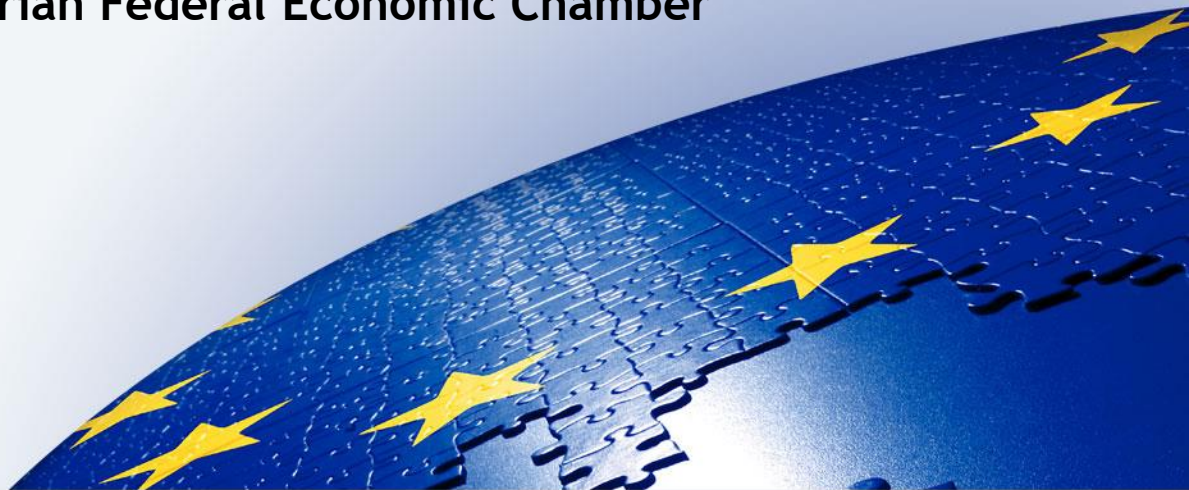


Better Regulation Network Meeting Problem Identification in Practice

Vienna, 20 April 2018

Verena Martelanz, Austrian Federal Economic Chamber



Geht's der Wirtschaft gut, geht's uns allen gut.

Austrian Federal Economic Chamber - WKÖ

- We represent the Austrian business community: about **517.000 member companies** in Austria
- **Public Law Chamber**
- Mandatory membership
- Self-governing body
- Funded by its members
- **Social partner** on national level and via UEAPME involved in Social Dialogue on EU level
- Member of EUROCHAMBRES, UEAPME, EuroCommerce

Regional Structure

9 Chambers of Commerce and Austrian Federal Economic Chamber



Regional Structure

- **WKÖ**
over 110 offices in more than 70 countries
- 9 provincial chambers

Industrial classification

The industries are divided into seven sectors



Industrial classification

Sectors are subdivided into **individual trade associations**



Industrial classification

- 7 sectors
 - Federal Trade Associations
 - Provincial Trade Associations
 - Trade representatives
-
- professional committees within the trade associations

WKÖ and Better Regulation I

- The Austrian Chambers of Commerce have dealt with Better Regulation at European level for many years
- Surveys show, that Austrian companies face the biggest problems with cutting red tape and with the difficulties of bureaucracy on national and European level:
- **WKÖ-Economic Barometer 2018: 80% of Austrian SMEs ask for Better Regulation/less bureaucracy at EU-level - 69% ask for the reduction of bureaucracy as a priority for the national government**
- For the last decade we have gathered and published specific simplification proposals from our member companies for cutting red tape

WKÖ and Better Regulation II

- Our proposals contain specific measures describing difficulties that businesses - especially SMEs - are confronted within **their daily work**
- Specific solutions from our members reducing bureaucracy and improving EU regulation that can easily be transposed
- Regular Submissions to **REFIT Platform** that took up and discussed several of our proposals
- Latest Paper: **SIMPLIFICATION AND BURDEN REDUCTION**
<https://news.wko.at/news/oesterreich/wkoe-position-simplification-and-burden-reduction.pdf>

Problem Identification in Practice- Tools

National level:

- Dialogue with **businesses from all sectors on all levels** (federal, regional, local)
- **Chamber experts** from the entire organisation addressing specific problems and developing ideas for tangible solutions feeding into our proposals

European network:

- EUROCHAMBRES **Burden Tracker** and **SME Test**
- UEAPME/WKÖ **SME Workshop**
- Enterprise Europe Network feedback mechanism

Example I: UEAPME-WKÖ-SME Workshop

- UEAPME President Rabmer-Koller initiated an **interactive workshop**, organised by WKÖ this March in Vienna
- Austrian SMEs raised particular problems as regards the **implementation of current EU legislation** and discussed them with representatives from national and EU level
- Topics: reduction of regulatory burden, posting of workers, digitalisation, skills shortage, consumer protection and environmental policy
- **Main result:** SME needs and concerns are too often ignored in daily policy making
- Results will feed into our future proposals for Better Regulation/REFIT

Example II: EUROCHAMBRES Burden Tracker

- Objective to cut red tape and reduce excessive regulatory burdens stemming from existing EU legislation
- Pre-identification/selection of problematic EU legislation: **Consumer Rights Directive (2011/83/EU) - CRD**
- Gathering data and anecdotal evidence by European Chambers of Commerce and Industries on the impact of the Consumer Rights Directive for businesses, and particularly SMEs, **by consulting them**
- Analysis of material collected and presentation of results: <http://www.eurochambres.eu/Content/Default.asp?PageID=1&DocID=7495>

Problem Identification: at all Stages

- **Preparation EC Proposal:** EC inception impact assessments and EC consultations etc. to identify possible problems already at the earliest stage
- **Legislative Procedure:** Close Monitoring of work in progress in EP and Council to raise awareness for possibly problematic proposals
- **Transposition - Goldplating:** current exercise to identify Goldplating-legislation
- **Implementation** on national level - advice: Current examples: Geoblocking FAQs, extensive offer for advice and information on **implementation of the GDPR** - results in concrete feedback where members face problems

Further Information - Contact

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