Better Regulation in the EU: Learning by Doing

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Legislation in the EU

- **Initiate:** European Commission

- **Legislate:**
  - European Parliament
  - Council of Ministers

- **Implement:** Member States
Better Regulation activities

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<th>Existing legislation</th>
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Learning step by step

2002
• Introduction of impact assessments
• Minimum standards for consultation

2003
• First guidelines

2007
• Impact Assessment Board

2008
• Revised guidelines
Impact assessment

- Supporting political judgement, not substituting it
- All legislative proposals with substantial impact
- Over 450 impact assessments since 2003

1. Identify the problem
2. Define the objective
3. Develop policy options
4. Analyse their impact
5. Compare the options
6. Outline monitoring and evaluation
Integrated approach

- Risk assessment required if uncertainty about serious negative outcomes is an issue
- Most commonly used for environmental and health proposals
The impact assessment report

- Self-standing document of max. 30 pages
- Standard format
- Non-technical language
- Supporting material in technical annexes
Impact Assessment Board

• Independent quality control body since 2007
• Five Members appointed by the President of the Commission
• The opinions of the Board are public

Number of impact assessments
- With resubmission
- Without resubmission

2007: 92 (10 with resubmission, 82 without)
2008: 92 (43 with resubmission, 49 without)
Closing the cycle

- Impact assessments include monitoring and evaluation provisions
- Follow-up through more systematic evaluation
More information

• Better Regulation:
  http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation

• Impact assessments and opinions of the Board:
  http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact

• Administrative burden reduction:
  http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/admin-burdens-reduction