

Agenda of the European Commission ***30 September – 4 October 2013***

**Background notes from the Spokespersons' service for journalists.
The European Commission reserves the right to make changes.**

Wednesday 2 October:

Making EU law fit for purpose: results and next steps in smart regulation

Wednesday 2 October:

European Commission to adopt communication on evaluating national regulations on access to professions

Wednesday 2 October:

Commission puts forward initiatives to strengthen the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union

Wednesday 2 October:

**Making EU law fit for purpose:
results and next steps in smart regulation**

The news:

On 2 October, the Commission will take a further important step in ensuring that EU legislation is fit for purpose by setting out where it will take further action to simplify or withdraw EU laws. It will publish the results of a screening of the entire stock of EU legislation and set out the next steps.

The Commission will also list a wide range of further regulatory fitness actions which are being implemented or which are proposed to the Council and the European Parliament.

This exercise is part of the Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance Programme (REFIT). It is about taking away unnecessary administrative burdens and keeping national implementation as light as possible. This will benefit citizens and businesses alike, provided that also the other institutions and Member States show a similar level of ambition.

REFIT, launched in December 2012, is essential to put Europe back on track to more growth and jobs. It is the Commission's commitment to a simple, clear, stable and predictable regulatory framework for businesses, workers and citizens.

The background:

Regulating at EU level adds value in areas such as competition, trade and the internal market to build a level playing field that creates opportunities for business and consumers. It also protects the health and safety of citizens, consumers and workers. EU legislation creates a common framework by replacing twenty eight different national laws by one EU law. It allows the EU Member States to work together to deal with problems that do not respect national borders. At the same time, EU regulation is often accused of applying too many requirements stifling businesses, especially the smallest ones. In response to that concern, the Commission has made a concerted effort over the past years to streamline legislation and reduce regulatory burdens.

The event:

An off-the-record technical briefing will be held on 2 October.

The sources:

- Recent press material on smart regulation:
 - President Barroso and Edmund Stoiber call on Member States to step up efforts to cut red tape for SMEs and improve the efficiency of their public administrations: [IP/13/836](#)
 - Commission initiatives to cut red tape and reduce regulatory burdens – Questions and Answers: [MEMO/13/786](#)
- Smart regulation website: <http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation>

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**Wednesday 2 October:
European Commission to adopt Communication
on evaluating national regulations on access to professions**

The news:

On Wednesday 2 October, the European Commission will adopt a Communication on evaluating national regulations on access to professions. The aims of this initiative are to underline the potential for further integration of professional services in the single market; to highlight the opportunities for mobility of professionals; and to provide a full picture of the remaining barriers affecting the access to and exercise of regulated professions.

The Communication will set out an action plan for carrying out a mapping and mutual evaluation exercise of regulated professions. Member States supported such a review under the revised Professional Qualifications Directive which is due to be formally adopted before the end of the year (see [MEMO/13/552](#)). The mutual evaluation will cover the restrictions linked to the access to regulated professions (qualifications requirements and the activities reserved to the holders of the required qualifications).

In order to provide a complete picture of the remaining barriers, a report on the findings of a peer review of the legal form, shareholding and tariff requirements which Member States impose on professional services, conducted under the [Services Directive](#), will be published in parallel.

The background:

Professional services represent about 9% of the Union's GDP but the competitiveness of the sector appears to be restricted by significant barriers imposed on the access to and exercise of professional activities. High and outdated entry requirements may for instance limit employment in the economic sectors concerned, while restrictions on legal forms and shareholding may hamper the setting up of subsidiaries or the creation of multi-disciplinary practices.

The event:

- An off-the-record technical briefing will be held on October 2.
- Press release and memo will be available on the day.

The sources:

- Workshop – "Regulating access to professions: national perspectives":
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/conferences/2013/0617-access-professions/index_en.htm
- Services package (June 2012) – Implementation report:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/services/services-dir/implementation/implementation_report/index_en.htm

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Wednesday 2 October:

**European Commission puts forward initiatives
to strengthen the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union**

The news:

On 2 October, the European Commission is due to adopt a Communication on the social dimension of the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). The Communication will be a further contribution from the Commission to the debate on deeper integration within the EMU, and will suggest ways to reinforce existing rules on economic governance to better anticipate and address employment and social policy challenges. This could include, for example:

- reinforced surveillance of employment and social challenges and strengthened policy coordination;
- enhanced solidarity and reinforced action for employment and labour mobility;
- stronger social dialogue

The background:

The Communication follows the Commission's November 2012 Blueprint for a deep and genuine economic and monetary union (see [IP/12/1272](#)) and responds to the request of the 13/14 December 2012 European Council to present possible measures on the social dimension of the EMU, including social dialogue.

The rationale for the Communication is that it is in the collective interests of a monetary union to ensure that reforms to boost jobs, improve competitiveness and address social challenges are properly implemented in all Member States. While the overall social agenda remains at the EU level, there is scope to strengthen the social dimension within the euro area by better coordinating and monitoring employment and social policies, mobilising and prioritising measures and funds to combat social distress, removing barriers to job mobility and strengthening the role of the social partners.

The sources:

- President Barroso's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/
- Commissioner Andor's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/andor/
- Commissioner Rehn's website: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/rehn/

Press details will be announced at a later date. Press material will be available on 2 October.

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