



Better Regulation: EU's efforts to simplify legislation

*Ioana Condurat
European Commission, Secretariat General*

The regulatory and fitness programme - REFIT

REFIT introduced a systematic process to screen the entire EU regulatory acquis to identify initiatives where EU action should be taken to **simplify and reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens while achieving the policy objectives.**

Principles

! NO to deregulation: Avoid deregulation and support the Commission's role to take political initiative,

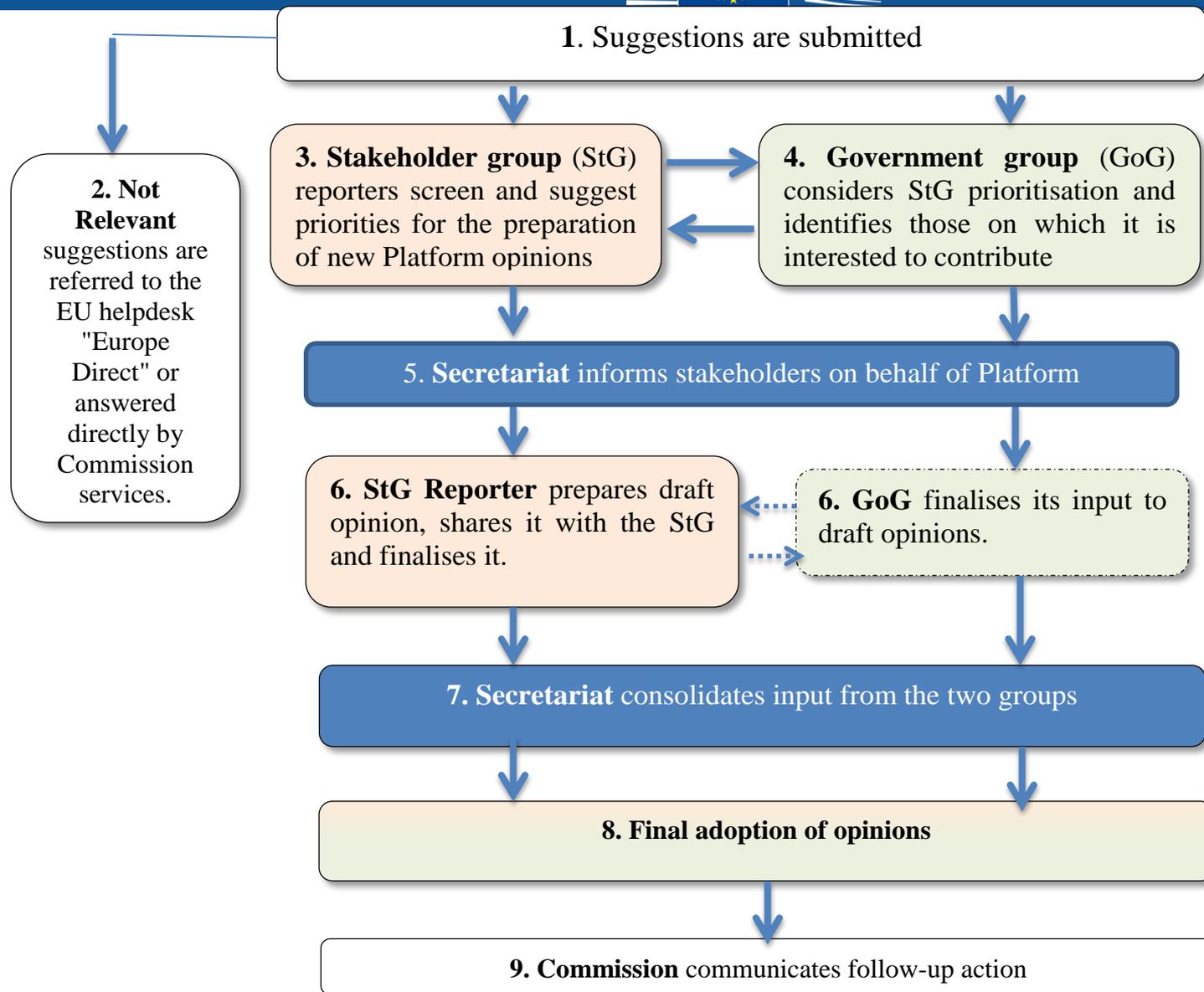
! Quantify and track impacts,

! Listen Better: Be **broadly accepted by stakeholders** to inspire further cultural / behavioural change.



- Established: 19/05/2015
- Chair: First Vice President-Timmermans
- **Objective:** Advise the Commission on how to make EU regulation more efficient and effective while reducing burden and without undermining policy objectives.
- Composition:
 - Stakeholder group (stakeholder experts +CoR + EESC)
 - Government group (high level experts from Member States)
- Website: "Lighten the Load – Have your Say"

Working method





- ***The Commission is committed to follow-up:***
 - To this date 684 stakeholder suggestions have been received;
 - **89 were adopted opinions** covering a wide range of policy areas.
- The EU helpdesk "Europe Direct" provides an explanation to *ALL* those who have submitted a suggestion.
- Member of the Platform can recall suggestions for discussion at all time.

Tracking: REFIT scoreboard

- REFIT can show **results**
- More than 230 REFIT initiatives are tracked in the **REFIT-scoreboard**
- In total, around 152 initiatives in CWPs 2016, 2017 and 2018
- User-friendly [electronic scoreboard](#) in 2018



2018 Annual Burden Survey



Main elements of 2018 Annual Burden Survey

1. It presents the Union's efforts to simplify legislation, to avoid overregulation and reduce regulatory burdens undertaken in 2018.
2. In 2018, these activities were principally carried out through the **Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT) programme** and **REFIT Platform** follow-up as well as through the simplification initiatives undertaken in the context of the proposals for the **post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework**.

Main elements of 2018 Annual Burden Survey

3. In the spirit of the 2019 CWP, the **Annual Burden Survey** is announcing evaluation work and fitness checks to ensure our existing laws are fit for purpose and up to date, including in areas flagged in the opinions of the REFIT Platform.
4. The Commission's follow up on all of the Platform opinions adopted up to October 2018 is comprehensively accounted for in the detailed follow-up and in the REFIT Scoreboard.

Looking forward

Important that efforts to simplify legislation continue under the next Commission:

- Better regulation stock-taking
- All evaluations should present clearly the REFIT aspect;
- Address concerns raised by the Task Force on Subsidiarity: proportionality, role of local and regional authorities, density of legislation...
- Costs, benefits and savings should be quantified to the extent possible;
- The REFIT aspects should be clearly highlighted in the explanatory memorandum;
- Maintain focus on avoiding burdens in the legislative process.