

Country case: Reducing red tape in the EU

Description

There are more than 20 million SMEs in the EU, representing 99% of businesses. SMEs are a key driver for economic growth, innovation, employment and social integration. The economic outlook for the EU SMEs shows positive signs with a combined increase in aggregated employment and value-added of EU's SMEs. The Commission is taking action to ensure that its policies and programmes sustain this positive trend by reducing administrative burden for small business. Reducing administrative burden for small business is a joint challenge for the Commission and the Member States.

Public Procurement
Principle: **Access, Balance**

Procurement Stage:
Tendering

Audience: **Policy Maker,
Procuring Entity, Private
Sector**

In 2012, the Commission ran a public consultation to identify the Top 10 most burdensome legislative acts. The public consultation on the TOP10 most burdensome legislative acts for SMEs ("TOP10 public consultation") is part of the ambitious policy actions launched by the Commission in 2011 with the objective to minimise the regulatory burden for SMEs and adapt EU regulation to the needs of micro-enterprises.

The following EU laws were identified by SMEs as being the most burdensome: REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals), VAT - Value added tax legislation, General Product Safety, Recognition of professional qualifications, Shipments of waste - Waste framework legislation - List of waste and hazardous waste, Labour market-related legislation, Data protection, working time, recording equipment in road transport (for driving and rest periods), procedures for the award of public contracts (public works, supply and service contracts), modernised customs code.

Source: OECD (2016), "[Corruption in Public Procurement](#)".