

## Debate in the European Parliament

### *'Fewer Barriers, More Europe: Simplifying Regulation as a Condition for EU Competitiveness'*

**May 12, 09:30-12:00, Brussels, European Parliament, SPINELLI 5E2**

hosted by MEP Michał Kobosko, co-hosted by Employers of Poland

*Debate among representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Polish government, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Commission's social partners, and businesses from several EU countries*

#### **Concept Note :**

One of the most important factor to build the real European competitiveness is directly linked to the deregulation/ simplification.

There are some reasons of the European's economy lagging behind the US and China development and they are related to:

- the phenomenon of the overregulation,
- the lack of clear and effective guidelines and tools to implement many regulations in the transparent way and with full involvement of all stakeholders,
- the lack of consistency between some legislative solutions (one legislative area existing in a silo vis a vis another),
- the overlapping procedures, especially related to the reporting of obligations,
- the relatively low level of using digital instruments and automatic solutions to simplify procedures and fulfilling all duties,
- the broad phenomenon of the gold plating, which means the additional burdens added at the national level during implementation the European law,
- the bureaucratic burdens limiting the business freedoms and opportunities for growth.

It is clear that the over-regulated solutions are undermining the potential and the possible power of the European Single Market in many areas, and - are bringing the redundant costs and burdens for the businesses, especially SMEs .

Thanks to pressure of many groups and institutions, taking into account the recommendations of the Draghi's and Letta's reports - in the EU we have started the fruitful and effective work on simplification. For now, there are over 10 Omnibuses ready to be entered into force, and some of new proposals on the way. But this work should go faster and implementation ought to be more efficient. The presence of the Vice President of the European Commission, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis shows, how crucial for the European economic development the simplification is.

In addition, there is a time of consideration, how to improve comprehensively the ecosystem of the business everyday functioning (especially SMEs and Small Mid Caps). One of the aspects is related to the problem of late payments ( the work on revision of the directive leading to the new regulation). It can improve the liquidity of SMEs, limit the threats of bankruptcies, create more opportunities for innovation and scaling up the companies, establish the more fairer business environment.

In general, it is worthy to discuss about the real costs reduction, and the new idea of the 28th Regime legislation as a key drivers via simplification to the new competitive advantages.

But in general, the concept of this meeting is also focused on the opportunity - how to support the processes of deregulation / simplification by strengthening deregulatory initiatives at the national levels ?

The European activities supported by the strong involvement of national governments and businesses can bring more effective solutions and open the successful way for the competitive advantages. It could limit the gold plating phenomena in every country.

In February 2025, after the conference with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Mr Rafal Brzoska (one of the top Polish entrepreneurs) has started to lead the special team named 'SprawdzaMY' ( We Check). The well designed website was launched and the opportunity for all entrepreneurs and citizens was opened to present their proposals of solutions. The essential idea of this activity was based on key principles of: participation, involvement, cooperation, transparency, which are important for the efficiency of this bottom-up initiative.

It was a great idea, and many business organisations, business leaders, usual citizens, small entrepreneurs decided to contribute in this common undertaking. The big package was presented to the government, and many deregulatory solutions have entered into approved legislation.

It would be great to inspire the business organisations to take this kind of initiative, start this bottom-up working model for gathering concrete ideas and achieve the solutions, which would be complementary to the European Omnibuses's efforts.

This common work and activity is one of the key driver to rebuild the European competitiveness.

**The proposed program of the conference (chairing and moderating - Michal Boni / representative of Employers of Poland in EESC) :**

**I. Introductory Remarks / 45 min :**

*It is important to assess the advancement of the work on simplification, indicate the barriers, show what should be done to hurry up the processes and how the cooperation between the European institutions and the national efforts on simplification should look like.*

- **Valdis Dombrovskis** – Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
- **Michał Kobosko** – Member of the European Parliament, ITRE Committee
- **Rafał Brzoska** – CEO of InPost Group, leader of the “SprawdzaMY” initiative
- **Agnieszka Bartol** – Permanent Representative of the Republic of Poland to the European Union
- **Joanna Makowiecka-Gatza** – President of Employers of Poland
- **Kerstin Jorna** – Director-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW)

*After those introductory presentations, we could have a brief (15 minutes) exchange of views between participants of the debate.*

**II. Panel ONE / 45 min:**

*How the EC responds to business expectations on the simplification and deregulation (opportunities, barriers, obstacles), how to improve the process? A dedicated segment of the debate focused on a practical dialogue between the European Commission and business representatives from across Europe. The panel will feature interventions from representatives of the European Commission alongside voices from business, reflecting on expectations, opportunities, barriers and concrete ways to improve simplification and deregulation processes.*

- representative of DG CLIMA, tbc
- representative of DG CONNECT, tbc
- representatives of Polish, German, Romanian and Italian business

### III. Panel TWO/ 45 min:

*How to replicate the Polish experience of this bottom-up measure in other countries ? What kind of rules and conditions are needed to have success with deregulation activities via dialogue between the government and business ? How to disseminate the new patterns and models of deregulatory achievements ?*

- **Rafał Brzoska** – CEO of InPost Group, leader of the “SprawdzaMY” initiative
- **Valeria Ronzitti** – Secretary General of SGI Europe
- **Kamila Gasiuk-Pihowicz** – Member of the European Parliament, Polish Delegation, IMCO Committee, Vice-Chair
- **Bartłomiej Banaszak** – Ministry of Development and Technology, Director of the European Affairs Department
- **Nikola Minchev** – Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe
- **Alena Mastantuono** – Representative of the Czech Republic / Employers’ Group at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

### IV. CONCLUSIONS / 15 min:

*A summary of the key takeaways from the debate, followed by an announcement of the submission to the European Commission of a set of recommendations from European business on effective simplification of EU regulations.*

- Joanna Makowiecka-Gatza, Chairwoman of the Employers of the Republic of Poland
- Michał Kobosko, MEP/ Poland/ ITRE Committee
- Michał Boni / moderator