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From:	Commission services
To:	Delegations
Subject:	2026 Annual Progress Report on Simplification, Implementation and Enforcement - Trade and Economic Security

Delegations will find in Annex the above-mentioned report.

European Commission



1. Introduction

This report covers progress on simplification, implementation and enforcement activities in the field of **trade, customs** and **economic security** as well as in the remit of the **Publications Office** of the European Union during the period 1 August 2025 – 31 July 2026.

As Commissioner for **Trade and Economic Security**, I am committed to use EU trade and customs policy instruments to maximise their contribution to the Union's core objectives, notably competitiveness, security and sustainability.

In the area of **customs**, I am working on an effective and modern customs system that can better support our EU Single Market and enhance EU competitiveness, notably by helping to protect citizens and supporting a level playing field for businesses. On 26 March 2026, the co-legislators reached a political agreement on the biggest overhaul of our customs union since its inception in 1968, with new measures for e-commerce and a modern, data-driven customs architecture that simplifies procedures and enhances efficiency.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy** my services remain focussed on the effective implementation of EU legislation and the EU's vast network of trade and investment agreements and partnerships. On 17 January 2026, the EU and **Mercosur** signed an Interim Trade Agreement (ITA), which started to be provisionally applied since 1 May. Over the reporting period, we also concluded negotiations of free trade agreements (FTAs) with **Indonesia** and **India** and **Australia,** all of which are pending ratification, as well as an interim trade agreement modernising the EU's agreement with **Mexico**, which has been ratified by the EU and will likely enter into force in the autumn. In November 2025 we signed and started to apply our first **Clean Trade and Investment Partnership** with South Africa. This partnership will diversify strategic clean supply chains, create new trade and investment opportunities, and strengthen EU access to raw materials. In February, the EU's first **Digital Trade Agreement** (**DTA EU-Singapore**) entered into force. It will provide binding rules for consumers and businesses, as well as removing and preventing the emergence of unjustified barriers to digital trade, thus complementing the EU-Singapore FTA. In January 2026, the Commission concluded negotiations on a **Sustainable Investment Facilitation Agreement** (SIFA) with **Ecuador**, the second such agreement following our SIFA with Angola, and the first negotiated with a Latin American country. In December 2025, the Commission adopted the Joint Communication on strengthening EU economic security[1] which my services lead the preparation of and are now coordinating the implementation of.

Shaping EU trade, economic security and customs policy over the reporting period meant working hand in hand with Member States and stakeholders in pursuit of a coherent strategy that keeps markets open for European industry to grow, supports diversification and greater resilience while protecting European interests from unfair practices and reducing dependencies.

2. Executive Summary

Simplification

In the area of **customs**, the political agreement reached in March 2026 on the **EU Customs Reform** delivers simplification at scale: traditional declarations give way to a data-led approach to import supervision, with a single digital environment for customs processes — the **EU Customs Data Hub** — and 'green lanes' for trusted traders. In line with the **Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan**, my services also finalised external studies on the **EU rules of origin** and on the **Scheme for Autonomous Tariff Suspensions and Quotas**, which will feed into full evaluations, and consolidated the **classification regulations**, repealing 19 outdated acts. Digitalising controls on **drug precursors** and the **export licence for cultural goods** will further reduce burden for legitimate trade.

In the area of **trade and economic security**, my services remain firmly committed to solid engagement with stakeholders to improve implementation and enforcement of international trade commitments. During the reporting period, DG TRADE carried out two **reality checks,** one on the functioning of the **trade defence and foreign**

[1] JOIN(2025) 977 final

subsidies regulations (15 October 2025) and the other one on the **enforcement of international market access commitments** (20 May 2026).

Implementation and enforcement

In the area of **customs,** my **implementation dialogue** of 8 June 2026 confirmed strong business support for the **Customs Reform**'s core ambitions, notably the **EU Customs Data Hub** and the **Trust and Check** regime, together with calls for clear guidance and realistic implementation timelines. My services extended the **EU Customs Single Window** (CSW-CERTEX) to the first seven mandatory non-customs domains, as well as to cultural goods and **CBAM**, and coordinated a **priority control area** on products purchased through online marketplaces. On enforcement, my priority remained the digital implementation of the Union Customs Code: of the 23 infringement procedures opened in 2025, twelve were closed in June 2026 following Member State progress, while Reasoned Opinions were addressed to those yet to deliver. Information about Commission decisions on infringement cases is available online.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy**, my services remain focussed on the implementation of trade and investment agreements, and in particular of our 45 preferential agreements with 80 partners[2], with a lot of attention given to raise awareness of stakeholders on new agreements, like the one with **Mercosur**, which started to apply provisionally on 1 May 2026. European businesses will save EUR 4 billion annually in duties. More than 30,000 small EU companies already export today to Mercosur, a figure which is set to increase thanks to the deal.

Work on other **autonomous legislative tools** was also taken forward. The revised **EU framework for screening foreign investment** (Foreign Investment Screening Regulation – FISR)[3] entered into force on 16 July. Its rules will start to apply on 17 January 2028. In the first half of 2026, my services kicked off the evaluation of the **EU Dual-Use Regulation[4],** and advanced the review of the **EU conflict minerals regulation[5]** as well the assessment of the **EU trade defence measures** under the EU's anti-dumping and anti-subsidy regulations**.** Following up on Recommendation 2025/63 on **outbound investment monitoring[6]**, the Commission has worked with Member States to review potential risks associated with outbound Investment in a limited number of technology areas. It is now examining Member States' final reports and will draw any policy conclusions later this year.

Enforcement remained high on the agenda as the EU used its enforcement toolbox in support of rules-based trade and to address unfair competition and protectionism, seeing 32 **trade barriers fully or partially removed** over the reporting period in 18 partner countries.

Our **trade defence measures**, mostly in the steel and chemical sectors, protect 674 000 manufacturing jobs in the EU. The Commission initiated 35 new trade defence investigations over the reporting period. 62% of all trade defence measures concern the steel and chemical sectors.

Preserving the stability and competitiveness of EU industry was also a core objective in the negotiations on a new **EU steel measure** replacing the EU steel safeguard, which entered into force on 1 July 2026. The measure will address the negative trade-related effects of global steel overcapacity (projected to reach 721 million tons by 2027), which is more than five times the EU's annual steel consumption. The EU implementing regulation[7] set out the distribution of tariff quotas to the EU's trading partners.

Under my political lead, the **Publications Office** has continued its work, combining its expertise in providing access to EU law with its know-how on legal analysis and the trustworthy use of artificial intelligence (AI) to support simplification and implementation along two complementary strands: i) conducting AI-facilitated analysis of the EU acquis; and ii) developing a corporate Acquis Management Tool in support of simple, clear and well enforced law.

[2] State of play on 1 July 2026
[3] Regulation (EU) 2026/1386, Regulation - EU - 2026/1386 - EN - EUR-Lex
[4] Regulation (EU) 2021/821; EUR-Lex - 02021R0821-20241108 - EN - EUR-Lex
[5] Regulation 2017/821; EUR-Lex - 02017R0821-20201119 - EN - EUR-Lex
[6] Commission Recommendation (EU) 2025/63 of 15 January 2025 on reviewing outbound investments in technology areas critical for the economic security of the Union; https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500063
[7] Regulation (EU) 2026/1457 ; Implementing regulation - EU - 2026/1457 - EN - EUR-Lex

3. Delivering Results: Key Measures

A. Simplification and costs savings

The Commission deployed several simplification initiatives in the areas covered by my portfolio.

In the area of **customs**, my services closely collaborated with the Council and the European Parliament reaching in March 2026 the political agreement on the Commission's 2023 proposal for the EU Customs Reform. This reform will replace traditional declarations with a smarter, data-led approach to import supervision. It simplifies and rationalises customs reporting requirements for traders, notably by reducing the time needed to complete import processes, providing one single digital environment for customs processes (the EU Customs Data Hub), and facilitating optimal data re-use among supply chain actors. In addition, trusted traders will benefit from 'green lanes' for faster clearance processes without formal customs intervention. Further, an external study is assessing how customs special procedures are implemented, whether the benefits of using them outweigh the costs of obtaining an authorisation for their use and how their implementation can be improved. The study will be finalised by the end of 2026.

The temporary EUR 3 customs duty which applies since 1 July 2026 bridges the gap until the setting up of the EU Customs Data Hub in July 2028. A fix amount of EUR 3 per item was considered as the most appropriate solution to apply a simplified duty, within the functionalities of the current customs digital systems.

In the first half of 2026, an external study on the EU rules of origin was finalised. It features an extensive stakeholder consultation and assesses whether the current rules of origin have been working over the last years and whether they are still adequate to be used across an increasing number of different policy measures. My services are currently finalising the evaluation of the EU rules of origin, which will identify potential shortcomings of the existing framework and suggest possible ways ahead, as outlined in the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan.

In April 2026, the external study on the Scheme for Autonomous Tariff Suspension and Quotas (ATSQ) was finalised. As also outlined in the Regulatory Deep Cleaning Action Plan, the Commission will now carry out a fully-fledged Commission evaluation of the Scheme and subsequently revise and simplify the guiding principles and administrative arrangements of the ATSQ thus reducing administrative burden. This simplification exercise will seek to clarify and streamline the requirements to grant tariff relief, reduce the frequency of regular legal updates and leverage digitalization to improve efficiency and remove legislative duplicates.

The Commission has also performed a major consolidation in relation to Classification Regulations which helps to better identify the Regulations and their respective tariff classification codes in accordance with the latest Combined Nomenclature. This work entails a repeal of 19 outdated classification regulations, and the preparation of another proposal aligning other classification regulations with the current Combined Nomenclature.

In the area of customs controls on **prohibitions and restrictions**, in December 2025 the Commission proposed new rules for better and faster monitoring and controlling of **drug and designer precursors** at the external border and in the internal market. This initiative will simplify and digitalise processes for legitimate trade in drug precursors, ensuring industries can thrive without excessive regulatory burdens. The EU will also step up its support to Member States in detecting precursors used in drug production facilities and will assist in implementing the new rules, with support from the European Union Drug Agency (EUDA). My Services, together with the ones in charge of the internal market, are presently discussing this proposal with the Council and the European Parliament.

In the area of **cultural** goods and their control at export from the European Union, the recent adoption of an implementing legislation will pave the way for the digitalisation of the export licence for these goods. This will simplify requesting the licence by the exporter and facilitate the control tasks of both customs and cultural goods authorities contributing to a better protection of the European cultural heritage.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy**, to support **simplification** during this Commission's term my services pro-actively reached out to stakeholders.

- My services carried out a **reality check** on 15 October 2025, jointly with DGs GROW and COMPETITION, dedicated to the functioning of **Trade Defence Instruments (TDI) and the Foreign Subsidies Regulation (FSR)**. Participants inter alia raised the issue of the complementarity of the instruments, noted the different procedures applied (e.g. lack of a formal complaints system under the FSR) and inquired how the three services responsible could coordinate among themselves, notably when it comes to evidence and intelligence sharing. Other issues concerned the further potential to simplify FSR notifications, the need to raise more awareness of the FSR among services sectors (including on the aspects related to public procurement), and the importance

for the EU's competition and trade tools to unlock (rather than block) investment in the EU. The outcome of the discussion will feed into the wider assessment of the effectiveness of the EU's trade defence measures.

- The other **reality check** organised by DG TRADE on 20 May 2026 was a follow-up to the first reality check of 4 June 2025 on the Enforcement of **market access commitments in EU bilateral trade agreements and the World Trade Organization** (WTO). Member States and business organisations received information on action taken in response to their initial recommendations. The event resulted in additional practical suggestions by stakeholders on how to smoothen cooperation with the Commission on trade barriers. *Inter alia*, practitioners expressed interest in receiving sector specific and shorter, more targeted training activities with experts on what new or upcoming free trade agreements mean for companies. Newcomers to international trade and smaller companies would also benefit from additional support on how to file a complaint with the Single Entry Point.

The **Publications Office** has continued to support simplification and better regulation through AI-facilitated analysis of the EU acquis. By leveraging the extensive metadata behind EUR-Lex, combined with the use of AI-powered information retrieval tailored to policy needs, the Office has continued to support the Secretariat-General and various Commission services with inputs for the ongoing simplification work. In addition, the Office, in close cooperation with the Secretariat-General and several Commission services, has delivered the first version of a corporate Acquis Management Tool. Based on EUR-Lex as the authoritative source of EU law, the tool is to support AI-assisted analysis of the acquis to help identify legal obligations, improve the consistency and coherence of legislation, detect potential overlaps or inconsistencies, and provide better support for implementation, simplification and future policy development. This work forms part of a broader Commission initiative to establish a shared digital workspace for proactive acquis management across the legislative cycle.

B. Implementation

In the area of **customs**, I held my **implementation dialogue** on 8 June and listened to businesses and their representatives regarding the Customs Reform implementation. Stakeholders confirmed strong support for the Reform's core ambitions: creating a simpler, more digitalised, and resilient customs union that enhances competitiveness, security, and Single Market integrity. Participants acknowledged the transformative potential of the Reform, particularly through the introduction of the EU Customs Data Hub and the Trust and Check regime, which promise to streamline processes and reduce compliance costs for businesses. The discussion also underscored challenges about the Reform's practical implementation, with businesses emphasising the need for greater clarity, more guidance, realistic timelines, and collaborative preparation to ensure a smooth transition. The participants recognised that the Customs Reform presents a historic opportunity to modernise EU customs by delivering a more efficient, secure, and unified customs system that supports trade while safeguarding the Single Market and protecting EU values.

In addition, my services made further progress towards integrating additional non-customs formalities within the EU Customs Single Window framework established by Regulation (EU) 2022/2399, with the objective of simplifying administrative procedures for economic operators and enhancing the efficiency of customs processes. During the reporting period, significant progress was achieved in the operational rollout of the EU Customs Single Window Certificates Exchange System (EU CSW-CERTEX). Following the legal deadlines established by the Regulation, the framework now supports the exchange of information for the first seven mandatory non-customs domains as well as the Import of Cultural Goods (ICG) and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) domains. These milestones represent a substantial expansion of the operational scope of the EU Customs Single Window framework, enabling increased automation of customs controls and reducing administrative burdens for both economic operators and national authorities.

As announced in the February 2025 Commission communication on the comprehensive EU toolbox for safe and sustainable e-commerce, in the reporting period, the Commission has concretely supported implementation and enforcement of EU legislation by means of a **priority control area (PCA)** where it coordinates Member States's customs and market surveillance authorities to carry out customs controls on imports of products purchased online marketplaces. This action intends to ensure an effective level playing field at the EU border and will be used to reinforce the application of all the existing legal tools in a holistic manner, including the Market Surveillance Regulation and the Digital Service Act.

Finally, the Commission continuously monitors the application of **the rules of origin in the EU free trade agreements** (FTA) with a specific focus on the origin verification procedures and where appropriate further guidance is provided to Member States to ensure uniform implementation across the EU. The sensitive area of exports of used

cars under preferential tariffs is an example of the beneficial results of this monitoring. The monitoring team identified cases where proofs of origin were issued based on supporting documents lacking the necessary reliability to substantiate the EU origin of the used vehicle. To raise Customs awareness of the requirements for the provision of sufficient evidence supporting the preferential origin of used cars, the Explanatory Notes to the revised Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) Convention were updated building substantially on the results of two monitoring visits to Member States[8] carried out in 2025-2026.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy** my **Implementation Dialogue**[9] on 24 November 2025 was dedicated to **EU-US trade and investment relations** and took place in presence of US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, and MEP Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliamentary Committee for International Trade. Engaging with European industry representatives from various sectors, we received valuable input on the potential for growth of transatlantic investments and economic engagement, in light of the implementation of the EU-US Joint Statement (JS) of 21 August 2025[10]. Among others, business stakeholders stressed the need to stabilise and deepen EU-US trade, strengthen supply chains, further cooperate on economic security-related issues, reduce US tariffs and associated administrative burdens for key sectors, and swiftly advance the EU's ongoing simplification agenda to attract investments. The potential benefits of closer EU-US cooperation on common standards and stable regulatory environments were also highlighted by the participants.

Since then, the EU has moved forward with implementing its side of the Agreement: on 30 June, publishing two tariff regulations reducing duties on imports of industrial goods and providing market access for certain US agricultural and seafood products, thereby ensuring cheaper and better access to US goods for EU industry and end-consumers, without compromising on any of the EU's sensitivities. The two regulations entered into force on 1 July 2026.

With regard to **EU legislation** related to trade and economic security, a number of concrete **initiatives to improve implementation** were carried forward, with a view to making implementation of trade legislation more effective and efficient.

- Preparatory work for the next review of the **Conflict Minerals Regulation** has started: The call for tenders to seek external expertise to support the review process was launched in June 2026 and the contractor is expected to start work in the fourth quarter of 2026.
- Over the reporting period my services also continued with the assessment of the effectiveness of the **EU's trade defence measures** taken under the EU anti-dumping and anti-subsidies regulations. An external contractor started carrying out the underlying technical and economic analysis in April 2026. The outcome will help to provide an overview of the overall effectiveness, adequacy and impact of TDI measures.
- We also advanced on the evaluation of the EU's Regulation on **dual-use export controls**. In addition to a public consultation, a targeted consultation was launched in July 2026 with exporters, brokers and providers of technical assistance in the field of dual use, industry associations, national export control authorities (e.g. licensing, enforcement and customs authorities), non-profit organisations (NPOs), research institutes and academia. The evaluation is focussing on the overall effectiveness of the regulation, including an assessment of costs and benefits, impacts on business, administrative complexity and will explore the potential for simplification. The results will be used by the Commission to reflect on the performance of the Dual-Use Regulation to date, whether it continues to achieve its objectives of effectiveness and efficiency, and whether any adjustments are needed to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and coherence of its implementation.

C. Enforcement

As regards enforcement, my priority in the area of **customs** has been to ensure that all the Member States deliver on the digital implementation of the Union Customs Code (UCC). It refers to the deployment of the electronic systems necessary for the exchange and storage of information required under customs legislation, to ensure the uniform, interoperable and effective application of the UCC provisions by customs authorities and economic operators throughout the Union.

[8] Bulgaria and Poland.
[9] Implementation Dialogue on EU-US investment relations - Trade and Economic Security
[10] Joint Statement on a US-EU framework on an agreement on reciprocal, fair and balanced trade

Following 23 infringement procedures initiated in between May and July 2025[11], several Member States made progress in the implementation of the relevant IT solutions for customs. Consequently, in June 2026 the infringement procedures for failure to meet with the obligations on customs data transmission were closed for Belgium, Cyprus, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia. In addition, infringement procedures were closed against Cyprus, Denmark and Romania for failing to deploy either one or both of the Temporary Storage for air transport system and the National Import System. Since no progress or limited progress was made by some Member States, the Commission addressed reasoned opinions to seven Member States (Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Portugal and Slovakia) in December 2025 and in February 2026, because they were not transmitting the appropriate data for all their imports. Four Member States (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece and Slovakia) also received Reasoned Opinions for failing to fully implement the National Import System or the Temporary Storage system for Air transport. , France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Romania and Slovenia. In addition, infringement procedures were closed against Cyprus, Denmark and Romania for failing to deploy either one or both of the Temporary Storage for air transport system and the National Import System. Since no progress or limited progress was made by some Member States, the Commission addressed reasoned opinions to seven Member States (Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Portugal and Slovakia) in December 2025 and in February 2026, because they were not transmitting the appropriate data for all their imports. Four Member States (Belgium, the Czech Republic, Greece and Slovakia) also received Reasoned Opinions for failing to fully implement the National Import System or the Temporary Storage system for Air transport.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy**, in line with the Joint Communication on strengthening EU economic security[12] of 3 December 2025[13], my services have progressed on mainstreaming economic security considerations in other relevant policy areas and, importantly, in the Commission's **external funding decisions**.

Furthermore, steered by the Commission's Chief Trade Enforcement Officer, the EU has used its **enforcement toolbox**[14] in support of rules-based trade and to address unfair competition and protectionism:

- 32 **trade barriers were fully or partially removed** over the reporting period in 18 partner countries, mostly as a result of bilateral engagement with the respective countries, mostly through joint trade committees established under EU FTAs and/or the respective WTO committees.
- At the same time, **dispute settlement** remains one important avenue for the EU's enforcement action. In *DS611* (China- Enforcement of International Property Rights)[15] following the award of the WTO Appeal Arbitrator stating that China's unwritten anti-suit injunction policy violates the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), China announced that it has withdrawn this policy. This outcome safeguards the protection of European innovators' rights in key technologies, such as 5G, wireless, which represent a major asset for the EU economy. Given the unwritten nature of China's anti-suit injunction policy, the European Commission is closely monitoring the situation.
- The Commission's use of **trade defence instruments** over the reporting period helped ensure EU businesses can tackle unfair competition from dumped or subsidised imports. The Commission initiated 35 new investigations (32 anti-dumping, 2 anti-subsidy and 1 safeguard), 18 expiry reviews, 6 interim reviews, 3 anti-absorption investigations, 1 anti-circumvention investigation and 1 new exporter review.

4. Way forward

In the coming 12 months, my services will continue implementation and simplification activities in the **customs** domain including:

[11] Letters of Formal Notice were sent in May, June and July 2025 to Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, for failing to deploy one or several of the following systems: the system for Temporary Storage for air transport, the National Import System and the Automated Export System or for failing to meet their obligations on customs data transmission. For further details see 2025 Annual progress report.

[12] The Communication outlines concrete steps to reinforce the EU's strength and resilience in the face of growing external economic threats, while retaining our openness and commitment to international trade and investment.

([13]) JOIN(2025) 977 final: EUR-Lex - 52025JC0977 - EN - EUR-Lex

[14] Chief Trade Enforcement Officer - Trade and Economic Security

[15] WT/DS611 - China – Enforcement of intellectual property rights

- Publishing updated Explanatory Notes to the revised PEM Convention containing improved guidance rules for the export of used cars, so that only used cars originating in the EU benefit from preferential tariffs when exported to FTA partner countries.
- Publishing a report with the results and lessons learnt from of the e-commerce Priority Control Area and a short to medium term action plan to address the product compliance challenges posed by e-commerce.
- In preparation for the implementation of the customs reform, implementing a work programme to develop data analytics and risk management tools to better protect security and ensure the respect of EU regulations applied by customs, that will be handed over to the EU Customs Authority as soon as it is operational.
- Coordinating customs controls in areas requiring priority attention to ensure compliance with import regulations, such as the application of the new 3 € import duty on e-commerce imports.

In the area of **EU trade and economic security policy** with regard to **simplification**, my services will examine the concrete **suggestions** by Member States and stakeholders made at the **reality check on 20 May 2026**, with a view to enhance cooperation with national authorities and economic operators and offer additional simplification measures, where possible.

My services will also **stress-test** the trade-related legislative instruments.

Regarding **implementation and enforcement**,

- I will hold my second **implementation dialogue** ion **trade and economic security** in the second half of 2026, on the topic of "Maximising outcomes from EU trade agreements: A business perspective".
- The Commission's **6th Annual Report on the Implementation and Enforcement of EU Trade Policy** will be published in the second half of 2026. The report will provide an account of results achieved, progress made and outstanding issues when implementing multilateral and bilateral trade commitments, supported by statistics and concrete examples. The Commission also produces separate annual reports on areas relating to trade and economic security, notably foreign direct investment screening[16] and export control/dual use[17].
- DG TRADE will organise a **reality check** on the **EU Dual-Use Regulation** in the autumn of 2026.
- The assessment of the effectiveness of the **EU's trade defence measures** is currently underway and is projected to be finalized early 2027. The analysis will entail a quantitative analysis combined with outreach to industrial and institutional stakeholders, providing them an opportunity to provide feedback and context, based on their practical perspectives and first-hand experience with the economic outcomes of trade defence measures. The stakeholder outreach will validate the empirical evidence and enhance the assessment's overall robustness.
- The Commission will continue its review of the EU Regulation on **conflict minerals** with a focus on the implementation and enforcement of the Regulation in the EU. It will also seek to identify concrete potential for easing burden on businesses under the current Regulation. This will be based on consultations with relevant stakeholders, including for business, importers, smelters, and refiners as well as civil society organisations and is scheduled to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2027.

For the **Publications Office**, all aspects of its simplification and implementation work will continue in 2027, with the further development of a corporate Acquis Management tool, building on the first iteration that became available at the end of June 2026. The tool is to enable AI-driven, replicable and auditable extraction and analysis of structured legal data, while keeping the human firmly in control. It should help services obtain an overview of existing obligations, detect possible overlaps, contradictions or duplications as well as assess whether new legislation is needed and how that should interrelate with the existing acquis, thereby contributing to the objective of simple, clear and well enforced law. The first Commission services started using the initial version of the tool in mid-2026, with a gradual extension towards a truly shared acquis workspace planned by end 2027.

[16] Fifth annual report: COM(2025)632 - Register of Commission Documents
[17] Firth annual report: COM(2025)19 - Register of Commission Documents

Annex: examples

Access2Markets upgrades for business

In 2025 my services continued to **upgrade the** platform Access2Markets[18], which has attracted over 13 million visitors since its launch in 2020 and nearly 3 million in 2025 alone. A survey was launched to collect user feedback and the Commission started work on adding new features, such as a revamped design and tutorial videos. So far, the Commission has trained 16 000 stakeholders to use the platform, mostly through webinars held in multiple languages. In addition, new features were added to Access2Markets platform, including the above-mentioned revamped design, as well as information about export measures imposed by China.

Following up on recommendations by stakeholders on enforcing international trade commitments

Following up from business recommendations at the June 2025 reality check calling for more advice for businesses on how to file a complaint via the Single Entry Point[19], DG TRADE increased the number of prenotification meetings to accommodate stakeholders who want to file a complaint and provided specific advice to individual businesses on how to fill out a complaint and accompanying materials.

Making FDI screening more effective and efficient for the EU and Member States

On 16 July 2026 the EU's Foreign Investment Screening Regulation (FISR) entered into force, introducing updated rules on foreign investment screening, strengthening its ability to collectively identify and address risks stemming from foreign investments to the Union's security and public order. The updated framework introduces elements increasing efficiency and closing important gaps, including by requiring all EU Member States to introduce a screening mechanism as well as through harmonisation of certain procedural elements, and a common minimum sectoral scope for national screening. The Commission will be preparing implementing acts concerning the notification form for Member States and the form to be used for Annual reporting, as well as technical guidance to Member States on using the new database and the arrangements for the functioning of the secure and encrypted system.

Outbound Investment Monitoring

The Outbound Investment Recommendation 2025/63 adopted on 15 January 2025 invited Member States to review past and on-going outbound investments of companies established in their respective territories in three technology areas: semiconductors, artificial intelligence and quantum technologies. It further asked Member States to collect information and assess, together with the Commission, any potential risks and security concerns related to outbound investments, as well as to consider appropriate policy responses at the end of the proposed 15-month review period. The Commission has supported this process and worked with Member States in the framework of the Outbound Investment Expert Group. Currently, the Commission is assessing Member States' final reports and will draw any policy conclusions later this year.

Legal and public procurement data spaces

The Publications Office continued its work on the development of a legal data space and a public procurement data space to provide single entry points to open data and citizen-centric reuse services, and to facilitate the reuse of open data by economic players for developing new or enhanced products and services. The benefits of such data spaces are multifaceted: i) they allow citizens to easily retrieve official information about their rights and obligations across the EU when they exercise the four fundamental freedoms; ii) they enable businesses to innovate, grow and access new markets thanks to an easier understanding of different national legal rules; iii) they contribute to a better mutual understanding across national administrations and courts for a better implementation and application of EU law and other Member State laws.

Access to business opportunities for small businesses and entrepreneurs

The Publications Office continued to provide practical digital services that improve access to business opportunities across the European Union. Through simplified, multilingual access to procurement opportunities published in

[18] Access2Markets Welcome home page
[19] Single Entry Point | Access2Markets

Tenders Electronic Daily (TED), small businesses and entrepreneurs can more easily identify relevant opportunities, helping to broaden participation in public procurement, strengthen competition and support economic growth.

Outreach

The Publications Office continued to promote the reuse of EU information, digital innovation and trustworthy AI through a range of flagship events and outreach activities engaging public administrations, businesses, academia and other stakeholders. These initiatives fostered collaboration on open data, legal information, public procurement and semantic interoperability, while supporting the exchange of best practices across Europe.

The Office also strengthened its outreach to citizens, including young people, through educational initiatives, digital learning tools and cooperation with EU institutions and networks. At the same time, it continued to promote the value of open data and EU-funded research through accessible digital services, publications and award-winning communication initiatives. In the margins of Commissioner's Šefčovič's trade Youth Policy Dialogue conducted in spring 2026 in Nicosia, the Office facilitated a workshop around entrepreneurship and related opportunities in the European Union.