

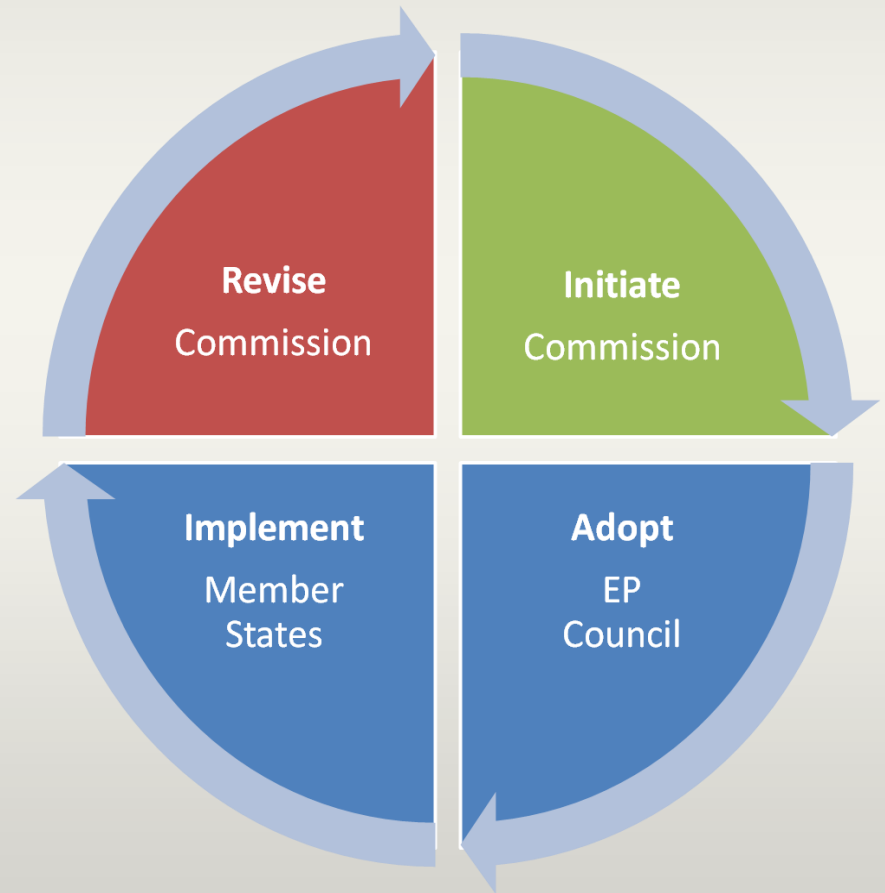


SMART REGULATION

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

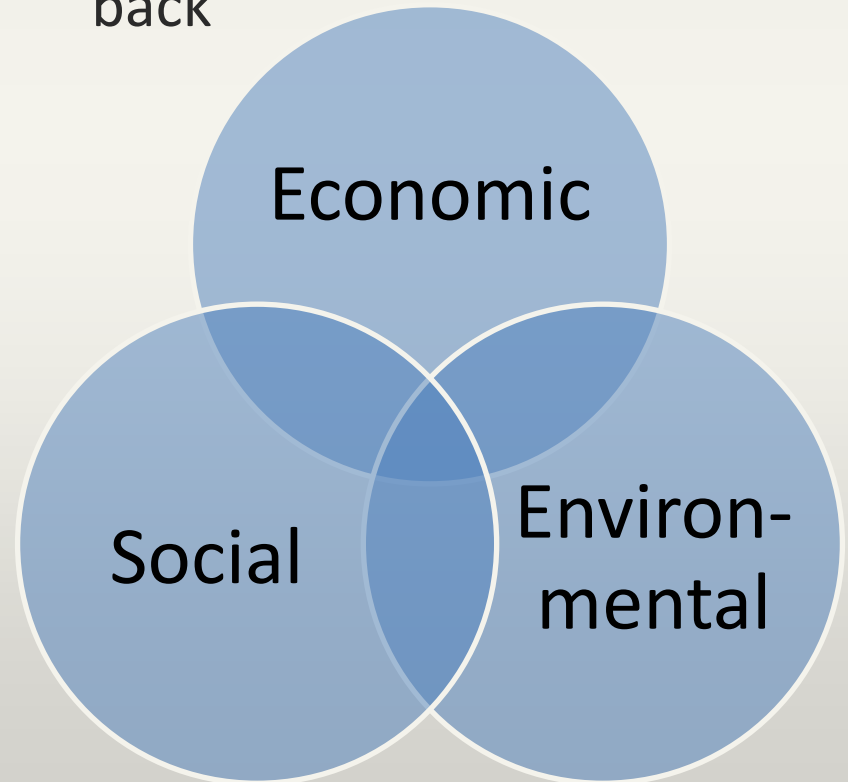
- Better regulation focused on delivering good quality policy proposals – new proposals
- Smart regulation focuses on closing the policy gap – investing more in policy evaluation and simplification
- And bringing in the other actors



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’



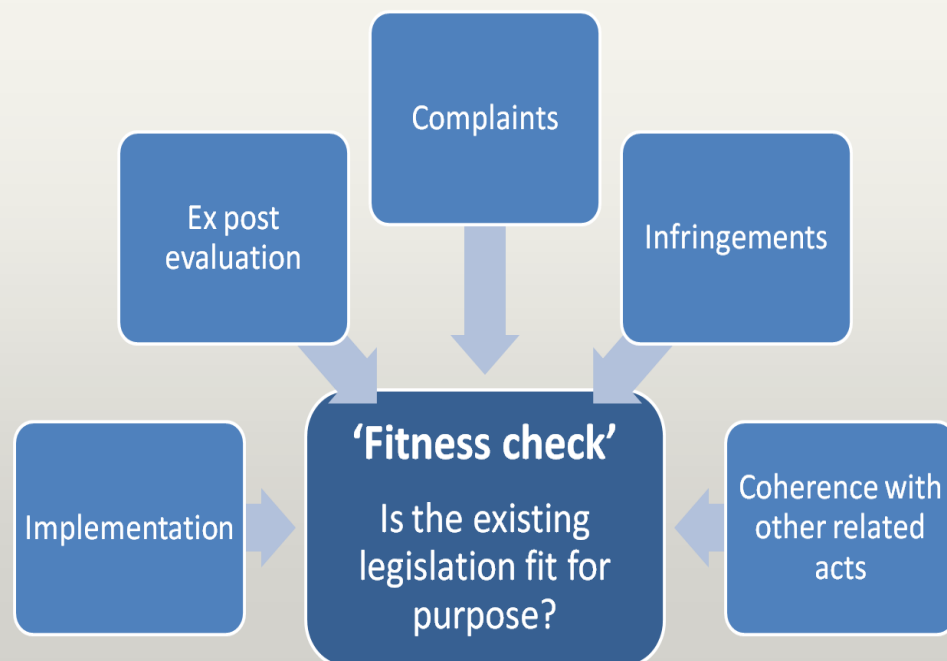
Tangible results in reducing red tape and simplifying existing law

- More than 150 simplification proposals since 2005: repeal of outdated provisions, codification, making the lives of users easier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
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation/documents/com_2010_0543_en.pdf
- Court of Auditors report
<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/5372733.PDF>
- Commission work programme
http://ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index_en.htm
- Detailed information about forthcoming initiatives - roadmaps
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm
- IA reports and IAB opinions
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/practice_en.htm
- Impact Assessment guidelines
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/docs_en.htm
- EC Better Regulation website
http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation/index_en.htm