

OECD Symposium: Simplifying for Success

17-18 November 2025

OECD Conference Centre, Paris

Draft Agenda

The world faces an increasingly challenging global economic outlook. As governments tackle interconnected policy challenges, they also find themselves overseeing growingly complex bodies of regulation. In a global and fast evolving environment, regulations tend to lag behind market evolution, overlap and multiply. While they have been developed to support positive societal and economic outcomes, fragmentation, lack of consistency or poor implementation of regulations can undermine and hinder these very goals. It makes policy priorities more difficult to achieve in addition to hindering productivity growth. The reverberation of such negative effects is magnified in a rapidly evolving technological environment and a globalised world where the lack of cross-border harmonisation bears high costs.

In this context, some governments across the world are starting to put forward ambitious regulatory burden and simplification initiatives. Their objectives span from spurring economic growth and competitiveness to regaining public trust in effective government action, and they focus on decisively different approaches that range from reducing procedural burdens (*administrative simplification*) to removing regulations and their objectives altogether (*deregulation*). In general, these initiatives build on years or decades of existing programmes designed to cut red tape – initiatives that have not been sufficient to avoid creeping regulatory complexity.

The OECD high-level Symposium “Simplifying for Success” will provide a pivotal platform to explore current regulatory burden reduction and simplification initiatives and define the path to tangible outcomes for people and business. Global leaders from government, business, trade and consumer protection organisations will exchange on what has been learnt from past efforts, what is different today, and how governments can more effectively reduce regulatory complexity and costs while safeguarding the public interest.

The Symposium forms part of the OECD Simplifying for Success (S4S) initiative, that aims to support renewed government efforts to deliver simple, smart and streamlined regulations to help unlock prosperity for people and business. This objective will be supported by providing a forum for exchange and peer learning on current initiatives and to take stock of past efforts, developing clarity about concepts and tools to mitigate misperceptions, and proposing forward-looking methodologies for regulatory burden reduction and simplification.

General Information

All sessions will be held in the OECD Conference Centre (room CC 9), with parallel sessions 5 and 7 in the auditorium. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English and French. All sessions will be livestreamed via the event website.

Delegates are invited to [register via ONE M/P by 31 July](#). Past this deadline, a dedicated event website will be launched for delegates and the wider public to express their interest to participate in-person or online (link to follow).

Day 1: November 17, 2025

08:30 – 09:30	REGISTRATION & WELCOME COFFEE	
09:30 – 09:40	Session 1: Opening remarks by Mathias Cormann, Secretary-General, OECD	
09:40 – 10:00	Session 2: OECD insights and data on regulatory burden reduction and simplification	
10:00 – 10:15	Session 3: Keynote speech	
10:15 – 10:45	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK	
10:45 – 12:15	Session 4: Simplifying for success: unlocking prosperity for people and business <p>The high-level panel will discuss the goals of current burden reduction and simplification agendas and how these articulate with other policy objectives, from fostering productivity and innovation to ensuring necessary protections to safeguard people and the environment from harm. Speakers will be invited to reflect on what is new today, and what has been learnt from decades of cutting red tape, and how do government approaches and tools need to evolve building on these lessons.</p>	
12:15 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK	
14:00 – 15:00	Session 5: Smarter environmental regulations to reduce burden on firms and accelerate progress in the protection of the environment <p>A sustainable future for people and the planet hinges on effective regulatory frameworks that protect the environment while encouraging productivity growth and enabling innovation. Overly complex or fragmented regulations can hinder the development and deployment of effective environmental solutions and delay green investments, for instance in renewable energies. On the other hand, excessive administrative or reporting requirements linked to environmental goals can stifle business activity.</p> <p>This session will explore ways to accelerate action for the protection of the environment through simple, smart, and streamlined regulations.</p>	Session 6: Smart rules for smart tech <p>Artificial intelligence, machine learning and automation are transforming the way businesses operate, governments deliver services, and people communicate, interact and learn, relentlessly creating new opportunities for progress and growth. Governments face the challenge of enabling progress, creating stability, as well as protecting from risks – some of which are yet unknown.</p> <p>This session will explore how governments can effectively design and implement agile regulatory frameworks that promote innovation while mitigating risks.</p>

15:00 – 15:15	TRANSITION BREAK (to allow participants to move to different rooms for parallel sessions).	
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Session 7: Building better, ensuring affordability and cutting red tape</p> <p>Construction projects may be subject to a variety of zoning laws, consultation and reporting obligations, or environmental impact assessments. At the same time, housing shortages have been identified as one of the core elements of the current cost of living crises. The construction sector is also key to economic growth, but complex regulations can sometimes hinder practical solutions.</p> <p>This session will explore how governments can balance increasing demand while maintaining community engagement as well as safety and environmental standards.</p>	<p>Session 8: Do you care to simplify? Facilitating access and quality of care services</p> <p>As life expectancy rises and fertility rates decline, many OECD countries are experiencing rapid population aging, with profound implications for long-term and elder care. Additionally, accessible childcare and social care are vital for inclusive economies and societies, particularly for vulnerable groups facing poverty, homelessness or disability. However, complex and fragmented procedures can create barriers for access and increase costs for public and private providers of care services.</p> <p>This session will explore how access to quality care of services can be enhanced through simplified procedures, including through life-event approaches.</p>
16:15 – 16:45	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK	
16:45 – 17:45	<p>Session 9: Launch of the OECD report “How to manage risks while incentivising growth: Best Practice Principles for Licensing and Permitting”</p> <p>This session will launch the new OECD report “How to manage risks while incentivising growth: Best Practice Principles for Licensing and Permitting” with high-level government officials and experts.</p> <p>Licensing and permitting (L&P) are key tools for achieving public policy goals. When well-designed and effectively applied, they help prevent risks before they arise, build public trust, and support innovation and market growth. However, if misused or unproportionate, L&P can create barriers to market entry, hinder innovation, waste public resources, and erode trust and safety. The OECD Best Practice Principles provide guidance across six key principles to ensure governments and licensing authorities use L&P services in the most meaningful, effective, and efficient way.</p>	
18:00 – 19:30	<p>RECEPTION</p> <p>Salon du parc</p>	

Day 2: November 18, 2025

08:30 – 09:30	WELCOME COFFEE
09:30 – 10:45	<p>Session 10: Lasting impact through effective burden reduction and simplification</p> <p>Past efforts of burden reduction and simplification efforts have not been fully effective, nor do they seem to be appropriate to the challenges of our time given rising complexity and increasing demands for protection. The 'how to' simplify will be crucial in terms of the leadership needed, the assignment of responsibilities across government, the accountability mechanisms in place, as well as the engagement of stakeholder groups and citizens. Moreover, to promote a move away from managing the stock of regulations to also managing their flow, it is necessary to foster a shift in administrative culture and behaviour across government bodies and regulators, ensuring lasting results.</p> <p>This session will explore innovative approaches to move from an administrative culture that views regulation as a default option to one focused on achieving better outcomes.</p>
10:45 – 11:15	NETWORKING COFFEE BREAK
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session 11: Measuring burdens: Defining metrics that matter</p> <p>This session will explore how to better measure regulatory and administrative costs and benefits. It will assess whether existing tools such as the Standard Cost Model remain fit for purpose and explore different ways of measuring burden, and how digital technologies, and AI can be leveraged to streamline measurement and avoid unnecessary delays or costs.</p> <p>The discussion will also highlight how quantitative assessments can be effectively complemented by qualitative insights to ensure policymakers and regulators measure what matters.</p>
12:30 – 12:40	<p>Session 12: Closing remarks</p>
12:40	CLOSE OF SYMPOSIUM