



European Commission

Enterprise Directorate General

**THIRD WORKSHOP AND HIGH LEVEL  
CONFERENCE OF THE APEC-OECD  
CO-OPERATIVE INITIATIVE ON  
REGULATORY REFORM**

**Presentation by Mr. Manuel Santiago dos Santos –  
European Commission on the European Union’s  
Action Plan on Regulatory Quality**

## Session 1: ENHANCING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY

- Subjects of the presentation:
- The shift in emphasis on regulatory reform priorities that has occurred in the European Union over the recent years
- The action plan that has been adopted to simplify and improve the Community's regulatory environment.
- The accumulated experience of the EU on regulatory assessment procedures.

## Session 1: ENHANCING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY

- In the late 1980's, the European Community focused on market reforms under the '1992 Single Market programme', which concerned the harmonisation of national legislation to promote competition and e intra-community trade.
- With the Internal Market now largely accomplished the focus of regulatory reform has shifted to improved regulatory quality that meets evolving societal needs and technological development.

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- The European Commission's regulatory package addresses three complementary subjects:
- The simplification and the improvement of the EU's regulatory environment,
- The introduction of a mandatory Impact Assessment system,
- The adoption of Minimum Standards for Consultation.

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TRANSPARENCY

- Simplification the EU's regulatory environment:
  - - Well prepared and more appropriate legislation
  - - Simplifying the “acquis communautaire”
  - - Better transposition and application
  - - New culture for the European institutions

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- EU's Impact Assessment system
  - - Preliminary Assessment for all initiatives planned for adoption
  - - Extended Impact Assessment for major initiatives

## Session 1: ENHANCING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY

- Minimum Standards for consultation
  - - Clear content
  - - Adequate publication
  - - Sufficient time for participation (6/8 weeks)
  - - Proper feedback
  - - Easier access through unique web-portal

## Session 1: ENHANCING REGULATORY TRANSPARENCY

- The European Commission has built on previous experiences developed in house and elsewhere in the OECD countries.
- Examples:
- Business Impact Assessment
- Environmental Impact Assessment