Amending certain Regulations as regards digitalisation and common specifications (Omnibus IV)

2025/0134(COD) - 21/05/2025 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to rationalise and digitalise a number of sectoral Union legal acts lay down harmonised rules regarding the obligations of economic operators.

PROPOSED ACT: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the European Commission has introduced a new package to simplify rules and reduce bureaucracy across the Single Market. This **fourth simplification Omnibus package** aims to make it easier for businesses to operate, innovate, and grow, while maintaining high standards of protection for consumers and the environment.

Reporting requirements play a key role in ensuring the correct enforcement and proper monitoring of legislation. The costs of reporting are overall largely offset by the benefits they bring, in particular as regards monitoring and ensuring compliance with key policy measures. However, reporting requirements can also impose a disproportionate burden on stakeholders, particularly SMEs and micro-companies. The accumulation of these requirements over time can result in redundant, duplicate or obsolete obligations, inefficient frequency and timing, or inadequate methods of collection. The Commission promotes the ‘ **digital by default**’ principle in its Digital Strategy/Better regulation to support digital transformations, facilitating digital-ready policies that take into account the fast-evolving world of digitalisation and technology, and are digital, interoperable, future-proof and agile by default.

The proposal will **accelerate the digital transition**, eliminating cumbersome paper-based requirements in product legislation. Moreover, by digitising these requirements, companies can submit and distribute information more easily and national authorities can verify compliance more efficiently. It concerns limited and targeted changes of legislation with a view of simplifying reporting requirements and ensuring the digitalisation and alignment of common specifications.

CONTENT: against this background, the Regulations to be amended by this proposed Regulation as regards alignment of common specifications provision, include mainly Regulation (EU) 2016/424 on cableway installations, Regulation (EU) 2016/425 on personal protective equipment, Regulation (EU) 2016/426 on appliances burning gaseous fuels, Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 on machinery, Regulation (EU) 2023/1542 concerning batteries and waste batteries and Regulation (EU) 2024/1781 establishing a framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for sustainable products by a combination of measures.

This proposal includes:

- specifying that the EU declaration of conformity, or a similar document, must be drawn up in **electronic form** and made accessible through an internet address or machine-readable code when that declaration needs to accompany a product;

- the addition of a **‘digital contact’** as information to be indicated by manufacturers on products placed on the market to facilitate communication between economic operators and national authorities. Once the European Business Wallet is available, the digital address it provides to economic operators could constitute the “digital contact”;

- specifying that the instructions accompanying products may be provided in electronic form **with the exception of safety information** which should be provided on paper or marked on the product for consumers;

- the amendment of reporting obligations to national authorities that require a ‘paper or electronic format’ to ‘electronic form’ only;

- the insertion of an obligation for **exchanges by electronic means** between the economic operators and competent authorities;

- the introduction of a provision on common specifications as an alternative to harmonised standards;

- an obligation to provide the information contained in the **EU declaration of conformity** and instructions on the digital product passport when the product is subject to another Union legislation that requires the use of such a digital product passport.