SMART REGULATION

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From Better to Smart – pushing the regulatory policy agenda a step further

• Better regulation focused on delivering good quality policy proposals – new proposals

• Smart regulation focuses on closing the policy gap – investing more in policy evaluation and simplification

• And bringing in the other actors
Current practice
All major initiatives subject to a thorough assessment

- More than 500 impact assessments carried out since 2003
- Integrated approach: economic, social and environmental aspects checked
- Detailed information about forthcoming initiatives (roadmaps) available online

- Independent quality check by Impact Assessment Board – about 30% sent back
Quality of the IA system recognised by the European Court of Auditors

• ‘the audit has shown that impact assessment has been effective in supporting decision-making within the EU institutions’

• ‘impact assessment [...] has been used by the Commission to design its initiatives better’
Tangible results in reducing red tape and simplifying existing law

• More than 150 simplification proposals since 2005: repeal of outdated provisions, codification, making the lives of users easier
• When adopted by Council and Parliament measures proposed by the Commission will cut red tape by more than 30%
• Allowing Member States to exempt micro-entities from EU accounting directives alone would benefit 5.4 million companies
What’s next?
Policy evaluation – fitness checks

- Objectives:
  - identify excessive burdens, overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies and/or obsolete measures which may have appeared over time
  - keep current regulation fit for purpose

- Start in 2010 in four areas: environment, transport, employment and social policy, and industrial policy.
Revision of the consulting stakeholders

• Vast information already available to stakeholders:
  – Roadmaps
  – impact assessments
  – opinions of the Impact Assessment Board

• New policy initiatives often of a cross-cutting nature (e.g. climate)

• Consultation period extended from 8 to 12 weeks

• Thorough review of consultation methods in 2011
Improving assessment of social impacts

• More analysis within the integrated approach
• Specific guidance issued by DG Employment and Social Affairs
• More attention to distributive impacts
Bringing in the other actors

• Other two EU institutions – Council and the European Parliament – and the Member States need to match the Commission efforts

• Council and EP should make greater use of impact assessment in policy discussions and assess impacts of substantive amendments

• Still very few comprehensive impact ex-post or ex-ante evaluation systems in the MS
Conclusions
Extending good practice to the whole policy cycle

• Ex post evaluation of regulatory performance
• A better assessment of social impacts
• More effective consultation processes, tapping into the knowledge of citizens and business
• A better understanding of the full benefits of regulation, not only of their costs
Want to know more?
Information sources

- Communication on Smart Regulation
- Court of Auditors report
  [http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/5372733.PDF](http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/5372733.PDF)
- Commission work programme
- Detailed information about forthcoming initiatives - roadmaps
  [http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm)
- IA reports and IAB opinions
- Impact Assessment guidelines
- EC Better Regulation website