

**INDUSTRY ALLIANCE MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS  
TOWARDS HIGH-QUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT SYSTEM  
FOR NEW LEGISLATION**

The *Alliance for a Competitive European Industry* is calling for consistent use of transparent, high-quality impact assessments whenever new legislation is proposed or existing legislation reviewed. This approach is a critical element towards achieving better regulation.

"Today, there is a growing consensus on the role of impact assessment when preparing or reviewing policies. The real question is how to make it work and ensure the quality of the process. We are therefore making suggestions for ways in which the current practices can be improved." said Alliance Chairman Paul Bulteel at a conference in Brussels today, attended by some 200 representatives of industry and EU and national legislative institutions.

The Alliance members support the European Commission's intention to give greater consideration to assessment of the economic impacts of any new policy, without neglecting assessment of social and environmental consequences. However, the Alliance wishes to ensure that such impact assessments are well-founded and not vulnerable to attack, and that they are then taken into account during the entire legislative process.

Alain Perroy, Cefic Director General stated: "For entrepreneurs, making a comprehensive impact assessment of any major decision that will affect the future success of their business is self-evident. He asked: "Is it not then only logical for European manufacturing industry to expect the same professional approach from policymakers when they take decisions that may have major consequences?"

The Alliance's proposals centre on four key principles that should be followed when conducting an impact assessment. These are **efficiency**, **independence**, **credibility**, and **consistency**.

As regards **efficiency**, it is of crucial importance that each of the Commission's Directorates-General obtains the necessary expertise and resources that will enable it to carry out the impact assessment process in accordance with the new Impact Assessment Guidelines.

In the long term, the Alliance would like to see all impact assessments carried out by an external body, **independent** from the Commission's desk officers, reporting to the Council and the European Parliament. In the absence of such a body, there is a need for an expert horizontal central unit that assumes the role of in-house consultative body at the Commission.

**Credibility** is another key principle. The origin of the required expertise should be depolarised in order to avoid arousing distrust from one or another group of stakeholders. Adequate funding should be made available exclusively from the EU budget. The Alliance suggests using neutral think-tanks as mediators who would organise stakeholder consultations and advise the legislative institutions on the professionalism and accountability of the contributions made.

The **consistency** of the inter-institutional process on the basis of the conclusions of the Impact Assessment could be ensured by involving the European Parliament and Council secretariats at an earlier stage in the Impact Assessment process, in order to ensure that they understand the justifications for the various policy options - both those taken on board in the official Commission proposal and those that were rejected.

It is the Alliance's opinion that these four principles - efficiency, independence, credibility, and consistency - will pave the road that we need to take: the road to better regulation.

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# ALLIANCE FOR A COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

**ACEA, CEFIC, CEMBUREAU, CEPI, CIAA, EURATEX, EURELECTRIC, EUROFER, EUROMETAUX, EUROPIA, ORGALIME and UNICE**

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*The Alliance, representing associations from eleven major European industry sectors and UNICE, the Employers Confederation of Europe, was formed end 2004 to promote the competitiveness of European industry on a global scale, its key goal being to contribute to the successful implementation of the Lisbon Strategy and provide input into relevant upcoming EU legislative proposals.*

*Alliance members' organisations represent industry sectors which are essential to the European economy: 6,000 large companies and 1.7 million SMEs with a combined turnover of nearly € 5,000 billion generating € 1,300 billion added value and employing some 23 million EU citizens.*