



# Lessons Learned, Looking to the Future

Directors and Experts of Better Regulation Meeting  
Rome, 18 September 2014



## President-Elect Juncker

- Political guidelines: *"to identify, together with the Parliament and the Council, 'red tape' both at European and national level that could be swiftly removed as part of the Jobs, Growth and Investment Package".*
- VP mission letter: *"take stock of experience and report to the College within 12 months on how the approach to Better Regulation could be strengthened".*

## Smart Regulation is about the whole policy cycle



# The Smart Regulation: the System



# Strategic programming





# The Commission IA system

## Integrated approach

- All benefits and costs.
- Economic, social and environmental impacts.

## Wide scope

- All initiatives with significant impacts, from policy defining proposals to implementing measures

## Transparency

- Publication of Roadmaps, IAs and IAB opinions
- Comprehensive stakeholder consultation

## Independent quality control – Impact Assessment Board

6



## Results so far ...

- More than 680 IAs, over 900 IAB opinions since 2007
- 2010 ECA audit found that:
  - **The Commission's IA system is effective in supporting EU decision making**
  - **No other system has a similar comprehensive approach**
  - **Consultations with stakeholders are widely used**
  - **The IAB is contributing to quality of proposals**
  - **IA reports comply with the IA guidelines**
- Findings confirmed by more recent studies (EP „Matrix“ study, CEPS study, OECD)



# Stakeholder Consultation

- **Wide scope: Treaty obligation** to carry out broad consultations with parties concerned before making a policy proposal.
- **Transparency and outreach:** Early warning on consultation plans provided in **roadmaps**. Open public consultations posted at **single access portal** 'Your Voice in Europe'. Contributions of respondents published and **feedback** provided in summary and IA reports.
- **Rules: General principles and minimum standards** for consulting external parties. Strengthened provisions in **IA context** - stakeholders to be consulted on all key aspects of analysis.
- **12-week public consultation on impact assessment.**



## Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme ("REFIT")

- Identify burdens, inconsistencies, gaps and ineffective measures across acquis ('Mapping')
- Take action: withdraw, repeal, simplify, improve
- Assess: evaluations and Fitness Checks
- Consult: Involve Stakeholders
- Track Progress: Scoreboard





# REFIT Results

- **Simplification Proposals with Legislator: +/-50**
- **New simplification initiatives in preparation: +/-30**
- **Evaluations and Fitness checks: 60 planned; 20 underway.**
- **10 Withdrawals and 15 Repeals.**



# Evaluation



- Stronger focus on regulatory measures
- "Evaluate First Principle"
- More attention to broader areas of legislation and cross-cutting issues (via Fitness Checks)
- Pilot joint evaluations with Member States



# Ingredients for Success

- Results orientation
- Integrated evidence based approach
- Scrutiny
- Patience
- Consultation
- Cooperation
- Commitment



## Commitment: A shared Mission

- Commission + Council + Parliament
  - **Better use of IA in the decision making process**
  - **Analyse impacts for substantive amendments**
- Member States
  - **National administrative capacity/regulatory quality matters -> National impact assessment**
  - **More active engagement in consultations/evaluations -> Subsidiarity feedback /joint evaluations/implementation plans**
- Stakeholders
  - **Active engagement in consultation processes**



# Further information

The screenshot shows the European Commission's Smart Regulation website. The browser address bar displays [http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/index_en.htm). The page header includes the European Commission logo and the title 'Smart Regulation'. A navigation menu on the left lists: Home, Roadmaps, Impact Assessment, Evaluation, Reducing Administrative Burdens, Simplification, and Key documents. The main content area is titled 'Smart Regulation' and defines it as 'delivering EU policies and laws that bring the greatest possible benefits to people and businesses in the most effective way'. It details the Commission's assessment process, preparation steps (roadmaps, impact assessments, SME needs, public consultations), and execution measures (screening, simplification, monitoring). A 'A shared mission' section explains the role of EU countries and local administrations. The 'In the rest of the world' section mentions international regulatory principles. A 'Popular links' section includes: Best practices in smart regulation, European law: how it works, and Get involved in European policy making. The right sidebar contains social media links (Facebook, Twitter, EU Tube, Blogs), a search bar, and a feedback form with sections for 'Stay connected', 'Latest documents' (listing reports from 2012 and 2013), 'Help us improve', and 'Find what you wanted?'.

Smart Regulation: <http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/>