European Commission

Impact assessment and evaluation at the European Commission

EESC Public hearing

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Approach to Impact Assessment and Evaluation

- Part of the Commission's Better Regulation framework to support **evidence-based policy-making**

- Ranked top by the OECD

- **Impact assessments** for all initiatives with significant impacts and where the Commission has a choice between policy options

- **'Evaluate first'** for reviews of existing legislation

- ➢ better proposals and coherence of policies

- ➢ ensuring transparency and more informed decision-making

- ➢ listening to stakeholders via various consultation activities

- ➢ independent regulatory scrutiny

Assessing competitiveness

Are impacts on sectoral competitiveness potentially **significant**?

Qualitative screening along four competitiveness dimensions:

- What is the effect on **SME competitiveness**?

- What is the effect on **cost and price competitiveness**? (e.g. impacts on compliance costs, cost of labour or capital, prices, consumer choice, etc.)

- What is the effect on the enterprises' **capacity to innovate**?

- What might be the effect on the sector's **international competitiveness**? (e.g. impacts on domestic versus foreign firms, trade, cross-border investment flows, etc.)

Quantifying the impacts where possible

How to **minimise any negative impacts**?

Competitiveness check is mandatory for all IAs as of 1 March 2023.

Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox

Guidelines

- Internal instructions for Commission staff to deliver the objectives of Better regulation

Toolbox

- Detailed guidance
- Most relevant chapters for IA:
  - Chapter 2: tools on general IA methodology
  - Chapter 3: how to identify various types of impacts (including SMEs, competitiveness, the internal market)
  - Chapter 8: methods to identify, assess and quantify costs and benefits (including the standard cost model)

Both are accessible at:
Better regulation: guidelines and toolbox | European Commission (europa.eu)

Thank you!