Measuring Progress in Regulatory Reform

Istanbul, 21-22 June 2010
About NNR

- Founded in 1982 as an independent, non-party political business organisation entirely funded by its members.

- Members: **15 business organisations** representing all active companies with one or more employees in Sweden; of all sectors and sizes.

- Focus on regulatory **process** and creating and maintaining a **business-friendly regulatory environment** - Sweden and EU
Targets

- **Swedish Government**: 1. To reduce the administrative costs to businesses arising from government regulations by at least **25 per cent** by the autumn of 2010 and 2. To bring about a **significant change** in day-to-day business operations.

- **Swedish Business**: Reduced regulatory costs through a transparent regulatory system that is **easy to understand** and **easy to comply with**.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Costly Areas According to SCM Measurements</th>
<th>Most Burdensome Areas According to NNR Members</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1. Company Law</td>
<td>1. Environmental Law</td>
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<td>3. Food Safety</td>
<td>3. Labour Law</td>
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<td>5. Tax regulations</td>
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<td>6. Labour law</td>
<td>6. VAT</td>
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<td>7. Consumer and Product Safety</td>
<td>7. Statutory action plans for equality</td>
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<td>8. Environmental Law</td>
<td>8. Statistics and providing information to government</td>
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Better regulation is a shared responsibility…

…Co-operation between government and business

- Identifying the problem:
  - Above all, business wants **clarity** in the regulatory environment.
  - Perceived burdens of regulation and ‘**irritation factors**’.
  - Concern about the **cumulative, and total, cost** of complying with regulation.
NNR ‘Regulation Barometer’

Swedish Government Should Systematically Evaluate Changes in Perceptions! (2\textsuperscript{nd} target: to bring about significant change for business)

- General
- Short, quick questions
- Focus on main changes that should have been noticed
**NNR ‘Regulation Barometer’**

*Important to Communicate Improvements!*

- High awareness of government simplification programme.
- High awareness of implemented ‘simplification measures’.
- **But**, majority had *not noticed any change* in the level of regulation.
- Those who knew about government’s work were more positive.
Simplification of Existing Regulation

- Focus on areas that are perceived as burdensome by business.
- Focus on type of changes that business wants.
- Evaluation of results of simplification measures.
Efficient New Regulation

- Impact Assessments

- Independent Scrutiny – e.g. Better Regulation Council (Regelrådet www.regelradet.se)

- Ex-post evaluation of actual outcomes
Thank you!

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http://www.nnr.se