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Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

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AMENDMENTS 1-15

Draft opinion

Gyula Hegyi

A strategy for the simplification of the regulatory environment
2006/2006(INI))

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 1

Paragraph 1

1. Strongly supports the process of simplification of the EU regulatory environment, as well as the objective to ensure that the regulatory environment be necessary, simple and effective. Stresses, however, that such a process shall be based on a number of preconditions:
 - i) full involvement of the European Parliament both in the interinstitutional debate on simplification and as co-legislator in the adoption of the legislation object of the "simplification process";
 - ii) wide and transparent consultation of all relevant stakeholders, thus including not only Member States and business, but also non-governmental organisations;
 - iii) strengthening of the general transparency of the regulatory process, in particular by opening Council meetings to public scrutiny when the Council is acting in its legislative capacity;

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 2

Paragraph 1

1. **(Deletion)** Supports the process of simplification of the EU regulatory environment, as well as the objective to ensure that the regulatory environment be necessary, simple and effective, **provided** that **(deletion)** a number of preconditions **are fulfilled**:
 - i) *simplification is done to achieve the overarching objective of sustainable development;***
 - i) full involvement of the European Parliament both in the interinstitutional debate on simplification and as co-legislator in the adoption of the legislation object of the "simplification process";
 - ii) wide and transparent consultation of all relevant stakeholders, thus including not only Member States and business, but also non-governmental organisations;
 - iii) strengthening of the general transparency of the regulatory process, in particular by opening Council meetings to public scrutiny when the Council is acting in its legislative capacity;

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 3

Paragraph 2

2. Welcomes the intention to reduce the burden on SMEs and to reinforce the use of information technology. Considers that one of the objectives of simplifying the EU regulatory environment should be to make legislation simpler and more effective, and thus more "user-oriented";

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 4

Paragraph 2

2. Welcomes the intention to reduce **unnecessary** burden on SMEs and to reinforce the use of information technology. Considers that one of the objectives of simplifying the EU regulatory environment should be to make legislation simpler and more effective, and thus more "user-oriented";

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 5

Paragraph 3

3. Welcomes the Commission's approach to identify the need for simplification from a sectoral perspective as well as the proposed use of the methods of repeal, codification and recast. Warns, however, against a too narrow and merely financial and administrative analysis of the benefits and costs of the legislation in question; strongly believes that other considerations, such as the fulfilment, for instance, of environmental or health objectives, should be taken into account. Considers that the simplification process shall under no circumstance entail lowering the standards contained in current legislation;

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 6

Paragraph 3

3. Welcomes the Commission's approach to identify the need for simplification from a sectoral perspective as well as the proposed use of the methods of repeal, codification and recast. Warns, however, against a too narrow and merely financial and administrative analysis of the benefits and costs of the legislation in question; strongly believes that ***any assessment for simplification has to consider economic, social and environmental aspects at an equal level and should not be limited to short-term considerations***. Considers that the simplification process shall under no circumstance entail lowering the standards contained in current legislation;

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 7

Paragraph 4

4. Stresses that traditional legislative instruments must continue to be the normal means of achieving the policy objectives laid down in the Treaties and considers that the use of alternative methods of regulation, such as co-regulation, may be a useful complement to legislative measures when they bring improvements of equivalent or broader scope than those achievable through legislation. Underlines that any use of alternative methods of regulation shall be in conformity with the interinstitutional

agreement on Better law-making¹;

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 8

Paragraph 4 a (new)

- 4a. *Does not agree with the Commission's priority to increase the use of co-regulation, in particular the use of standardisation in light of the experience with Directive 88/378/EEC on the safety of toys and Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste, where standardisation either failed to adequately protect human health or failed to properly implement the essential requirements; considers that the use of co-regulation risks to lead to less transparency and accountability due to the exclusion of elected representatives from the decision-making and due to unequal participation rights for non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders; considers therefore that co-regulation in the form of standardisation should be strictly limited to purely technical harmonisation measures;***

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 9

Paragraph 5

- 5. Reiterates that any reliance on the Commission's implementing powers ("comitology") shall be accompanied by greater openness, the introduction of formal equality between the powers of the European Parliament and the Council in the scrutiny of such measures and the introduction of appropriate call-back mechanisms or "sunset clauses";**

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 10

Paragraph 5

- 5. Reiterates that any reliance on the Commission's implementing powers ("comitology") *requires a full revision of Decision 1999/468/EC to ensure***
i) greater openness,

¹ OJ L ...

- ii) *that any conferral of implementing powers on the Commission is limited to implementing measures and subject to a clear definition of the objective, content, scope and duration of the delegation of power,*
- iii) the introduction of formal equality between the powers of the European Parliament and the Council in the scrutiny of such measures *via* the introduction of appropriate call-back mechanisms (*deletion*);

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 11

Paragraph 5 a (new)

- 5a.** *Supports the Commission's view that review clauses serve a similar purpose as "sunset clauses" whilst presenting a lower risk of legal lacunae and therefore expresses a clear preference to review clauses as compared to "sunset clauses";*

Or. en

Amendment by Satu Hassi

Amendment 12

Paragraph 5 b (new)

- 5b.** *Is not convinced about the merits of the suggestion to replace directives with regulations, as this may give rise to implementation problems insofar as regulations are insensitive to widely differing national administrative or environmental circumstances, and that this may as a consequence lead to legislation that represents the lowest common denominator rather than the necessary level for the achievement of the intended goals; therefore calls for careful assessment on a case-by-case basis of the advantages and drawbacks of such action before suggesting to replace a directive with a regulation;*

Or. en

Amendment by Gyula Hegyi

Amendment 13

Paragraph 6

- 6.** Takes note of the list of actions contained in the Commission simplification rolling programme and will actively cooperate in the achievement of the objective of simplifying those pieces of legislation, if appropriate, in the context of the forthcoming legislative process;

Amendment by Anne Ferreira

Amendment 14

Paragraph 6 a (new)

- 6a. *Regrets the withdrawal of some legislative proposals, in particular the ones regarding the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs, and the possibility of applying a reduced rate of excise duty on certain mineral oils containing biofuels and on biofuels;***

Or. en

Amendment by Anne Ferreira

Amendment 15

Paragraph 6 b (new)

- 6b. *Expects that the various recast and review proposals from the Commission will contribute to improve the EU level of economic and social development in the context of the sustainable development policy, as well as the level of citizen's health protection and the quality of their environment, in conformity with the objectives laid down in article 2 of the Treaty;***

Or. en