



Plenary sitting

B9-0426/2023

11.10.2023

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 111(3) of the Rules of Procedure

on the Commission delegated regulation of 31 July 2023 supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards sustainability reporting standards ((C2023)05303 – 2023/2816(DEA))

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European Parliament resolution on the Commission delegated regulation of 31 July 2023 supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards sustainability reporting standards ((C2023)05303 – 2023/2816(DEA))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the Commission delegated regulation of 31 July 2023 supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards sustainability reporting standards (C(2023)05303),
- having regard to Article 290 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings, amending Directive 2006/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directives 78/660/EEC and 83/349/EEC¹, and in particular Article 29b(1), first subparagraph, and Article 49(5) thereof,
- having regard to Rule 111(3) of its Rules of Procedure,
 - A. whereas Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council² significantly expands the former non-financial reporting obligations laid down in Directive 2013/34/EU both in scope and detail;
 - B. whereas companies are currently severely challenged by high energy prices, inflation, increasing interest rates, complications in supply chains and logistics and shortage of skilled workers, while the level of administrative burden for companies is increasing;
 - C. whereas forecasts show that the European economy is under pressure and companies relocate to third countries;
 - D. whereas the Commission has acknowledged that companies in the Union suffer from red tape and has announced to publish proposals for reducing bureaucracy for companies in the Union;
 - E. whereas simple reporting standards are needed instead of overburdening companies;
- 1. Objects to the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 31 July 2023 supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards sustainability reporting standards;

¹ OJ L 182 29.6.2013, p. 19.

² Directive (EU) 2022/2464 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 amending Regulation (EU) No 537/2014, Directive 2004/109/EC, Directive 2006/43/EC and Directive 2013/34/EU, as regards corporate sustainability reporting (OJ L 322, 16.12.2022, p. 15).

2. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and to notify it that the delegated regulation cannot enter into force;
3. Considers that the Commission delegated regulation:
 - (a) introduces a high administrative burden for companies due to the high complexity of sustainability reporting standards, makes clear that most ESRS standards fall short of usable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and thus do not serve the Commission's goal of creating measurable and comparable standards, especially across companies, which add value to data providers and data users managing the twin transition;
 - (b) requires significant resources by companies, which is a burden especially to smaller undertakings, as the sustainability reporting standards are complex and of high quantity;
 - (c) jeopardises the Commission's intention to reduce red tape and reporting obligations by 25 % in the light of intra-EU and extra-EU competitiveness issues;
4. Calls on the Commission to submit a new delegated act which takes account of the following recommendations:
 - (a) the European Commission should significantly reduce the complexity of sustainability reporting standards by using comprehensible language and by introducing predefined quantitative KPIs for every single item in question, enabling measurable and comparable standards, especially across companies;
 - (b) the Commission should significantly reduce the quantity of the sustainability reporting standards, as for instance the six areas of reporting on environmental factors in Article 29b(2), second subparagraph, point (a), of Directive 2013/34/EU equal 90 pages of specifications in the Commission delegated regulation; this is especially relevant as Article 29b(2), first subparagraph, of Directive 2013/34/EU, clearly states that the sustainability reporting standards shall avoid imposing a disproportionate administrative burden on undertakings;
 - (c) the Commission should extend implementation for all companies concerned and introduce voluntary, quantitative, measurable and comparable SME standards simultaneously; at the same time, the Commission should ensure that SMEs are not pressured by larger companies to fulfil reporting obligations that should not be required of them under the CSRD and that large companies do not pass on their reporting obligations;
 - (d) the Commission should amend not only the balance sheet and net turnover thresholds to account for the impact of inflation in the Accounting Directive for determining the size category of a company but also increase the employment figures for medium-sized enterprises to 500 employees and introduce a mid-cap definition for undertakings with up to 1 500 employees;
5. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and to the governments and parliaments of the Member States.