

THE PRAGUE DECLARATION

*by the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
the Kingdom of Denmark, the Republic of Estonia, the Federal Republic of Germany,
the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Kingdom of Sweden,*


ON FURTHER COOPERATION IN BETTER REGULATION AND BETTER BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

The aforementioned Member States appreciate the contribution of the better regulation agenda at the European Union level to the implementation of goals of the Renewed Lisbon Strategy, the objective of which is the creation of a favourable and competitive environment for businesses, innovation, sustainable development and the creation of jobs in the European Union. Being aware of their shared responsibility in the implementation of the commitments relating to the achievement of these objectives, this group of Member States undertakes to endeavour to make further progress on the better regulation agenda, particularly with regard to reducing administrative burdens for businesses and promoting the adoption of clear, simple and effective legislation.

For this purpose, this group of Member States will pursue, in particular, the implementation of the Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens and will support the adoption of necessary steps leading to the actual removal of unnecessary information obligations and related costs for businesses in the European Union. Such steps will be based on the results of measurement of the administrative burden on businesses, presented by the European Commission in 2008, and on the implementation of the objective laid down by the Spring European Council in 2007, under which the administrative burden on businesses should be reduced by 25 per cent by 2012. At the same time, they will endeavour, within their national programmes, to reduce ambitiously the administrative burden on businesses resulting from national legislation.

This group of Member States will also endeavour to further improve the impact assessment of measures adopted by European institutions, including the Council of the European Union. In particular they will push for greater use of economic analysis, quantification and other measurement approaches for advantages and disadvantages as well as the evaluation of internal implications of any decision on the functioning of the internal market. They also call on the European Commission to extend its use of impact assessment to all Commission proposals and strengthen the role of the Commission's impact assessment board to monitor quality. This group of Member states will also work together to reduce red tape for small businesses including, where appropriate, making more use of exemptions from administrative requirements, calling for a small firms filter into the EU legislative process and by applying of the principle of Think Small First.


This group of Member States also calls for greater involvement of external parties in consultations during the preparation of EU-level measures in order to enhance the principle of openness and transparency.



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Czech Republic



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