



Getting better access to business information

In November, the Commission adopted a green paper and launched a public consultation on possible ways to enhance cooperation between business registers. Improving access to business information and increasing legal certainty surrounding cross-border operations could bring important contributions to the Single Market.

Business registers play an essential role in ensuring transparency in markets: their function is to register, examine and store official information on companies, such as information on a company's legal form, its seat, its capital and its legal representatives. This information is made available to the public.

The progress report on the existing interconnection between business registers, attached to the green paper, shows that while all Member States have established electronic registers, cross-border access to the information stored is often hindered by technical or language barriers. The existing co-operation mechanisms, such as the European Business Register, are voluntary and have not proved to be sufficient in involving all Member States.

The green paper explores ways to ensure that the network of business registers covers the entire EU. It also proposes options that would facilitate direct communication between the registries of different Member States in cross-border procedures such as mergers or foreign branch registrations.

The consultation runs until 31 January 2010. The objective is to get the views of Member States and other interested parties on the next steps.



[Info](#)

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http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/company/business_registers/index_en.htm