

12 October 2010

**SYMPOSIUM:
DEVisING SMART REGULATION IN THE EU**

BRUSSELS, 13 OCTOBER 2010, 17H00

**WELCOME REMARKS BY PHILIPPE DE BUCK,
BUSINESSEUROPE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

Dr. Stoiber, Dr. Pietras, Catherine, Marianne, Malcolm, Johannes,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this symposium on smart regulation. BUSINESSSEUROPE is jointly organizing with the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies.

The symposium of this afternoon will lead you to a debate. A debate on whether the EU legislative procedure produces smart regulation that devises intelligent and cost-effective solutions for clearly identified problems. How can we improve the search for these solutions?

BUSINESSEUROPE has always been a strong supporter of better regulation.

We have asked for comprehensive impact assessments examining the consequences of new proposals.

We have asked for independent and transparent scrutiny of draft impact assessments by impartial bodies.

We have asked for the fixing of concrete targets and deadlines for the reduction of administrative burdens. This should focus the minds and agenda's of decision-makers and commit them.

And we have asked for post-implementation monitoring and evaluation of existing legislation.

All this is – and will be – as we learned from the recent smart regulation communication – put into practice.

The Commission has set up an impressive impact assessment system from which many Member States can learn.

It has – with the help of the High-Level Group under the leadership of Dr. Stoiber – tabled an impressive number of reduction measures.

One example is the proposal to exempt micro-enterprises from certain accounting requirements.

Another example is the proposal to remove e-invoicing requirements.

And yet, many company people have still not noticed a big change in their daily businesses.

There are several reasons for this. Some of them will surely be debated here today.

One reason is that a lot of the proposals still have to be adopted and implemented. For example the proposal to exempt micro-enterprises from certain accounting requirements is still stuck in the Council.

Another reason is that sometimes the cost reduction potential of a proposal is amended and decreased by the legislator. The final text of the proposal to remove e-invoicing requirements, for example, could lead to different interpretations in the Member States which could significantly reduce cost savings.

Better regulation is central to competitiveness and supporting sustainable growth and employment. Now more than ever, we need smart solutions and less burdens for companies.

That is why we also always need to assess the impact on key international economic partnerships. Where international standards exist, impact assessments should always assess the option of relying on these rather than taking a specific European initiative.

Let me conclude by saying that there is no smart regulation without impact assessments and that there is no good impact assessment without good consultation.

I will leave it to the debate to help us understand better how to devise smart regulation in the EU.

But first, Catherine Day, Secretary General, will give the key note speech.

After that Jens Hedström, chairman of our better regulation working group and President of the Board of Swedish Industry and Commerce for Better Regulation (NNR) will moderate a panel discussion.



The panel is very distinguished and consists of:

- Benoit le Bret of the firm Gide Loyrette Nouel in Brussels
- Malcolm Harbour, chair of the Parliament's IMCO Committee
- Marianne Klingbeil of the Commission Secretariat General
- Johannes Ludewig, Executive Director of the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies (CER), member of the High-Level Group on Administrative Burdens and chair of the German National Regulatory Control Council
- Jaroslaw Pietras, Director General in DG I of the Council.

And then we are proud that Dr Edmund Stoiber will provide the closing remarks.

Thank you.