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FINALAGENDA
MEETINGOFTHEREGULATORYMANAGEMENTANDREFORMGROUP
PUBLICMANAGEMENTCOMMITTEE

ThePumaRegulatoryQualityReview:Cross-CountryIndicatorsAndReview
OftheNetherlandsAndTheUnitedStates
MeetingoftheRegulatoryManagementandReformGroup,PublicManagement
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FINAL AGENDA

**MEETING OF THE REGULATORY MANAGEMENT AND REFORM GROUP
PUBLIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**“The Puma Regulatory Quality Review: Cross-Country Indicators
And Review Of The Netherlands And The United States”**

**29-30 June 1998
OECD Headquarters, Paris, France**

Chair: Dr Luigi Carbone (Italy)

MONDAY, 29 JUNE

09:30-09:45

Opening remarks by the Chair and the Secretariat

09:45-11:00

Major new developments in regulatory management and reform

Country representatives will be given an opportunity to briefly bring to the attention of their colleagues major new developments and activities in regulatory management and reform in 1997-98. This will not be a "tour de table"; countries may choose not to speak or simply to make available pertinent documents.

11.00- 13:00

Indicators of countries' capacities to produce high quality regulation

Participants will discuss the indicators derived from the indicators questionnaire developed by the Regulatory Management and Reform Group. How useful are the indicators produced to date as self-assessment tools? What other analytical work might be undertaken with the database? What future work (if any) should be undertaken? This session will be introduced by a summary report from the Secretariat.

Supporting document for this session:

**Indicators of regulatory capacities in OECD countries: Preliminary analysis
[PUMA/REG98(3)]**

13:00-14:30

Lunch

Peer review of Secretariat draft chapter “Improving government capacity to assure high quality regulation: Draft country review of the United States”

Participants will discuss the draft PUMA review of the United States, with the assistance of two lead reviewers, Canada and New Zealand. The discussion will be organised around the key issues below and the Secretariat's policy advice to the United States, but participants will be given opportunity to raise any other issues they wish to discuss.

Key issues for discussion during this session:

- **Quality of primary legislation.** What steps are being taken in the Congress and the Executive branch to improve the quality of laws so that it supports good decisions throughout the regulatory system? How can the interests of the Congress and President with respect to regulatory quality be more closely aligned? Realistically, what improvements to the quality of law can be expected over the next few years?
- **Reviewing legislation.** Since reviews of existing laws and regulations seem to be a weak point in the U.S. system, how can this critical reform area be strengthened? What mechanisms can be used to promote reviews of existing laws and regulations?
- **OMB role.** Does the current model of OMB oversight represent the optimal balance between control/leadership at the centre, and delegated regulatory authority?
- **Performance management of regulatory programmes.** How are performance goals of regulatory programmes set, and how is performance measured?
- **Benefit-cost analysis.** What are the key reasons for the frequent failure of BCA to influence regulatory choices and what action can be taken to address them?

Supporting document for this session:

Improving government capacity to assure high quality regulation: Draft country review of the United States”. [PUMA/REG98(2)].

18:00 Cocktail and book presentation

Cocktails will be served in the George Marshall Room of the Chateau. The book “Improving the quality of legislation in Europe” will be presented by Mr. Alfred E. Kellermann, General Secretary, TMC Asser Institute, The Hague, Netherlands.

This book contains the proceedings of the 1997 Conference on the “Quality of European and National Legislation” jointly organized by the Asser Institute, the European Commission and the Dutch Ministries of Economic Affairs and of Justice.

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE

9:30-13:00

Peer review of Secretariat draft chapter “Improving government capacity to assure high quality regulation: Draft country review of the Netherlands”.

Participants will discuss the draft PUMA review of the Netherlands, with the assistance of two lead reviewers, Australia and Finland. The discussion will be organised around the key issues below and the Secretariat's policy advice to the Netherlands, but participants will be given opportunity to raise any other issues they wish to discuss.

Key issues for discussion during this session:

- **Responsiveness regulation.** How can the speed and responsiveness of legislative and regulatory reform processes be increased? How can reform be achieved on a wider front?
- **Improving RIA.** What actions can be taken to improve the rigour and value of RIA in providing better information to policy officials? Can responsibilities be better defined while retaining the positive "helpdesk" approach?
- **Use of regulatory alternatives.** Why are alternatives much more widely used in some areas of regulation than others? What actions can be being taken to promote use of alternatives where they are better solutions?
- **Co-operative regulation.** What will be done to ensure that regulation by PBOs does not undermine reform efforts?
- **Public consultation .** What new approaches have been used instead of advisory bodies? How does the government assure that affected bodies are consulted early enough and that access is wide enough to genuinely affect the final decision?

Supporting document for this session:

Improving government capacity to assure high quality regulation: Draft country review of the Netherlands”.[PUMA/REG(98)1].

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-15:30

The PUMA Multi-country Business Survey: Progress Report

Participants in the first round of the Business Survey will have the opportunity to report on progress with its implementation and to highlight any issues which have arisen. Potential participants in the second round of the Business Survey will be able to clarify any concerns and discuss any issues related to their possible participation. The session will commence with a brief progress report from the Secretariat.

Supporting document for this session:

The PUMA Multi-country Business Survey: Initial progress report on implementation [PUMA/REG (98)4] . [n.b. Participants may also wish to refer to PUMA/REG 98(5) and PUMA/REG(98)6, previously available]

15:45-16:45

The PUMA work programme on regulatory management and reform: 1999-2000

On a preliminary basis, participants will discuss the PUMA work programme on regulatory management and reform. In particular, they will be asked to respond to a broad framework presented by the Secretariat and to indicate priorities or suggestions for specific activities. There will also be an opportunity to provide written comments after the meeting in order to allow sufficient time for reflection in capitals.

Supporting document for this session:

Status of current work for the PUMA 1998-1999 work programme on regulatory management and reform. [PUMA/REG(98) 7].

16:45-17.00

Summary comments by the Chair and Secretariat

APPENDIX: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COUNTRY REVIEW CHAPTERS

1. The Netherlands

- *Accelerate the scope and pace of reform by reducing the time required for reform proposals to be considered and implemented.*
- *Strengthen accountability for results within the ministries through development of measurable and public performance standards for regulatory reform.*
- *Improve the contribution of RIA to good regulatory decisions by increasing methodological rigour, including adoption of a benefit-cost test; expanding it to incorporate detailed consideration of alternatives; and integrating RIA with consultation processes.*
- *Further encourage the use of cost-effective alternative policy instruments by developing operational guidance for ministries.*
- *Improve transparency by extending requirements for transparency to non-governmental bodies with delegated regulatory authorities, and by publishing a plan of major upcoming regulatory actions.*
- *Better co-ordinate regulatory reform and regulatory quality initiatives.*

2. The United States

- *Improve the responsiveness of the regulatory system by continuing to seek means to streamline regulatory processes through the NPR process.*
- *Increase regulatory benefits by improving interagency priority-setting capacities*
- *Expand the value, speed and scope of review of primary legislation and other regulations by launching a structured process of rolling reviews, reviewing policy areas rather than individual rules, and experimenting with use of advisory bodies for the reviews.*
- *Expand coverage of mandatory quality control to economic regulation.*
- *Further encourage the use of cost-effective alternative policy instruments by developing operational guidance for ministries and by developing a wide range of co-operative methods.*
- *Develop a stronger role for the central reform authority in promoting, facilitating and providing practical guidance on reform to regulatory agencies.*
- *Encourage entrepreneurialism by streamlining permits and licenses at the federal level, by co-ordinating with the states on review and streamlining of permits and licenses, and by building more complete information systems for enterprises.*