



Press release

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Page 1 of 1

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“Bureaucracy reduction and business-friendly regulation are levers to overcome the crisis” – Federal Minister Altmaier opens Conference on Better Regulation

The Conference on Better Regulation is taking place today as an online event in the context of Germany’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, said: “A business-friendly regulatory framework is a decisive lever to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and to boost competitiveness and growth. Complicated legislation is often challenging, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises. We therefore need to continue to cut red tape and create an efficient, innovation-friendly and future-proof regulatory framework, also at EU level.”

Better regulation and bureaucracy reduction are important priorities of the German Presidency of the Council of the EU. The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) aims to implement the ‘one in, one out’ rule at EU level in an efficient way in order to keep the burden related to compliance with bureaucratic rules as small as possible. In addition, new possibilities are planned for the trialling of innovations – for example in the field of artificial intelligence – in the context of regulatory sandboxes without the need for lengthy legislative amendments. Furthermore, the Economic Affairs Ministry calls for a better assessment of the impact of proposals for legislation on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), also at EU level, by means of the consistent use of ‘SME tests’.

Following the opening of the event by Peter Altmaier, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, a keynote speech will be given by Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the European Commission, which not least will present the Commission’s thoughts on the Better Regulation Communication, which is expected for the end of November, and there will also be a speech by Dr Johannes Ludewig, Chair of RegWatchEurope and Chairman of the National Regulatory Control Council (NKR). Following this, experts will discuss the future development of regulatory scrutiny and the improvement of SME tests.