

A large concrete bridge spans across a body of water. The sun is positioned low in the sky, creating a bright lens flare that illuminates the bridge's structure. The water reflects the sunlight, creating a shimmering effect. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light clouds. The bridge has several thick, rectangular concrete pillars supporting it. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Annual Report

2015

Regel|rådet



Regelrådet

Annual Report **2015**

Contents

Foreword	3
Summary	4
Introduction	6
Annual Report 2015	
1 The SBRC's activities	8
2 The Review in Figures	16
3 Follow-up	22
4 Conclusions and direction of future work	26
Tables annex	28

Foreword

The activities of the Swedish Better Regulation Council (SBRC) during the year are summarised in this Annual Report for 2015. Overall I would like to say that 2015 featured both continuity and change.

Following a six-year period in the form of a committee of inquiry, from 1 January 2015 the SBRC has been given permanent status as a separate body within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. This permanent status creates opportunities for strengthening continuity and increases opportunities for drawing on past experiences. Even though the SBRC's task has been streamlined, it will continue to focus on what has always been its core business: reviewing impact assessments (IAs) of proposed new and modified rules which may have significant impacts on businesses.

International cooperation is important for developing and exchanging ideas for the SBRC's review activities. During the year, this international cooperation continued, and it can be concluded that interest in the SBRC from other countries is great and that this mutual exchange is valuable to the future work of the SBRC.

However, there were also elements of change. The SBRC's activities have been narrowed down to the review of the quality of impact assessments. Work continued during the year to make the opinions of the SBRC even clearer so that they can provide support for regulators in the development of their IAs.

I am positive about the SBRC's new organisational domicile, which has created the conditions for easy dialogue and exchange of experience between the SBRC and the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. In this connection, I would also like to highly praise the staff of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, who enable the work of the SBRC. For you, 2015 has entailed major changes and challenges, which you handled in an exemplary manner, delivering work of high quality to the SBRC.

Additional changes have been that three of the SBRC's members were replaced as of 1 January 2016 and I would therefore like to thank these outgoing members (Lennart Palm, Eleonor Kristoffersson and Leif Melin) for their efforts and also warmly welcome the SBRC's three new members, Yvonne von Friedrichs, Claes Norberg (previously a substitute member), and Lennart Renbjer. Samuel Engblom, who became a new member in 2015, remains a member of the SBRC. I would also like to thank the outgoing substitutes and welcome the new substitutes.

The journey to improve the quality of IAs continues. I look forward to the work of the SBRC during 2016 and hope that 2016 will be the year when we are able to see more than half of the IAs reviewed deemed as meeting the requirements.



Pernilla Lundqvist
Chair

Summary

This report describes the activities of the SBRC in 2015. The year featured the continued review of IAs of proposed statutes that could have significant impacts on businesses. The conditions for the SBRC's work during the year are new in part, since it is now a decision-making body accountable for its own decisions within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, and from 1 January 2015 its secretariat function has been provided by personnel within that Agency. The SBRC's remit now has a narrower focus on reviewing the quality of IAs. In 2015, the SBRC's participation in international partnerships continued along the same lines as previously: exchanging experience and knowledge that can improve the review process and contribute to better regulation in general.

Looking over the results of the SBRC's review of IAs during the year shows in general that there has been no significant improvement in the compliance of IAs with the requirements laid down in Sections 6 and 7 of the Ordinance on Regulatory Impact Assessment (Swedish Code of Statutes/SFS 2007:1244). Less than half the IAs reviewed by the SBRC meet the requirements. In general, submissions from administrative authorities concerning new or amended regulations show greater compliance with the Ordinance's requirements than proposals submitted by the Government Offices of Sweden. However, it should be noted that submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden have improved somewhat compared with the previous year.

Follow-up of how the regulators perceive the SBRC's opinions has shown that in general they are perceived as clear. Some comments received called for more space to be given in the opinions to the SBRC's own analysis and evaluations. Comments were also received concerning the importance of taking into account the scope of the proposed statute when the SBRC determines what requirements ought to be imposed on the IA.

These and other comments form the basis of the SBRC's ongoing discussions on matters of principle about how IAs are to be evaluated. A survey of industry organisations showed that in general respondents had a good knowledge of the SBRC. Other views expressed included the importance of good analyses of alternative solutions for achieving the aims of the proposed statute, and of seeking comments and knowledge from those affected by it. The results of the survey will provide inputs to the future work of the SBRC.

In view of the fact that the SBRC's review shows that the quality of IAs has not significantly improved, the SBRC also presents its view here on a suitable direction for the future work with IAs. The SBRC recommends continuing training activities and other support efforts in order to improve the knowledge base for producing good-quality IAs. In this context, the SBRC would like to emphasise the importance of receiving better analyses of the impact of the proposed statute on costs and competitiveness for businesses. The Swedish Government has identified these aspects in particular as priorities, and they are in general of great importance to businesses. However, it also is clear from the year's review that these aspects in particular are rarely analysed in a way that complies well with the requirements of the Ordinance on Regulatory Impact Assessment (SFS 2007:1244). The SBRC would also like to urge the Swedish Government to improve the guidance provided to the committees of inquiry and other official inquiries in order to achieve better IAs. Finally, the SBRC wishes to emphasise that other measures should also be considered in addition to those listed above in order to improve the quality of IAs.



Regelrådet

Annual Report **2015**

Introduction

The SBRC's Remit

The SBRC's remit is to review and deliver its opinion on the quality of IAs of proposed statutes which could have significant impacts on businesses. On request, the SBRC also reviews IAs prepared at the EU level. The SBRC's remit and activities are described in more detail in Chapter 1, The SBRC's activities.

The SBRC's composition and organisation

Since 1 January 2015, the SBRC has been a separate decision-making body within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, whose members are appointed by the Swedish Government.

The SBRC had the following composition in 2015:

Pernilla Lundqvist, Chair, Lennart Palm, Vice Chair, Leif Melin, Eleonor Kristoffersson and Samuel Engblom, Members. Substitutes: Clas Norberg, Jeanette Bohman, Ebba Sjögren, Håkan Boter, Sofie Rehnström and Marie-Louise Strömgren.

The SBRC held 22 meetings in 2015.

Additional information about the SBRC can be found on the website www.regelradet.se

Outline of the Annual Report

This report is an account of the activities of the SBRC in 2015, its first year as a separate decision-making body within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. The first chapter of the report provides a picture of the SBRC's activities, including a description of the SBRC's current remit and how this has changed over time, the SBRC's review and its international activities, and finally its communications efforts.

The second chapter reports on the results of the SBRC's review task in 2015. It describes how the SBRC has assessed the quality of the IAs that it has reviewed during the year. The results are reported per regulator (Government Offices of Sweden and government agencies) and based on the applicable jurisdiction (national, EU law, international agreement). How the SBRC has evaluated the quality of the IAs based on each of the points set out in Sections 6 and 7 of SFS 2007:1244 is also reported.

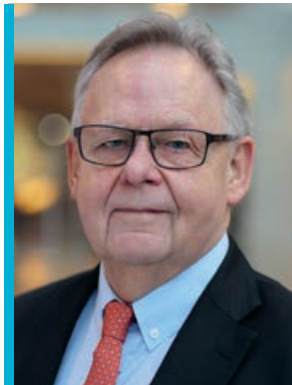
The third chapter reports on follow-ups of how regulators and other affected organisations perceive the opinions of the SBRC. Finally, the fourth chapter provides the conclusions that the SBRC has drawn based on the year's activities and follow-up, as well as an account of the SBRC's views on the direction its future work ought to have in order to improve the quality of IAs.



Pernilla Lundqvist | *Chair*



Lennart Palm | *Deputy Chair*



Leif Melin | *Member*



Eleonor Kristoffersson | *Member*



Samuel Engblom | *Member*



Christina Fors
Head of unit until August 2015



Christian Pousette
Head of unit from September 2015

The SBRC's activities

1.1. The SBRC's Remit

The SBRC's current remit

Since 1 January 2015, the SBRC has been made permanent and organised as a separate decision-making body within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. The SBRC's tasks and composition are regulated in Sections 17-19 of the Ordinance (SFS 2009:145) with instructions for the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

In its capacity as a separate decision-making body, the SBRC is accountable for its own decisions. The members of the SBRC are appointed by the Swedish Government and consist of a Chair and Vice-Chair and three other Members. Each Member of the SBRC has two personal substitutes. Since 1 January 2015, the staff who comprised the SBRC's secretariat until 31 December 2014 have been part of the Better Regulation unit of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. Their work aims to provide support to the SBRC by preparing cases for meetings and carrying out other tasks within the framework of the SBRC's remit.

The SBRC reviews and delivers its opinion on the quality of IAs of proposed statutes which are deemed to have significant impacts on businesses. If a proposer deems that a proposed statute could have such impacts, the proposed statute with its associated IA is to be submitted to the SBRC. Like submission responses in general, the SBRC's opinion constitutes one of the inputs to the decision on the proposed statute.

The SBRC is also tasked with assisting regulators, if they so request, in reviewing the IAs of proposals from the EU that are anticipated to have a major impact on businesses in Sweden, and to provide advice on what a supplementary Swedish IA ought to contain. The SBRC is to make its opinions available on a website and is required to submit an annual, written report to the Swedish Government.

History

The SBRC was set up in 2008 as part of the Swedish Government's work with better regulation for busi-

nesses. From the time the SBRC was set up until 31 December 2014, the SBRC was a state committee of inquiry.

In 2009, there was a major focus on administrative costs for businesses. The SBRC's terms of reference emphasised the goal of the Swedish Government of the time – that administrative costs would be reduced by 25 per cent in four years and result in a tangible improvement in the daily operations of businesses.

When the SBRC was formed, there were similar bodies in Europe, such as *Adviescollege Toetsing Administratieve Lasten* (Actal) the Dutch Advisory Board on Regulatory Burden, and *Normenkontrollrat* (NKR) in Germany. The European Commission (EC) had also set up an advisory body in the form of an impact assessment board (IAB).

The SBRC's remit during the period 2009–2014

As a committee of inquiry, the SBRC delivered opinions on two counts. The first concerned administrative costs and whether the proposer had described and calculated these adequately. The SBRC evaluated whether new or amended statutes were formulated in such a way that they achieved their purpose in a simple way, and at a relatively low administrative cost to businesses. The SBRC's assessment in this respect could lead to an approval of or an objection to the proposed statute.

The second concerned whether the proposer had adequately described the impact of the proposed statute in accordance with Sections 6 and 7 of SFS 2007:1244 in the IA. This could lead to the IA being deemed acceptable or deficient. An approval of a proposed statute was not necessarily accompanied by an acceptable IA. Instead, the IA could be deemed acceptable or deficient in cases when the proposed statute was approved. Where an objection was raised concerning the proposed statute, in most instances the IA was deemed deficient.

The SBRC's work during the period 2009–2014 has been reported on in more detail in the SBRC's combined Final Report 2009-2014 and Annual Report for 2014.



Year	2003	2004	2005
Up			
Down			
Down			



Annual Report 2015

The SBRC's remit today compared with previously

Review

The SBRC's remit has been streamlined to reviewing and delivering opinions on the quality of IAs. Since 1 January 2015, the SBRC's opinions have had a new format. This is partly a consequence of its changed remit but also part of the SBRC's ongoing efforts to provide as clear and detailed opinions as possible.

Since 1 January 2015, the opinions of the SBRC do not contain an approval of or objection to the proposed statute. The SBRC's review of administrative costs is part of its overall review of the quality of the IA, and is included in the overall feedback provided on each IA.

Additional tasks

During its time as a committee of enquiry, the SBRC's tasks were regulated in its Terms of Reference. During this period, the SBRC had a number of other tasks which are no longer part of its current remit. For example, one task was to provide support to regulators, and committees of inquiry in particular. This was done by the SBRC's secretariat. Since 1 January 2015, the SBRC's supportive activities for regulators are being carried out by the staff of the Better Regulation unit of the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

Organisation

As a separate decision-making body, the SBRC is accountable for its decisions. The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth is responsible for providing support in the form of staff and other resources that the SBRC needs in order to carry out its tasks. As mentioned above, the secretariat staff are now employed by the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth and work within the Better Regulation unit.

1.2. The SBRC's Review Task

Statutes and guidelines

The SBRC delivers, within a time frame of a minimum of two weeks, opinions on IAs which have been prepared in accordance with i.a. Sections 6 and 7 of the Ordinance on Regulatory Impact Assessment (SFS 2007:1244).

How a case is processed

When a submission is received by the SBRC, the case officer responsible makes an initial assessment of whether or not the case warrants an opinion or a secretariat response. An opinion is delivered if the case is assessed as having significant impacts for businesses.

When a case is assessed as not having impacts of such significance for businesses that it warrants an opinion from the SBRC, a secretariat response is provided. This determination is made by the case officer in consultation with the head of unit and the SBRC Chair. A secretariat response is in the form of a brief letter stating that the SBRC will not deliver an opinion on the submission and the reasons for this.

Secretariat responses

A case may provoke a secretariat response for a variety of reasons which are described below.

Time constraints

The SBRC is entitled to a minimum consultation period of two weeks. When cases are received by the SBRC with a shorter consultation period than this, an extension of the consultation period is requested. If the proposer is not able to accommodate this request, the case is likely to provoke a secretariat response due to time constraints.

Outside the SBRC's remit

Other submissions that provoke a secretariat response are those submissions that do not include a Swedish statute text – either because the regulator has not submitted a proposed statute at all, or because it concerns a proposal for rules under EU law. While the SBRC can review IAs of draft rules under EU law, it does so only if the responsible Swedish regulator has particularly requested the SBRC's opinion.

Another reason for a secretariat response is that the proposer has consulted with the Swedish National Financial Management Authority in accordance with Section 7 of the *avgiftsförordningen* (Fees and Charges Ordinance, Swedish Code of Statutes/SFS 1992:191). Under Section 2 (2) of SFS 2007:1244, it does not apply to regulations governing fees and charges which are covered by this joint consultation obligation. This means that the SBRC refrains from delivering an opinion in these cases.

Resource constraints

In the case of unusually high workloads, the SBRC can provide a secretariat response instead of an opinion. Secretariat responses for this reason are not common. If this kind of resource shortage arises, the SBRC endeavours anyway to deliver its opinion on IAs for proposals that have what appear to be the greatest impacts on businesses.

Opinions

Case officers review proposals and their IAs and draft opinions when deemed appropriate. As in previous years, case officers continued to contact business and industry organisations in 2015 when handling cases where uncertainties existed. The purpose of such contact is to provide the case officer with a broader perspective and a greater understanding of the impact of the proposal on the affected businesses.

The SBRC makes decisions on cases following presentations by case officers at fortnightly meetings. The SBRC does not convene over the summer period and over Christmas. The SBRC has a quorum when the Chair or Deputy Chair and at least two additional Members are present.

The development of the SBRC's review

The SBRC's goal is that it should be easy for the regulator to understand any shortcomings that have been identified in the IA and how these could be remedied in order to achieve better substantiated decision material in the subsequent handling of the proposal. The SBRC works continuously on making its opinions as clear and detailed as possible.

The outline of the SBRC's opinions changed during 2015 to include more headings that align with Sections 6 and 7 of SFS 2007:1244. A more detailed description of the aspects that are assessed is provided in Chapter 2.2.

IAs are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Consequently, a comparison of how a particular aspect has been assessed by the SBRC in one case may differ from how the same aspect has been assessed in another case. This is because a particular aspect in one case may require a detailed analysis, while in another it may not require the same level of detail. This follows from the different nature of proposals, and is in line with the Ordinance, which stipulates that the costs and other consequences are to be assessed as required by the individual case.



The SBRC discusses matters of principle on an ongoing basis. This is done at the SBRC's regular meetings when relevant and appropriate, as well as at meetings dedicated to discussions of principles of a more overarching nature. Discussions of principles took place on two occasions in 2015.

The SBRC aims to help improve the quality of IAs by giving clear feedback in its opinions. Work to develop its opinions will therefore continue in 2016 and beyond. Comments received from regulators in the SBRC's follow-up of the new format of its opinions provide inputs to this work. Follow-up is reported in detail in Chapter 3.

The SBRC's review of IAs from the EU

Upon request by regulators, the SBRC also reviews IAs of proposals from the EU that are anticipated to have a major impact on businesses in Sweden, and provides advice on what a supplementary Swedish IA ought to contain. Through its knowledge and experience of reviewing IAs from a business perspective, the SBRC can provide support to the Government Offices of Sweden whenever new legislation from the EU is proposed. As in Sweden, legislation for the EU that the European Commission proposes to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union must be accompanied by an IA describing the impacts of the proposed legislation on businesses.

The involvement of the SBRC at an early stage of the process provides an opportunity to propose improvements in the IA, which can strengthen Sweden's position when negotiating the final form of the legislation. The SBRC's goal is to make it easier for policy-makers to understand the impacts that the proposal could have on businesses that are active in Sweden at a time when the chances of submitting substantial comments from Sweden are greatest. The SBRC views this task as vitally important, since a large proportion of the rules that Swedish businesses must comply with in various ways have their origins in EU law.

The SBRC's review of IAs from the EU is similar in many respects to its review of IAs prepared by Swedish regulators. No determination is made as to whether the IA complies with the requirements on Swedish IAs under Sections 6 and 7 of SFS 2007:1244.

The SBRC did not review any IAs from the EU in 2015. The new EC, which took office in autumn 2014, has used its initial period to determine its policy direction, launch a new Better Regulation Agenda,

and draft new legislative initiatives. It was only in the second half of 2015 that proposed regulations with their accompanying IAs from the EC were presented to the European Parliament and the European Council. During the autumn, the SBRC monitored communications from the EC on planned and future initiatives. A number of these are assessed as having great impacts on businesses in Sweden. It is the SBRC's ambition to be proactive in emphasising how the SBRC can contribute to the legislative process in the EU. On request from the Government Offices of Sweden, the SBRC will continue to review IAs from the EU from spring 2016 and beyond.

1.3. International Cooperation

Cooperation at EU level

In 2015, the SBRC remained active at the international level with other European review bodies within the RegWatchEurope network, and on its own. RegWatchEurope is an informal network of review bodies from the Netherlands (Actal), the UK (RPC), Germany (NKR) and the Czech Republic (RIAB) and includes the SBRC. The organisations in the network have different mandates but they are all independent bodies that in various ways monitor and review regulations affecting businesses. The members of RegWatchEurope have regular contact to discuss issues and ideas related to better regulation, exchange experiences from their review activities, and communicate joint standpoints to the institutions of the EU.

The single biggest event on the international scene related to better regulation that affected the SBRC's international activities in 2015 was the EC's presentation of its Better Regulation Agenda¹. It was launched on 19 May 2015 and included proposals and initiatives with the purpose of:

- More transparency
- More consultation
- Keeping existing laws under review
- Better IAs
- Better quality control of IAs
- A new inter-institutional agreement (IIA) between the EC, the SBRC of the European Union and the European Parliament.

¹ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4988_en.htm



The SBRC and RegWatchEurope saw it as a priority to express their views on the content of the EC's Better Regulation Agenda before the launch. To this end, a meeting was held in Brussels in February at which the Chairs of each of the review bodies within RegWatchEurope met with the First Vice-President of the EC, Frans Timmermans, and his cabinet².

A few weeks after the EC launched its Better Regulation Agenda, the members of RegWatchEurope took part in a seminar organised by Eurochambres in Brussels. The seminar had the theme "Lightening the load: National experiences and best practices for a new EU better law-making agreement". At the seminar, which gathered some 100 participants, the EC's Better Regulation Agenda and priorities in future work for better regulation within the EU were presented and discussed. The discussion focused mainly on proposals put forward by the EC for an IIA on better regulation between the EC, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament, and on the issue of independent review of IAs.

During the summer, RegWatchEurope also submitted its views on the EC's Better Regulation Agenda in a letter to Frans Timmermans. In the letter, a mainly positive view of the proposed package was communicated, since the EC's ambitions on many points are in line with what RegWatchEurope considers to be a priority. However, the letter also communicated that the package is only one part of an ongoing move towards better and more effective EU regulations.

In October, the SBRC attended NKR's full day symposium, *Effectively Limiting Consequential Costs of Laws*, in Berlin. The symposium included a panel discussion on how transparency concerning costs emanating from EU regulations could be improved. The symposium was well attended by representatives from Germany and other European countries, and provided valuable information about how efforts to clarify the cost impact of regulations from the EU can be developed and improved.

Delegations and visits

In addition to its participation in activities through RegWatchEurope, many enquiries concerning the SBRC's activities were received, and delegations from Romania, South Korea and Norway visited the SBRC during 2015. Questions regarding the SBRC's organisation and activities were also received from Finland and Estonia.

1.4. Communications

Information and visitors to the website

The SBRC has a website, www.regelradet.se, where all the SBRC's opinions and secretariat responses are published along with their associated proposals. The website also contains news, information about meetings and other events that the SBRC participates in, the SBRC's collection of examples, specific information for government agencies, committees of inquiry and ministries, and the regulatory framework governing the SBRC's activities.

In 2015, the website had 16,769 visitors with an average visit time of 4 minutes. The most visited part of the website is that containing the SBRC's opinions and secretariat responses.

The SBRC's website is also available in English. The English website had 931 visitors in 2015 from a total of 77 countries. This compares with 572 visits from 68 countries in 2014.

The Newsletter *Regelrätt*

The SBRC launched its newsletter *Regelrätt* in 2011. In the period 2011–2015, the number of subscribers increased from 400 to 900. Subscribers generally work at government ministries, government agencies or business organisations, in the media and in the *Riksdag* (the Swedish Parliament). The newsletter includes brief summaries of the SBRC's opinions, and also get current information about events that the SBRC will be participating in. The newsletter also usually contains an interview with a person active in the area of better regulation or IAs.

² Direct responsibility for better regulation matters in the EC lies with the EC's First Vice-President.



The Review in Figures

2.1. The Review in General

Government ministries and government agencies that issue regulations are required to submit all proposed statutes that could have an impact on businesses' working conditions, competitiveness or conditions in general, along with their associated IAs, to the SBRC. Over the course of the year the SBRC processed 375 submissions. Of these, the SBRC delivered an opinion on 198 IAs and provided secretariat responses in the remaining 177 cases.

The majority of the submissions came from government agencies and concerned proposals for new or amended regulations. Submissions emanating from government ministries may have been prepared within the ministries, such as ministerial memoranda, but they may also have been produced outside the ministries such as official government reports and government agency reports.

Table 1 shows the total number of cases that have been submitted to the SBRC, by type of case.

Table 1

	Official Government Reports		Ministerial memoranda		Other Government Offices of Sweden*		Proposals for government agency regulations		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
Total submissions	53	43	23	14	75	87	224	299	375	443
Opinions	41	30	11	7	38	37	108	103	198	177
Secretariat responses	12	13	12	7	37	50	116	196	177	266

* The Other Government Offices of Sweden category in this table contains all submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden that were not official government reports or ministerial memoranda, thus also government agency reports referred from government ministries. In the SBRC's Annual Report for 2014, this category was divided into a number of subcategories. The figures for 2014 in the Other Government Offices of Sweden category is a summation of what was reported in previous annual reports as draft government bills, memoranda from the Government Offices etc. Table 2 in chapter 2.2 lists government agency reports referred from the Government Offices of Sweden reported as a separate category.

2.2. Opinions

From 2015, the SBRC only delivers opinions on the quality of IAs. Its evaluation process is based on the requirements stipulated in Sections 6 and 7 of the Ordinance SFS 2007:1244. The SBRC evaluates each point, resulting in an overall determination on whether the IA as a whole complies with the Ordinance's requirements.

Of the 198 IAs on which the SBRC delivered an opinion in 2015, 71 were assessed as acceptable overall, while 127 were assessed as not meeting the requirements. This corresponds to 36 per cent of IAs that met the Ordinance's requirements in 2015, which is the same proportion as in the previous year.

Government ministries

As shown in Table 2 on the next page, the SBRC delivered an opinion on 90 submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden. Of these, only 18 IAs were evaluated as being of sufficient quality. This corresponds to 20 per cent, which is a slightly better result than for 2014 (19 per cent).

Table 2

The SBRC's opinions on submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden, by Ministry and type of proposal.

Regulator	Meets the requirements	Official Government Reports	Ministerial memoranda	Government agency reports	Other Government Offices of Sweden	Total
Government Offices of Sweden Total	Yes	11	2	2	3	18
	No	30	9	8	25	72
Ministry of Employment	Yes	0	1	0	0	1
	No	1	0	0	0	1
Ministry of Finance	Yes	8	0	0	1	9
	No	8	1	2	15	26
Ministry of Justice	Yes	2	0	0	0	2
	No	6	4	0	1	11
Ministry of Culture	Yes	0	1	0	0	1
	No	1	0	1	0	2
Ministry of the Environment and Energy	Yes	0	0	1	0	1
	No	2	0	1	5	8
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	Yes	1	0	1	1	3
	No	3	3	2	4	12
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
	No	5	0	2	0	7
Ministry of Education and Research	Yes	0	0	0	1	1
	No	3	1	0	0	4
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
	No	1	0	0	0	1

Table 2 shows the results by Ministry and type of proposal. The four categories of proposals are official government reports, ministerial memoranda, government agency reports subsequently referred by a Ministry, and the Other Government Offices of Sweden category, which largely consists of memoranda produced internally within the Government Offices of Sweden. Looking at the results based on the type of proposal, it is clear that the largest number of proposals with IAs deemed acceptable by the SBRC were found among official government reports, 11 out of 41 proposals (27 per cent). As can be seen from Table 2, this applied in particular to official government reports referred from the Ministry of Finance. Concerning the category Other Government Offices of Sweden, it can be noted that 3 out of 25 proposals were deemed to have IAs that met the Ordinance's requirements (12 per cent).

The SBRC evaluates whether the IA meets the Ordinance's requirements in respect of the following: description of the proposal's purpose; alternative solutions to achieve its purpose; impacts if no regulation occurs; the proposal's compliance with EU law; special considerations relating to the date of entry into force; the need for special communication efforts; affected businesses in terms of number, size and industry; impact on administrative costs and other costs; impact on businesses' activities; impact on competition conditions for businesses; impact on businesses in other respects; specific consideration for small businesses in the design of the regulation; and, based on the aforementioned aspects, an evaluation of whether the IA as a whole meets the requirements. Table 3 below shows the SBRC's opinions on submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden, by evaluated aspects and the IA as a whole. It is worth noting that the format of the SBRC's opinions has been subject to successive changes during the year, until the format applied since autumn 2015 was settled on. This means that the evaluation of those aspects shown in Tables 3 and 5 in this chapter in some respects are more detailed than that given in the SBRC's opinions during the first part of 2015. This applies in particular to the SBRC's evaluations of the reporting of affected businesses in terms of number, size and industry. In the first part of 2015, the SBRC evaluated the reporting of the number, size and industry of affected businesses in the IAs as a single aspect, while during the latter part of 2015, the SBRC evaluated the reporting of each aspect separately. For this reason, the results for the affected businesses aspect in the SBRC's opinions are not comparable

throughout the year. In the tables set out in this Report, the SBRC has dealt with this as follows. Where a determination was made in older opinions that the reporting of affected businesses as a single aspect met the Ordinance's requirements, this has been equated with a determination that the reporting of affected businesses in terms of number, size and industry separately met the Ordinance's requirements. Conversely, in cases where a determination was made in older opinions that the reporting of affected businesses as a whole did not meet the Ordinance's requirements, this has been equated with a determination that the reporting of affected businesses in terms of number, size and industry separately did not meet the Ordinance's requirements. Hence, there may be examples of older opinions where affected businesses have been reported in an acceptable manner only in part, and will therefore appear deficient as a whole in the tables, and vice versa. All in all, while this may have an impact on the results for these three specific aspects, it does not affect the overall determination made by the SBRC in respect of the opinions as a whole.

Table 3

The SBRC's opinions on submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden, by evaluated aspects and the IA as a whole.

Meets the requirements	Yes	No	Percentage Yes
Purpose	87	2	98
Alternative solutions	53	37	59
Impacts if regulation not passed	54	35	61
Compliance with EU law	64	26	71
Date of effect	62	28	69
Need for special communications efforts	32	57	36
Number of businesses	35	55	39
Business size	25	65	28
Industry of businesses	44	46	49
Administrative costs	17	73	19
Other costs	29	61	32
Businesses' activities	11	37	23
Competition conditions	27	62	30
Other aspects	50	39	56
Special consideration for small businesses	24	66	27
Impact assessment as a whole	18	72	20

As can be seen in Table 3, there are variations in the quality of IAs in relation to different aspects. The SBRC has found that the descriptions of the proposal's purpose; alternative solutions to achieve this purpose; impacts if no regulation occurs; the proposal's compliance with EU law; special considerations relating to the date of entry into force; and the proposal's impact on businesses in other respects have met the Ordinance's requirements in the majority of the referred IAs. Equally, it is clear that other aspects were evaluated as meeting the requirements to a lesser extent, for example, the descriptions of which businesses are affected by the proposals. However, as mentioned above, the data on the evaluation of different aspects of the description of affected businesses must be interpreted with some caution. Reporting of the proposals' impacts on businesses' costs, competition conditions and special consideration for small businesses in general did not meet the Ordinance's requirements.

Government agencies

Table 4

The SBRC opinions on submissions from administrative authorities 2015, by authority

Regulator	Meets the requirements	Does not meet the requirements
Administrative authorities, total	53	55
The Swedish Work Environment Authority	7	0
The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building, and Planning	1	3
The Swedish National Electrical Safety Board	1	3
The Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate	3	1
The Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority	4	6
Public Health Agency of Sweden	1	0
The Swedish Social Insurance Agency	0	1
The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	1	4
The Swedish Chemicals Agency	0	3
The National Food Agency	1	3
Västra Götaland County Administrative Board*	1	0
Swedish Gambling Authority	0	1
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency**	1	1
The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	0	1
The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority	3	1
The Swedish National Heritage Board	0	1
The Swedish National Debt Office	0	1
The Swedish Maritime Administration	0	2
The Swedish Tax Agency	1	1
The Swedish Forestry Agency	1	2
The Swedish National Agency for Education	0	1
The National Board of Health and Welfare	1	3
The Swedish Energy Agency	0	2
The Swedish Board of Agriculture	11	3
Statistics Sweden	4	1
Geological Survey of Sweden	0	1
Swedac	2	0
Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency***	1	0
Transport Analysis	1	0
The Swedish Transport Agency	6	8
Swedish Customs	1	1

* Västra Götaland County Administrative Board It should obviously be noted in this particular case that a number of county administrative boards had sent the identical submissions, but these had been recorded as part of the same case as the submission from the Västra Götaland County Administrative Board in the SBRC's official register (since the submissions were identical).

** Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency:
The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

*** Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency:
The Swedish Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency

Concerning administrative authorities, as shown in Table 4, 53 out of 108 IAs (49 per cent) were evaluated as meeting the requirements in the Ordinance overall. This is a marginal improvement on 2014, up from 48 per cent. The Swedish Work Environment Authority stands out in that all 7 referred IAs met the requirements. The Swedish Post and Telecom Agency supplemented and re-submitted its IA, which initially had major shortcomings but was eventually evaluated as meeting the requirements. The Swedish Board of Agriculture also showed relatively good results with 11 out of 14 IAs meeting the requirements overall. Table 5 shows the SBRC's opinions on all submissions from administrative authorities distributed by the same headings as in Table 3, and for the IAs as a whole.

Table 5

The SBRC's opinions on submissions from the administrative authorities, by evaluated aspects and the IA as a whole.

Meets the requirements	Yes	No	Percentage Yes
Purpose	105	3	97
Alternative solutions	91	17	84
Impacts if no regulation occurs	96	12	89
Compliance with EU law	96	12	89
Date of effect	91	17	84
Need for special communications efforts	95	13	88
Number of businesses	75	33	69
Business size	58	50	54
Industry of businesses	89	19	82
Administrative costs	56	52	52
Other costs	59	47	56
Businesses' activities	30	24	56
Competition conditions	68	40	63
Other aspects	76	29	72
Special consideration for small businesses	64	43	60
Impact assessment as a whole	53	55	49

As in IAs submitted by the Government Offices of Sweden, the SBRC found differences in the quality of the assessment of different aspects in IAs submitted by government agencies, as is shown in Table 5³. In these cases too, in general the descriptions of the proposal's purpose, alternative solutions and impacts if no regulation occurs and compliance with EU law were of good quality. In respect of submissions from government agencies, the descriptions of the need for communications efforts in particular often met the Ordinance's requirements. However, the government agencies' descriptions of the impact on businesses' costs and competition conditions meet the Ordinance's requirements in fewer cases.

³ The same reservations as mentioned in connection with Table 3 concerning the reporting of evaluations of more detailed aspects in the description of affected businesses also apply to Table 5.

Background of Proposals

Table 6

The SBRC's opinions on submissions 2015, by origin of the submissions

Regulator	Meets the requirements	National regulation	EU law	International agreement	Total
Government Offices of Sweden	Yes	13	5	0	18
	No	46	24	2	72
Government agencies	Yes	23	25	5	53
	No	28	27	0	55
Total	Yes	36	30	5	71
	No	74	51	2	127

Table 7

Percentage that meet the requirements, by origin

Background	National regulation	EU law	International agreement
Percentage Yes	33	37	71

The submissions received by the SBRC can be categorised on the basis of three different origins: EU law background, international agreement or entirely national regulation. When a proposal can be categorised by more than one of these, the principle origin determines how a proposal is categorised. The SBRC's view is that the impacts of EU directives and international agreements that are transposed in Swedish law are to be fully assessed and are to be equated with fully national regulation. The impact of national provisions arising out of EU regulations where there is scope for action, for example through the possibility of national derogations from the requirements of the Regulation, also needs to be assessed insofar as EU Regulations are not directly applicable. In such cases, the regulator must show in their IA if there is scope for national action and the impacts this would have if utilised.

The results of the review distributed by origin are shown in Tables 6 and 7. These tables show that 36 of the submissions originating in national regulation had IAs that met the Ordinance's requirements (around 33 per cent). 30 of the submissions originating in EU law had IAs that met the Ordinance's requirements (37 per cent). Finally, five submissions originating in an international agreement had an IA that met the Ordinance's requirements (71 per cent).

These results can be compared with the results for the years 2012–2014, when 38 per cent of the proposals with a national origin, 39 per cent of submissions originating from the EU, and 32 per cent of the proposals emanating from international agreements had IAs that met the Ordinance's requirements.

2.3. Secretariat responses

177 of the referred 375 IAs received secretariat responses. The great majority of these (133) were evaluated by the SBRC as not having such significant impacts on businesses that the SBRC should deliver an opinion. A total of 23 of the submissions were deemed not to be covered by the SBRC's review task because, for example, a Swedish statute text was lacking or because the submission referred to regulations covered by the requirement in the Fees and Charges Ordinance (SFS 1992:191) for consultation with the Swedish National Financial Management Authority. On 9 occasions, the SBRC was not given enough time to review the submission and on 12 occasions, the submission received a secretariat response due to a lack of resources in the Council at the time.

3.1. Format of the opinions – survey of government agencies and ministries

Purpose of the follow-up

The SBRC's opinions are first and foremost addressed to their recipients: the government agencies and ministries (regulators) that refer proposals and IAs to the SBRC. The purpose of the SBRC's opinions is to improve the quality of IAs, and consequently the opinions and views of their recipients are of great importance. During 2015, the format and layout of the SBRC's opinions changed. In autumn 2015, a survey was conducted of what the recipients thought of the new format of the SBRC's opinions.

Overall results from the survey

The survey went out to regulators that had received at least one opinion from the SBRC during the period April to June 2015. Of a total of 59 recipients, 28 responded to the survey⁴, which is a response rate of 48 per cent.

Based on the responses to the questions in the survey, the following can be noted: An overwhelming majority, 26 out of 28, were of the view that the opinions clarified the basis for the SBRC's evaluation. According to 23 of the 28 respondents, it is also clear from the opinions what needs to be supplemented in the IA in cases where the SBRC determined that it did not meet the requirements. Compared with previous years, the average length of the SBRC's opinions in 2015 increased. 22 of the 27 respondents agreed that this new length is suitable. 22 out of 27 respondents also stated that the SBRC does not need to further clarify its opinions in any respect, for example, with regard to language, content and layout.

The respondents' comments in the survey

Many respondents provided comments in the survey, which give a more detailed picture of their views. A selection of these comments are reported below.

The majority of the respondents were generally positive to the SBRC's opinions concerning their *clarity in language, content and layout*:

- “Excellent The scope is not crucial. The most important thing is that it is clear and of assistance to the person drafting the rules. It is only natural then that the length of an opinion varies.”
- “The evaluation makes it easier to understand the message”.
- “Good, loud and clear in the overall evaluation”.
- “The evaluation has an important function in that it binds together the different parts of the opinion”.

A number of respondents had comments regarding *the significance that the SBRC attaches to different aspects of the IA and the fairness of the demands the SBRC has made*:

- “What needs to be supplemented is largely apparent but sometimes the opinion states that something ought to be described in greater detail without going into any detail as to how”.
- “The SBRC sometimes attaches importance to small matters”.
- “I question the SBRC's request for more detailed information because these regulations that will lead to liberalisations.
- “According to its opinion, the SBRC made a completely opposite assessment to the one we had made. How the SBRC had arrived at its assessment was not stated, nor was it stated when we made contact with the SBRC. I would like an opportunity to contact the SBRC for dialogue on the reasoning behind its opinions.”

⁴ A total of 28 recipients responded to at least some part of the survey. However, not all of these 28 recipients responded to all the questions, which is why in the above the total number of respondents in some instances is fewer than 28.



- “The opinions are clear but the evaluations are crazily conventional. The SBRC’s focus on ticking off all the points in Sections 6–7 of the Ordinance on Regulatory Impact Assessment (SFS 2007:1244) is hardly conducive to creating greater transparency in the legislative process. It is important to report which businesses and how many are affected and what the costs are but this is only part of it. The assessment must be evaluated as a whole, for example, how the impacts for businesses relate to the purpose and to the impacts for others concerned as well as the scope of the proposed regulation.”

Another issue touched on by several respondents was the *balance between the submission text and the reporting of the SBRC’s own analysis and evaluations in its opinions*:

- “That so much of the text is about reproducing what was written in the official government report makes the SBRC’s comments more difficult to locate.”
- “A big part of the opinion reproduces the text of the submission. For IAs deemed acceptable, this is not needed at all. For IAs deemed deficient, this text can be greatly shortened.”
- “Would like the SBRC to clarify its reasoning and how the SBRC arrives at its evaluations.”
- “The SBRC’s argumentation could usefully be clarified.”

3.2. Survey of awareness of the SBRC – industry and business organisations

Purpose of the follow-up

During autumn 2015, the SBRC conducted a survey of industry and business organisations in order to find out whether they were aware of the SBRC and its opinions, and to what extent and in what way these opinions were considered useful. The survey also aimed to gather their views on what could be done to improve the opinions.

Overall results from the survey

The survey went out to 50 organisations representing a large number of different industries and businesses. 23 of the recipients responded to the survey, which represents a response rate of 47 per cent. Among the

respondents, 19 out of 23 stated that they were aware of the SBRC and its opinions. Of the 17 respondents to the question concerning how frequently they look at the SBRC’s opinions, 7 stated that they do this once or twice per year. 3 respondents stated that they look to the SBRC’s opinions 3–5 times per year and 1 respondent does so 6–9 times per year. Another 3 respondents stated that they look at the SBRC’s opinions 10 or more times per year. Finally, 3 respondents stated that they never look at the SBRC’s opinions.

Answers to open-ended questions

The survey also contained a number of open-ended questions. It was apparent from the responses that the respondents come into contact with the SBRC’s opinions in various ways: via the SBRC’s website, through the newsletter *Regelrätt*, via the Board of Swedish Industry and Commerce for Better Regulation (NNR), or via direct contact with the SBRC.

When asked why they look at the SBRC’s opinions, responses included that the opinions can be useful to organisations when preparing consultation responses to the same regulatory proposal; that the opinions deal with matters affecting the organisations’ own activities; and that in their own work for better regulation for businesses, it is of interest to see how the SBRC has evaluated some proposed statutes. In some instances, comments less specific to their own activities were provided, such as that IAs are seen as very important and that the SBRC is regarded as an important referral body. One organisation put forward that the SBRC has identified serious deficiencies in IAs, but has far too little power.

Regarding whether organisations look at any specific parts of the opinions, many stated that the impacts on businesses’ costs and activities and their time were of particular interest. Alternative solutions and competitive conditions were also mentioned as being of particular interest. However, it should be noted that an equivalent number of respondents indicated that the opinions were interesting in their entirety.

The majority of the respondent organisations were of the view that the SBRC’s opinions clarified well the basis for the SBRC’s evaluation. One organisation stated that the SBRC’s opinions have become clearer and better over time, but that the reasons for the SBRC’s determinations could be clearer in some cases, and that proposals for solutions and alternatives could be provided. This organisation emphasised that

a development in this respect is linked to the knowledge and competence built up over time, but that this was also connected to the contacts that the SBRC had made with industry and business organisations.

On the question concerning how the SBRC's opinions could be improved, comments included that it would be good if the SBRC could emphasise even more clearly the importance of describing alternative solutions to achieve the purpose of the proposal. Two respondents held the view that the SBRC's mandate should be reviewed. One of these suggested that the SBRC should become a separate authority with the power to block proposals that lack satisfactory IAs, while the other recommended more generally a review of the SBRC's mandate and tasks. Several respondents highlighted the importance of bringing in expertise from among active entrepreneurs.

Other comments proposed among other things that close cooperation between the SBRC and equivalent organisations in other European countries was important for the development and quality assurance of the SBRC's work in preparing its opinions. Another comment noted that there is scope for the SBRC to improve its dissemination of information about its opinions.

The conclusions that the SBRC have drawn based on the results of these surveys are set out in Chapter 4 Conclusions and direction of future work.

Conclusions and direction of future work

4.1. Conclusions based on follow-up of the opinion's format

The SBRC considers that the results of the survey of the regulators indicate that the new format of the opinions applied since January 2015 is largely perceived as clear. A recurring comment about giving more space in the text to the SBRC's own analysis is something that the SBRC will take on board in developing its opinions. The SBRC has also taken note of comments about the significance that the SBRC attaches to the various parts of an IA. The SBRC's evaluations are necessarily based on the requirements stipulated in Sections 6 and 7 of SFS 2007:1244. In principle, the SBRC shares the view that the scope of the proposed regulation ought to be taken into account. However, there is no obvious answer as to what this would look like in each individual case and therefore it is not entirely unexpected that there may be different views on what is the right balance. How this balance is to be achieved is something that is continuously discussed within the SBRC and the comments provided are input to further discussions.

Concerning the results of the survey of industry and business organisations, the SBRC has concluded that awareness of the SBRC's activities and opinions is generally good among the respondents. Comments about the importance of emphasising good analyses of alternative solutions to achieving the purpose of the proposal have provided the SBRC with inputs for future discussions on how the content of its opinions can and should be developed. Concerning the issue of seeking the views and knowledge of those affected, the SBRC agrees that this is important, and in this connection would like to point out that industry organisations are already contacted when drafting opinions to varying degrees based on the needs and possibilities of the individual case. It is also worth noting the relatively extensive contacts that the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth has established in various forms with both industry organisations and individual entrepreneurs. The SBRC's current organisational form provides excellent conditions for the transfer of knowledge and experience to the SBRC through these contacts from the Swedish

Agency for Economic and Regional Growth. It is the goal of both the SBRC and the Agency that such synergies will be achieved. Comments were also made about the SBRC's mandate and tasks. In respect of these comments, the SBRC notes that it is the Swedish Government that decides on what mandate and tasks the SBRC should have.

4.2. Conclusions based on the results of the review

Based on the results presented in Chapter 2 The Review in figures, the SBRC notes that the overall result does not show any great improvement compared with the previous year. Less than half of the reviewed IAs are still deemed to meet the Ordinance's (SFS 2007:1244) requirements. Furthermore, the SBRC has noted that there are large differences in how well different parts of IAs comply with the Ordinance's requirements. It is apparent that the analyses of the impacts on businesses' costs and competition conditions are much further from meeting the Ordinance's requirements than other parts. Support options are available for making such estimates, such as the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth's calculation tool *Regelräknaren*⁵ (regulations calculator). Using these may assist in the analysis of economic impacts. The SBRC would also like to point out the opportunities for training and support in individual cases that the Agency offers to help improve the quality of IAs.

In the Budget Bill for 2016 (area of expenditure 24 Enterprise) the Swedish Government has stated that better regulation efforts will be directed towards "Better service" and "More effective rules" in the period 2015–2018 and monitored in relation to four objectives. The objectives for the "More effective rules" area are stated as being that the rules are to promote business growth and their associated costs are to decrease. In light of the fact that the Government has expressed its objective in this way – that costs are to

⁵ The *Regelräknaren* is available at <http://www.enklareregler.se>

decrease – it appears to the SBRC to be particularly problematic that reporting of how costs for business are impacted by proposed statutes is generally an aspect that is not well analysed in IAs.

4.3. Direction for future work with IAs

Continue to invest in training and other support efforts

Both this year’s and last year’s outcomes clearly demonstrate that general training and support efforts in individual cases are still justified in order to increase competence in preparing good-quality IAs.

Prioritise improved analyses of impacts on costs and competition in particular

The overall outcome of the SBRC’s review of IAs in 2015 shows especially large deficiencies in analyses of the impacts on businesses’ costs and competitive conditions. The SBRC notes that these aspects are of great importance for enterprises’ opportunities to work and grow and that the Government has stated an objective that costs associated with regulation are to decrease. In light of this, it is desirable that current training efforts emphasise these aspects and that for example calculation tools such as *Regelräknaren* are used to a greater extent.

Improve guidance to committees of inquiry and other official inquiries to improve IAs

According to the SBRC, it is desirable that the Swedish Government and the Government Offices of Sweden create better conditions for the production of high-quality IAs when formulating the tasks of official inquiries and in the staffing of committees of inquiry. There should be clear requirements that an IA is to be carried out and that resources to ensure the relevant competence in the secretariats of official inquiries is one way to promote better IAs.

Take advantage of the opportunity that exists for the SBRC to review IAs from the EU

Part of the SBRC’s remit is to review IAs prepared for proposed EU legislation. These opinions from the SBRC can assist Swedish decision-makers to gain a better understanding of the impacts of EU proposals on businesses that are active in Sweden at a time when the possibility of comments submitted by Sweden having a real impact is greatest. In light of this,

and considering that a substantial part of the regulatory framework affecting businesses in Sweden has its origin in EU law, the opportunity to let the SBRC contribute this kind of analysis should be taken advantage of.

Analyse and consider further measures to improve IAs

The SBRC notes that the results show great potential for improvement in IAs. In principle, all IAs carried out ought to meet the Ordinance’s requirements, and the outcome for 2015 is still a long way from such an objective. It is therefore the view of the SBRC that in addition to those specified above, further measures to improve the quality of IAs ought to be analysed and considered. In previous annual reports, the SBRC has made recommendations that exemplify the kinds of measures that could be considered. These include for example strengthening the political support for better regulation efforts, setting measurable goals, introducing the option of temporary referral back to the SBRC, and introducing mandatory referral proposals from the Government Offices of Sweden to the SBRC. In the SBRC’s view, it is less important which of these or other measures are chosen to analyse further. However, it is of great importance that ideas are developed and that additional measures are taken.



Table 1

The SBRC's opinions on submissions from the Government Offices of Sweden, distributed by evaluated aspects and the IA as a whole.

Regulator	Meets the requirements	Purpose	Alternative solutions	Impacts if no regulation occurs	Compliance with European law	Date of effect	Need for special communications efforts	Number of businesses
<i>Ministry (incl. official government reports)</i>								
Government Offices of Sweden Total	Yes	87	53	54	64	62	32	35
	No	2	37	35	26	28	57	55
Ministry of Employment	Yes	2	1	1	2	1	1	2
	No	0	1	0	0	1	1	0
Ministry of Finance	Yes	34	19	22	26	25	11	18
	No	0	16	13	9	10	23	17
Ministry of Justice	Yes	12	9	8	11	11	6	5
	No	1	4	5	2	2	7	8
Ministry of Culture	Yes	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
	No	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
Ministry of the Environment and Energy	Yes	9	7	6	6	7	5	1
	No	0	2	3	3	2	4	8
Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation	Yes	14	9	9	12	10	5	5
	No	1	6	6	3	5	10	10
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs	Yes	7	4	4	2	3	1	0
	No	0	3	3	5	4	6	7
Ministry of Education and Research	Yes	5	2	2	3	2	1	3
	No	0	3	3	2	3	4	2
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	Yes	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	No	0	1	1	1	0	1	1

Table 2

Appendix The SBRC opinions on submissions from administrative authorities

Regulator	Meets the requirements	Purpose	Alternative solutions	Impacts if no regulation occurs	Compliance with European law	Date of effect	Need for special communications efforts	Number of businesses
<i>Government agencies</i>								
Administrative authorities, total	Yes	105	91	96	96	91	95	75
	No	3	17	12	12	17	13	33
The Swedish Work Environment Authority	Yes	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Swedish National Board of Housing, Building, and Planning	Yes	4	3	3	3	3	4	2
	No	0	1	1	1	1	0	2
The Swedish National Electrical Safety Board	Yes	4	4	4	4	4	4	2
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
The Swedish Energy Markets Inspectorate	Yes	4	4	4	4	3	4	4
	No	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
The Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority	Yes	10	8	8	6	7	6	8
	No	0	2	2	4	3	4	2
Public Health Agency of Sweden	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	No							

	Size of businesses	Industry of businesses	Administrative costs	Other costs	Businesses' activities	Competition conditions	Other aspects	Special consideration for small businesses	Impact assessment as a whole
	25	44	17	29	11	27	50	24	18
	65	46	73	61	38	62	39	66	72
	2	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	1
	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	1
	11	19	10	13	5	10	17	10	9
	24	16	25	22	13	25	18	25	26
	4	5	2	3	0	7	9	5	2
	9	8	11	10	4	6	4	8	11
	1	1	0	1	0	1	2	3	1
	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	0	2
	1	1	2	3	1	2	5	1	1
	8	8	7	6	3	6	3	8	8
	4	10	2	5	1	4	9	4	3
	11	5	13	10	7	11	6	11	12
	0	2	0	1	2	1	3	0	0
	7	5	7	6	4	6	4	7	7
	2	3	0	2	2	0	3	1	1
	3	2	5	3	4	5	2	4	4
	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

	Size of businesses	Industry of businesses	Administrative costs	Other costs	Businesses' activities	Competition conditions	Other aspects	Special consideration for small businesses	Impact assessment as a whole
	58	89	56	59	30	68	76	64	53
	50	19	52	47	24	40	29	43	55
	6	7	7	6	2	6	5	7	7
	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0
	2	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	1
	2	1	3	3	0	2	3	2	3
	1	3	1	1	1	2	4	2	1
	3	1	3	3	1	2	0	2	3
	3	4	3	2	0	3	4	4	3
	1	0	1	2	1	1	0	0	1
	4	8	4	3	1	9	5	5	4
	6	2	6	6	5	1	4	5	6
	1	1	1	1			1		1
					1	1		1	

Regulator	Meets the requirements	Purpose	Alternative solutions	Impacts if no regulation occurs	Compliance with European law	Date of effect	Need for special communications efforts	Number of businesses
<i>Government agencies</i>								
The Swedish Social Insurance Agency	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
	No	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	Yes	5	4	4	5	4	4	2
	No	0	1	1	0	1	1	3
The Swedish Chemicals Agency	Yes	3	2	2	2	2	2	1
	No	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
The National Food Agency	Yes	4	4	4	3	4	4	1
	No	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Västra Götaland County Administrative Board	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swedish Gambling Authority	Yes	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
	No	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency	Yes	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority	Yes	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The Swedish National Heritage Board	Yes	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
	No	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
The Swedish National Debt Office	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	0	1
	No	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
The Swedish Maritime Administration	Yes	2	2	2	2	1	2	0
	No	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
The Swedish Tax Agency	Yes	1	1	1	2	2	2	1
	No	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
The Swedish Forestry Agency	Yes	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
The Swedish National Agency for Education	Yes	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
	No	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
The National Board of Health and Welfare	Yes	4	2	3	4	2	4	1
	No	0	2	1	0	2	0	3
The Swedish Energy Agency	Yes	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
	No	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
The Swedish Board of Agriculture	Yes	13	14	14	14	13	12	10
	No	1	0	0	0	1	2	4
Statistics Sweden	Yes	5	3	3	2	4	3	5
	No	0	2	2	3	1	2	0
Geological Survey of Sweden	Yes	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
	No	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Swedac	Yes	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
	No	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dental and Pharmaceutical Benefits Agency	Yes	1	0	1	1	0	1	1
	No	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Transport Analysis	Yes	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Swedish Transport Agency	Yes	13	12	12	13	13	14	10
	No	1	2	2	1	1	0	4
Swedish Customs	Yes	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	No	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Size of businesses	Industry of businesses	Administrative costs	Other costs	Businesses' activities	Competition conditions	Other aspects	Special consideration for small businesses	Impact assessment as a whole
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
	2	4	2	2	0	2	2	2	1
	3	1	3	3	2	3	2	2	4
	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	2	1	3	3	1	2	2	2	3
	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	2	1
	3	2	4	3	1	4	1	2	3
	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	1
	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	2	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	1
	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
	2	3	3	3	0	4	2	3	3
	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	1
	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
	0	2	2	2	1	0	2	0	0
	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	1
	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	0	3	2	1	0	0	2	2	1
	4	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	3
	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	0
	1	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2
	9	12	10	10	8	10	13	11	11
	5	2	4	4	1	4	1	3	3
	4	5	4	5	4	4	4	3	4
	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1
	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	2
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	8	11	7	6	4	9	11	8	6
	6	3	7	8	4	5	3	6	8
	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1

The Swedish Better Regulation Council is a separate decision-making body within the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth, whose Members are appointed by the Swedish Government. The Swedish Better Regulation Council is responsible for its own decisions. The Swedish Better Regulation Council is tasked with reviewing and delivering an opinion on the quality of impact assessments of proposed statutes which could have significant impacts on businesses.

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