



Brussels, 4 November 2025

The Local Omnibus:

Driving a Burden-Relief Agenda That Matters on the Ground

Brussels Appeal by the Associations¹ of Local Authorities from Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg to the EU Commission, the EU Parliament, and the Council

Our municipalities, cities, counties, and districts are the first point of contact for their citizens on a daily basis. They are the foundation of the democratic state as well as the pillars of local self-government, and therefore also serve as yardstick for the functionality of the state and its procedures. For this reason, local authorities need a framework that enables them to effectively exercise their constitutionally guaranteed right to local self-government.

We therefore welcome the EU Commission's current priority of simplifying European Union (EU) law, reducing bureaucracy, and thus strengthening the economy in the interests of a competitive and resilient continent. Local authorities also urgently need tangible relief in the implementation of European legal requirements. Efficient public administration is a basic prerequisite for providing citizens with modern, service-oriented and digital services and strengthening and maintaining trust in state institutions and democratic structures. Local authorities in rural and urban areas are currently facing enormous challenges: Growing funding gaps in local budgets, ever-increasing bureaucracy, rapid digital change, underfunded and inconsistent climate and environmental laws, and the current asylum and refugee situation are bringing municipalities to the brink of collapse. We therefore call for simplified EU legislation that focuses on the essentials.

While the existing omnibus packages proposed have primarily been aimed at easing the burden on the economy, attention must now be focused specifically on the local level. Only by actively easing the burden on municipalities will it be possible to ensure that the measures taken by the EU have a positive impact on the everyday lives of citizens.

¹ Bavarian Association of Municipalities (Bayerischer Gemeindetag), Bavarian Association of Cities (Bayerischer Städetag), Bavarian Association of Counties (Bayerischer Landkreistag), Bavarian Association of Districts (Bayerischer Bezirkstag); Association of Municipalities of Baden-Württemberg (Gemeindetag Baden-Württemberg), Association of Cities of Baden-Württemberg (Städtag Baden-Württemberg), Association of Counties of Baden-Württemberg (Landkreistag Baden-Württemberg).

In the environmental sector in particular, it is important to avoid micromanagement and, above all, costly reporting and documentation requirements. More practical transition periods and greater flexibility are needed in the implementation of the Green Deal measures. Streamlined procedures in species and nature conservation law are also essential to strengthen local services, public services of general interest, and public infrastructure. Moreover, the Nature Restoration Law and the EU Deforestation Regulation, for example, must be reviewed. Progress already made in extended producer responsibility in the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive or in waste management must be secured. To achieve the climate targets, we call for cost-effective and quickly implementable measures to be prioritized within the framework of the circular economy. We reject the inclusion of thermal waste utilization in EU emissions trading.

In addition, local authorities must be supported by raising EU thresholds and by introducing further exemptions and simplifications in the upcoming reform of EU public procurement law. Among other things, this concerns an exemption for small and medium-sized contracting authorities (SMCAs) from EU public procurement law, comprehensive exemption for inter-municipal (public-public) cooperation from the applicability of EU directives, and the continued voluntary use of social and sustainability criteria. Implementing these demands would enable local authorities to once again carry out procurement procedures in a legally compliant manner without excessive time and cost-intensive personnel deployment or the corresponding commissioning of external service providers. In state aid law, too, targeted relief must be achieved through a significant increase in de-minimis thresholds and practical exemptions and exceptions, including housing promotion.

We call on the Commission, the Parliament, and the Member States in the Council to explicitly consider the local implementation level in the context of the current omnibus procedures and to examine their financial and administrative impact of planned legislative acts at an early stage in the future as part of impact assessments. This is the only way to ensure in the long term that relief is not only felt by the economy, but also noticeably by local authorities and thus by citizens.

With kind regards,



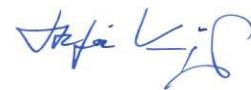
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