

DECLARATION

on the Alliance for the Reduction of Bureaucratic Burden at Member States Level (ARBB)

Brussels, 21 September 2026

Recalling the calls of the European Council for simpler, more coherent and less burdensome regulation as a precondition for Europe's competitiveness, resilience and capacity to act;

Welcoming the European Commission's simplification initiatives and omnibus proposals, which aim to reduce unnecessary administrative burden;

Determined to take action at national level in order to reduce the burden experienced by citizens, businesses and public administrations, including through improving the way legislation is drafted, transposed and applied;
Convinced that simple, understandable, practicable and high-quality national legislation is a common responsibility of the Member States, and that systematic Member States' cooperation and thereby mutual learning can accelerate national reform processes and strengthen national contributions to regulation and decision-making on relevant initiatives at European level;

We, the responsible person or authority for the respective Member State participating in the Alliance for the Reduction of Bureaucratic Burden, meeting on the occasion of its kick-off event in Brussels, engage on the following principles in our cooperation within the Alliance:

I. Principles

- 1. Envisaging simple and high-quality national legislation.** Simple, understandable, practicable and high-quality national legislation as a shared political priority.
- 2. Bureaucratic burden reduction for competitiveness.** Reduction of bureaucratic burden as a contribution to competitiveness, innovation and a capable, functioning state. Thereby not questioning the protective objectives from unfair competition that legislation is designed to serve. This while preserving the integrity of the Single Market and safeguarding quality and protection standards for our citizens.
- 3. European citizens and businesses.** Reinforce the interests of European citizens and businesses as our guiding compass in shaping legislation.
- 4. Fast and simple transposition** of EU Directives, avoiding gold-plating.
- 5. Promoting simplicity from the outset.** Observing the 'simplicity by design' approach already at the stage of drafting new legislation.



6. **Evidence-based law-making.** Strengthen evidence-based law-making, in particular through impact assessments, practicability checks and the regular review of existing rules.
7. **Exchange of best practices.** Exchange proven national instruments and reform approaches and learn from one another's experience.
8. **8. A modern, digital and enforcement-oriented administration.** Promote a modern, digital and enforcement-oriented public administration, including the use of digital tools and artificial intelligence where they add value.
9. **Once-only principle.** Citizens and businesses should only be required to provide data and documents to public bodies once.

II. Continuing Cooperation within the Alliance for the Reduction of Bureaucratic Burden at Member States Level

We commit to continuing our cooperation as an informal, flexible network for regular political and technical exchange, in particular through:

- the exchange of best practices and joint mapping of reform potential at working level;
- one exchange per year at political (senior) level to take stock of results and give impetus for further activities;
- joint dialogue with the European Commission and the European Parliament as well as the OECD;
- a single point of contact (SPOC) per Member State for exchange, follow-up and further activities;
- communicating the objectives and work of the Alliance through Member States' own channels;
- building on existing expertise and networks in relevant fora at national and European level.