



# Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	<a href="#">2014/2967(RSP)</a>	Procedure completed
Resolution on the revision of the Commission's impact assessment guidelines and the role of the SME test		
Subject 8.50.02 Legislative simplification, coordination, codification		

Key players	
European Parliament	

Key events			
24/11/2014	Debate in Parliament		
27/11/2014	Results of vote in Parliament		
27/11/2014	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	<a href="#">T8-0069/2014</a>	Summary
27/11/2014	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2014/2967(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Resolution on statement
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 132-p2
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

Documentation gateway					
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0311/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0312/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0313/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0314/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0315/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Motion for a resolution		<a href="#">B8-0316/2014</a>	24/11/2014	EP	
Joint motion for resolution		<a href="#">RC-B8-0311/2014</a>	24/11/2014		
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		<a href="#">T8-0069/2014</a>	27/11/2014	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		<a href="#">SP(2015)64</a>	10/03/2015	EC	

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The European Parliament adopted by 548 votes to 83, with 32 abstentions, a resolution on the revision of the Commissions impact assessment guidelines and the role of the SME test.

The resolution adopted in plenary was tabled on behalf of the EPP, S&D, ECR, ALDE, and GUE/NGL groups.

Impact assessments (IA), as an early-stage tool when legislation is being developed, play a key role in the Commissions smart regulation agenda. The existing IA guidelines provide for a central role for the Commission Secretariat-General and the Impact Assessment Board (IAB) as regards the decision on whether or not an IA is necessary for a specific initiative.

In this context, Parliament welcomed the Commissions commitment to regularly reviewing the IA guidelines with a view to improving the IA procedures. It underlined the fact that the Commission should ensure that economic, social, administrative and environmental aspects are assessed in equal depth.

Scope: concerned that the draft revised guidelines are much less specific than the existing guidelines in terms of the scope for IAs, Parliament believes that the Commission should maintain its existing approach of submitting an IA for all initiatives meeting at least one of the following criteria:

- legislative proposals included in the Commissions Legislative and Work Programme (CLWP);
- non-CLWP legislative proposals with clearly identifiable economic, administrative, social and environmental impacts;
- non-legislative initiatives which define future policies (e.g. white papers, action plans, expenditure programmes and negotiating guidelines for international agreements);
- delegated or implementing acts introduced by the Commission and its agencies where relevant which are likely to have significant identifiable economic, social, environmental and administrative-burden impacts.

All relevant stakeholders should be consulted at an early stage in the IA process.

Impact Assessment Board (IAB): Members called for the role of the IAB in the IA process to be more clearly defined in the draft revised guidelines. It strongly insisted on the Commission to set out procedures relating to the IAB more clearly in a new set of draft revised guidelines when responding to this resolution adopted by Parliament.

Parliament also called for the independence of the IAB to be strengthened, and in particular that members of the IAB not be subject to political control.

SME test: in light of the 2011 review of the Small Business Act, Parliament asked the Commission to work with the Member States to better disseminate the principles of the SME test in the context of national procedures, in support of SME policy. It insisted that the SME test, as laid down in the guidelines, should be maintained in order to avoid SMEs being disproportionately affected or disadvantaged by Commission initiatives compared with large companies. Member considered that exempting micro-enterprises by default may not always be the best approach, and that this must therefore be assessed on a case-by-case basis for each proposal.

Advisory Body: Parliament proposed that the Commission should establish this group as a high-level Better Regulation Advisory Body involving both stakeholder expertise and national experts as soon as possible. It proposed a strong and independent advisory mandate for this body. Parliament and the Council should be involved in the expert nomination procedure.

Impact assessments in Parliament: Parliament called for Commission IAs to be examined systematically and as early as possible by Parliament, and in particular at committee level. It recalled its [resolution of 8 June 2011](#) in which called for more consistent use to be made of the parliamentary IA.