



"Think small first" principle and SME test

June 2019

Better regulation



Think Small First principle

- Taking the interests of SMEs into account when designing and evaluating policies
- Lighter regimes for SMEs and exemptions for micro-businesses to be envisaged
- Single Digital Gateway

SME-friendly legislation

- Impact assessment: SME test
- Regular evaluation: Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT)

Stakeholder consultation and outreach

- 'Lighten the load, have your say' – e-form
- Refit Platform advisory group
- Enterprise Europe Network
- SME Envoys
- SME Assembly
- Meetings with SME organisations



SME test - key features

Mandatory component of every impact assessment analysis since 2009

Stakeholder **consultation** –
– a strength of EU SME test

Proportionality - scope of analysis should be proportionate to the expected impact on SMEs

Scale-up-ready

Developments

SME test – first introduced in the EC's impact assessment guidelines in 2009

Strengthened in the Better Regulation Agenda in 2015

Revised in 2017

Main 2017 changes:

1. reviewing the effect on the potential scaling-up of companies (incl. the use of thresholds)
2. main features of the SME definition and their use are better explained

SME Test – mandatory component of impact assessment analysis

1. Identification of affected businesses

2. Consultation that captures the SMEs angle

3. Measurement of the impact on SMEs

4. Assessment of alternative options and mitigating measures

Stakeholder consultation –
– a strength of the EU SME test

European SME associations

National SME associations

Enterprise Europe Network

SME panels

SME feedback

Enterprises

Citizens