

REFORMING REGULATION: IMPROVING COMPETITIVENESS, CREATING JOBS

CEEMET is the European employers' organisation representing the interests of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries with a particular focus on social policy and industrial relations issues. Our members are national employers' organisations and federations, representing 200 000 member companies across Europe, the vast majority of which are SMEs, providing some 13 million jobs and covering all products within the metal, engineering and technology-based sectors.

CEEMET strongly supports the EU's Smart Regulation agenda. In these challenging economic times, Europe needs to send out a clear message that it is open for business. An urgent priority is creating a more competitive business environment. This will help encourage the investment and generate the jobs our economies badly need.

2012 provides a unique opportunity for the EU to raise the ambition of its Smart Regulation agenda and better align it with the overriding imperative of driving stronger economic growth. We, the undersigned representatives of CEEMET's member organisations and federations, call on the European Commission to take the following actions:

1. Make a firm commitment to reduce the burden of regulation weighing down on European business. Starting with an ambitious action plan to succeed and build on the administrative burdens reduction programme which ends in 2012.
2. This plan must address the total cost of regulation, not just administrative burdens, and target a reduction in the overall burden of regulation facing European businesses – i.e. a commitment that the cost reduction delivered by the programme will outweigh the cost of new regulations introduced during the period.
3. Commit to continually improving the quality of comprehensive and impartial impact assessments that support legislative proposals and the process that generates them. This must start with involving stakeholders at earlier stage by consulting them on draft proposals and impact assessments.
4. Thoroughly monitor implementation processes and carry out regular fitness checks of existing legislation.

CEEMET is committed to working with the Commission to help devise a new Smarter Regulation programme that will deliver material benefits to European businesses.

1 March 2012

About CEEMET:

CEEMET is the European employers' organisation representing the interests of the metal, engineering and technology-based industries. Its members are national employers' organisations and federations, representing 200 000 member companies across Europe. The vast majority of them are SMEs, providing over 13 million jobs of direct employment.