



Council of the
European Union

164531/EU XXVII. GP
Eingelangt am 30/11/23

Brussels, 30 November 2023
(OR. en)

16236/23

COMPET 1210
MI 1074
DIGIT 289
IND 655
BETREG 39

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
Subject:	Joint initiative on bureaucracy reduction - <i>Information from French and German delegations</i>

Delegations will find attached a note from the French and German delegations with a view to the AOB items at the meeting of the Competitiveness Council on 7 December 2023.

Request by the German and French delegation for an AOB agenda item for the

Competitiveness Council on the 07th December 2023

Information from the French and German delegations about their joint initiative on bureaucracy reduction

On the occasion of an intergovernmental seminar in Hamburg on 9th and 10th October, the French and German Governments agreed on a joint initiative on EU-level aimed at reducing the bureaucratic burden in order to unleash creativity, speed up the economic transition and strengthen EU competitiveness.

In this initiative, both countries call on the European Commission to develop an ambitious action plan of measures for more relief from bureaucracy, particularly for SMEs. This should accelerate planning and approval procedures as well as transition processes that are needed for the economy and the mitigation of climate change. This should facilitate necessary investments in forward-looking technologies, without abandoning necessary standards of protection. Especially digitalisation must be advanced rigorously and must be present in our thinking at all stages of the legislative process. Delegations will find attached the Joint non-paper from the French and German delegations with concrete suggestions in this regard, which was sent to the Commission in a joint letter on 31st of October.

In this context, France and Germany welcome that as part of the SME Relief Package and its work programme 2024, the European Commission recently presented its first proposals to reduce by 25 percent reporting requirements for businesses resulting from EU legislation, without undermining the related policy objectives. Both countries also welcome that the European Commission initiated a “call for evidence” in this regard and launched the recruitment process of an EU SME Envoy.

The German-French Initiative's aim is to make an additional contribution towards relieving unnecessary burden impacting businesses and administration, and to strengthen the competitiveness of the European Union in the long term. We therefore would welcome any support and contribution from our European partners.
