

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3263/09
by Stephen Hughes (PSE)
to the Commission

Subject: Administrative costs, administrative burdens and potential burden reduction

For over a year, evaluations of the administrative costs, administrative burdens and potential burden reduction of some proposals have been used in debates and public documents. Those figures have been calculated by a consortium of private companies Capgemini, Deloitte and Rambøll Management, which have been assigned by the Commission to measure the administrative burden based on certain EU legislation and to identify measures to reduce that burden. Different versions of the calculations have been produced, with huge discrepancies between the figures. The publication of the final report was announced for March 2009, but was apparently postponed.

Some stakeholders consider that most of the data presented by the consortium are unreliable. For instance, the calculation that about 90% of the costs involved in the information obligations under the Framework Directive for health and safety at work (89/391/EEC¹) are an administrative burden has been challenged.

An evidence-based debate requires full transparency on the data used.

When will the Commission forward to the European Parliament the complete documentation on the calculations made by the consortium, including the preliminary versions of the documents?
Will the Commission inform the European Parliament about the direct and indirect costs of this exercise (contract(s) with the consortium, contract(s) with other parties)?

¹ OJ L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1.