



OECD Workshop on Socioeconomic Impact Assessment of Chemicals Management

6-8 July 2016

**Discussion: BP#4 'Quantifying regulatory
efficacy of risk management activities'**

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EU Commission (ENV B2: Sustainable Chemicals)

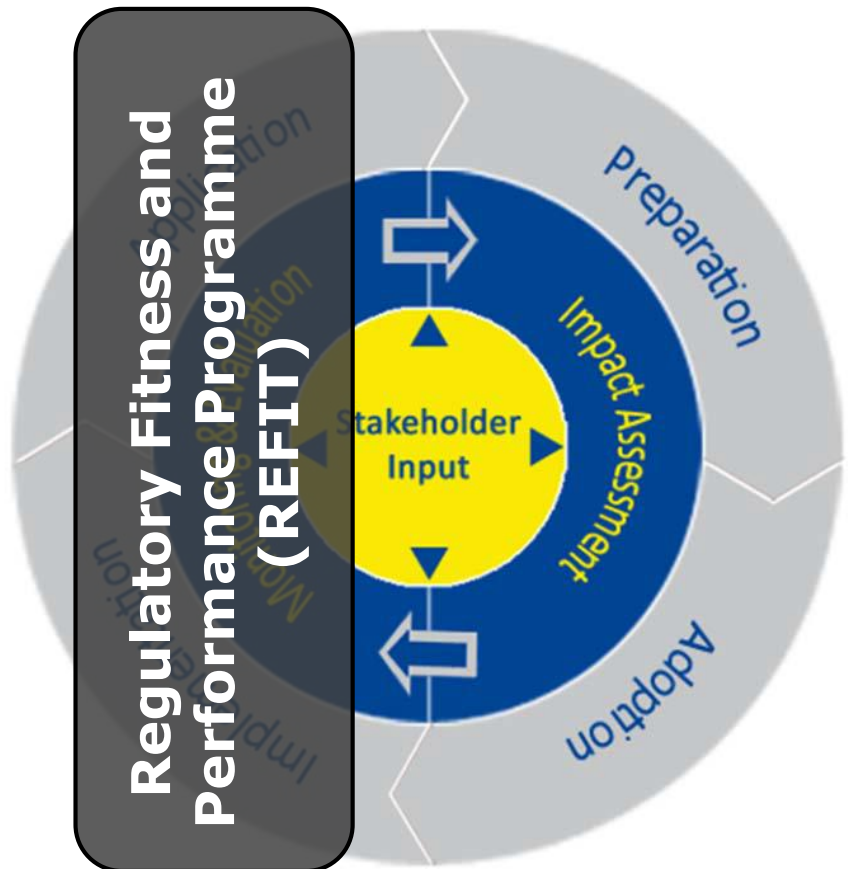
EU's Better Regulation Programme

- Integrated ex-ante and ex-post assessment
- Transparency and stakeholder engagement
- Regulatory Scrutiny Board



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EU's Better Regulation Programme

"Better regulation is not about "more" or "less" EU rules, or undermining our high social and environmental standards, our health or our fundamental rights. Better regulation is about making sure we deliver on the ambitious policy goals we have set ourselves in the most efficient way."

Frans Timmermans
EU Commission First Vice-President



Ex-Ante: 'Impact Assessments'

- Identifying the problem
- Defining the objectives
- Developing the main policy options
- Analysing the impacts
- Comparing the options
- Outlining future monitoring and evaluation

Ex-Post: 'Evaluations' & 'Fitness Checks'

- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Coherency
- Relevance
- EU Value-added



Chemicals policy & legislation: dealing pragmatically with the 'blackbox & complexity' challenge

Genetics

Lifestyles

Chemicals

**Habitat
Degradation**

Etc.

The Black Box ?

**Health, Environmental & Single Market
End-Point Impacts**

Some considerations

- SEA/IA = safety valve to help avoid disproportionate costs
- Smooth & cost-effective e.g.
 - Agreed criteria: VOSL, discount rate, etc.,
- Reporting: keep sight of the 'physical' impacts
- Intervention logic (impact pathways) – avoid 'blackboxes'
- EU Commission Impact Assessments (IAs):
 - Rarely arrive at a neat 'cost-benefit' outcome
 - Present what is known, what can be calculated, what is less certain (but possible scale/implications)
 - 'Political' decision

Some considerations

- Transparency is an asset
- Institutional set-up and process:
 - Encourage dialogue and compromise
 - Avoid confrontational decision-making situations
- Chemical impact aspects: standardisation? Help reduce SEA costs.....

....how do we design the SEA process and outcomes so they are not just the preserve of the SEA expert but can be coordinated and used by 'normal' policy decision-makers

Last but not least - beware the 'cost bias'

- Businesses are well set up to identify, collate and assess costs that they incur
- The environment has no 'cost accounting' system
- Human health costs are only partially captured

