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A simple CAP for Europe
A challenge for all

BRUSSELS, 3-4 OCTOBER 2006

Better Regulation – practices

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(Joint initiative between the OECD and the
European Commission)**



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Better Regulation – practices

Context for Better Regulation practices

- Public sector modernisation
- Regulatory reform/ deregulation
- OECD Reports
- EU Policy



Better Regulation – practices

Better regulation is a policy which aims to ensure that (existing and future) legislation is

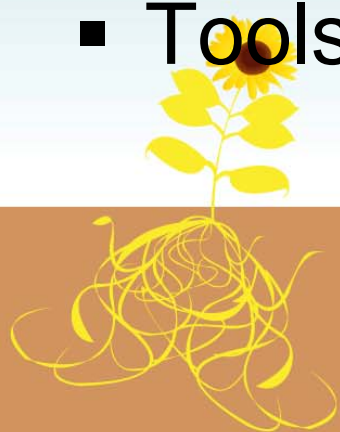
- As concise and straightforward as its subject matter permits
- As light as is commensurate with the proper protection of the various public interests at stake
- And with the burden it imposes on citizens or business.



Better Regulation – practices

Better Regulation achieved through:

- Policies
- Institutions
- Tools



Better Regulation – practices

Policies: Some better than others

Implicit policy:

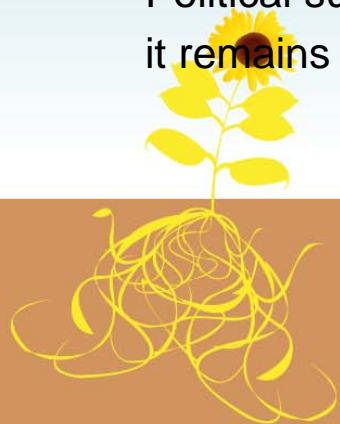
All member states are committed to improved regulatory governance

- Explicit policy:

Few countries have an explicit policy Ex: Netherlands, UK, etc.

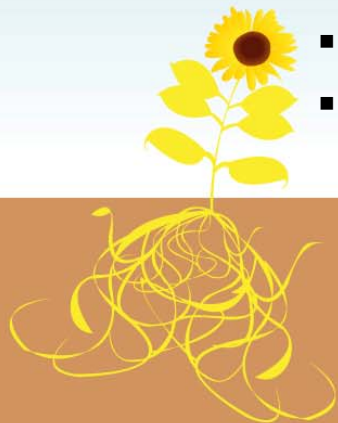
- Political support to policy:

it remains more formal than substantial, especially in post 2004 member states



Institutions

- Structures:
 - Central Units (Czech Republic, UK)
 - Task forces (Poland)
 - Part of existing structures (France)
- Role
 - Monitoring role and technical support, i.e. developing and reviewing methodologies (Belgium, Czech Republic)
 - Advocacy role
 - Challenge function



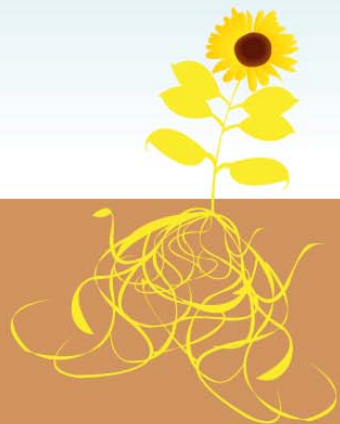
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Better Regulation – practices

Tools

- Impact assessment
- Consultation
- Simplification



Better Regulation – practices

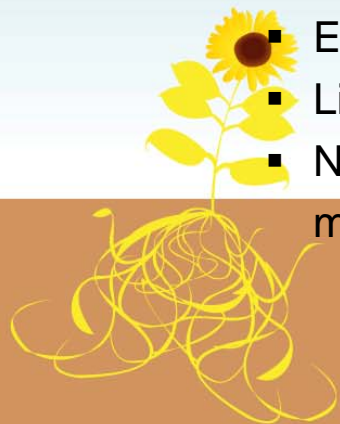
Impact assessment: Various stage of development within the EU

Purpose

- Supports evidence based policy making
- Improves legitimacy and compliance

▪ Methodology

- Early and often: screening process (UK)
- Link with consultation and reduction of administrative burden (Belgium)
- Need for Unified methodology applied consistently (not the case in most post 2004 member states)



Better Regulation – practices

Consultation

- Purpose
 - For the stakeholders: Burden or blessing
 - For officials: Tool to acquire information and insights not available to officials
 - Openness of government
 - Regulatory Capture versus exclusion

Methodology

- Time needed
- Culture specific
 - Tripartite Committee in most post 2004 member States
 - Business panel groups (Netherlands)



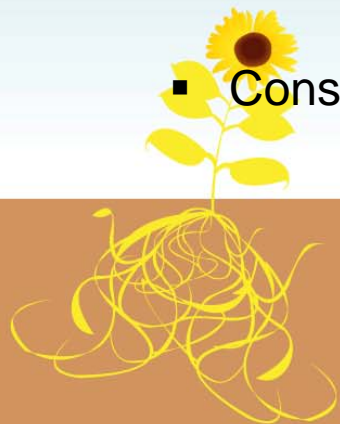
Better Regulation – practices

Simplification

- Language

- Procedures (reduction of administrative burdens)
 - Measurement of administrative burdens (Dutch SCM)
 - Provision of information once (Belgium)
 - E- government (Estonia)

- Consolidated, codified, recast texts
 - regular ex post reviews conducted in very few countries (UK, Denmark, Latvia, Hungary)
 - Codification: France



Better Regulation – practices

Next big idea?

- Improved consultation
- Improved impact assessment
- Reduction of initiatives
- Administrative burdens awareness
- Culture of continuous improvement



Application of Better regulation to:

- Regional and local authorities
- Internal procedures in organisations such as the European Institutions, the United Nations
- Policies such as CAP, education.

