal to simplify the External Action Guarantee presented in May 2025.

**In view of the next MFF, it is envisaged to introduce a single rulebook for budgetary guarantees and financial instruments** to harmonise key operational parameters and reduce implementation costs.

### NextGenerationEU - The Road to 2026

**On 4 June 2025, the Commission published a [Communication](#) providing guidance in view of the 2026 deadline of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) and inviting Member States simplify their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs).** In the [RRF mid-term evaluation](#), Member States noted that Council implementing decisions were too detailed, with specifications that exceed the requirements needed to demonstrate fulfilment of a measure. The legally binding character of each element contained therein, including in the description of the measure, has been reinforced by a literal interpretation by the European Court of Auditors. In the view of some Member States, this led to a higher-than-expected administrative burden in implementing the Facility and implementation delays. In response, the 4 June 2025 Communication outlined ways to simplify Member States' Recovery and Resilience Plans. This includes reviewing the wording of measures, milestones and targets to ensure that they focus on essential elements only, while still complying with all assessment criteria laid down in the RRF Regulation. This will require coordinated action between Member States and the Commission, which is supporting this process through bilateral and multilateral engagement with the Member States.

**The Communication also stresses the importance of preparing the last few payment processes.** On the one hand, Member States are encouraged to plan ahead and provide sufficient evidence to avoid delays during assessment. On the other hand, ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to processing the submission of the last payment requests is essential, both in the national authorities and the Commission.

### European Semester and country-specific recommendations (CSRs)

**In the context of the European Semester, the Commission has also pursued practical simplifications to improve policy coordination and monitoring as regards country-specific recommendations (CSRs).** Up to 2025, Member States had to report annually on the implementation of 530 country-specific recommendations (1900 subparts) issued since 2019. In 2025, the outstanding stock of 2019-2024 CSRs was critically reviewed, taking into consideration their coverage in the Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) and their continued relevance. On that basis, the CSRs issued in 2025 comprise all key challenges not sufficiently addressed in the RRP, including those covered by the 2019-2024 CSRs that remain relevant. Conversely, the 2025 CSRs exclude past recommendations that are no longer relevant, meaning: (i) purely procedural CSRs, such as recommendations to submit a REPowerEU chapter or to implement RRP and cohesion policy, (ii) CSRs that are considered obsolete, such as those COVID-related, and (iii) the CSRs that are already substantially or fully implemented. This will significantly improve the focus of policy coordination efforts while reducing the annual reporting falling on Member States.

Furthermore, the Commission is working to simplify reporting on CSRs addressed in the Recovery and Resilience Plans. There will be a synergy between the two platforms used for encoding and assessing Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) payments (FENIX) and the one used for CSR assessment (CeSaR). Specifically, progress on RRP-related CSRs encoded on FENIX will be automatically reflected in CeSaR and thus streamline the reporting process.

### European official statistics and data collection

**Eurostat has continued to pursue relevant, comprehensive and comparable official European statistics, while keeping the administrative burden limited.** The [amendment of the Regulation \(EC\) No 223/2009](#) opens new opportunities for reducing administrative burden through facilitating the access of national statistical authorities and Eurostat to administrative data and introducing the possibility of accessing and reusing privately held data for compiling official statistics. In 2025, Eurostat and its partners in the European Statistical System identified several priority domains for establishing sustainable partnerships with private data holders for reusing

their data for compiling official statistics including tourism, price, energy, and labour market statistics. In addition, together with the national statistical authorities, Eurostat launched a programme for re-using and combining data already available to national statistical authorities' to produce new statistics and statistical insights on the performance, participation in global trade, innovation and sustainability of European businesses.

**In July, the Commission proposed a [Regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics](#).** It aims to respond to evolving information needs of the sector and EU Common Fisheries policy, and to simplify the collection and compilation of related statistics. The proposal replaces five existing sets of rules by a single, simplified and integrated system, which will reduce reporting burden on Member States. It will enable the reuse of administrative data already collected by the Commission. This will allow Eurostat to produce statistics on catches and the Union fishing fleet without requiring additional reporting from Member States, thus saving time and resources.

### Stress testing of the acquis

**My services are committed to stress testing the stock of EU legislation in their areas of competence – the so-called acquis.** As part of the simplification agenda, each Commissioner has been tasked with stress testing the EU acquis to identify opportunities for simplification and consolidation. This process will take place gradually during the Commission's mandate and therefore requires careful planning and prioritisation.

*In the field of economic and financial affairs*, DG ECFIN has developed an approach that prioritises the review process for the existing acquis considering each act's relevance to enhance competitiveness and reduce administrative burdens. Emphasis was placed on the extent to which simplifying each act would generate benefits for relevant stakeholders including businesses, national authorities, and citizens.

- Priority 1 has been assigned to acts scheduled for stress testing within the next two years. Currently, eight acts fall under this category and will undergo fitness checks, mainly through legal analysis and stakeholder consultations in 2025 and 2026<sup>2</sup>. Already in 2025, a few items are already undergoing stress testing and are expected to be proposed for simplification (see also Section 4 on the "Way forward").<sup>3</sup>
- Priority 2 includes acts to be reviewed within a two to four-year timeframe, and Priority 3 comprises acts that have been recently adopted, evaluated, or amended, and do not require immediate attention.

Additionally, the planning identifies certain one-off acts with a clear time limit, which are therefore not considered to have significant potential for simplification. These include, in particular, Macro-Financial Assistance to partner countries and the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). Notably, the RRF regulation<sup>4</sup> is set to expire in 2026, with an ex-post evaluation planned for 2028. This category also covers fixed Council decisions, such as those allowing Member States to renegotiate fixed exchange rates with partner countries, which are not expected to change.

*In the field of European statistics*, Eurostat launched in May 2025 its multi-annual 2025-2029 stress testing of the EU statistical legislation. A key element is the evaluation of the [Regulation \(EC\) 2019/2152 on European business statistics](#) which covers the vast majority of statistical reporting obligations for European businesses. The kick-off meeting of the Interservice Coordination Group for the evaluation of the European business statistics regulation, and its [call for evidence](#) was published on 1 July 2025. In some statistical domains, such as agriculture and tourism statistics, actions to screen the legal framework within the next five years are planned, based on the better regulation approach, aiming at burden reduction and potential simplification. Eurostat also intends to make use of reality checks with businesses and Member States, launching a review of European business statistics to identify gaps without

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EC) No 3603/93, Regulation (EC) No 332/2002, Regulation (EU) No 473/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011, Regulation (EU) No 472/2013, Regulation (EU) No 651/2012, Council Regulation (EC) No 3604/93, Council Regulation (EU) No 729/2014

<sup>3</sup> Regulation (EU) No 473/2013, Regulation (EU) No 472/2013, Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011, Regulation (EC) No 332/2002

<sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/241

increasing burden, and promote sustainable partnerships between data holders and statistical authorities, and conduct further implementation dialogues in support of the stress testing of the EU statistical acquis.

### Delegated and implementing acts

**My services have also conducted a first screening of delegated and implementing acts.** In addition to the stress testing of primary legislation, the Commission is working to streamline its legal framework by screening and prioritising empowerments in delegated and implementing acts.

*In the field of economic and financial affairs*, five empowerments have been identified. One relates to the Regulation on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)<sup>5</sup> which expires in 2026 and will therefore no longer be valid after 2026. Two are linked to the Economic Governance Framework<sup>6</sup>, have already been exercised and are not expected to be used again and thus have been proposed to be deprioritised. The remaining two, concerning euro cash<sup>7</sup> and the Pericles programme<sup>8</sup>, have also been proposed for de-prioritisation. A revision of the Pericles regulation is already underway following the announcement of its successor programme under the next MFF, while the regulation on euro cash is scheduled for a stress test in 2027.

*In the field of European statistics*, the screening confirmed that existing empowerments contribute to reducing administrative burden on national statistical authorities and improve data processing efficiency at EU level. In particular, delegated acts allow for adaptability to evolving needs or methodologies, while implementing acts help alleviate burden by standardising technical specifications, formats and structures. These empowerments promote efficiency, consistency, and quality across the European Statistical System and should be maintained.

## B. Implementation

### The Economic Governance Framework

**The news Framework entered into force in April 2024, with a view to simplifying budgetary rules, enhancing their effectiveness and improving their monitoring and medium-term orientation.** The new Economic Governance Framework introduced stronger national ownership through the presentation by Member States of their Medium-term Fiscal-structural Plans combining commitments on public finances, reforms and investments. With the net expenditure indicator, the new Framework also established a single operational indicator, anchored in debt sustainability analysis, to define fiscal adjustment paths and guide surveillance – enhancing transparency, simplifying implementation and facilitating compliance and enforcement. Additionally, Member States are now required to submit Annual Progress Reports to support effective monitoring of the Plans' implementation.

**The Commission has since assessed both the Medium-term Plans and, subsequently, the progress made by Member States in their implementation.** In the second half of 2024, the Commission assessed and adopted recommendations on the medium-term plans of 21 Member States. Assessments continued into 2025 for six Member States that submitted their plans later and one that updated its plan. In the first half of 2025, the Commission assessed the implementation of the Council recommendations on the Medium-term Fiscal-structural Plans, based on Member States' first Annual Progress Reports, along with other relevant information.

<sup>5</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/241

<sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011 and Regulation (EU) No 473/2013

<sup>7</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1214/2011

<sup>8</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/840 - The [Pericles 2020 programme](#) funds staff exchanges, seminars, trainings and studies for law enforcement and judicial authorities, banks and others involved in combating euro-counterfeiting

## The Recovery and Resilience Facility

### **Implementation and disbursements under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) have progressed rapidly, particularly for non-repayable support, but still needs to be accelerated in many Member States.**

My services are currently working on 2025 RRF Annual Report which will present an overview of the results and economic impact of the RRF, and detailed information on the state of play of the implementation of the Facility. By the end of July 2025, EUR 319 billion (49% of the total) had been disbursed for 2,360 milestones and targets. Implementation delays are linked to the unexpected crisis that have emerged during the lifetime of the RRF, notably the energy crisis, high inflation and supply chain disruptions, as well as to administrative burden. Further simplification and coordination are expected to help increase the pace of implementation. In this respect, the Communication "NextGenerationEU - The Road to 2026" published on 4 June 2025 put forward recommendations for Member States to simplify their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs) as considered earlier, and to make the most out of the Facility by the 2026 deadlines. In addition, the Commission provided support to Member States via the TSI<sup>9</sup> to further enhance their ability to implement the RRPs, including as regards the RRP monitoring and project management methods, reporting mechanisms, audit and control frameworks, communication strategy, governance structures, including IT systems, or to assist with the application of the "Do No Significant Harm" principle.

### **First implementation dialogue on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF)**

**My first [implementation dialogue](#) in the field of economic and financial affairs focused on reporting and administrative burden experienced by Member States during the implementation of the RRF.** During the event, which took place on 27 June in Brussels, I exchanged with high-level representatives from national authorities. There was broad recognition of the positive experience with the Facility while also acknowledging that, being a novel instrument established in record time during the COVID-19 pandemic, it had required important efforts.

On administrative and reporting simplification, Member States generally recommended greater flexibility and lighter procedures for revising Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs), clearer and more harmonised guidance that would be available from an early start, greater use of digital tools, and further automation of reporting obligations. They also recommended simpler descriptions of milestones and targets, and more flexible timelines for submitting payment requests (not limited to two per year). In addition, participants agreed that the most significant challenge was the workload related to gathering the evidence required to prove the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and targets, and recommended to foster synergies between the Commission and national audit authorities.

The feedback collected confirmed the need to streamline and simplify the RRPs and prepare the last few payment requests well ahead of time, as put forward in the [Communication](#) "NextGenerationEU - The Road to 2026". Furthermore, the insights gathered will be considered in the ex-post evaluation of the RRF, and the Commission also took note of those insights towards the design and implementation of upcoming performance-based instruments.

### **First implementation dialogue on European statistics**

**My first [implementation dialogue](#) on European official statistics "Towards relevant, simplified and cost-efficient European official statistics" was held in Brussels on 27 June 2025.** It featured an open exchange with EU businesses and representatives of national statistical authorities. It gathered feedback on challenges with statistical reporting, identified potential simplification and burden reduction measures in the field of business and trade statistics, and considered unmet user needs. Opportunities in terms of simplification and burden reduction offered by the implementation of the newly revised legislative framework on European statistics, notably through access to new data sources, enhanced data sharing and innovative approaches, were also discussed.

<sup>9</sup> Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain. Please find further information on the dedicated [webpage](#).

During the dialogue, the participants called for increased digitalisation of the entire statistical process, including through data collection tools extracting data directly from businesses' accounting systems. In addition, the businesses supported the full implementation of the collect 'once-only' principle across all statistical domains by stepping up efforts in encouraging public authorities for wider re-use of already available administrative data that are suitable for the production of official European statistics. Businesses representatives also underlined the need to establish access and assess the statistical fitness of upcoming new administrative data sources, e.g.: VAT in the digital age (VIDA), e-invoicing, corporate sustainability reporting, Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM). The participants also encouraged a wider use of the 'single flow' statistical compilation of intra-EU trade in goods statistics. Within the 'single flow' scenario, the national statistical authorities of EU countries use the exports to their countries reported by the other EU countries as estimates for the imports to their countries. This would eliminate the need to collect data on imports. As a result, the reporting burden on enterprises would be substantially reduced.

More broadly as regards implementation support, Eurostat supports national statistical authorities in producing high-quality European statistics with the help of expert groups discussing and setting common standards and methodologies, as well as through financing programmes aimed at improving statistical production.

### C. Enforcement

My services are working closely with Member States to promote early compliance and prevent breaches from arising. When infringements do occur, we maintain close cooperation with them to monitor and address these cases.

*In the area of economic and financial affairs*, my services are currently handling **ten infringement cases**. Nine of these ([Slovakia](#), [Croatia](#), [Ireland](#), [Luxembourg](#), [Malta](#), [Belgium](#), [Greece](#), [France](#), [Slovenia](#)) relate to the incomplete or incorrect transposition of [Directive 2014/62/EU](#) on the protection of the euro and other currencies against counterfeiting. The tenth infringement case concerns the seizure of European Central Bank (ECB) information that took place at the Central Bank of Slovenia in 2016.

*In the area of official European statistics*, Eurostat regularly uses **compliance promotion tools**, such as expert group meetings, or bilateral meetings at technical and management-level (Head of Unit and Director) and letters, i.e. annual letters by the Director-General to the concerned national statistical institutes, in line with the institutional strategic approach to enforcement. In 2025, Eurostat monitoring of the application of EU law, did not identify any breaches of EU law that would require launching a pre-infringement dialogue or a formal infringement procedure.

More information about the enforcement tools of the Commission can be found [here](#). The Commission publishes information on its enforcement activities on this webpage, allowing for targeted searches and customised graphs.

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## 4. Way forward

**In the coming months, I will come forward with further specific actions to support implementation and simplification under my portfolio.** *In the field of economic and financial affairs*, following the recent adoption of the new Economic Governance Framework, it has become necessary to screen other related acts to ensure that they are consistent with the new Framework, eliminating inconsistencies and duplications. In line with the stress testing approach detailed above, my services are currently assessing possible amendments to the Regulations on the monitoring and assessment of Draft Budgetary Plans<sup>10</sup>, sanctions<sup>11</sup>, and post-programme surveillance<sup>12</sup>, with the

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<sup>10</sup> Regulation (EU) No 473/2013

<sup>11</sup> Regulation (EU) No 1173/2011

<sup>12</sup> Regulation (EU) No 472/2013

aim of removing inconsistencies and aligning them with the new Framework. In parallel, targeted amendments to the Balance of Payments regulation<sup>13</sup> are also being assessed to align and simplify the funding arrangements of the regulation in light with recent developments with funding mechanisms of the Commission. Several revisions are also already scheduled for 2026, including amendments to the euro coins legislation.

*In the field of European statistics*, and also in line with the stress testing approach, Eurostat will continue with the [evaluation of the European business statistics regulation](#) and the review of the legal basis for tourism statistics. Eurostat will also continue to identify possible areas for burden reduction and simplification, and to harness new opportunities for reusing data sources (administrative, privately held and public data) for producing official statistics, while following the ‘collect once-only’ and the ‘statistical confidentiality’ principles.

A reality check to assess the burden on businesses linked to the collection of statistical data, especially on SMEs active in key strategic sectors, is planned towards the end of 2025. Concerning transport and energy statistics, the stress-testing will start in 2026 with reality checks conducted first with expert groups to get feedback from national statistical institutes and other national authorities on potential simplification and streamlined implementation. The stress-testing of the legislation concerning persons and households in social statistics will also start with reality checks within the relevant expert groups and focus on the delegated and implementing acts falling in this domain.

A proposal for an amendment of the [integrated farm statistics regulation](#) is planned for adoption by the Commission in the fourth quarter of 2026. The [call for evidence](#) for the amendment was published on 29 July 2025 for feedback until 9 September 2025.

**Preparation is also underway for the next implementation dialogues.** *Regarding economic and financial affairs*, the dialogue is again expected to focus on the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF), this time inviting representatives from the business sector, universities, R&D institutes, associations, and the social sector. The purpose of this second dialogue on the RRF will be to gather insights from final recipients on their experience in accessing RRF funds, which could then help inform the implementation of future EU programmes.

*In the area of statistics*, Eurostat will leverage the outcomes and contacts established in its first implementation dialogue to continue working on the implementation of new legal provisions on access reusing existing data for the compilation of official European statistics. Moreover, the focus will be on further digitalisation of statistical data collection, by developing tools aiming at automatic extraction of data from enterprises, to reduce burdens.

Last but not least, Eurostat will continue to support national statistical authorities in producing high-quality European statistics, including through setting common standards and methodologies (e.g. for data and metadata collection and for quality), and awarding grants to improve statistical production.

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<sup>13</sup> Council Regulation (EC) No 332/2002

## Annex: examples

Example	Description	Expected Outcome
<b>CSR simplification exercise</b>	The CSR simplification exercise took stock of the existing recommendations and critically reviewed them, issuing for 2025 only those CSRs that address key challenges not sufficiently covered in the RRP. In contrast, the 2025 CSRs exclude past recommendations that are no longer relevant, meaning: (i) purely procedural CSRs (e.g. recommendations to submit a REPowerEU chapter or to implement RRP and cohesion policy), (ii) CSRs that are considered obsolete (e.g. COVID-related), and (iii) the CSRs that are already substantially or fully implemented.	This will <b>streamline reporting for Member States</b> , who will now report only on the 2025 CSRs, with no need to cover previous years' CSRs. Progress on RRP-related CSRs reported through the dedicated application FENIX will automatically be reflected in the Commission assessment.
<b>RRF simplification</b>	As stated in the Communication "NextGenerationEU – the road to 2026", the Commission is supporting a simplification exercise that encourages and guides Member States to review their Recovery and Resilience Plans (RRPs). The review should aim to streamline the wording of the RRP. The latter will ensure that all requirements included in the RRP are related to essential elements of investments and reforms and do not create unnecessary administrative burden during the assessment process.	The simplification of RRP will benefit all the authorities involved, both at national and EU level, as the <b>burden of the assessment and payment process is reduced</b> , thus ensuring a <b>smoother and more effective processing of payment requests and disbursements</b> .
<b>Simplification of EIB mandates</b>	For external mandates involving the EIB the simplification work involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing consolidation of three existing guarantee agreements with the EIB into a single framework agreement, aiming to streamline the contracting process and simplify future reporting obligations.</li> <li>• Introduction of bi-annual financial reporting under the new Guarantee Agreements, replacing the previous quarterly requirement.</li> <li>• Simplification of the blending framework, including procedures for approval, contracting, and reporting.</li> </ul>	The primary stakeholders affected by these changes are the <b>implementing partners - in this case, the EIB - and, indirectly, the final beneficiaries in partner countries</b> . The simplification efforts will <b>ease reporting obligations and streamline contracting processes</b> .
<b>European business statistics</b>	Since its adoption in 2019, Eurostat has coordinated the implementation of the Regulation (EU) 2019/2152 of the European Parliament and of the Council on <b>European business statistics</b> , ensuring a smooth and harmonised implementation by the Member States. In terms of simplification, the main	<b>Statistical reporting burden (on businesses, including SMEs) and costs reduction</b> in the area of business and price statistics

Example	Description	Expected Outcome
	<p>novelty introduced by the European business statistics Regulation is the exchange of microdata for intra-EU exports in goods. This allows the Member States to use the exchanged data to replace surveys organised to collect data on intra-EU imports of goods by their domestic enterprises. The potential for reducing the statistical reporting burden on enterprises is significant. Statistics Estonia was the first national statistical authority to completely replace its survey on intra-EU imports of goods with exchanged microdata in February 2025.</p>	
<p><b>Re-using already collected data for the compilation of European official statistics</b></p>	<p>European business statistics, and especially tourism statistics have been a pioneer in using <b>privately held data</b>, which have a significant potential for costs and burden reduction for statistical production. Statistics on <a href="#">short-stay accommodation using data from the main collaborative tourism platforms</a> operating in Europe (currently, Airbnb, Booking and Expedia Group) were an early example of the feasibility of the approach. Substantial progress has also been made with using scanner and web data for compiling Harmonised Index on Consumer Prices and national Consumer Price Index inflation measures. Privately-held-data sources for tourism and price statistics have been prioritised for future development in the European Statistical System.</p>	<p><b>Statistical reporting burden reduction</b> for producing European official statistics.</p>
<p><b>Fisheries and aquaculture statistics simplifications</b></p>	<p>The draft <b>Proposal for a Regulation on European fisheries and aquaculture statistics</b> (EFAS) was adopted by the Commission on 30 July 2025. It establishes the legal framework for the production volume and value of fisheries products caught from the sea and cultivated in aquaculture facilities in the EU. The statistics will support the sound management of fisheries resources and economic analysis of fisheries product markets. They will therefore contribute to the management and further development of the <a href="#">Common Fisheries Policy</a> (CFP) and to the assessment of the impact of policy measures. These statistics are also required under various international conventions, such as the <a href="#">Convention on Cooperation in the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries</a> establishing the <a href="#">Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization</a> (NAFO), and by several international organisations, e.g. the <a href="#">Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</a> (FAO). It represents a simplification of the legal framework as it will replace five existing regulations (Regulations</p>	<p><b>Burden and administrative costs reduction</b> for administrations, businesses and fishermen.</p>

Example	Description	Expected Outcome
	<p><a href="#">(EC) No 1921/2006</a>, <a href="#">(EC) No 762/2008</a>, <a href="#">(EC) No 216/2009</a>, <a href="#">(EC) No 217/2009</a> and <a href="#">(EC) No 218/2009</a> and will streamline and simplify the manner the data will be collected, notably by reusing administrative data already submitted by the Member States to the Commission (Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG MARE)) and consequently reduce the burden on administrations, businesses and fishermen.</p>	