



## *Fourth Annual Conference (Virtual) Regulatory Scrutiny Board*

*6 May 2021*

### *Main takeaways*

#### **Opening: Priorities of the Commission for Better Regulation**

In his opening remarks, Vice-President Sefčovič stressed that the Commission is committed to introducing high quality legislation and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board's role is crucial in that. When the Board gives a negative opinion on a file, it means that the Commission services must improve the quality of their analysis and how it is communicated. The result is that initiatives are more clearly based on evidence when they are presented to Council and Parliament and ultimately to citizens. He presented the key elements of the new Communication on Better Regulation, including the 'one in, one out' approach and integrating the strategic foresight in the Better Regulation agenda. He also highlighted the importance of cooperation with EU and national institutions.

#### **Panel I: Annual report 2020**



Bernard Naudts presented the main findings of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board's Annual Report on the quality of impact assessments and evaluation. Mona Bjorklund presented the challenges the new Better Regulation themes present for scrutiny.

Richard Doherty, Senior Advisor at the European Policy Centre, recalled that the EU is regarded as having one of the most advanced Better Regulation systems, but further developments would be welcome. He highlighted the potential of digital innovation for automated reporting on the implementation of regulation and for facilitating consultations. He expressed concern that lack of resources and skills, as well as time pressure, may negatively affect the quality of Commission's impact assessments and evaluations. He praised the work of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board as a major player in improving the quality of the Commission's impact assessments, fitness checks and evaluations.

Claudio Radaelli, School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, called for the strengthening of the problem description and analysis of impacts on innovation in impact assessments. He expressed concern that the 'one in, one out' approach may lead to the neglect of benefits and called for more emphasis on benefits, including a more benefit orientated Fit for Future platform.

## **Panel II: Perspectives of EU Institutions and Member States**

Manuel Cabugueira, Portugal European Council Presidency, stressed the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and the importance of resilience and recovery. He also highlighted the potential of digital innovation for Better Regulation. He said that the Better Regulation Group in the Council makes a positive contribution and he called on Member States to play their part in gathering the evidence that is needed for good quality legislation.

Pascal Leardini, Deputy Secretary General, European Commission, focused on the key elements of the new Communication on Better Regulation. The Commission will adopt a more streamlined, inclusive and simpler system for engaging stakeholders, based on a single 'call for evidence' to enable greater participation in consultations. The 'one in, one out' approach will be piloted in the second half of this year, fully rolled out in 2022 and evaluated at the end of 2022. Impact assessments will cover the analysis of the 'do no significant harm' and 'digital-by-default' principles. He also highlighted the importance of integrating strategic foresight into policymaking and internal and interinstitutional cooperation.

Anthony Teasdale, Director General, European Parliamentary Research Service, provided the European Parliament's view on Commission impact assessments. The Commission is more systematic in assessing a wide range of impacts and in quantification. He welcomed the stronger policy cycle approach of the von der Leyen Commission, as well as the integration of foresight in the process. The quality and transparency of modelling is improving.