

# The performance of regulatory policy – some remarks

Carlo Thomsen  
senior adviser

The Norwegian Ministry of Government  
Administration, Reform and Church Affairs

# What Radaelli and Fritsch proposes

- a panel of common indicators across OECD-countries that cover regulatory management both ex ante, ex post and oversight
- a set of indicators should be build up over time, beginning with simple measures and building up capacity
- the indicators should have a broad scope on cost-benefit (not just administrative burdens), consequences for society (not just business or citizens) and regulatory tools (including oversight)
- the indicators should be made up of both perception surveys and more objective data
- focus on learning over time is important
- major emphasis should be on management, since this is a precondition for communication and accountability
- the indicators should be gathered yearly and, together with case-studies form a basis for discussion and learning

# A step in the right direction

- focusing on management and learning is a step in the right direction
- It is important to move away from
  - data focused on rules and standards of regulatory management,
  - a narrow scope on burdens
- It is important
  - to focus on how regulatory management actually works over time and between countries
  - with a scope on cost-benefit, consequences for society and
  - with a scope which also includes institutional settings as a regulatory tool

# Which indicators are most important?

- We should begin with indicators on comprehensiveness and quality of regulatory tools such as
  - RIA
  - consultations
  - post implementation reviews
- Indicators should also include a measure on institutional capacity and competence
- Indicator on numbers of regulations and number of pages should also be included
- Composite indicators should not be of first priority
- Perception surveys should not be of first priority

# Difficulties

- Factors in addition to regulatory policy influence regulatory decisions
- Outcome of regulations are influenced by much more than regulations alone

# Indicators from the Radaelli paper

Input → Process → Output → Intermediate outcome → Final Outcome

Extent of training offered

OECD regulatory management indicators

Comprehensiveness of RIA

Quality of RIA

Perception survey on RIA

Compr.ness of consultations

Quality of cons.

Perception survey on cons.

Comprehensiveness of PIR

Quality of PIR

Number of regulations and pages of reg.

Perception surveys on regulators

Perception surveys on regulatees

Total cost reduction

Total number of lives saved

Proposals by Canada and Coglianesse

# Moving forward by learning from each other

- The way forward is to discuss each of the indicators proposed
- The main idea from Radaelli and Fritsch is a good one:
  - a common set of indicators
  - supplemented by in-depth case studies (for example country reviews and sector studies)
  - annual discussions in OECD (for example in the regulatory policy committee or a working party under the committee)