

# EU Accession: Regulatory Reform Process and Challenges

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# First steps

- Commission invited Poland many times to review its request for transitional periods or to limit them
  - Commission wanted data on single operators (to include them into Accession Treaties)
- New approach in negotiations - emphasis on implementation plans - sources of financing, investment plans, capacity to bear costs....
  - Who can answer all those questions?

# Unit of Analysis

- One of the units in the Department for Support of Accession Negotiations reporting directly to Chief Negotiator
- *Ad hoc* RIA to get better chances of transitional periods
- Close co-operation with those who are likely to be affected
- The most complicated projects were outsourced

# Regulatory reform strategy

- 1. To approximate EU regulation in an optimal way for the domestic economy and society*
- 2. To assist the writing of position papers identifying those areas where transition periods will be necessary and to consider the optimal length of transitions*
- 3. To assess the impact of regulation on the Government budget*
- 4. To assist the business sector and other groups in society to prepare rapidly for accession*
- 5. To streamline consultation process with social partners*

# Regulatory reform strategy - environment

- Better Regulation in top of EU agenda
  - Director and Experts of Better Regulation's project on RIA
  - 4 Presidencies initiative
  - Dutch administrative cost model dissemination
- OECD review of regulatory management capacity
- RIA in legislative procedure

# Challenges faced

- Lack of concern for implementation
  - Too great preoccupation with the legal rather than, economic and social implications of EU adjustment
- Lack of skills
  - Even basic techniques were absent from the public services
- Lack of ownership of integration process
  - Integration was not internalised in ministries, seemed to be something distant, distracting attention from usual business

# Lessons and experiences

- Good quality RIA is of key importance for obtaining transitional periods
- Priorities of assessment need to be established
- Small central unit could be essential to make system of RIA work in negotiations
- Without RIA it will not be possible to implement the *acquis* efficiently