



28th Regime | SME Envoy Network | Companies and Business Associations Survey

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The **Network of National SME Envoys**, established in 2011 in the context of the review of the **Small Business Act**, acts as an EU-level advisory forum promoting SME-friendly regulation and policymaking. The network plays a key role in improving consultation with SMEs at national level, strengthening cooperation between Member States, and ensuring that SME perspectives are taken into account in EU initiatives.

Within this framework, the SME Envoy Network contributes to the assessment of EU policy initiatives through the SME Filter, signalling proposals that warrant particular attention from an SME perspective. Initiatives identified through this mechanism are subject to a proportionate SME test, supporting more evidence-based and SME-friendly policymaking.

For the current working year, the **28th Regime** initiative was selected as one of the network's proposals and scoping papers for in-depth work. **Portugal** acts as rapporteur for this initiative, coordinating the work in close cooperation with the European Commission (**DG GROW A.2**), Member States and key business stakeholder organisations.

The work involves contributions from **Poland, Romania, Luxembourg** and **Malta**, as well as European business organisations, including **SME United, Cooperatives Europe, BusinessEurope, Eurochambres, ESBA** and **CEA-PME**.

This questionnaire is intended for both **companies** (questions 1-49) and **business associations** (questions 1-4, 50-63). It aims to collect insights on the expected benefits, challenges, and level of preparedness regarding the **28th Regime**.

Additional information about the 28th Regime and the EU Inc. available at the European Commission [site](#).

Estimated time to complete: 10–12 minutes.

The survey will be available from April 13 to May 15, 2026.

Please tick the boxes and fill in the text fields.

I agree to the processing of my responses for policy analysis purposes, in line with applicable data protection rules.

About you

*** 1 Name**

*** 2 E-mail**

*** 3 Estados-Membros da UE**

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czechia
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- EL - Greece
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia

- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovak Republic
- SI - Slovenia
- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

*** 4 I am replying to this questionnaire as**

- Company
- Business Association

*** 5 Company name**

100 character(s) maximum

*** 6 Industrial Ecosystem / Sector**

- Aerospace & Defence
- Agri-food
- Construction
- Cultural & Creative Industries
- Digital
- Electronics
- Renewable Energy
- Energy-Intensive Industries
- Healthcare
- Mobility, Transport & Automotive
- Proximity and Social Economy
- Retail
- Textiles
- Tourism
- Other

*** 7 If Other, please specify.**

500 character(s) maximum

*** 8 Company Profile**

- Micro (0–9 employees)
- Small (10–49)
- Medium (50–249)
- Small mid-cap (250–749)
- Larger (750+)

*** 9 Please provide additional clarification**

- Start-Up
- Scale-Up
- Not applicable
- Other

*** 10 If Other, please specify.**

500 character(s) maximum

*** 11 Age of company**

- Newly established (< 1 year)
- Young (1-5 years)
- Adult (6-19 years)
- Mature (20+ years)

*** 12 (Inter)national activity**

- Domestic market
- EU cross-border market
- Non-EU market

*** 13 How would you describe your organisation's level of digitalisation?**

- Very low (basic digital tools)
- Low (some digital processes, limited integration)
- Moderate (digital tools widely used, partial automation)
- High (advanced digital systems, integrated processes)
- Very high (data-driven organisation, high automation, advanced technologies)

*** 14 How would you characterise your organisation's level of innovation?**

- Low (limited innovation activities)

- Moderate (occasional innovation projects or improvements)
- High (regular innovation initiatives, structured processes)
- Very high (continuous innovation, strong R&D or development capacity)

*** 15 Have you ever decided not to set up a company in, or expand to, another EU country due to cross-border barriers?**

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

*** 16** If Yes, please provide more details.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 17 What are the main barriers your organisation faces when operating in another EU country?**

- Complex regulatory requirements
- Employment regulations/costs
- Posting of workers
- Legal compliance costs
- High administrative costs
- Lack of information on basic operating costs (electricity, gas, rent, etc.)
- Tax -related or customs-related difficulties
- Limited access to financing
- Lack of market information
- Language or cultural barriers
- Lack of partners
- Other

*** 18** If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

Awareness & general perception

The **28th Regime** is a new EU initiative creating an optional, harmonised legal framework that companies can choose instead of navigating 27 different national systems. It aims to reduce fragmentation in the Single Market by offering unified, simple and fully digital rules for starting and operating a business across the EU. The initiative is designed to strengthen competitiveness, cut administrative burdens and support companies in scaling across borders. It coexists with national regimes, giving businesses the flexibility to opt into a modern, innovation-friendly European framework.

*** 19 Are you familiar with the 28th Regime initiative?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure / Somewhat

*** 20 Should the 28th Regime be more widely promoted among companies?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

*** 21 If Yes, how?**

- Awareness campaigns through business associations
- Awareness campaigns through other organizations (banks, accountants, etc.)
- Information sessions or webinars
- Guidance materials (e.g., brochures, FAQs, online guides)
- Dedicated website or online portal
- Social media and digital communication
- Direct communication with companies
- Other

*** 22 If Other, please specify.**

500 character(s) maximum

Adoption & implementation

23 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Not relevant ... 5 - Highly relevant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* Relevance of the 28th Regime?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 25 Is your company considering the adoption of the 28th Regime?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure
- Depends

*** 26 If Depends, in which conditions?**

500 character(s) maximum

27 What are the main drivers influencing your company's decision regarding the adoption of the 28th Regime?

- Expected costs savings
- Regulatory clarity
- Administrative simplification
- Lower compliance costs
- Reduced administrative burden
- Consumer protection standards
- Tax or financial incentives
- Legal certainty
- Expected impact on competitiveness
- Expected impact on cross-border activities
- Other

*** 28 If Other, please specify.**

500 character(s) maximum

29 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Not prepared ... 5 - Completely prepared)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* How prepared is your organisation to implement the 28th Regime, in terms of internal resources (human, financial, legal)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

30 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 31 What challenges does your organisation anticipate when implementing the 28th Regime?**

- Lack of clarity or understanding of the rules
- Additional administrative burden
- Compliance costs
- Need for staff training or internal capacity building
- Integration with existing internal processes or systems
- Legal uncertainty
- Lack of guidance materials
- Cross-border adaptation challenges
- Limited financial or human resources
- Managing two systems, 28th Regime and home country
- Other

*** 32** If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 33 What potential benefits do you expect from the 28th Regime? (Exploring positive motivations and perceptions about the 28th Regime)**

- Regulatory simplification
- Reduced administrative burdens
- Major legal certainty
- Harmonised standards
-

Simplified EU-wide procedures

- Enhanced consumer trust
- Easier cross-border operations
- Easier access to new markets
- Increased attractiveness for investors
- Other

* 34 If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 35 What type of support would you expect from national or EU institutions to facilitate the adoption of the 28th Regime by companies?**

- Clear guidance materials
- Training and capacity building
- Advisory or helpdesk support
- Financial support
- Simplified administrative procedures
- Digital tools
- Awareness campaigns
- National focal point
- Other

* 36 If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 37 What are your main expectations or concerns regarding the 28th Regime?**

500 character(s) maximum

EU Inc. (COM (2026) 321 FINAL, 18th March) is an optional EU-wide company form that enables fully digital company creation within 48 hours for under €100, with no minimum capital, and a harmonised set of corporate rules. It streamlines governance, share transfers, financing tools, and insolvency procedures through an EU-level digital interface, helping businesses operate seamlessly across the Single Market.

38 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Not prepared ... 5 - Completely Prepared)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* How do you perceive your national framework's level of preparedness to accommodate the EU Inc. company form?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

39 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 40 Which elements of national company law may require adaptation to ensure compatibility with the EU Inc. Regime?**

- Incorporation rules
- Governance structures
- Directors' liability
- Don't know
- Other

*** 41** If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 42 Which provisions of the EU Inc. proposal should be prioritised for adjustment or clarification?**

- Digital-only procedures
- Once-only principle and data exchange
- Interaction with national tax and labour law
- Definitions of innovative enterprises / startups / scaleups
- Rules on directors' duties and liabilities

- Digital share transfers and recognition across Member States
- Simplified insolvency procedures
- Access to regulated markets
- Other

* 43 If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

* 44 Which provisions already planned do you strongly support?

- 48-hour, fully digital company registration
- Low-cost incorporation (\leq €100) and no minimum capital requirement
- Harmonised and digital share register
- EU-ESO (employee stock option scheme)
- Use of modern financing tools (e.g., SAFEs)
- Streamlined cross-border operations
- Full digitalisation of the company lifecycle
- Harmonised governance rules
- Other

* 45 If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

Definition of innovative enterprises, innovative startups and innovative scaleups

The Commission Recommendation C (2026) 1800 final, 18th March, establishes harmonised EU-wide definitions for **“innovative enterprises”**, **“innovative startups”** and **“innovative scaleups”**. Its goal is to ensure consistent classification across Member States, addressing fragmentation that leads to unequal access to support schemes. By using objective criteria linked to innovation activity, growth potential and deep-tech characteristics, the Recommendation aims to improve policy alignment and help innovative companies expand more easily across the Single Market.

46 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Not aligned... 5 - Completely aligned)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* To what extent is the national innovation ecosystem aligned with the Recommendation's emphasis on deep-tech enterprises?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

47 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 48 In your view, are there ecosystems / sectors particularly affected – positively or negatively – by the new definitions of innovative enterprises, innovative startups, and innovative scaleups?**

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

*** 49 If Yes, which ecosystems / sectors?**

200 character(s) maximum

We thank you for your time and for sharing your views. Your contribution is appreciated.

Business Associations perspective on the 28th Regime

*** 50 Business Association name**

100 character(s) maximum

*** 51 Industrial Ecosystem / Sector**

- Aerospace & Defence
- Agri-food
- Construction
- Cultural & Creative Industries

- Digital
- Electronics
- Renewable Energy
- Energy-Intensive Industries
- Healthcare
- Mobility, Transport & Automotive
- Proximity and Social Economy
- Retail
- Textiles
- Tourism
- Other

* 52 If Other, please specify.

200 character(s) maximum

* 53 **What concerns do your members have regarding the adoption of the 28th Regime?**

- Lack of information or awareness
- Uncertainty about legal implications
- Administrative or compliance burden
- Implementation costs
- Cross-border operational challenges
- Limited internal resources
- Other

* 54 If Other, please specify.

500 character(s) maximum

55 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Does not address the needs at all ... 5 - Fully addresses the needs)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* Do you consider that the 28th Regime addresses the needs of traditional SMEs?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

56 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 57 What are the main challenges that traditional SMEs would face in adopting the 28th Regime?**

500 character(s) maximum

*** 58 What kind of support would your association be willing or able to offer to companies adopting the 28th Regime?**

- Awareness campaigns
- Training sessions or workshops
- Technical guidance or advisory support
- Dissemination of official materials
- Helpdesk or Q&A support
- Collaboration with public authorities
- Other

*** 59 If Other, please specify.**

500 character(s) maximum

60 Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statement.

(1 - Not relevant ... 5 - Highly relevant)

	1	2	3	4	5	Don't know
* In your view, how relevant is the 28th Regime for improving the competitiveness of companies in your sector?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

61 Please use the space below to provide comments.

500 character(s) maximum

*** 62 Which aspects of the legislative package on the 28th Regime, launched on March 18, deserve particular attention due to their potential impact on your members?**

500 character(s) maximum

*** 63 Do you have any other suggestions/comments regarding the legislative package on the 28th Regime, launched on March 18?**

500 character(s) maximum



We thank you for your time and for sharing your views. Your contribution is appreciated.