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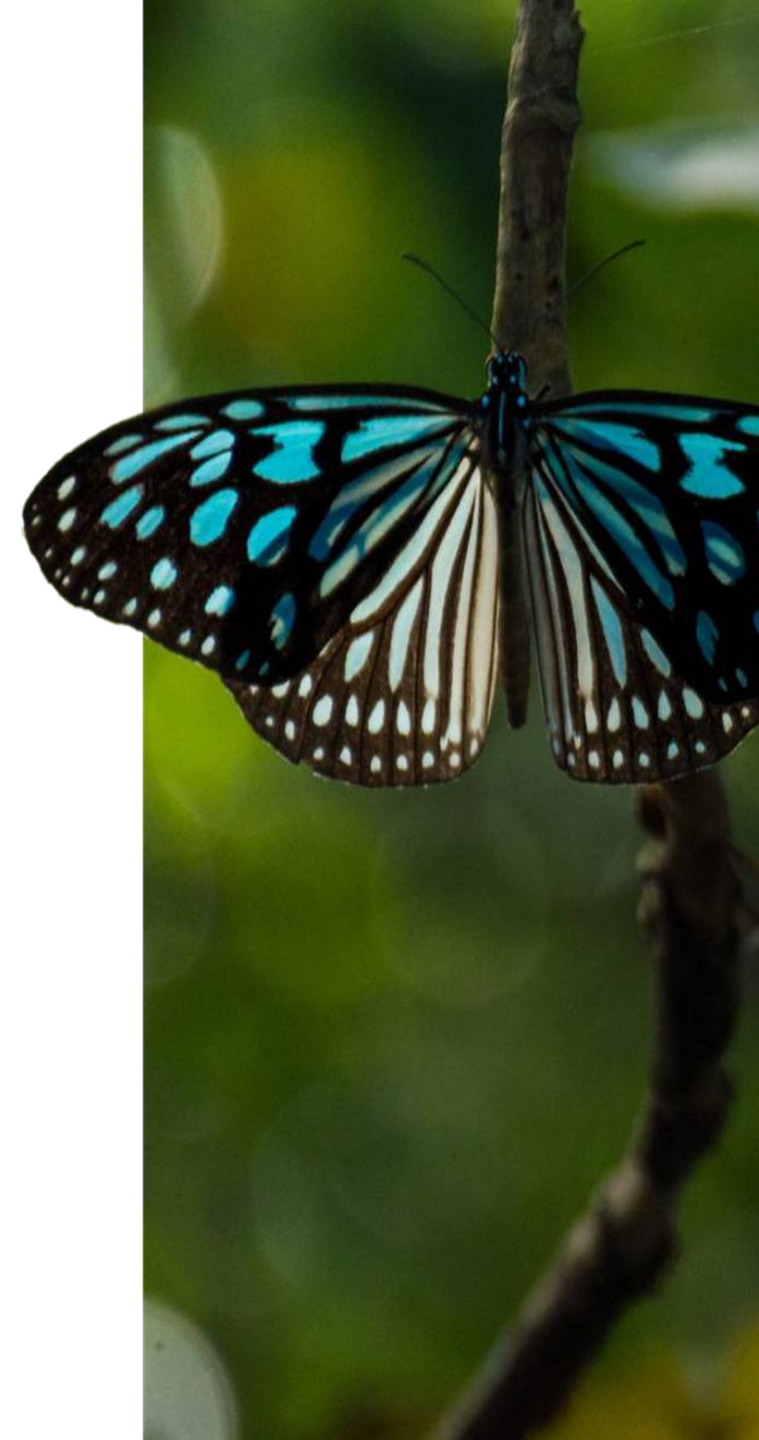


# EU REGULATORY SIMPLIFICATION: OMNIBUS I AND OMNIBUS VIII

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# EU Omnibus era

From the perspective of the European Union, 2025 can be remembered as the year of *systematic regulatory simplification*.

Since February 2025, EU Commission has presented ten simplification proposals to the EU co-legislators.

**Procedural-wise**, simplification or deregulation takes place via *omnibus* legislative technique.

**Political-wise**, the main objective is simplifying EU legislation



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# The *Omnibus* packages

NAME	AREA
<i>Omnibus I</i>	SUSTAINABILITY
<i>Omnibus II</i>	INVESTMENTS
<i>Omnibus III</i>	COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY
<i>Omnibus IV</i>	SMALL MID-CAPS AND DIGITALISATION
<i>Omnibus V</i>	DEFENCE READINESS

NAME	AREA
<i>Omnibus VI</i>	CHEMICALS
<i>Omnibus VII</i>	DIGITAL
<i>Omnibus VIII</i>	ENVIRONMENT
<i>Omnibus IX</i>	AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY
<i>Omnibus X</i>	FOOD AND FEED SAFETY

# Focus on sustainability and environmental measures

- Simplification measures in sustainability and environmental matters are designed in packages I and VIII to make European economy **more competitive and more prosperous**.
- □ *Omnibus I* (Presented in February 2025, approved in December 2025): a comprehensive package of legislative initiatives that opens to **regulatory simplification** and reduces several administrative burdens for businesses. It fits into the broader context of the *Competitiveness Compass*.
- □ *Omnibus VIII* (Presented in December 2025, yet to be approved): acceleration of environmental assessments for the granting of permits, simplification of industrial emission standards and obligations related to extended producer responsibility.



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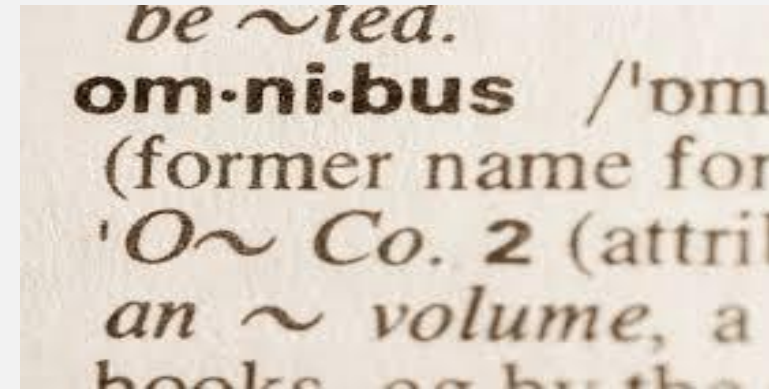


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# An analysis of the *omnibus* tool

From Latin, *Omnibus* means «**for all**», reflecting the instrument's capacity to modify several acts into a unified package.

In EU order, an *omnibus* regulation or directive is a single legislative instrument that simultaneously amends multiple legal acts in force across different policy domains.



The tool has been recalled by Union in its *Competitiveness Compass* to establish a framework for **systematic regulatory** simplification through *omnibus* legislation

→ *EU Simplification Agenda*: 2025 *Omnibus* packages are the first deliverables

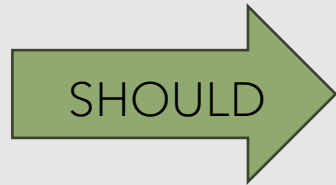
# An analysis of the *omnibus* tool



According to Regulatory Fitness



*Omnibus* instruments streamline EU legislation, remove complexity whilst preserving the purpose



*Address FORM, not SUBSTANCE*  
*Strengthen coherence without shrinking scope*

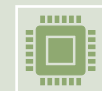
# The use of the *omnibus* tool



The Commission has **distorted** the *omnibus* method



It has resorted to it to change the **substance** and the **purposes** of the regulations concerned



It has bundled modifications across multiple policy domains into singular legislative packages, **altering** the procedural architecture through which regulatory change occurs

This method is a **critical point** in the light of EU **principles** governing environmental decision-making process



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# The use of the *omnibus* tool

The reforms embrace environmental protection, corporate governance, workers' rights, financial transparency but they are adopted with a streamlined procedure in which impact and factual assessments, democratic confrontation or targeted consultation with affected stakeholders, empirical field studies are **lacking**.



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# Omnibus VIII sustainability vs competitiveness



It falls behind the ambitions expressed with the publication of the *Green Deal*, where the link between the environment and competitiveness was aimed at just and resilient growth.



EEA has criticized the package because regulatory efficiency risks causing a regression in environmental matters.



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# Omnibus VIII sustainability vs competitiveness



Competitiveness lies at the core of the EU's internal and external market policy, even though the EU Treaties emphasize sustainable development.

Competitiveness functions as the key instrument the Union relies on in times of crisis to relaunch European integration and collective well-being, guiding green transition reforms and enabling broader action within the scope of its exclusive competences.

# Omnibus VIII sustainability vs competitiveness

- History-wise, the relationship has so far played an important role in the EU integration process.
- Principles-wise, Environment and competitiveness could still strike a good balance through EU principle of consistency, set out in Article 7 TFEU.

Union must ensure consistency between its policies and activities, taking all its objectives into account and in accordance with the principle of conferral of powers

- EU acts must aim to make the European market more sustainable and competitive.
- Then EU can combine its environmental objectives with the flexibility needed to sustain its competitiveness, consistent with the highly competitive social market economy model (Article 3(3) TEU)



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