



20 October 2011

### **BUSINESSEUROPE-CER SECOND SYMPOSIUM: DEVisING SMART REGULATION IN THE EU BRUSSELS, 20 OCTOBER 2010, 16H30**

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

Dr. Stoiber, Dr. Stauner, Dear Secretary General Catherine Day, Dear Panelists,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to this second symposium on smart regulation. BUSINESSEUROPE is jointly organizing this with the Community of European Railway and Infrastructure Companies. I would like to thank in particular Herr Ludewig for his work on better regulation and in the Stoiber Group.

Almost exactly one year ago we were here as well. To debate whether the EU legislative procedure produces smart regulation. Regulation that devises intelligent and cost-effective solutions for clearly identified problems. To debate how we can improve the search for these solutions.

A lot has happened in the mean time. It is one year ago that better regulation became smart regulation. The financial crisis has led to a large amount of new legislation. Legislation that needs to provide smart solutions for complex problems. That is why I am convinced that a lot of the questions that we debated last year are still very relevant and topical today.

BUSINESSEUROPE has always been a strong supporter of better regulation.

What have we asked for:

- comprehensive impact assessments;
- independent and transparent scrutiny of draft impact assessments by impartial bodies and stakeholders;
- fixing of concrete targets and deadlines for the reduction of administrative burdens;
- post-implementation monitoring and evaluation of existing legislation

All this is – more or less - put into practice.

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



It has – with the help of the High-Level Group under the leadership of Dr. Stoiber – tabled reduction measures that have the potential to reduce administrative burdens by more than 31%.

On the other hand, we still have to see the results of the post-implementation monitoring and evaluation of existing legislation.

The transparency when it comes to the publication of draft impact assessments is still a problem because the Commission is not doing it. This should allow stakeholders to give timely input to help the Impact Assessment Board identify shortcomings in assessments.

And it also remains to be seen if we will achieve the 25% reduction target next year in 2012 in spite of the ambitious proposals from the Commission as true reduction also depends on the Member States and European Parliament.

Smart regulation is central to competitiveness and supporting sustainable growth and employment. Only growth will resolve the economic crisis which we are currently facing. And growth is created by companies that can compete on world markets.

There is no smart regulation without impact assessments and there is no good impact assessment without good consultation.

I will leave it to the debate to help us understand better how to achieve this.

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

After that, 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 will moderate the first panel discussion on how to improve impact assessments.

The panel is very distinguished and consists of:

- Michael Gremminger, Head of Unit for Better Regulation and Impact Assessment in the Secretariat General of the Commission.
- Sajjad Karim, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur of a very important Parliament report on better legislation.
- Adam Jasser, Undersecretary of State and responsible for the reduction of bureaucracy in Poland.
- And Reinhard Quick, Head of the Brussels' Office of the German Chemical Industry Association (VCI).

Then we have a short break after which a second panel will debate how to improve stakeholder consultation. This panel will be moderated by Sigrid Verweij, vice chair of our Better Regulation working group.



This panel is also very distinguished and consists of:

- Benoit le Bret, from the law firm Gide Loyrette Nouel here in Brussels.
- Monique Goyens, Director General of the European Consumer's Organisation (BEUC).
- Geneviève Pons, now a judge in France but previously responsible for the reduction of administrative burdens in the Commission.
- And, last but not least, Jens Hedström, chairman of our Better Regulation working group and President of the Board of Swedish Industry and Commerce for Better Regulation (NNR).

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

Thank you.

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