

**Intervention by Philippe de Buck**

**European Economic and Social Committee, 479th Plenary Session, 29 March 2012**

Following the statement by Martin Schulz, president of the European Parliament, on  
"European Parliament priorities and matters of common interest"

Thank you very much President Schulz for addressing this Committee at an early stage of your mandate.

This is recognition of our role and the support for the outcome and value of our debates.

I was able to discuss with you in the past the need for an EU growth strategy.

This would develop the EU by creating new opportunities and new jobs.

60 to 70 per cent of the rules companies have to comply with have a European origin.

We are not against legislation. We favour smart and better regulation.

Therefore a suggestion and a question:

The suggestion: organise smart impact assessments.

The question: do you agree to take the competitiveness of the European Union as the main goal? Europe's future economic and social well-being would benefit from effective and streamlined rules. As so often in life, less is sometimes more!