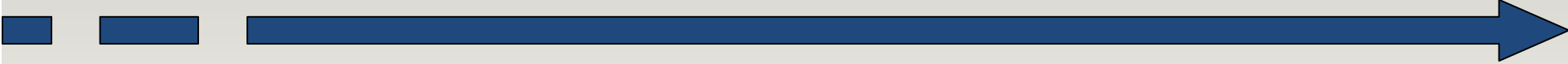




# Impact Assessment: progress and on-going challenges as shown in the IAB report for 2010

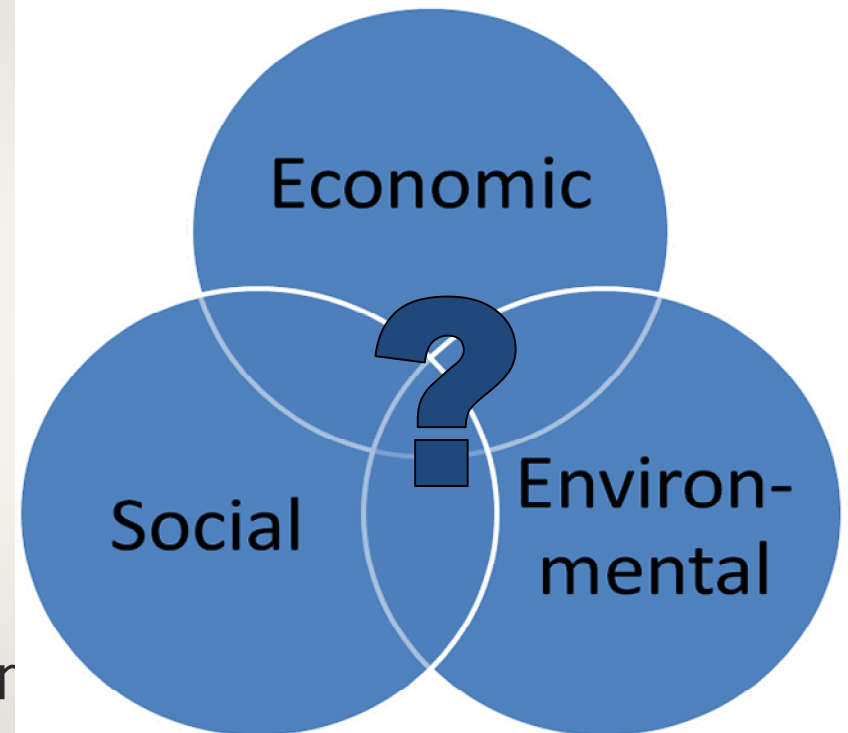
Geneviève PONS-DELADRIERE  
European Commission

# Contents

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- Impact Assessment (IA) in context
    - The aim and some key issues it highlights
    - Context developments and activity in 2010
  - Court of Auditors confirmation of IA quality
  - The Impact Assessment Board (IAB) and its work to raise standards
    - Features of Board recommendations
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# The aim of Impact Assessment

- IA is a tool to inform political choices
- The IA report is the product of the IA process; both are important
- Process requires coordination, consultation and attention to cross-cutting issues - helps Services make sound, coherent policy
- Report provides quality-checked evidence to inform College and later the outside world – helps Commission to make good choices and to explain them, provides key facts and reasoning to Co-legislators



# Key issues highlighted by IA



- IA prompts Commission Services to consider cross-cutting issues, so it supports key commitments
- Such issues include:
  - taking economic, environmental & social factors into account through an integrated analysis
  - respect of subsidiarity and proportionality
  - respect of fundamental rights
  - proper assessment of social impacts, including on jobs
  - learning lessons from ex-post evaluation, and planning it in
  - suitability for small businesses (SMEs)
  - simplification and minimisation of administrative burden

# Context developments, 2010



- President's working method document requests Services to obtain a positive IAB opinion before submitting their draft proposal to internal consultation
- We have a good and fully developed IA system, now confirmed in the European Court of Auditors report, but there is scope for further progress
  - "impact assessment has been effective in supporting decision-making within the EU institutions"
- Roadmaps provide transparency on planned IA/consultation work, and promote early stakeholder engagement

# Final Commission IAs mostly meet the quality standard, as has been independently verified



## European Court of Auditors positive

- "overall, the IA reports complied with the Commission's guidelines"
- "the IAB was found to contribute to the quality of IAs"
- "impact assessment has been effective in supporting decision-making within the EU institutions"
- "no other system where a similarly comprehensive approach was followed"

## Their special report drew on an extensive audit

- two-year long process
- interviews with 190 people
- international expert panel gave advice
- the Court examined over 100 Commission IAs out of c400 produced

# Activity during 2010



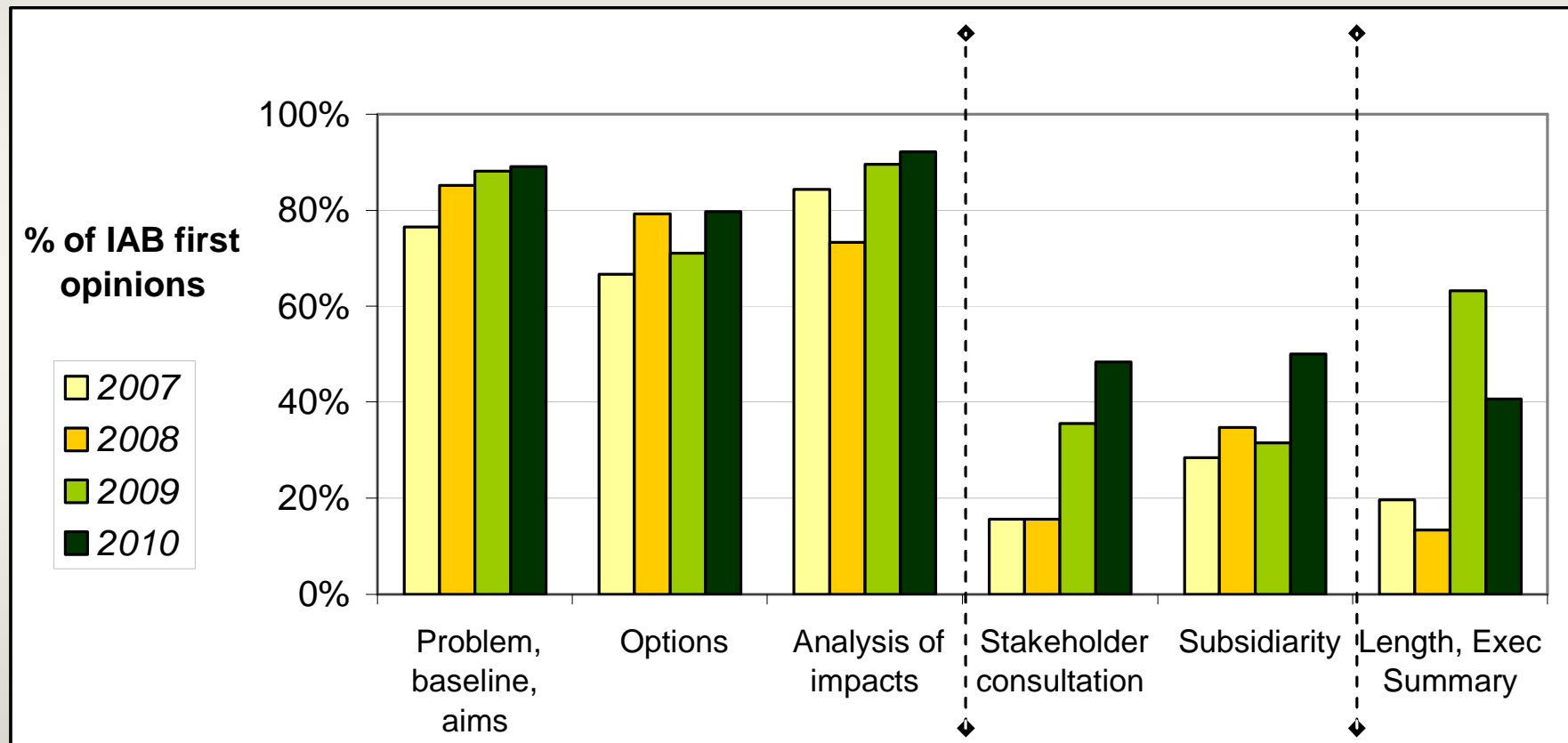
- IA (and legislative) production below previous levels, except for in DG MARKT
- Rate of resubmission has increased
- Far more roadmaps published, a major step in transparency

	2008	2009	2010
IAs at IAB	135	79	66

year	2008	2009	2010
Resub rate	33%	37%	42%

CWP year	2009	2010	2011
Roadmaps	43	188	118

# IAB advises on what needs to be done to get draft IAs up to standard



# IAB promotes integrated analysis



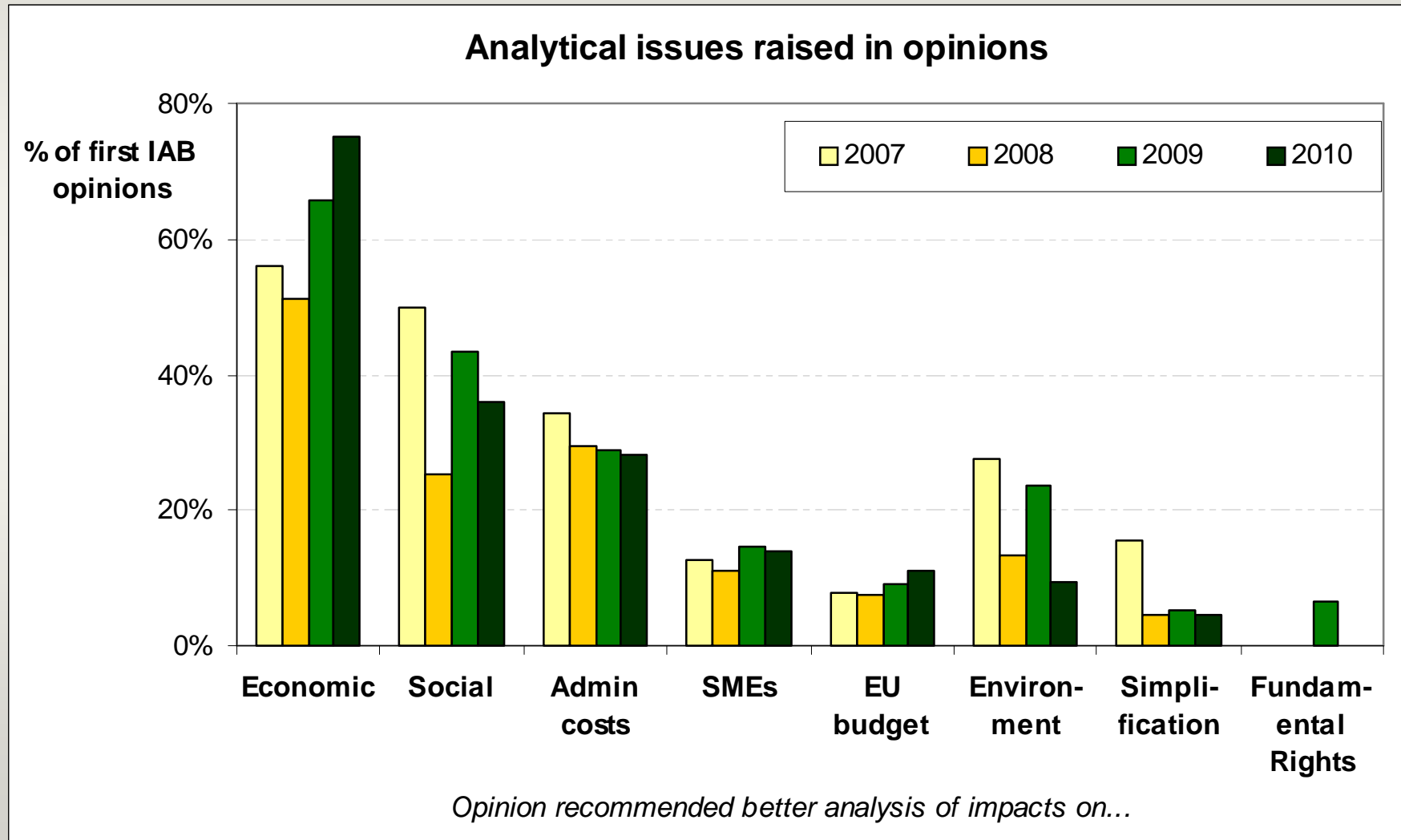
The IAB often gives advice to ensure key issues are not overlooked

A "strengthen the analysis of impacts on consumers, employment and compliance costs"

B "reformulate... to address issues concerning health and safety at work"

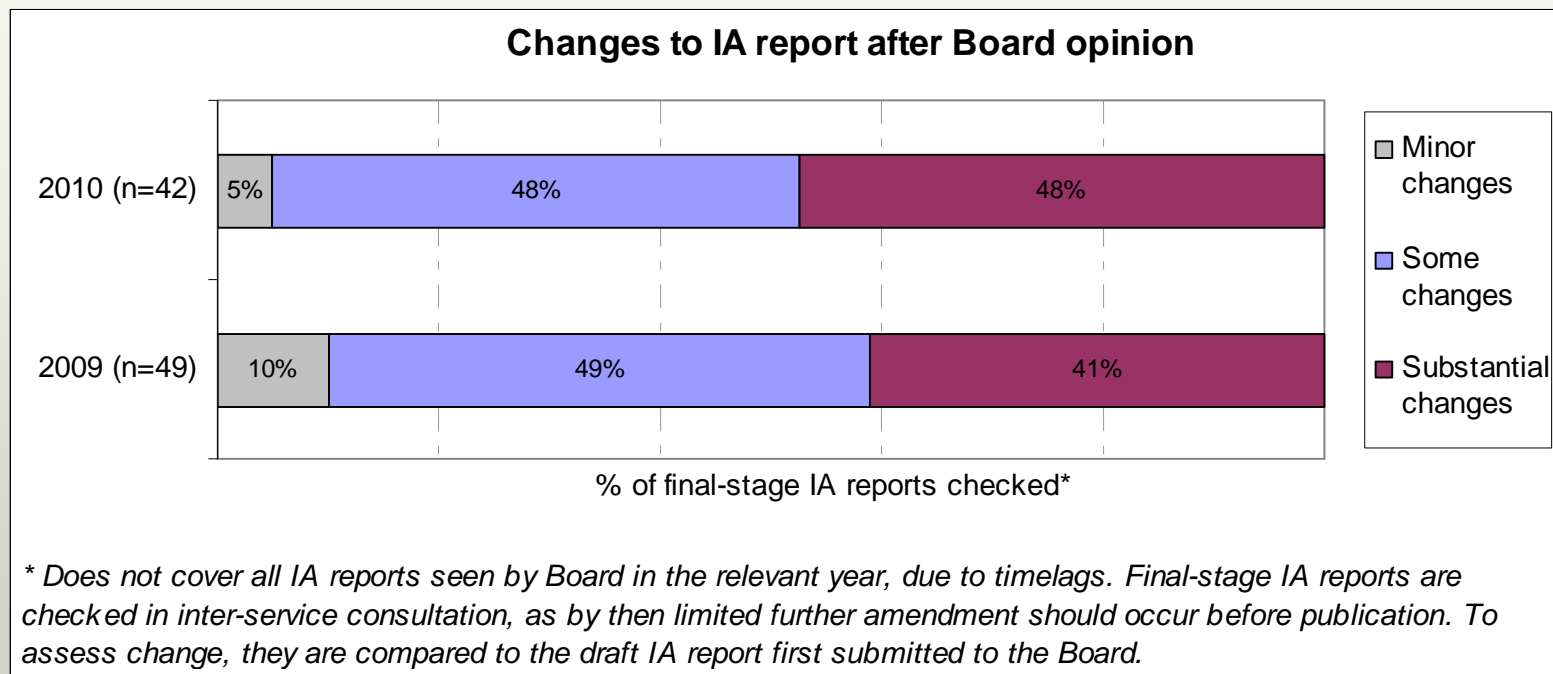
C "identify the information obligations ...assess their cost using the EU Standard Cost Model."

# Improved AB analysis was requested in 28% of opinions (3<sup>rd</sup> most common topic)

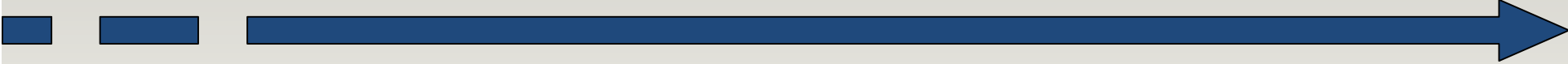


# IAB advice is followed up, raising the quality of final IA reports

- In 95% of cases, substantial or some changes occur between the draft IA report seen by the Board and the final-stage version that is published.
- Resubmitted drafts may be significantly improved



# IA process improvements in 2010

- 
- More stakeholder consultation
  - More quantitative estimates (27% of IAs)
  - Better process:
    - shorter IAs
    - more on-time submissions
    - more time allowed to update IAs
  - More substantial changes after its advice

# These included improvements on AB



- The IAB said “the revised advanced training module on administrative burdens is proving popular. Staff with expertise in this area have been moved alongside those dealing with IA issues. [IAB] continues to believe that central support activities, such as the dedicated helpdesk, are necessary to ensure appropriate measurements are completed across the organisation”
- Since the IAB report was written, the Administrative Burdens Calculator has been launched, making the measurement much easier for services

# IAB report 2010 advice to Commission

1. Presentation: have a system for checking all IA reports for readability and length before submission. Don't skim over significant impacts.
2. Internal consultation: hold Impact Assessment Steering Groups early then regularly and use constructive input. More focus on cross-cutting issues
3. Forward planning: continued effort is vital.
4. Subsidiarity: every IA report needs a clear justification for EU action and its 'added value'
5. Consultation: check standards are being met, present opposing views in IA reports.
6. Quantitative estimates: ensure Service IA support staff are trained to advise about checking figures. Ensure staff drafting IA reports review estimates, especially those from external contractors.

