

Annex 12: Reducing administrative burdens: examples of good practices in the implementation/transposition of EC legislation & in purely national legislation

- The Dutch and UK governments, for example, have drastically simplified environment-related permits. In the UK, a single system was set up for the transposition of both national measures and 14 Directives including the integrated pollution prevention and control Directive and parts of the waste framework Directive. The resulting savings are estimated at £76 million over 10 years. In the Netherlands, the bill on environmental licensing established a single, straightforward procedure and a single competent authority for persons or businesses seeking permission for activities which affect the physical environment. Some 25 existing systems for issuing permits, licences or exemptions are being replaced by a single environmental licence. This new licence will apply to the demolition, construction, establishment or use of a physical facility. Applications will be processed electronically to a large extent.

Source: <http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file44371.pdf>

- In Germany, the federal government adopted in May 2008 the Financial Reporting Modernisation Act reviewing the accounting and financial reporting obligations of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By raising the threshold values used for the definition of SMEs, the new act will increase the number of companies entitled to benefit from various exemptions and relieves concerning their annual accounts (e.g. duty of review, disclosure of balance, notes). This single measure is expected to bring a benefit of more than €220 million to the national economy.

Source: <http://www.normenkontrollrat.bund.de> - Jahresbericht 2008 des Nationalen Normen-kontrollrates

- To make life easier for businesses, the French administration has set up a "one-stop-shop" for all paperwork related to the existence and development of companies: the *Centre de formalités des entreprises (CFE)*. From this single portal, companies may be registered or de-registered automatically with various administrations: the Trade Register (SIRENE), the National Statistics Agency INSEE (n° SIRET) and the Tax Centre. This significantly reduces the amount of paperwork required from companies. The facility is offered to all businesses, whether they are VAT-taxable or not.

Source: Consortium

- The Czech IPPC portal (www.mzp.cz/ippc) provides information on the integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC) legislation and procedures. The information on the legislation is comprehensive: IPPC regulation at European as well as national level, important documents, statements of Ministry of the Environment in IPPC area, including reports to EC, etc. This helps companies determine which Information Obligations they must fulfil to comply with the IPPC legislation and reduces time-consuming paperwork.

Application forms can be submitted in electronic format as well as on paper. Businesses can monitor the status of their application online.

Source: Consortium

- A new electronic website for e-Public Procurement is available since 2 May 2008 in Spain, further to Law 30/2007 of 30th October on Public Procurement that integrates the new rules according to Directive 2004/18/CE. This website simplifies the procedure for public procurement and fosters e-Administration.

Source: Spanish administration

- Portugal has set up a new electronic reporting system (IES) to enable companies to fulfil obligations to the tax authorities, accounting requirements to the Ministry of Justice and statistical obligations to Banco de Portugal and Statistics Portugal, within the same e-gov solution. This good practice reduces the burden for businesses, by using existing databases, therefore reducing the sample of businesses affected. IES also eliminates travel needs and time spent by the companies on filling in all the different required forms.

Source: Consortium

- In Denmark, the Government has taken steps to help companies comply with one of the most burdensome information obligations in the Working Environment and Employment Relations legislation, which is the risk assessment. Ready-to-use information and guidance has been offered, in the form of 60 sector-specific on-line check lists, to make it easier for companies to conduct a risk assessment, both in terms of providing them with clear guidance on “how”, but also by establishing tools such as digital templates.

Source: Consortium

- In order to implement efficiently Council Regulation (EC) 1260/1999 concerning Structural Funds, the Greek Government has set up an Integrated Information System to support the various phases of the operational programmes. Such an integrated process avoids requesting the same information several times from the Final Beneficiaries, and gives the Managing Authorities a better controlling tool.

Source: Consortium