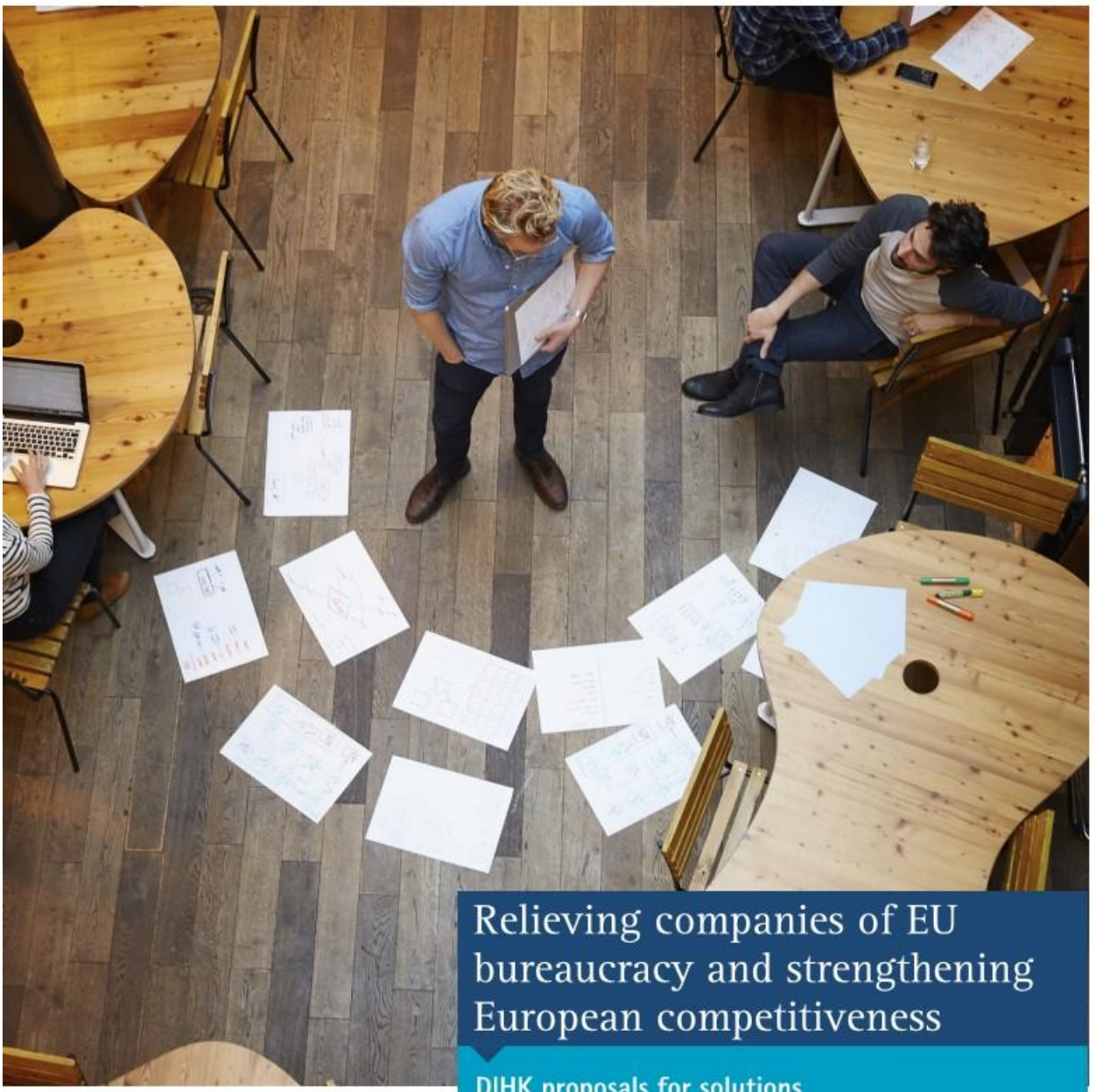

Relieving companies of EU bureaucracy and strengthening European competitiveness

DIHK proposals for solutions

DIHK Deutsche Industrie- und Handelskammer

#GemeinsamBürokratieAbbauen

The most important facts in brief

In mid-March 2023, EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced her intention to reduce reporting obligations in the EU by 25 percent. In doing so, she has sent an important signal for Europe's competitiveness. European companies urgently need relief from unnecessary bureaucracy and duplicate reporting and information obligations.

By announcing her intention to reduce the burden of reporting obligations, the Commission President has also given EU member states the opportunity to develop concrete proposals for cutting red tape. In an impulse paper for a Franco-German initiative to reduce bureaucracy, the German government has identified a number of starting points where improvements need to be made: General Data Protection Regulation, employee posting requirements, sustainability reporting (CSRD) and the adjustment of the SME definition.

With the SME relief package, the Commission has already presented an important system for simplifying administrative processes - the "once-only-technical-system" (OOTS). Documents such as the A1 certificate are to be exchanged between the administrations of different countries via an online procedure. This simplification for companies should be quickly extended to other reporting obligations. The Commission announced further proposals to reduce bureaucracy in October.

Despite all efforts to effectively reduce bureaucracy, it is essential for companies that the reductions achieved are not immediately neutralized by new burdens elsewhere. Rather, it requires a cultural change and an intrinsic understanding of "better regulation".

In future, the "one-in-one-out" rule (OIOO) should be consistently applied at European level by all institutions involved in legislation. In addition to a sound and transparent methodology, this requires an analysis of the interaction of regulations with each other. In order to avoid duplicate reporting obligations or contradictory legislative proposals in the future, coordination between the Directorates-General is also fundamental to good legislation. The establishment of a scoreboard would be helpful for a structured overview of compliance with the OIOO rule. In addition, impact assessments should always be carried out in accordance with the "think-small-first" principle. In addition, the recommendations of the Commission's internal quality committee, the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, should always be followed.

In the view of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce organization, there is great potential for reducing bureaucracy at EU level. To this end, the DIHK, together with the 79 CCIs, has developed 50 specific proposals for improvements to existing EU legislation and legislation still in the legislative process.

The bureaucracy reduction proposals are listed in the order in which the CCIs see the most urgent need for action. The proposals are grouped into thematic blocks to provide an easier overview.

Further potential for reducing bureaucracy can also be leveraged by critically examining current EU legislative proposals for their burdens. Specific proposals to make it easier to implement some of the intended legislative acts are listed in the second part of the overview (starting with page 36).

Part I: Bureaucracy reduction proposals at EU level				
Bureaucratic standard	**Concrete EU regulation**	**What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?**	**How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?**	**Relief potential if suggestion is implemented**
General Data Protection Regulation	(EU) 2016/679	Recital 13 takes into account the special needs of SMEs when applying the GDPR. However, this has not yet been realized in practice. The exception set out in Art. 30 para. 5 GDPR, according to which companies with fewer than 250 employees do not have to keep a record of their processing activities if the processing does not pose a risk to the rights and freedoms of data subjects and the processing is not occasional, has not had any effect in practice. The term "only occasional" is broad in this respect and includes, among other things, the writing of emails or payslips. As a result, the exemption does not apply in most cases of business practice. Documentation obligations also arise in the case of consent, the conclusion of order processing contracts with service providers, the creation of a list of processing activities as well as information	This could be remedied by clarifying the terminology so that this legal exemption actually applies to micro and small enterprises. Genuine simplifications would also have to take the form of exemptions, e.g. with regard to information, documentation or verification obligations. Binding checklists for SMEs that companies could use as a guide would also be helpful.	Implementing the proposals offers more legal certainty and thus facilitates the practical implementation of the regulation. Exemptions for SMEs will make things easier for those companies that have the biggest implementation hurdles in relative terms.

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		obligations through the data protection declaration and the provision of information.		
Certificate of coverage (A1)	§ Section 106 SGB IV, Art 12 of Regulation (EC) 883/2004, EU Posting of Workers Directive, AentG (EC) 987/2009	The preparation of the A1 certificate ("certificate of applicable law") usually takes more than 20 minutes per employee. This processing time is further increased for business trips by HR managers. In addition, the certificate must be issued for each business trip and all traveling employees. Specifically, a separate A1 certificate stating the full address of all customers or suppliers must be provided for each posted employee. This must be sent to the health insurance companies, retrieved by the health insurance companies, printed out in most countries and given to the employee in paper form. Although there has been no obligation in Germany since 1 January 2021 to print out the certificate (Section 106 SGB IV), many companies recommend that their employees carry a printed copy of the A1 certificate with them when traveling to EU countries due to	For a less bureaucratic A1 certificate, the directive should be interpreted uniformly and a digital certificate should be sufficient in every EU member state. A longer valid certificate should be issued for employees who travel to the same EU member state within a short period of time or regularly. It is also conceivable that an A1 certificate would only be required for postings over a longer period of time.	Implementing the facilitations would make a significant contribution to the realization of the EU internal market. In addition, companies could now also carry out cross-border business trips at short notice. The volume of notifications would be significantly reduced and a large number of paper certificates could be saved.

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		different controls in the EU member states. In addition, there are different requirements for presenting the certificate, which also have an impact on checks by the local authorities. The necessary form cannot be applied for in good time, especially for business trips at very short notice.		
Posting of workers directive	(EG) 96/71 (EG) 2014/17	For business trips to other European countries, in addition to the A1 certificate, additional country-specific notifications must be made to the respective authorities of the countries. These can sometimes be done in a portal, sometimes by e-mail or even by post. The information required for a correct notification varies. In addition, very different data must be provided in the notifications, resulting in "unnecessary" bureaucracy. *Examples:* *In France, companies must submit documents on the qualifications of posted workers, in French. In the Netherlands,*	Standardized, self-explanatory and barrier-free reporting portals should be available for the posting of workers, which can also be completed in English and guide you through the process step by step. Harmonization in the EU of reporting obligations and the data points to be provided would also be desirable.	The proposals will reduce the administrative burden of posting employees; the simplifications will have a positive impact on the functioning of the internal market.

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		postings must always be reported online, unless they are for specific activities and do not last longer than 8 days. Italy, on the other hand, requires a contact point in the country for the duration of the posting of employees. The data to be provided also differs.		
Packaging directive	(EU) 2018/852/ amending Directive (EC) 94/62 on packaging and packaging waste	The complex Packaging Directive, which has been implemented differently by the EU member states, causes high bureaucratic burdens and is a barrier to trade in the EU internal market (now also due to individual labeling requirements for packaging in the EU countries). The Packaging Directive is also characterized by many detailed regulations that run counter to the goal of minimizing packaging waste. For example, the directive's regulations make it difficult to simply reuse used packaging and newspapers.	The requirements of the Packaging Directive should be harmonized and checked for interactions with the packaging requirements of certain products such as medical devices.	A simplified EU legal act relieves companies active in the EU internal market of "unnecessary" bureaucracy.

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		In recent months, the CCIs and AHKs have frequently received complaints from companies that the appointment of authorized representatives leads to disproportionately high costs and that companies have therefore had to withdraw from individual markets. Companies from the manufacturing industry also report that they are often unable to know at the start of production to which country the products will be shipped. Country-specific labeling with information in the national language is therefore not possible during the production process. *Example:* *The mandatory notification is difficult to implement and involves considerable additional costs and time. In Austria, for example, there is a blanket solution, but here too a document certified by a notary is required. If such an obligation were to be introduced for every EU country, the compliance costs would increase further - even if only one package is sent.*	The appointment of authorized representatives should be optional. Companies should be able to choose whether they want to assume producer responsibility themselves or delegate it. It should also be possible to appoint authorized representatives once, simply and digitally throughout Europe. The legal act should also be fundamentally reviewed. Many companies are calling for the standardization of labeling. Simple registration that is valid throughout Europe should be made possible. Manufacturers in Germany or from other EU countries should only have to prove their participation in a disposal system (e.g. Green Dot) once. A solution via central system participation or a central QR code would therefore be desirable.	

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REACH-Regulation	(EG) 1907/2006	The continuously updated, adapted and extended regulation of the importability, usability and information requirements for chemicals must be monitored and implemented on an ongoing basis at great expense in terms of resources. This has a significant impact on supplier selection, product development and sales. For some substances, the authorization procedure is carried out in a level of detail that is difficult for users to understand. The long duration of the process also has a negative impact on planning reliability and is also labor and cost intensive.	The authorization procedure should be simplified and the information requirements adapted to a more acceptable level. Furthermore, more use should be made of the restriction procedure with general and broadly applicable exemptions instead of working with individual authorizations per application. In the upcoming revision of the REACH Regulation, further additional burdens must be urgently avoided.	Simplification and acceleration of the approval process would save resources in the companies.
EU Chemicals Regulation CLP (Classification, Labelling and Packaging)	(EG) 1272/2008	The continuously updated, adapted and extended regulation of the importability, usability and information requirements for chemicals must be monitored on an ongoing basis, which requires a lot of resources. It has a considerable influence on the selection of suppliers, product development and sales.	We propose setting a de minimis limit of 50 kg. Below this limit, a substance/mixture should not have to be declared.	This relieves companies below the de minimis threshold from the reporting obligation.

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Industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) and landfill (IED)	Directive (EU) 2010/75 and Directive (EC) 1999/31	Art. 14a creates an obligation to introduce an additional environmental management system. This would mean that existing systems such as ISO 14001 or ISO 50001 would have to be duplicated, which would massively increase the reporting obligations for companies. *Example:* *At some sites, up to 3,000 substances are handled or used every day, which should not be integrated into a new chemicals management system.* *Art. 27d also stipulates the obligation to draw up transformation plans.*	The introduction of a new environmental management system, the new chemicals management system and the transformation plan should not be pursued in the amendment of the IED. The plans mean an immense amount of additional bureaucracy, especially for medium-sized companies - in Germany this affects around 9,000 industrial plants.	An additional burden on companies is avoided.
Reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment	Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment	The directive on reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment is implemented differently at national level. For some products, attention must also be paid to the simultaneous compliance with different regulations, e.g. single-use plastic beverage cups are individually regulated in Germany in the Packaging Act, in the Single-Use Plastic Labeling Ordinance and in the Single-Use Plastic Cups Act or the Single-Use Plastic Cups Ordinance.	The Single-Use Plastics Directive should therefore be fundamentally reviewed for interactions with similar EU legislation and then coordinated.	Legal certainty for companies and simpler compliance with requirements through coordinated legal acts will be promoted.

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Obligation to register under the Waste Directive	(EC) 2008/98 Waste Directive §16f Chemicals Act	In accordance with Article 9 (2), the European Chemicals Agency set up a database on January 5, 2020 for the data to be transmitted to (paragraph 1 letter i) - the so-called "SCIP database for information on substances of concern in articles as such or complex objects". In the context of waste disposal, this register should make it possible to identify which substances are contained where. Along the supply chain, all manufacturers must register their products in the SCIP database if the articles contain a so-called "SVHC substance" in a quantity of more than 0.1 percent. Manufacturers of a product whose component is an "SVHC substance" are therefore affected. This is relevant, for example, for every preliminary product of a car - right down to the seal - that contains such a "substance of very high concern". As lead is also used as an alloying element in the entire machining industry and lead is also considered an SVHC substance, these companies must also register the manufactured products in the SCIP database.	The registration obligations should be made easier for companies, especially for companies that manufacture customer-specific products. The provision of information obligations within the supply chain, which are already covered by Art 33 REACH, should be waived in accordance with the "once-only" principle.	The suggestions lead to a reduction in costs and time. At the same time, this avoids multiple deliveries of the same data.

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		The substances to be registered are defined in the "REACH Regulation", to which further substance types are regularly added. Many companies also manufacture on a customer-specific basis, i.e. they may not be able to "refer" to existing registrations. This means that the often complex registrations have to be made for each individual article. Furthermore, not only consumers but also waste treatment facilities have access to the database. However, the database offers relatively little added value for the waste management industry.		
Labeling of waste electrical and electronic equipment **(WEEE)**	(EU) 2012/19	In addition to the CE marking, electrical and electronic equipment is required to carry an additional indication of the disposal requirements for appliances. However, the EU directive is implemented differently in each EU or sales country, which means that the bureaucratic burden of the labeling requirement in the internal market is much higher in practice.	Harmonization of the various European systems or mutual recognition of disposal instructions would be a good approach. In addition, manufacturers should only have to register once in Europe.	There will be a reduction in labeling requirements.

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		The smaller the number of electrical appliances produced, the greater the compliance costs for labeling. For some appliances, the additional costs can be so high that production in small quantities is no longer worthwhile. Due to the different implementation of national disposal requirements for old appliances, manufacturers of electrical appliances must also register in every European country.		
European Product Registry for Energy Labelling (EPREL)	(EU) 2017/1369 establishing a framework for energy labeling and repealing Directive (EU) 2010/30	All energy-related products that carry an energy label must be registered in the database before they can be placed on the European market. Registration in the EPREL database is very complicated and therefore involves a great deal of effort.	An exemption from the obligation to register in the EPREL database should be created for companies and especially SMEs that only produce small quantities.	Relieving the burden on SMEs and companies with low production figures allows them to focus on their operational business and thus promotes the growth of the company.
Medical Device Regulation (EU-MDR)	Regulation (EU) 2017/745	The recently agreed extension of the transitional periods gives everyone involved more time. Overall, however, companies are still confronted with a high level of bureaucracy as well as planning and legal uncertainties. *Examples:*	Overall, legally secure simplifications are necessary - not only for products of all risk classes, but also for niche products in particular. This also includes making equivalence comparisons practicable again - without contractual regulations between competitors.	These include faster, less cost-intensive certification procedures and more operational resources for innovation. This benefits not only the business location, but also the security of supply for EU citizens in the healthcare sector.

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		A manufacturer has been selling millions of sterile pipettes for single use on the market for 20 years. Until now, a file folder was sufficient for the technical documentation of this simple product. The new requirements do not change the product, but ten binders are now required for the documentation. *Reusable products must be provided with complex labeling (including a machine-readable code). This means that, for example, compression stockings - which are typically not passed on to other patients - must have the labeling elaborately embroidered on them. Stockings can then only be industrially prefabricated to a limited extent. Serial goods have to be taken in hand in order to apply a label.* *Custom-made wheelchairs, for example for people with severely curved spines, are now associated with a significantly greater documentation effort for the medical supply stores that manufacture them.*	Overall, requirements for companies must be legally compliant and formulated in a clear and comprehensible manner. For example, the complex guidelines of the Medical Device Coordination Group in their multitude often do not provide any practical assistance, but rather further legal uncertainties in implementation. In addition, solutions are urgently needed, especially for SMEs that, despite their best efforts, are unable to find a certification body that would be required for the approval of their innovations. From the companies' point of view, it is also necessary for the EU Commission to bring forward the planned evaluation of the legal framework significantly compared to the planned date of 2027 and to review the entire regulation as quickly as possible.	

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Disclosure of income tax information	Directive (EU) 2021/2101	Directive (EU) 2021/2101 amending Directive 2013/34/EU (Accounting Directive) with regard to the disclosure of income tax information by certain companies and branches had to be transposed into national law by June 22, 2023 (public country-by-country reporting). The amending directive is intended to ensure that the income tax information reports that multinational groups are required to submit to the tax authorities in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2011/16/EU on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation and repealing Directive 77/799/EEC, OJ L 64, 11.3.2011, p. 1, are also submitted to the respective commercial registers at the same time so that they are publicly accessible via these registers. Although the information to be disclosed in the so-called "income tax information report" (EIB) largely corresponds to the information already known from the tax CbCR, it differs in detail - e.g. in the income tax to be paid for the reporting period (excluding	The obligation to disclose relevant income tax information to the general public should be fundamentally reconsidered as part of the EU Commission's review of double reporting obligations (25 percent target).	Reducing the bureaucratic burden as part of the review of the EU Commission's 25 percent target would be preferable.

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		deferred tax expenses and provisions for uncertain tax liabilities). Due to the complexity of the obligation, many companies also need to obtain extensive expertise. Ultimately, companies can easily suffer a considerable loss of reputation and therefore economic damage as a result of unreflected misjudgements.		
Exchange of information in the area of taxation for reportable cross-border agreements (DAC6)	Directive (EU) 2018/882	DAC6 requires the notification of cross-border tax arrangements that fulfill at least one or more specific characteristics (indicators) and that concern either more than one EU country or an EU country and a non-EU country. The notification is due regardless of whether the agreement is justified under national law. However, the DAC6 Directive contains several undefined and vague terms (e.g. indicators "A1", "A3", "E2", "E3"), which in turn leads to great uncertainty in the application of the Directive: In particular, the broad wording of the DAC6 Directive can lead to reporting obligations also applying to regular business transactions.	In order to reduce the burden on companies, clearer definitions and terms are required. Legislators and the tax administration should be aware that deliberately unclear formulations greatly increase the number of (potentially) reportable issues.	The elimination of legal uncertainties simplifies the practical implementation of the DAC6 requirements.

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		The burden of DAC6 can be illustrated by the following figures: Reporting under DAC6 has been mandatory since July 1, 2020. Since then, the Federal Central Tax Office has received around 27,000 reports (as at March 31, 2023). A need for legal policy action was only identified for a total of 24 cross-border tax structuring models.		
Strengthening the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women for equal work or work of equal value and enforcement measures (pay transparency)	Directive (EU) 2023/970	Art. 9 obliges companies with more than 100 employees to report intensively on wage structures, even if they apply collective agreements.	Art. 9 should exclude companies with fewer than 500 employees.	It is desirable to adapt the exemption for use in SMEs.
European business statistics	Regulation (EU) 2019/2152	The adjustments to the intra-trade statistics have caused considerable additional work for companies due to additional data fields in the dispatch reports.	The announced simplification of the so-called "single-stream procedure" must be implemented quickly. The focus in the design of official statistics should be on digitization and automation. Mainly data that is available to companies digitally should be used. This promotes fast and efficient reporting and reduces the number of queries.	By adjusting the reporting thresholds in line with inflation, a targeted reduction in the burden on companies is achieved. Digitization and automation will effectively reduce the compliance burden in official statistics while maintaining high data quality.

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			Reporting thresholds should be raised regularly, taking inflation into account.	
Unfair Competition Act: Online trade	Information obligations from § 5b UWG, Art. 244 ff EGBGB, §§ Sections 312d-l BGB Note: based on EU Directive New Deal for Consumers	The directive causes large expenditure of time and money for various information obligations whose added value for the buyer is questionable. This does not include the additional information and labeling obligations arising from special legislation (electronic devices, clothing, cosmetics, etc.)	Reducing the mandatory information to the minimum required for purchase processing is desirable, as is the introduction of a digital product passport.	Time and cost savings, including for consumers, could be realized.
Consumer Rights Directive	(EU) 2011/83	The information requirements in Art. 5 and 6 and the distinction between distance contracts, i.e. consumer contracts concluded away from business premises, and "general" consumer contracts cause high compliance costs for businesses. The information obligations also extend to information that is not relevant in practice: e.g. in the case of exceptions to the right of withdrawal, information that there is no right of withdrawal. In addition, different formal requirements apply to distance and off-premises consumer contracts.	Further measures are needed to make consumer law more practicable without lowering the level of consumer protection, e.g. to avoid disproportionate consequences of only formally incorrect information on the right of withdrawal by giving companies more flexibility and leeway in the design of the information. In addition, the information requirements and formal requirements for distance and off-premises contracts should be the same.	Scope and harmonization of information obligations in distance selling and off-premises facilitate the practical handling of the directive.

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Food information on allergens	Regulation (EU) 1169/2011 Information and documentation obligations in Art. 9 and Art. 44 on allergen labeling also for loose goods	In the hospitality industry, written information must also be provided even in the case of verbal information about allergens. Electronic aids, such as cash registers, in which the required information is stored, do not meet the legal requirements. Article 4 of Regulation (EU) No. 1169/2011 (2017/C 428/01) allows for oral information on allergens, but paragraph 30 of the Commission Communication of July 13, 2017 sets the following condition: "30. Member States may continue to regulate by national rules the way in which the information on allergens in such foods is to be provided. In principle, information on allergens may be provided in any form that enables consumers to make an informed choice, for example on a label, on other accompanying material or in any other form, including by modern technological means or orally (i.e. verifiable oral information)."	Electronic information should be treated in the same way as written information. Frequently changing dishes (e.g. daily menu) should be exempt from documentation. In order to reduce the bureaucratic burden, the part of paragraph 30 of the Commission Communication of July 13, 2017 "(i.e. verifiable oral information)" should be deleted. Alternatively, a clarifying exception for frequently changing dishes (e.g. daily menu) should be added.	The opportunity to provide information verbally promotes contact between the guest and the restaurant. The measure also provides incentives to offer creative additional dishes on the menu.
Regulation on the approval as a known consignor for air freight or authorized	(EU) 952/2013	Aircrafts may only be loaded with air freight that has been classified as secure. If a company is approved as a	It would make sense to merge the security programs and questionnaires of customs and LBA.	This would make it possible to reduce multiple declarations

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economic operator in the context of customs clearance (AEO)		known consignor, it is possible to ship air freight without the need for a security check, such as x-raying the freight. The status of Authorized Economic Operator in turn entitles the company to concessions for security-related customs checks and simplifications in accordance with customs regulations. However, the bureaucratic effort required to obtain this status from customs and the Federal Aviation Office (LBA) is relatively high. Security programs and questionnaires have to be filled out again and again, even though the situation does not change (at least once a year). In addition, new or increasingly stringent requirements are imposed to obtain the status. In addition, many security-related tasks are assigned to companies.		and simplify the customs declaration process.
Carbon border adjustment mechanism (CBAM)	Regulation (EU) 2023/956	CBAM reporting obligations include highly complex calculation and verification methods. They also apply to low shipment values and low annual import volumes. Similar goods that are imported in many variants but in small quantities (e.g. screws) cannot be grouped together. The use of default	Simplification of procedures, introduction of de minimis limits both with regard to the annual/quarterly import volume and the grouping of similar items for small quantities. It is unnecessarily time-consuming to enter all the data individually for an	The current draft of the CBAM Implementing Regulation does not take into account the fact that information is not available, nor that the reporting of small quantities (e.g. different types of screws) is

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		values is limited, although the necessary data on emissions is not available to suppliers either.	import consignment with 50 goods items if the quantities involved are only a few kilograms. In addition, the data is often not available because the goods are sourced via dealers or the supplier does not have this information. In these cases, it must be possible to use standard values on a permanent basis or to dispense with the reporting of these items altogether. In addition, the EU Commission should quickly create a CBAM self-assessment tool for companies.	disproportionately costly or unaffordable. There is an urgent need for improvement here. Relief for SMEs in particular.
Obligation to provide proof of iron and steel imports as of 30.09.	11th sanctions package against Russia: Art. 3g of Regulation (EU) No. 833/2014	Companies importing into the EU must prove that iron and steel products (including bulk goods such as screws) do not contain any Russian primary products with the help of "Mill Test Certificates" (material certificates). The required mill test certificates are impractical and not feasible for companies.	The list of accepted proofs must be extended on the EU side. Attempts are currently being made to find solutions to the problem at national level. The German customs authorities have been writing since 06.09: "*In addition to the so-called Mill Test Certificates proposed by the Commission of the European Union, invoices, delivery bills, quality certificates, long-term supplier declarations, calculation and*	An explicit extension of the appropriate verification documents would guarantee a uniform solution in a pan-European context. Companies would be freed from unthought-out bureaucracy and know clearly which proofs are accepted.

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			production documents, customs documents of the exporting country, business correspondence, production descriptions, manufacturer's declarations or exclusion clauses in purchase contracts from which the non-Russian origin of the primary products can be recognized as suitable proof documents." The evidence described should also be explicitly accepted by the EU.	
EU Trader Portal	Regulation (EU) 2015/2447 Annex A	Companies are obliged to submit applications for certain customs authorizations via the EU Trader Portal. However, navigating the portal and entering data is not self-explanatory. Furthermore, no assistance is provided.	User-friendliness should be improved. For example, the acceptance of amendment requests by the authorities should be shown with an acceptance date. In particular, it should be possible to submit multiple amendment requests, as currently the decision on the current request must be awaited before another amendment request can be submitted.	The time required to submit applications and the error rate are significantly reduced. In addition, delays of several months in the application process are reduced.
Correction of customs declarations and returns eCommerce	Art. 15 UCC Regulation (EU) 952/2013	Art. 15 UCC provides for an obligation to make a complete and correct customs declaration. In many cases, especially for small consignments, sample	Corrections to customs declarations should not be necessary if there is no impact on the duty rate or the customs amount and	The bureaucratic effort involved in correcting customs declarations in the aforementioned special cases with a

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		consignments, returned goods and repair consignments that are cleared at the border when the goods are received, the data situation is difficult and this requirement can only be met with considerable effort. In eCommerce, all shipment data is available at the time of crossing the border, but at the same time it is only possible to decide what is actually inside the parcel and what condition the goods are in once it has been opened. The processing of returns should be a field of application for the self-assessment provided for in the UCC. This would quickly reduce the huge amount of work required by business and customs in this area.	no prohibitions and restrictions are affected. This option should at least be available to AEO authorization holders. If necessary, this procedure can be regulated with an EU guidance document. Trusted companies (AEO) should be able to clear returns themselves as far as possible on the basis of their shipment data.	weak data situation is considerable. The correction itself would not be necessary if customs duties and prohibitions and restrictions are not affected. This option should always be made available to trustworthy companies (AEOs). Bureaucratic relief for non-critical shipments: As these are returns, there is neither a risk of duty nor a risk of violating prohibitions and restrictions.
Binding tariff information (BTI)	Art. 22-27 UCC	Binding tariff information (BTI) is an important instrument for uniform customs clearance within the EU. However, the customs administrations' approach is inconsistent and BTIs from other member states are often not recognized. They apply to the applicant, but not to affiliated companies within a group of companies or different	BTIs issued within a group of companies should be binding for all group companies, not just for the individual group company. BTIs issued in another member state should therefore be recognized by all EU customs administrations. If this does not happen, the company should be able to	Clarification of differently interpreted tariff information increases legal certainty and the implementation of the UCC. It also makes a contribution to international trade.

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		national companies. This results in inconsistent handling within the EU and practical hurdles for operational practice.	appeal to a clarifying body (possibly DG TAXUD). If national customs administrations do not agree with the BTI of other member states, they should also be able to appeal to the clarifying body. However, the BTI itself must remain in force until clarification. Along the supply chain, retailers should also be able to refer to existing BTIs of the manufacturer.	
Customs debt de minimis limits	Art. 88 UCC-DA	Art. 88 UCC-DA provides that the customs administration may waive the notification of the customs debt incurred if the import or export duty amount is less than 10 euros. This amount has remained unchanged for many years and is also only an optional provision for customs. There is therefore no relief for companies.	This amount, which has remained unchanged for years, should be increased to EUR 20. In addition, this regulation should be modified to the effect that companies can waive notification of the necessary change to customs if the duty amount (after verification by the company) is below the specified limit. This can be linked to the status of "trustworthy companies" (AEO status).	Raising the de minimis limit relieves the burden on companies and the administration. In addition, this can be an introduction to the self-assessment provided for in the UCC and an advantage for companies with AEO authorization.
Enclosures, implied customs declaration	Article 136(1)(j) UCC-DA	The recently introduced provision that enclosures can be registered by implication is positive in principle. However, the applicability of the measure is significantly restricted by the requirement of "indelible, non-removable marks for	The requirement should therefore be deleted, as there is no discernible risk of abuse. Alternatively, it should be urgently clarified that logos, serial numbers or any other characteristics by which the	A regulation that can be applied in practice relieves the burden on customs authorities and companies.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
		identification". The requirement creates legal uncertainty for business practice, as it is unclear what is meant by this and what is required.	parties involved identify their packaging are sufficient to meet this requirement.	
Data requirements for customs declarations	Data fields Annex B UCC-DA	New mandatory data fields are constantly being generated when releases are changed. These regularly result in considerable additional work for businesses. Example: *Export procedure AES 3.0, mandatory entry of the registration number of the outgoing and cross-border means of transport and the carrier.* The registration number of the outgoing means of transport is generally not known at the time the customs declaration is submitted in Germany. Furthermore, it does not appear to be a legally mandatory field, but technically the field must be completed. The registration number of the cross-border means of transport is unknown anyway. There is no recognizable added value to this information, but it does lead to considerable technical changes in the	In principle, only necessary data should be requested in a customs declaration. As it is often not clear to customs administrations how much effort they will incur with additional data requirements, new requirements should be discussed with companies or trade associations. It should be borne in mind that the effects may differ in the individual member states. Example: *License plates appear to be a problem in Germany because the customs declaration is created by the exporter. In France, the problem is likely to be less of a problem, as the customs declaration is created by the freight forwarder, who knows his license plates.*	One solution in this specific case is to change the data fields from mandatory fields to optional fields.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
		companies. The carrier is also often unknown (EXW/FCA).		
New version of supplier declarations	Draft Annex 22-15 UCC-IA	Supplier declarations are among the most frequently used customs documents within the EU. Without them, trade agreements cannot be used. Supplier declarations must be designed in such a way that they can be easily issued by companies of different sizes along the supply chain. The aim of the new version of Annex 22-15 UCC-IA is to define a data set so that supplier declarations can be exchanged electronically. This is absolutely correct. However, at the same time, numerous additional details are required and the existing difficulties for goods without preferential origin are not eliminated. In its current version, Annex 22-15 UCC-IA leads to greater problems than before and will restrict the usability of trade agreements.	Many of the data provided for in Annex 22-15 should only be optional (EORI, customs office, cumulation, accounting segregation). It should be possible to provide similar data at the level of the declaration and not have to be repeated at the level of the individual articles. For goods without preferential origin, statements on trade documents should be sufficient as an alternative to supplier declarations. The revision should take place with the involvement of the industry concerned.	The possibility of exchanging information digitally is overdue and important. It will considerably reduce the effort and expense involved to date. It must be carried out very carefully and with the involvement of the business community.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
Trade agreement, value threshold declaration of origin	EU trade agreement, standard rules in UCC-IA	For consignments containing goods entitled to preferential treatment up to a value of EUR 6,000, the declaration of origin can be made without special authorization (REX/authorized exporter). This regulation is a prerequisite for all companies to be able to use trade agreements, even without authorization, at least for shipments with a lower value. However, the value threshold is several decades old and is therefore now too low.	The value threshold should be raised to at least EUR 10,000 or more. There should be a corresponding catch-all provision in the UCC-IA for agreements that do not yet contain a value threshold. In future agreements, these value thresholds could therefore be waived and the UCC-IA value thresholds could be used in a regularly adjusted form.	Companies with few exports often do not have REX or approved exporter authorizations. These companies can only use trade agreements up to the value threshold. However, the use of trade agreements should not depend solely on this restriction.
EU customs tariff	Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1998 amending amending Annex I to Regulation (EEC) No 2658/87 on the tariff and statistical nomenclature and on the Common Customs Tariff	The Common Customs Tariff contains a large number of differentiated commodity codes (Combined Nomenclature) and very heterogeneous customs records, even for technically related goods within a chapter. The more commodity codes and the more customs records there are, the higher the maintenance effort for the master data in companies, the greater the probability of working errors and the greater the monitoring effort for companies and customs. This is also because there is a risk of fraud in individual cases. In addition, the need for security in the form of	The number of commodity codes (Combined Nomenclature) should be reduced, at least from Chapter 25 of the customs tariff. Duty rates should be clustered, decimal places removed and de minimis duty rates below 2 percent abolished. The adjustment of the Common Customs Tariff in the UK after Brexit or the bucket proposal in the EU customs reform can serve as a blueprint for this.	The adjustment of the tariff with regard to the number of commodity codes and customs rates leads to a significant reduction in consequential problems.

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		binding customs tariff information increases. This, in turn, varies with more classification options. Example: *Chapter 85: 25 different tariff rates between zero and 14 percent, sometimes in very small increments (e.g. 2.0%; 2.1%; 2.2%; 2.6%; 2.7%).*		
Trade facilitation Agreement/ EU customs tariff and coding	TFA / EU customs tariff Art. 2	Changes to commodity codes or codes for customs declarations can come into force in the EU on a daily basis. Normally, there is no need for immediate action, i.e. the changes could just as well come into force in a bundle on the first of the month, for example - with a lead time so that companies can prepare for changes.	The EU should announce changes in accordance with the Trade Facilitation Agreement with sufficient advance notice and only introduce them on fixed dates, such as the first of the month. This is also standard practice in many countries. Major plannable adjustments, such as changes based on the Harmonized System, must be published in machine-readable form at least one month before they come into force and not, as with the last HS changeover in 2022, in some cases only later in January.	The daily changes, which are often not communicated directly to the users, regularly lead to delays and disruptions in customs clearance as well as unnecessarily high information costs.

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			In addition to the direct customs regulations, regulations with an impact on customs clearance (CBAM, deforestation, etc.) should only come into force on these fixed dates.	
Duty free repair shipments	Trade and Cooperation Agreement EU-GB, Art. 24 (Mended goods)	Article 24 TCA prohibits the levying of customs duties in repair trade, regardless of the origin of the goods to be repaired/repaired. In principle, this is a good idea that should be introduced across the board, regardless of trade agreements. However, the practical application of the regulation is hampered by the requirement that inward or outward processing must be declared in the EU. This would also be possible without this provision in the agreement; the advantage is reduced to the elimination of differential duties in the case of outward processing.	Repair consignments should generally be facilitated and duty-free. Repair consignments should be declared for free circulation. Duty-free treatment should be granted by declaring a preference code (analogous to origin or free circulation preferences) in the customs declaration. Alternatively, Regulation (EC) 1189/2009 could be supplemented.	The processing of repair shipments has so far been very time-consuming, partly because the value of the goods to be repaired can hardly be determined. Facilitated clearance simplifies customer service and the competitiveness of EU companies.
Replacing A.TR with self-declaration	EU-Turkey customs union	The A.TR proof of release for free circulation in the EU-Turkey customs union is one of the last mandatory paper documents. The actual informative value is low, the effort for companies and customs is relatively high, especially as there is no de minimis limit for the value of the shipment.	As soon as the further development of the EU-Turkey customs union can be tackled, the A.TR should generally be replaced by a self-declaration of the exporting company (free trade declaration) on a trade document - in line with the procedure in EU trade	Obtaining the form, filling it out and clearing it at the customs office is time-consuming. By handling a declaration of free movement in the same way, companies and customs are relieved of routine activities. Even companies without

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			agreements. In any case, this declaration should be possible for shipments up to EUR 10,000. For shipments above this value threshold, trustworthy companies (AEO) and authorization holders in the area of preferential origin (REX/authorized exporter) should be able to submit this declaration without a value threshold. For companies without such authorizations, shipments above the value threshold can be confirmed by a customs office.	a corresponding permit will be relieved of a certain amount of work.
NIS-II Directive	(EU) 2022/2555	The NIS 2 Directive forms the basis for measures to manage cyber security risks. The Directive sets out a multi-level approach for reporting significant incidents. It requires entities within the scope of the Directive to submit at least three and up to five reports per major incident: – Early warning: within 24 hours of becoming aware of a major incident, essential and significant entities notify the Computer Security	In Germany alone, there is currently a shortage of 104,000 cybersecurity experts. Given this massive skills shortage, it is crucial that the available IT security experts can focus on prevention and mitigation rather than reporting. To this end, two reports per cyber security incident would suffice. It is also surprising that companies are obliged to report cybersecurity incidents to local and regional authorities, which also work with	Relieving companies of multiple fault reports and standardizing the reporting process in line with the "once-only" principle.

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		Incident Response Team (CSIRT) of the major incident. – Incident notification: the essential or significant entity concerned must submit an incident notification without delay and in any event within 72 hours of becoming aware of the significant incident, in particular to update the information provided as part of the early warning and to provide an initial assessment of the significant incident, including its severity and impact and, where appropriate, indicators of compromise. – Interim report: At the request of the CSIRT, the essential or significant facility must submit an interim report containing relevant status updates. – Progress report: If a significant entity is engaged in the notification one month after a reported incident, it must submit a progress report to the CSIRT.	sensitive company and personal data, but do not have to comply with the same reporting obligations. In addition, a fully digital reporting mechanism should be introduced. Such a mechanism should follow the "once-only" principle, which means that a cybersecurity incident only needs to be reported once centrally and all relevant authorities can access the reported information.	

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		– Final Report: Should be submitted no later than one month after the incident is reported or one month after the incident is closed.		
Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) – Low-emission mobility	(EU) 2014/32	The MID creates barriers to the faster development of charging options for battery electric vehicles on the German market. The reason for this is the minimal harmonization in calibration law and the application of the MID. In detail, the regulations for implementing the measurement and calibration law in technical specifications are still unclear for charging station operators, as the requirements are constantly changing. In addition, users are turning away from e-mobility due to the slow development of infrastructure.	Identify best practice in the EU and then apply it uniformly (expert group/study etc.). Consideration should also be given to the option of grandfathering provisions in the event of changes to legislation.	Uniform, reliable requirements for the calibration of charging stations for all EU countries facilitate the development of charging station networks.
Hydrogen requirements	Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED ii)	The requirements for green hydrogen within the meaning of RED II are too complex. They are to be implemented at national level this year. It is questionable how the auditing of green hydrogen and the practical implementation will take place. In any case, implementation will represent an additional	It is recommended that implementation and auditing - particularly with regard to a rapid hydrogen ramp-up - should be as simple as possible. A link to an existing system (registry platforms, emissions reports, etc.) would be recommended.	**This will simplify auditing and facilitate the expansion of hydrogen production, thereby promoting climate neutrality.**

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
		bureaucratic burden for economic operators and authorities.		
Renewable Energy Directive (RED III)	(EU) 2018/2001 Delegated act on electricity purchase criteria for the production of renewable hydrogen Art. 8 and Art. 27 (3) and state aid approvals for IPCEI projects	The ramp-up of a broad-based hydrogen economy is made considerably more difficult and large-scale pilot projects cannot be realized because the verification and reporting obligations are too extensive and complex or weaken economic efficiency.	Making the criteria more flexible, particularly in the areas of "additionality" and "geographical" and "temporal correlation". A further tightening of the criteria should be avoided.	Less administrative effort for companies operating electrolysers to prove that they produce green hydrogen.
Evaluation of the economic efficiency of "E2 measures" in accordance with DIN 17463 (scope of state aid in the energy sector)	CEEAG (C)/2022/481 and ETS-Directive (EG) 2003/87	The legal act defines additional requirements that go beyond the actual specifications of ISO 50001 (energy management) and disregard the materiality threshold. The implementation of a standardized evaluation of "E2 measures" in accordance with DIN 17463 results in a noticeable increase in bureaucratic effort. This additional work is in addition to the company's internal business case analysis. The high legal requirements for verification obligations lead to further audit burdens.	When transposing EU requirements into national legislation, no additional burdens should be created over and above EU law ("gold-plating"). Instead of relying on additional regulatory provisions, higher funding quotas for E2 measures or incentives for emission reductions should be provided. Corporate targets, such as climate neutrality targets as part of the transformation, should be creditable as "environmental performance".	The measure results in less bureaucracy, which ties up resources that can be used for transformation or other operational tasks. It also improves profitability and competitiveness. Promoting E2 measures or GHG emission reduction measures makes projects more attractive and thus leads to a higher use of renewable energies.

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		In addition, there are inconsistent requirements for the definition of economic efficiency (there are currently more than five different thresholds and definitions in various regulations on state aid such as SPK, BECV, EnFG BesAR, peak equalization).		
ETS-Directive	(EC) 2003/87	There are numerous reporting, documentation and approval obligations in emissions trading, such as the monitoring concept, methodology, annual activity report, 4-year improvement report, certification of sustainable biomass, which means a lot of bureaucracy and in some cases brings little or no benefit from an operational perspective.	Simplification of procedures, at least account confirmations and improvement reports should be abolished.	Relieving companies of bureaucracy
Circular economy - recycling of scrap metal	Various Directives	Individual CCIs report hurdles faced by their companies with regard to the compatibility of the circular economy with the implementation of EU law. When recycling scrap metal, some authorities classify these materials as "waste". Under licensing law, companies may store a maximum of 100 tons of such "waste", but any amount of primary and secondary metals. There is no difference in terms of environmental hazard potential between raw materials	According to these companies, the loss of waste status should therefore be easier to achieve, for example by notifying the licensing authority of the use of scrap metal as an input material in the production of new products. It should be examined whether clarifications to the relevant EU legislation are necessary.	More uniform implementation of the EU legal act through a pure notification obligation with simultaneous support for the circular economy.

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		and scrap/cathodes. Applying for extended storage quantities would be costly and would require, among other things, the preparation of an environmental status report. *Example of a company:* *In order to achieve climate neutrality in "Scope 3" with regard to the raw metals copper, nickel, zinc and aluminum used, companies use copper scrap that is considered climate neutral instead of copper cathodes (primary and secondary materials have a significant carbon footprint). This scrap is purchased by metal traders as non-hazardous waste (with the corresponding waste code number). In accordance with the regulation on the "end of waste" of copper scrap (Regulation EC 715-2013-Copper Scrap), a management system is to be set up for this purpose.* *Customers can also be offered the opportunity to take back all products ever supplied and reintroduce them into the material cycle. New pipes are produced from old pipes without any loss of*		

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		quality. In some cases, this provision of the Waste Management Act is not taken into account and the returned pipes are still classified as waste. *If customers make their production scrap (copper alloys) available again as raw material for the production of new semi-finished products, in individual cases an existing recognition as recycled material is "withdrawn" in the foundry's approval notice (BImschG plant). This leads to classification as waste.*		
Regulation on the obligation to provide evidence of de minimis aid	(EU) 1407/2013	The obligation to provide evidence of de minimis aid is organized in a non-transparent manner: When de minimis aid is granted, the granting body is obliged to certify to the company that it has received de minimis aid. The de minimis certificate serves as proof of the de minimis aid granted and as a basis for applying for further de minimis aid. Certificates must be kept for 10 years. When applying for further de minimis aid, the applicant company is obliged to submit a complete overview of the de minimis aid received in the current and the two previous calendar years (so-	Data exchange between the administrations should be made possible.	Relief in the sense of the "once-only" principle can be applied here.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the aforementioned standard create?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
		called de minimis declaration). There is no central office where you can view the subsidies currently being used.		

Open SME definition also for administrative simplifications for municipal utilities	Art. 3 (4) and Art. 2 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation (EC) 2003/361 of May 6, 2003	A large number of legislative EU regulations provide for simplifications, relief or subsidies for SMEs for reasons of proportionality. Municipal utilities in which a local authority holds a stake of more than 25 percent are excluded from the EU definition of SMEs (Article 3 (4)). This exclusion from administrative relief ties up financial and human resources at some municipal utilities that are urgently needed elsewhere to manage the ecological transformation. At the same time, the regulation influences the supplier landscape of the energy and water industry in Germany, which is characterized by a large number of local and regional - in some cases municipal - suppliers. According to some CCIs, the resulting impact on the competitive environment contradicts the principle of the EU's Small Business Act, which aims to improve the approach to entrepreneurship in Europe.	Some chambers of industry and commerce have put forward a proposal from various municipal utilities to open up the simplification of administrative obligations to a larger group of SMEs. Specifically, this would be possible by deleting Art. 3 Para. 4 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of May 6, 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises: "*Except in the cases referred to in the second subparagraph of paragraph 2, an undertaking shall not be regarded as an SME if 25 % or more of its capital or voting rights are directly or indirectly controlled individually or jointly by one or more public authorities or bodies governed by public law.*" As an alternative to the proposed deletion, this paragraph would have to be deleted individually in each relevant piece of legislation, as was recently the case with the NIS 2 Directive, for example.	The municipal utilities are relieved of administrative tasks in line with the Small Business Act, which means that the financial and human resources freed up can be used to manage the ecological transformation.

Part II: Bureaucracy reduction proposals on legislative proposals at EU level				
Bureaucratic standard	**Concrete EU regulation**	**What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?**	**How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?**	**Relief potential if suggestion is implemented**
Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence **(EU Supply Chain Act) „CSDDD")**	(COM) 2022/71	In 2025, the European Supply Chain Act will come into force if it is passed as planned. This will go far beyond German law. Firstly, it will apply to companies with 500 or more employees and a turnover of more than 150 million euros and to companies with more than 250 employees in high-risk sectors. In Germany, this is likely to be around 9,400 companies. Unlike the German law, these companies must exercise due diligence in relation to their entire value chains.	It is also important for the reduction of bureaucracy not to create any further burdens. The CSDDD will lead to high administrative and financial burdens for companies. SMEs will also be severely affected by the trickle-down effect. The European supply chain law should therefore be put on the back burner for the time being. However, if the European Supply Chain Act is implemented as planned, due diligence obligations should be limited to the supply chain and direct suppliers. White lists should also be defined for European companies. Furthermore, a harmonization of deadlines in relation to the financial year would be desirable.	Implementation of the proposals will improve the practical feasibility of the directive.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
			Aligning the reporting requirements in the CSDDD with existing or planned requirements (CSRD, EFRAG and the EU taxonomy) is essential for solid and comparable reporting. As the reporting requirements will increase significantly, it is necessary to limit the proposal for a Directive on Sustainability Impact Assessment and amending Directive (EU) 2019/1937 (CSDD) to the basis of a double materiality assessment (significance and materiality assessment) in order to identify the most material topics. The proposal should have a group perspective. Large groups do not typically define their compliance/risk/due diligence functions on an individual entity basis. Instead, these functions are usually group-wide functions where each legal entity does not have its own processes, reporting systems, etc. This would lead to	

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
			additional unnecessary costs, overlaps and even inconsistencies between companies within the same group.	
Substantiation and communication of environmental claims (Green Claims Directive)	Proposal for a directive (COM) 2023/166	Art. 10 No. 1 and No. 2 oblige the Member States to develop inspection systems. The requirements for verification are specified in the remaining parts of Art. 10. In addition, companies wishing to make environmental claims or use environmental labeling systems are obliged to have these claims verified by external verification bodies (Art. 11). The reservation of permission for environmentally-related corporate communications is an instrument that is currently alien to German and European competition law and would constitute a disproportionate interference with the protected legal positions of the companies concerned.	SMEs in particular will effectively no longer be able to advertise with green claims in future because they cannot afford the certification. The fact that there are individual exceptions for micro-enterprises with up to 10 employees only helps to a very limited extent due to the high risks involved. Misleading advertising and advertising with self-evident claims are already prohibited, which is why the provisions of the new directive appear too far-reaching. The mandatory prior check should be dropped completely, but at least designed in such a way that the bureaucratic burden and costs for companies and	The communication of environmental information will be made more practical.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
		Furthermore, these regulations would lead to high administrative costs and a considerable administrative and bureaucratic burden. This inhibits companies' marketing activities in particular. The additional costs will affect companies of all sizes, but especially small and medium-sized enterprises. The exception for micro-enterprises is not sufficient.	SMEs in particular are kept to a minimum. In addition, appropriate and sufficient transitional provisions for environmental claims on product packaging that are already on the market at the time the new requirements come into force are urgently needed. Finally, the establishment of a maximum duration of test procedures and regulations for dispute resolution between the advertising company and the testing institution would be necessary. Repeat verifications and certifications appear superfluous and only generate high costs without any additional benefit.	
Taxonomy and sustainability reporting (Corporate Social Responsibility – CSRD)	Decision of the EU Commission on the Delegated Regulations of June 27, 2023	The Delegated Regulations on the EU taxonomy and on sustainability reporting significantly expand the existing sustainable finance regulation and will	<u>EU taxonomy</u> Even the requirements for the first two environmental objectives of the EU taxonomy, which	Consideration of the impact on the requirements of SMEs must be ensured.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
	supplementing Regulation 2020/852 on the EU Taxonomy and of July 31, 2023 supplementing Directive 2013/34/EU with sustainability reporting standards	greatly increase the bureaucratic costs for companies. The benefits of facilitating the financing of sustainable investments for many companies, especially small and medium-sized enterprises, are questionable. The submitted regulations on reporting at the level of economic activities (EU taxonomy) will be significantly expanded with four additional environmental targets. Reporting at company level (European Sustainability Reporting Standards - ESRS) is not sufficiently consistent with the taxonomy. There are similar consistency problems with other financial market regulations (e.g. Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation - SFDR, Capital Requirements Regulation - CRR). Both regulations include or extend the scope of application to medium-sized companies (including those with more than 250 employees), which are already considered "large" companies in the EU system. Medium-sized companies that meet the criteria of a large company	are already applicable, are not feasible, especially for medium-sized companies. The complex requirements for the Do-No-Significant-Harm criteria in particular present major hurdles in terms of financing. These hurdles are made even higher by the additional Delegated Regulations on the EU taxonomy. The design of the taxonomy is based on the requirements and opportunities on the capital markets, which generally do not play a major role for these companies. Many companies, especially those that are not capital market-oriented, have so far lacked the structures and expertise to ensure compliance with the requirements. Many companies will therefore be overwhelmed by the new regulations. The discussion on the climate targets shows that the transformation can only succeed if it is	

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		within the meaning of the Accounting Directive are predominantly not large international companies with experience in sustainability reporting. However, in future they will have to prepare very comprehensive reports in accordance with extensive sustainability reporting standards. This planned reporting will not only overburden medium-sized companies that have to prepare a sustainability report for the first time, but also larger companies that are already required to report today. Due to the reporting obligations across the value chains of the "large" companies, many even smaller companies will also be confronted with indirect reporting obligations (trickle-down effect). Unfortunately, the repeatedly demanded proportionality of reporting obligations has not yet been achieved.	not determined from the outset which technologies should drive the change. Many technologies are not yet fully developed, especially in the area of sustainability. No one can predict which technologies will play a decisive role, which is why prescriptive definitions such as those made in the taxonomy are inappropriate. <u>Sustainability reporting</u> Many medium-sized companies will be obliged to report on sustainability in accordance with the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) or the ESRS from the 2025 financial year onwards. For the vast majority of these companies, the scope and granularity of reporting required by the CSRD and ESRS is still not proportionate. The overwhelming view is that readjustments are needed here with the aim of creating proportionate and practicable sustainability	

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
			reporting standards. The impact on non-reporting companies in the value chain must also be taken into account. The transitional provisions only help in the first few years, but do not reduce the fundamental scope and level of detail of reporting. The content to be reported regardless of materiality is reduced. However, the fundamental materiality assessment to be carried out for the many topics covered by the ESRS is demanding - and the effort and practicability for companies cannot be foreseen at the moment. The announced guidelines for companies, e.g. on materiality analysis, must also not impose disproportionate requirements for determining double materiality. Supplier companies would have to cope with the various extensive information and reporting	

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			requirements of their business partners - here too, the simplifications of the ESRS for reporting in the value chain would only be able to help somewhat in the first few years. The scope of reporting - also in comparison with other reporting standards - continues to call into question the competitiveness of companies subject to CSRD and ESRS reporting requirements. Companies that are active in the areas of consulting, auditing and sustainability, and companies that have already reported voluntarily, see the extended reporting obligation from a different, more positive perspective. The former because they have already collected some of the data and uniform standards can simplify reporting, the latter because the scope and depth of detail of the standards as well as the audit obligation will open up new areas of business. However, there is	

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			a clear majority of criticism from the business community. Another approach is to raise the threshold values in the Accounting Directive to define company sizes.	
Basel III	Capital Requirements Regulation (CRR)/Capital Requirements Directive (CRD)	The COM draft provides for various regulations that are disadvantageous for SMEs. In addition to the issue of external ratings, these include, for example, the transitional reduction in risk weights for institutions with internal models (IRBA), provided that the calculated probability of default (PD) for loans to companies is not higher than 0.5 percent. For competitive reasons, the reduction must also be applied to institutions that use the Credit Risk Standard Approach (CRSA); valid probabilities of default are also available here from internal risk management.	The introduction of Art. 495e should reduce the already existing differences between the capital requirements of IRBA and CRSA institutions during the transitional phase in order to create similar starting conditions for both institutions. In addition, transitional rules on risk weighting for corporate loans should be introduced for IRBA and CRSA institutions.	The proportional burden on smaller credit institutions with a regional, low-risk business model is to be supported.
Directive on common rules for the promotion of the repair of goods (Right to repair)	(COM) 2023/155	Planned introduction of a new European form for repair information with information that must already be provided under the Consumer Rights	The introduction of additional forms and information obligations should be avoided and instead European consumer law	The use of existing information channels will ease the burden on companies.

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		Directive (including the identity and contact details of the trader, binding information on the repair service, information on the price).	should be made more practicable and more should be flexibility created in the information obligations.	
Prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market	Proposal for a Regulation COM(2022) 453	Although the draft primarily addresses Member State authorities, companies are indirectly and significantly affected by information obligations and possibly by the threat of penalties and economic losses (import and export ban (Art. 3), market withdrawal from the entire internal market and its potential distribution range, recovery/destruction of the affected products (Art. 6)). The definitions (Art. 2) of economic operator and products are very broad. This can lead to legal uncertainty. The application of a "risk-based" approach to the investigation does not provide for any specific consideration of the size and economic resources of the economic operators. The approach can be interpreted differently in member states, which is contrary to a level playing field.	Compatibility with other sustainability regulations required: Companies must comply with a large number of due diligence and documentation obligations. These obligations must be harmonized in order to avoid unnecessary additional work and to make it easier for companies to implement compliance measures. For example, companies that comply with their obligations under the Due Diligence Directive should generally be able to assume that the evidence available to them from the authorities is sufficient for investigations under this Regulation. This should create congruence with due diligence legislation. In particular, technical solutions should cover uniform and interoperable systems for all relevant reporting obligations.	Implementation of the proposals will improve the practical feasibility of the regulation.

Bureaucratic standard	Concrete EU regulation	What bureaucratic burdens does the above-mentioned standard entail?	How can the purpose of the legal regulation be achieved more simply or less bureaucratically?	Relief potential if suggestion is implemented
			Harmonization in implementation: The member states must implement the regulation in a harmonized manner. Both preliminary investigations, investigations with the application of the risk-based approach and the sanctions to be imposed must be implemented uniformly across the EU. This is the only way to achieve a level playing field that offers legal certainty for companies.	

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