

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Regional Development

2007/2095(INI)

25.6.2007

OPINION

of the Committee on Regional Development

for the Committee on Legal Affairs

on Better Regulation in the European Union
(2007/2095(INI))

Draftswoman: Elspeth Attwooll

PA_NonLeg

SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Regional Development calls on the Committee on Legal Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

- A. Whereas better regulation is not exclusively about cutting red tape, reducing administrative burden, simplifying existing legislation or de-regulation but ensuring that the legislative process is engaged with by all relevant governmental and non-governmental actors at all levels and that a close partnership is established between the European institutions and the national, regional and local authorities in order to deliver quality regulation,
- B. Whereas every level of governance must be committed to better regulation in order to achieve any reduction in the administrative burden,
- C. whereas local and regional authorities often face the task of implementing and enforcing EU law,
 1. Requests the Commission to consult all relevant stakeholders, particularly national, regional and local authorities when preparing an impact assessment so that the local or regional variations can be properly taken into account and to notify, in good time, the results of the impact assessment, Parliament, the Committee of Regions and all relevant regional and local governmental bodies;
 2. Calls upon the Member States to develop and to implement consultation mechanisms with the regional and local authorities during the legislative process, to take into account their concerns during ministerial negotiations and to reinforce their role during the transposition and implementation process of the EU legislation;
 3. Calls upon the Commission to work closely with all authorities in the Member States that are responsible for the transposition of EU legislation and at the same time advises the Commission to organise seminars at local level too on the subject of the transposition of EU legislation into domestic law, so as to ensure that, by simple, comprehensible means, relevant information reaches stakeholders directly;
 4. Calls upon the Commission to ensure, while developing better regulation, that new regulations and their enforcement are consistent, accountable, transparent and comprehensible for the stakeholders and the beneficiaries;
 5. Calls upon the Member States to develop and to enforce necessary, efficient and clear procedures for a better cooperation between the regional and central governments in order to facilitate the transposition process and to recognize the increasing role of the regions with legislative powers.
 6. Encourages authorities in the Member States to draw up formal transposition strategies, in order to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the regional and national governments for a better and faster transposition;
 7. Encourages the European Commission to publish, where possible, the transposition

guidelines for the directives at the same time as the directives themselves, in order to allow the national and regional governments to take them into account before starting the transposition process and to permit a correct and timely transposition in the Member States;

8. Calls upon the Commission to speed up the completion of a comprehensive, freely accessible public database of national implementing laws, including regional variations where appropriate;
9. Takes the view that better regulation should not lead to a reduction in environmental, social and quality standards;
10. Encourages authorities within Member States to draw up correlation tables and transposition notes when transposing EU law;
11. Calls upon the Member States to ensure that, when transposing EU legislation, they do not impose upon natural and legal persons obligations which exceed what is required under the transposed legislation and which place an unnecessary administrative burden primarily upon small and medium-sized businesses, which are the driving force behind the sustainable development of Europe's regions;
12. Calls on the Commission, in the case of regulations, to produce in advance guidance notes on implementation for the benefit of the Member States, regional and local authorities and specialised agencies;
13. Calls upon the the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission to use clearer and more comprehensive language while drafting and amending legislative texts in order to avoid misinterpretation and therefore delayed or incorrect transposition and implementation; as well as encouraging all levels of government to use clear language that is easily understandable by citizens whenever possible;
14. Requests the Commission to improve the provision of information about transposition and infringement proceedings, to make this information public and easily accessible on the Commission's website.

PROCEDURE

Title	Better Regulation in the European Union
Procedure number	2007/2095(INI)]
Committee responsible	JURI
Opinion by Date announced in plenary	REGI 26.4.2007
Enhanced cooperation – date announced in plenary	
Drafts(wo)man Date appointed	Elspeth Attwooll 12.4.2007
Previous drafts(wo)man	
Discussed in committee	7.6.2007
Date adopted	25.6.2007
Result of final vote	+ : 22 - : 0 0 : 1
Members present for the final vote	Stavros Arnautakis, Wolfgang Bulfon, Gerardo Galeote, Iratxe García Pérez, Eugenijus Gentvilas, Ambroise Guellec, Marian Harkin, Jim Higgins, Filiz Hyusmenova, Mieczysław Edmund Janowski, Tunne Kelam, Miroslav Mikolášik, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Maria Petre, Markus Pieper, Wojciech Roszkowski, Elisabeth Schroedter, Grażyna Staniszevska
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Jan Březina, Brigitte Douay, Mojca Drčar Murko, Zita Pleštinská, László Surján
Substitute(s) under Rule 178(2) present for the final vote	
Comments (available in one language only)	...