

Question for written answer E-000751/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
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Subject: Combating over-regulation in the EU - the REFIT programme

One of a number of things that makes it difficult to do business in the EU, particularly for SMEs, is the large number of detailed rules and procedures, many of which are unnecessary, or applied disproportionately vis-à-vis what is needed. They are often also subject to even more restrictive additional regulations at Member State level.

REFIT, the Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme, is supposed to be the answer to EU over-regulation. Its aim is 'to make EU law simpler and reduce regulatory costs, thus contributing to a clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework'. The Commission has set up a new online platform for REFIT, the aim of which is to make it easier for people to suggest ways of simplifying EU legislation. Although such efforts are clearly worthy of support and recognition, it would seem to be much cheaper, easier and more advantageous first and foremost to curb legislative activity on the part of the EU and to abandon the tendency to regulate everything and at all costs, in some cases in great detail.

In the light of the foregoing, is the Commission planning to curb the activities of EU bodies and Member States as regards the establishment of bureaucratic procedures and laws in order to prevent situations in which first of all overly detailed rules are adopted, and afterwards complicated, time-consuming and costly procedures are brought in to get rid of them? Furthermore, approximately what is the cost involved in setting up and maintaining the REFIT platform?