

Better Regulation: progress made, time to go forward

The European Commission recently published a report taking stock of the Better Regulation Agenda and engaged yesterday 29 April 2019 in a fruitful and honest discussion with stakeholders. EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the progress achieved, but underlines that further improvements are needed, notably concerning the application of the SME test.

EUROCHAMBRES welcomes the commitment of the European Commission to Better Regulation and believes in the necessity to make the Better Regulation principles a shared effort for the Co-Legislators and Member States throughout the whole process from design to transposition and application of the EU Law.

However, EUROCHAMBRES' studies on the European Commission's application of the SME test are quite critical and showed that the Commission regularly fails to apply its own guidelines when it comes to assessing the policy impact on SMEs.

The President of EUROCHAMBRES, Christoph Leidl, stated: *"The mechanisms put in place by the European Commission for a more efficient legislation are progressively leading to brighter perspectives. It is fundamental for the business community to continue this path leading to streamlined requirements, lower administrative burdens, transparency and simplicity. Our decisions should be based on evidence from a cost-minimising perspective, reflecting the way entrepreneurs daily run their companies"*.

EUROCHAMBRES encourages the next Commission to make further efforts on Better regulation and most importantly to improve the application of the SME test, on the basis of the Better Regulation guidelines. It is important to make sure that the evidence collected by the Commission in its Impact Assessments duly informs decisions taken in later stages of the legislative process and that the costs of major amendments impacting small businesses proposed by the European Parliament and/or the Council are evaluated if they substantially differ from the original Commission proposal.

Background information

On April the 15th 2019, the European Commission published a report (available [here](#)) presenting the measures and the results achieved under the Juncker Commission. As part of this evaluation process the lessons learnt were presented yesterday (29 April 2019) in a [conference](#) –with the participation of EUROCHAMBRES and National Chamber Delegations– where the European Commission actively engaged in an exchange of views with the business associations and other representatives of the civil society.

First Vice-President of the EC, Frans Timmermans, presented the results and set out his vision for the years ahead.

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