



U.S. Office of Management and Budget Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs

International Regulatory Cooperation

Regulatory Policy at the Crossroads:

Towards a New Policy Agenda

OECD

Paris, France

October 29, 2010

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Any views expressed here are solely those of the presenter, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Office of Management and Budget or the Executive Office of the President.



OIRA's Role

- ❖ Centralized regulatory review.
 - ❖ OIRA works with various Federal agencies, including the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and the Department of Commerce, to ensure U.S. regulations are consistent with U.S. economic and trade commitments and goals.
- ❖ OIRA works with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on international technical requirements and standards.
- ❖ OIRA works with the State Department on a wide-range of activities to promote the U.S. regulatory principles, processes, and transparency.



OECD

- ❖ OIRA Engagement in Regulatory Policy
 - ❖ Since the mid-1990s, OIRA has actively participated in the work of the OECD's program on Regulatory Management and Reform.
 - ❖ OIRA Branch Chiefs have regularly served on the relevant Bureaus, including the Regulatory Policy Committee Bureau.

- ❖ Key Venue for Promoting and Sharing Best Practices
 - ❖ 2005 Guiding Principles for Regulatory Quality and Performance
 - ❖ Current initiative on "Regulations 2.0"



High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Forum

❖ OMB-European Commission

- ❖ Co-Chaired by OIRA Administrator and the Director General of DG Enterprise.
- ❖ Last meeting was June 28-29, 2010, in Brussels.
- ❖ Discussion of energy efficiency, labeling, and use of standards in regulation.

❖ Horizontal Issues

- ❖ Regulatory impact analysis
- ❖ Risk assessment
- ❖ Use of voluntary standards

❖ Transatlantic Economic Council

- ❖ Interest in opportunities for regulatory cooperation, reducing non-tariff trade barriers, and promoting SME exports.



High-Level Regulatory Cooperation Council

- ❖ U.S. – Mexico
 - ❖ Announced during the Mexican State Visit in May 2010

- ❖ Key Goals
 - ❖ make regulations more compatible, increase simplification, and reduce burdens;
 - ❖ increase regulatory transparency and provide “early warnings”; and
 - ❖ strengthen the analytic basis of regulation

- ❖ What about Canada?
 - ❖ Both sides have agreed to invite Canada to join the Council.



APEC

- ❖ OECD-APEC Integrated Checklist for Regulatory Reform
 - ❖ Collaborative effort between APEC and the OECD to promote regulatory best practices.
 - ❖ Self-assessment tool that evaluates a country's regulatory, anti-trust, and market-openness policies.

- ❖ 2011: U.S. Host Year
 - ❖ U.S. plans to make good regulatory practice a key focus in 2011.



Social Cost of Carbon

Is it possible to imagine an international impact analysis for a specific problem?

- ❖ Yes. Consider the recent effort of the United States Government to develop figures for the social cost of carbon – figures that have been used for several different regulations, involving energy efficiency in vending machines and greenhouse gas emissions from motor vehicles.
- ❖ The figures were based in significant part on a decision to use a *global rather than a domestic* value – recognizing that carbon emissions in the United States also harm people elsewhere in the world.
- ❖ The figures were also based on discomfort that a high discount rate for future damage could lead to action that might harm future generations.