



European Commission

DG Enterprise & Industry

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# THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S BETTER REGULATION STRATEGY

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# The EU Better Regulation Policy

## Better Regulation:

- Good governance
- Legal certainty → efficient application and enforcement
- Positive impact on framework conditions for growth, employment and productivity
  - Right incentives for businesses
  - Cutting of unnecessary costs
  - Removal of obstacles to adaptability and innovation

# Better Regulation

## ➤ **Better Regulation tools:**

- a) **Impact assessments (ex ante)**
  - a) **consultation**
- b) **Screening of pending legislative proposals**
- c) **Simplification of existing EU legislation (ex post)**
- d) **Administrative Burden reduction (ex post)**

# Impact Assessments

- Prepares available evidence of potential impacts of alternative policy options
  - balanced and proportionate way
    - Integrated approach covering economic, social and environmental impacts
  - aims to identify possible trade-offs / synergies
- For political decision-makers
  - Absolutely not a substitute for political judgement!
- Transparency

# IA steps

- Problem definition
- Objectives
- Identification of options
- Analysis of options
- Monitoring and evaluation

# Impact Assessment

- Since 2003 more than 300 IAs
- IA guidelines updated in 2005
  - Greater emphasis on competitiveness issues and admin burden
- Impact Assessment Board since 2007
  - Examines all Commission IAs
- External evaluation
  - Guidelines and process currently being revised
  - Extension of scope
  - Proportionate analysis criterion refined
- Strong commitment to BR and IAs now and in future

# Screening of pending proposals

- Focus on proposals adopted before 1/1/2004
- 183 proposals screened, 67 withdrawn (via publication in OJ of 17/03/2006)
- Repeated in 2006 for a further 79 proposals (10 withdrawn)

# Simplification

- Aims to modernise and streamline the *acquis*
  - Four main methods
- Repeal
  - Removes from the statute-book those legal acts which are unnecessary, irrelevant or obsolete
- Codification
  - Means bringing all amendments to a given law adopted at different times into one law
  - Contributes to the reduction in volume of EU legislation



# Simplification

## ➤ Recast

- Combines in a new legally binding act both the amendment of the substance of the legislation and the codification of the remainder which is intended to remain unchanged
- Repeals the acts which it replaces

## ➤ Revision

- clarifying the text (e.g. definition, scope etc.);
- reducing administrative burden
- improving the functioning of the Internal Market
- adapting the text to technical progress

# Simplification- Achievements

- A total of **94 initiatives** tabled to date
  - Corresponds to 300 legal acts removed from the *Community acquis*
- e.g.
- the "Single Payments Area" in the EU which could save the EU economy up to €28 billion per year,
  - the new electronic Customs Code which will boost international trade and save businesses up to €2,5 billion/year;
  - The simplified rules and incentives for SMEs developing pharmaceuticals;
  - The repeal of most existing pre-packaging requirements allowing free sizes for all pre-packaged products.

# Administrative Burden

- Aim: reduction of the admin burden by 25%
- Labour efficiency ↑ = increase in the level of GDP of c. 1.4% (EUR 150 bn)
- 13 priority area
  - Mapping, field measurement and reduction proposals
- Fast track actions
- High level group of independent stakeholders

# Administrative Burden

Module 1	Mapping of information obligations (IOs) stemming directly from EU legislation – finished early spring '08	Early spring '08
Module 2	Mapping of IOs stemming from national implementation of EU legislation – ends spring 2008	End spring '08
Module 3	Field measurement of IOs identified in module 1 – finished by autumn 2008	Autumn '08
Module 4	Field measurement of IOs identified in module 2 – finished by autumn 2008	Autumn '08
Module 5	Development of reduction recommendations, targets, proposals, economic projections, dissemination of results and miscellaneous activities – ongoing throughout project, concentration in late 2008	On-going throughout project Concentration late 2008

# For more information:

- <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/>
- [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/index_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better\\_regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/index_en.htm)
- [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/admin\\_burdens\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction/admin_burdens_en.htm)

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