



Malta-EU Steering & Action Committee

COMPETITIVENESS AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS



28.12.09

Technical standards and regulations

COM(2009)690 – Report from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee: The Operation of Directive 98/34/EC from 2006-2008

Directive 98/34/EC set up a procedure which imposes an obligation upon the Member States to notify to the Commission and to each other all the draft technical regulations concerning products and Information Society Services before they are adopted in national law. The procedure is aimed at providing transparency and control with regard to those regulations. Notification in the draft form and subsequent evaluation of their content in the course of the procedure helps to diminish the risk that technical regulations create unjustified barriers between Member States.

This report analyses the application of the procedures laid down by Directive 98/34/EC between 2006 and 2008. It highlights their important contribution to the implementation of better regulation and to the functioning of the single market.

The standardisation part consists of the information procedure on standards, Commission requests to the European Standards Organisations (ESOs) for standardisation work (“mandates”) and formal objections against standards. They have proved to be an important element in the functioning of the single market.

In the field of technical regulations, the notification to the Commission of national technical regulations prior to their adoption has proved to be an effective instrument of prevention of barriers to trade and of cooperation between the Commission and the Member States and among the Member States themselves as well as improving the regulatory framework.

The notification procedure has also been an important tool for guiding national regulatory activity in emerging sectors and improving the quality of national technical regulations - in terms of increased transparency, readability and effectiveness - in non-harmonised or partly harmonised areas. The greater clarity in the legal framework of each Member State has helped economic operators to reduce the cost of accessing the regulations and applying them correctly.



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Community Lisbon Programme 2008 – 2010

COM(2009) 678 – Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 2nd Implementation Report for the Community Lisbon Programme 2008 – 2010

This report assesses the implementation of the Community Lisbon Programme 2008-2010 (CLP) up to November 2009. The CLP is part of the renewed Lisbon Partnership for Growth and Jobs which focuses on ten key objectives¹ and corresponding policy actions for Community-level actions for the years 2008-2010.

The report concludes that substantial progress has been made and a number of key milestones have been achieved. It also identifies issues that still need to be addressed with highest priority.

Common Customs Tariff Duties

COM (2009) 645 - Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 temporarily suspending the autonomous common customs tariff duties on certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products

Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 contains a list (in its Annex) of products for which the autonomous common customs tariff duties are suspended.

The Commission has received requests, by Member States, for the temporary suspension of autonomous common customs tariff concerning certain industrial, agricultural and fishery products. After reviewing these requests, the Commission, assisted by the Economic Tariff Questions Group, considers that the suspension or the reduction of duties is justified and is thus proposing this Regulation which will amend Regulation (EC) No 1255/96 so that the latter Regulation be replaced by the text in the Annex to this Regulation. Nevertheless, the validity period of the temporary suspension is limited in order to carry out economic examinations of the individual suspensions which will subsequently be extended or deleted.

This proposal relieves Community industry from 13.1 million EUR of duty per year and invigorates it in competition with industry from third countries supplying finished products into the Community market.

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- 1) renewed Social Agenda
 - 2) common policy on immigration
 - 3) unlocking the growth potential of SMEs
 - 4) reducing EU administrative burdens by 25 % by 2012
 - 5) strengthening the single market, increasing competition in services, and the integration of the financial services market
 - 6) creating the free movement of knowledge and a European Research Area.
 - 7) improving the framework conditions for innovation
 - 8) completion of the internal market for energy and adoption of the climate change package
 - 9) promoting an industrial policy geared towards more sustainable production and consumption
 - 10) bilateral negotiations with key trading partners