



PRESS RELEASE

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Progress on Better Regulation still too slow

The second strategic review of the better regulation project, presented today by Commission President Barroso and Vice-President Verheugen, shows the continuing emphasis which the Commission is putting on better regulation.

Simplification and the target of reducing administrative burdens with 25% by 2012, allegedly leading to an increase of an estimated 1.5% in EU GDP amounting to €150 billion more investment, are very important for delivering concrete results for European companies but complicated legislative procedures make progress in the Council and European Parliament too slow.

Impact assessments are crucial for understanding the cost-effectiveness of new proposals and BUSINESSEUROPE is pleased to note that their overall quality has improved. The review carried out by the Impact Assessment Board is an important step towards bringing more independence in the process demonstrating the value of critical oversight. However, there should be more transparency allowing for an earlier involvement of stakeholders. The Board's opinions together with the draft impact assessments should be published before the legislative proposal is being adopted to ensure that policy-makers can make well-informed decisions for growth and jobs. Considering the importance of critical oversight, the need for a truly independent body will also have to be assessed.

Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BUSINESSEUROPE, said: *"Substantial progress on better regulation has been made in a relatively short period of time but the Council and European Parliament should do more to deliver concrete results for European companies"*.

NOTE TO THE EDITOR

BUSINESSEUROPE – the Confederation of European Business represents more than 20 million small, medium and large companies. Active in European affairs since 1958, BUSINESSEUROPE Members are 39 central industrial and employers' federations from 33 countries, working together to achieve growth and competitiveness in Europe.

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