

Foreword

The OECD Review of Better Regulation in Ireland is one of a series of country reports launched by the OECD in partnership with the European Commission. The objective is to assess regulatory management capacities in the 15 original member states of the European Union (EU), including trends in their development, and to identify gaps in relation to good practice as defined by the OECD and the EU in their guidelines and policies for Better Regulation.

Ireland is part of the third group of countries to be reviewed – the other two are Austria and Luxembourg. The first group of Denmark, the Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom were released in May 2009, the second group of Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Spain and Sweden in mid-2010.

The project is also an opportunity to discuss the follow-up to the OECD's multidisciplinary reviews, for those countries which were part of this process, (Austria, Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal were not covered by these previous reviews) and to find out what has happened in respect of the recommendations made at the time. The multidisciplinary review of Ireland was published in 2001 [OECD (2001), *OECD Regulatory Reform: Regulatory Reform in Ireland*, OECD, Paris].

The completed reviews will form the basis for a synthesis report, which will also take into account the experiences of other OECD countries. This will be an opportunity to put the results of the reviews in a broader international perspective, and to flesh out prospects for the next ten years of regulatory reform.



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