

Press release

Academics warn of back-door move to institutionalise deregulation

Brussels, 04/02/2026. Over 50 professors of **European law** have submitted a formal [response](#) to the EU Commission's **Call for Evidence on the Communication on Better Regulation**, warning against the risk of turning exceptional legislative shortcuts into standard practice.

Professor **Alberto Alemanno, founder of the Good Lobby:**

“The EU Commission is weaponising geopolitical threats to dismantle the standards that protect us. By side-stepping public consultation and ignoring evidence, they’ve rebranded the erosion of democratic safeguards as ‘Better Regulation.’ Let’s be clear: this isn’t regulatory simplification. It is a calculated attempt to institutionalise deregulation through the back door, trading public accountability for a closed-door agenda and quietly dismantling the citizens’ right to shape EU law.”

The [submission](#) argues that recent EU lawmaking - notably the 2025 omnibus packages - has relied on expedited procedures that bypassed public consultation, impact assessments and other core safeguards. According to the signatories, institutionalising such practices would undermine **Treaty-based requirements** on participatory democracy, proportionality, transparency and fundamental rights protection.

Evidence is mounting around the legal flaws of the simplification agenda. This submission follows the petition by 100 scholars who concluded that the Omnibus I Simplification package was incompatible with EU law. The European Ombudsman reached the same conclusion last November finding of maladministration in relation to the preparation of that Omnibus.

Against this backdrop, the academics reject the idea that urgency and evidence-based policymaking are incompatible. Instead, they call for **codifying Better Regulation safeguards**, including clear, legally binding criteria for when expedited procedures may be used, and the Commission dispense itself from public consultation, impact assessments and rely on omnibuses.

“Better Regulation is not a bureaucratic obstacle,” they conclude, “but a constitutional precondition for legitimate, effective and resilient EU lawmaking.”

The full submission is available [here](#).

List of signatories

Alberto Alemanno, Jean Monnet Professor of EU Law, HEC Paris

Laurent Pech, Full Professor of Law, UCD

Jacquelyn Veraldi, Post-doctoral Researcher, Central European University Democracy Institute

Gábor Halmai, Professor emeritus, Eötvös Loránd and European University Institute

Stefan Salomon, Assistant Professor, University of Amsterdam

Oliver Escobar, Chair of Public Policy and Democratic Innovation, University of Edinburgh
Maria Weimer, Professor of EU Law, University of Amsterdam
Anne Laur, Sellier Professor, HEC Paris
Nicoletta Rangone, Professor of Administrative law, LUMSA University
Oliver Mader, Rechtsanwalt, Kanzlei Mader
Arnaud Van Waeyenberge, Professor, HEC Paris
Sébastien Platon, Professor of Public Law, Université de Bordeaux
Nicolas de Sadeleer, Prof Dr Jean Monnet Chair, UCLouvain
Amandine Garde, Professor of Law, Law & Non-Communicable Diseases Research Unit, University of Liverpool
Fernanda Nicola, Law Professor, America University Washington College of Law
Gonzalo Larrea, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University
Dimitry Kochenov, Professor, Central European University, Budapest and Vienna
Tim Bleeker, Associate Professor of Corporate Climate Law, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Maria Weimer, Professor of EU Law, University of Amsterdam
Odile Ammann, Associate Professor, University of Lausanne
Oana Stefan, Chair in European Law, King's College London
Stijn Smismans, Professor of European Law, Cardiff University
Kalypso Nicolaidis, Professorial Chair, EUI
Jeffrey Lubbers, Professor of Practice in Administrative Law, American University Washington College of Law
Rui Lancelo, Assistant Professor, University of Lisbon
Daniela Caruso, Professor of Law Emerita, Boston University
Vincent Delhomme, Assistant Professor of EU Law, Leiden University
Xavier Groussot, Professor, Lund University
Ludo Veuchelen, Associated Legal Researcher, UGENT
Marco Almada, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Luxembourg
Paul Craig, Emeritus Professor of English Law, St John's College, Oxford
Roberto Caranta, Prof., University of Turin
Henriette Tøssebro, Associate professor, University of Bergen
Christophe Hillion, Professor of law, University of Oslo
Andreas Rasche, Professor / Associate Dean, Copenhagen Business School
Perroud Thomas, Professeur de droit public, Université Paris-Panthéon-Assas
Inés Racionero, Teaching and Predoctoral Fellow, Universitat de Barcelona
Anne van Aaken, Professor Dr., University of Hamburg
Julia Emtseva, Assistant Professor, HEC Paris
Marija Bartl, Professor, University of Amsterdam
Davor Petrić, Senior Assistant/Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Zagreb Faculty of Law
Radosveta Vassileva, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow, UCD Sutherland School of Law
Elaine Fahey, Professor of Law, City St. Georges, University of London
Eva van der Zee, Professor of international law with a focus on behavioural law and economics, Universität Hamburg
Kati Cseres, Associate professor of Law, University of Amsterdam
Vigjilencia Abazi, Lecturer in Law, King's College London
Marieke Huysentruyt, Associate professor, HEC Paris
Sebastien Fassiaux, PhD candidate, Universitat Pompeu Fabra