The Commission’s Communication ‘Better regulation: Joining forces to make better laws’ introduced the ‘one in, one out’ approach. This means offsetting new burdens for businesses and citizens resulting from the Commission’s legislative proposals by reducing existing burdens in the same policy area.

All compliance costs (i.e. adjustment and administrative costs) will be analysed and quantified in the impact assessments, where this is feasible and proportionate. They will be subject to the quality review of the independent Regulatory Scrutiny Board and made publicly available. Adjustment costs, which represent investments and expenses that businesses and citizens have to bear to adjust their activity to the legal requirements will be compensated to the greatest possible extent. Newly introduced administrative costs resulting from activities performed to comply with legal administrative obligations will be offset in the same policy area.

During the second half of 2021, the Commission carried out a ‘one in, one out’ pilot to test its guidance, methods and calculations. The upcoming 2021 Annual burden survey will present the results of this pilot.

The full implementation of the approach has started with, but it is not limited to, the 2022 Commission work programme. The offsetting will be reported starting with the 2022 Annual burden survey, which is planned to be published in the first half of 2023. The Commission will continue to report yearly in the annual burden surveys on the offsetting of all relevant costs of the previous year.