



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Council conclusions on reduction of administrative burdens

*2972nd ECONOMIC and FINANCIAL AFFAIRS
Brussels, 10 November 2009*

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

"Referring to the European Council conclusions of 8-9 March 2007 and the agreement that administrative burdens arising from EU legislation, including national measures implementing or transposing this legislation, should be reduced by 25 per cent by 2012, and the invitation to Member States to set national targets of comparable ambition, and building on the Council Conclusions of 10 March 2009 the Council welcomes the Commission's communication "Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens in the EU – Sectoral Reduction Plans and 2009 Actions" and the inclusion in the Communication of sectoral plans as well as measures proposed to the Council and welcomes the ambition to further work on measures under preparation.

Following its conclusions from March 2009, the Council EXPRESSES ITS CONVICTION that better regulation, including the reduction of undue administrative burdens, continues to be a key element of the EU strategy for Growth and Jobs. Improvement of the regulatory environment is crucial, for realizing the full potential of the Single Market, stimulating entrepreneurship and innovation, and enhancing competitiveness. The Council UNDERLINES that the reduction of administrative burdens at the current juncture would contribute to sustain the business environment and support economic growth and jobs, in a situation where public finances are particularly constrained. On the other hand efforts to reduce administrative burden shall not contradict measures securing integrity and transparency of financial markets, including as regards new legislative proposals, or put tax revenue at risk.

P R E S S

The Council ACKNOWLEDGES that important progress has been achieved both at EU level and in the Member States in taking the Better Regulation Agenda forward, but CONSIDERS that more needs to be done by all parties concerned. Therefore, the Council CALLS FOR reinforced joint efforts by all relevant EU institutions and the Member States to reach the agreed target of reducing the administrative burdens on business arising from EU legislation by 25 per cent by end 2012 across all 13 priority areas and with the aim of quickly increasing effects felt by businesses as soon as is practicable. This could reduce the burden by more than 40.4 billion euro, as identified by the Commission. To promote this process the Council CALLS UPON the Commission to conduct impact assessments for all significant proposals presented within the EU Action Programme for the reduction of Administrative Burdens.

The Council INVITES THE COMMISSION to continue to closely monitor progress and report annually to the spring European Council on the implementation of reduction measures as well as on significant changes in administrative burdens; to launch further reduction measures to meet the target set; and to continue to identify new proposals for simplification of EU legislation beyond the current scope of the Action Programme. In this regard the Council invites the Commission to adopt as much of the reduction measures as possible, suggested amongst other by Member States.

The Council WELCOMES national targets set by Member States on reduction of administrative burdens. The Council INVITES THE MEMBER STATES to continue reducing administrative burdens, simplify legislation at all levels and enhance their sharing of good practices. In addition, the Council again CALLS UPON THE MEMBER STATES to complete their specific national baseline measurement as soon as possible, preferably by end 2010.

The Council TAKES NOTE of the valuable input provided by the High Level Group of Independent Stakeholders on Administrative Burdens and of the intention of President Barroso to extend this mandate.

The Council COMMITS ITSELF, AND INVITES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, to avoid adding unnecessary Administrative Burdens to legislative proposals in general. The Council looks forward to prioritizing the processing in all relevant Council formations of the reduction proposals that the Commission has already made and encourages the European Parliament to take a similar approach; and LOOKS FORWARD to rapid adoption by the Commission of reduction proposals as announced in the aforementioned Commission Communication on the Action Programme for Reducing Administrative Burdens in the EU."
