



PRIME MINISTER
FINLAND

Helsinki, 5 March 2026

Dr. Ursula von der Leyen
President of the European Commission
European Commission

Dear President of the European Commission,
Dear Dr. von der Leyen,

We warmly welcome the Commission plans for this year especially related to the simplification. We fully support your work in reducing regulatory and administrative burden and your commitment to the work is of great importance. In the current geopolitical context, we must focus on predictability of our own operating environment and quality of legislation. Clear and enabling legislation supports Union's global competitiveness. An operating environment that encourages and inspires entrepreneurship means that companies, especially SMEs, and citizens are not discouraged by regulatory and administrative burden. The Commission's approach to simplify EU legislation and reduce burden with Omnibus packages is useful to accelerate the work to simplify rules.

We acknowledge that all institutions and Member States should work together to promote simplification work to improve strategic competitiveness of the EU. Simplification measures should be taken into consideration more broadly as part of future initiatives so that most burdensome requirements are already identified at the preparatory stage. New rules should be proportionate and clear for businesses, citizens and Member States. Attention should also be paid to the predictability and enforceability of EU rules.

To achieve this, dialogue between the Commission and Member States is needed in all stages of the legislative cycle, from preparation to ex-post evaluation. The focus should be that regulation is clear, coherent, predictable and innovation-friendly.

In order to support your excellent work, we have gathered our suggestions to simplify EU rules. The focus is on existing EU rules and burden for companies.

We must continue to support the clean transition as this is the cornerstone of EU's competitiveness. We must also continue our efforts towards creating an even more circular economy in the EU, to make us resource efficient and strategically less dependent continent. We find that there are rules that can be simplified without compromising our ambitious environmental and climate targets while also avoiding fundamental electricity market design changes that could harm investor confidence and stall much needed investments.

Nature Restoration Regulation is of key importance for Finland. The Commission has initially estimated that the costs (per capita and based on GDP) of implementation of the regulation in Finland are by far the highest in the EU. The most significant restoration costs arise from measures concerning water bodies, forests, and peatlands. These ecosystems are widely prevalent in Finland. We look for different avenues on how to affect costs and keep the administrative burden to minimum. As an important element, we propose to simplify the Regulation.

We must be careful that legislation does not hinder innovation, especially in the area of new technologies. In recent years, the Commission has proposed numerous pieces of new legislation related to digitalisation and more legislation is expected. While we welcome the Commission proposal for Digital Omnibus in this regard, more comprehensive assessments would be in place to examine whether further simplification in digital, data and AI regulations would be necessary. Our suggestions focus on clarifying the interplay between the EU's digital and data protection acquis, relieving burden for SMEs and deleting overlapping requirements arising from different EU rules. For example, comprehensive assessment is needed to ensure that there are no duplicate, unnecessary or burdensome rules on data protection in the digital or other sectorial legislation where the GDPR already addresses the issues adequately.

We welcome the achieved progress in simplifying our agricultural policy. This is a good start we must build on our further work to simplify the EU regulation to better serve our farmers and fishermen.

EU defence industry is a vital part of the European security and in line with other efforts to urgently ramp up European defence readiness it is essential to support this also in the regulatory side. Our proposed simplification measures on defence and security procurement would accelerate the completion of procurement procedures which is vital considering the current security situation.

Finally, we must ensure that EU financial services regulation remains effective, coherent and easy to apply. Our proposed simplification measures aim to reduce unnecessary administrative burden, for example, by removing unnecessary notification obligations. Furthermore, they aim to harmonise overlapping concepts and terminology across legislation, as well as to improve the clarity of delegated acts – without compromising transparency, investor protection or sustainability objectives. This is essential for strengthening the EU's financial sector and supporting its global competitiveness.

We look forward to continuing discussions on these topics.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Orpo', written in a cursive style.

Petteri Orpo
Prime Minister