

12 June 2006

## **EVALUATING THE COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT MODEL**

In 2005, the Commission undertook to improve the quality of impact assessments of EU legislation. To this end, new internal impact assessment guidelines have been adopted to ensure that legislative proposals are properly assessed for their potential impact on Europe's competitiveness so that they are consistent with the Lisbon objective. UNICE has welcomed the new guidelines which provide ample guidance on the need to assess the impact on growth, competitiveness and jobs of proposals.

The Commission is now launching an independent evaluation of the impact assessment system. In this context, UNICE would like to mention some specific aspects of impact assessments which in its view would help further in increasing the effectiveness and credibility of this important tool for better regulation.

- Consistent and full implementation of the Impact Assessment Guidelines and a common methodology for measuring all regulatory costs, such as administrative costs, financial costs and material costs, to ensure that legislative proposals are always properly assessed for their impact on competitiveness. Bureaucratic costs should be assessed on the basis of the *Standard Cost Model* in order to significantly reduce these burdens.
- Full implementation of the Inter-Institutional Common Approach to Impact Assessment so that the impact on competitiveness of substantive amendments of the Council and Parliament to legislative proposals is properly assessed.
- Always forward impact assessments to national parliaments to greater involve them in activities of the EU and enhance their ability to express their views on draft European legislative acts.
- Extend the requirement of an impact assessment to decisions taken by comitology committees.
- Give stakeholders an opportunity to comment on an impact assessment before it is finalised and before the legislative proposal is adopted.
- Set up an independent oversight body to check the quality of impact assessments and grant this body the power to stop the process for adoption of the legislative proposal in case an impact assessment does not meet minimum quality standards.
- Ensure that the impact of new legislation on key international economic partnerships, such as the transatlantic relationship is systematically assessed.
- Provide more information about the assessment and measurement of risks, hazards and uncertainties to ensure a more risk-focussed approach to managing technological risks to public health, safety and the environment.
- Provide more information about the quality standards applied for the provision of scientific advice and information to ensure that legislative proposals and impact assessments are based on sound science.
- Allow business representatives to be part of the network of independent experts which is to advise on technical issues of individual impact assessments.