



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2014 - 2019

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2014/2150(INI)

12.1.2015

DRAFT OPINION

of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on Regulatory fitness and performance programme (REFIT): state of play and outlook
(2014/2150(INI))

Rapporteur: Giovanni La Via

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes the Commission's commitment to a simple, clear and predictable regulatory framework expressed in the REFIT programme;
2. Welcomes the first edition of the annual REFIT scoreboard that allows for the assessment of progress made in all policy areas and of each initiative identified by the Commission, including actions taken by the European Parliament and the Council;
3. Agrees in principle with the aim of cutting red tape and removing unnecessary regulatory burdens; expresses, however, its concern about potential deregulation, in particular in the fields of the environment, food safety and health, under the guise of 'cutting red tape';
4. Underlines that when evaluations and fitness checks of environmental, food safety and health legislation are carried out, environmental and health considerations must be given the same weight as economic considerations;
5. Emphasises that improving environmental protection creates opportunities for businesses, especially in the context of the transition towards a green economy;
6. Notes with astonishment the Commission's announcement that it intends to withdraw the proposal on the revision of waste legislation and to modify the proposal on the reduction of national emissions;
7. Expects the Commission to carry out a structured consultation, including with the European Parliament, prior to the announcement of any withdrawal of a Commission proposal;
8. Deplores the fact that the Commission considered withdrawing its proposal for a directive on plastic bags after the conclusion of an agreement by the co-legislators;
9. Reminds the Commission of the prerogatives of the co-legislators in the legislative procedure and urges the Commission to respect the co-legislators' right to amend Commission proposals.