

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*Committee on Employment and Social Affairs*

**PROVISIONAL  
2006/2279(INI)**

28.3.2007

## **DRAFT OPINION**

of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on better law-making 2005: application of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality - 13th annual report  
(2006/2279(INI))

Draftsman: Ole Christensen



## SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Employment and Social Affairs calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

### Concerning the Commission Communication: Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens in the European Union - COM(2007)0023.

1. Agrees that the regulatory environment in which businesses operate is a determinant of their competitiveness, sustainable growth and employment performance, and that ensuring that the existing and future regulatory environment is transparent, clear, effective and generally of high quality should be an important objective of EU policy;
2. Agrees with the Commission action programme target of 25 % reduction of unnecessary and disproportionate administrative burdens by 2012;
3. Considers that the proposed action programme on the reduction of information obligations (IOs) should not lead to deregulation or a change in the policy objectives and level of ambition contained in Community legislation;
4. Deplores the lack of detailed information in the communication about the reasons for choosing the priority actions listed in Annexes II and III; therefore asks the Commission to justify the selection of priority areas and specific legislation in a separate communication in order to proceed in the most transparent manner which increases the confidence in and support for the action programme.
5. Stresses the importance of a clear distinction between cases of obsolete, redundant or repetitive IOs and cases where, for reasons relating to the protection of public health, workers' rights, the environment or the Community's financial interests, information obligations remain necessary;
6. Expects that the findings of the external consultants on the measurements of the selected priority areas as listed in Annex II to the communication and the proposed suggestions for reductions are publicly accessible and capable of being debated; therefore suggests that those results are submitted for consultation to the stakeholders and in particular to the social partners;
7. Calls on the Commission duly to substantiate any proposal for modification of Community legislation as consequence of those findings, with a detailed analysis and documentation of the findings and consultation and with a substantial impact assessment conducted in a thorough, transparent and balanced way, encompassing social, health and safety at work, economic and environmental aspects.