



The Norwegian
Better Regulation Council



A word from the Chair

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council's mandate is to scrutinise the impact assessments of regulatory proposals, and assess whether the Instructions for Official Studies are adhered to and whether impacts on business are sufficiently described. In doing so, the Council shall ensure that regulations are implemented with the lowest possible costs for business.

Unfortunately, we find that government agencies responsible for drafting new laws and regulations, much too often fail to properly discuss whether they could make their rules simpler or less expensive to comply with. A number of technological and social changes are affecting the business sector in Norway, and our businesses must adapt quickly to remain competitive. At the same time, new laws and regulations that affect business also need to be introduced to take account of important social considerations. This makes it key that regulation of business is efficient and does

not impede businesses' ability to adapt and compete.

The aim of the Norwegian Better Regulation Council going forward is to continue to issue and develop statements of a high professional standard. We aim to provide better and more constructive feedback as well as guidance on smart regulations that do not impose unnecessary burdens on business.

All-round better studies will contribute to more democratic consultation processes and provide a better foundation for the political process. Fewer unnecessary burdens for the business sector will mean lower costs for Norwegian businesses. For a small economy like ours this means: higher value creation, a raised tax base, improved competitiveness and the opportunity for increased innovation.

Sandra Riise, Chair
Norwegian Better
Regulation Council

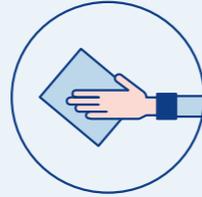
What does the Norwegian Better Regulation Council do?

The purpose of the Norwegian Better Regulation Council is to contribute to reducing the burden on business from new or altered regulations.



REVIEWS REGULATION PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In 2018, we reviewed 318 proposed regulations that affect the business community. The areas we review include identification of industries covered by the regulation, and the likely scope of costs for the business community. This first review of all proposals is important in gaining an overall impression of the current regulatory policy and forms the basis for the Council's prioritisation of cases for further scrutiny.



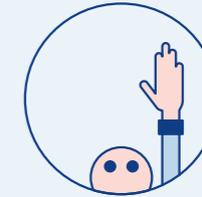
ISSUES STATEMENTS ON REGULATION PROPOSALS AT THE CONSULTATION STAGE

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council evaluates which proposals will have a significant impact on business. In 2018, the Council issued 36 advisory statements on proposals for new or amended regulations.



HIGHLIGHTS SHORTCOMINGS IN THE BASIS FOR DECISION-MAKING

Effective regulation requires the investigation and evaluation of various alternatives. Failure to do this could result in less costly and smarter solutions being overlooked. The Norwegian Better Regulation Council actively strives to advice ministries and regulators on cases where we deem the basis for decision-making to be inadequate.



ENSURES THAT EFFECTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES ARE CONSIDERED

In Norway, as in many other countries, small businesses are significant contributors to overall value creation. The Norwegian Better Regulation Council seeks to increase awareness of the fact that some measures have a different impact on small businesses than large businesses.



ACTS AS BOTH A "WATCH DOG" AND ADVISOR

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council uses statements to highlight when studies sent for public consultation are inadequate. We also seek to advice on how to further improve regulatory proposals before they are sent for public consultation.



CONTRIBUTES TO EFFECTIVE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSES

Unnecessary costs imposed on business result in lower growth and employment. The Norwegian Better Regulation Council encourages the completion of satisfactory calculations of the costs to business in connection with proposed new public measures.



MAINTAINS AN ACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORS

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council offers both general guidance and specific follow-up in cases where we deem the basis for decision-making regarding effects for businesses to be inadequate. Through direct dialogue, we exchange experience and knowledge on how to provide an adequate basis for decision-making.



FOLLOWS DEVELOPMENTS AND PRACTICE IN THE AREA OF REGULATORY POLICY

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council monitors developments and practice within regulatory policy and good business regulation both in Norway and internationally.

Members of the Norwegian Better Regulation Council



CHAIR:

Sandra Riise, Oslo.
Former CEO of Accounting Norway,
the professional association for accountants in Norway



DEPUTY CHAIR:

Joar Grimsbu, Trondheim.
Lawyer and partner in Arntzen de Besche



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Norwegian School of
Economics



COUNCIL MEMBER:

Just Hjalmar Johansen,
Sortland.
Self-employed consultant



ALTERNATE MEMBER:

Gry Agnete Alsos, Bodø.
Professor, Nord University

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council's mandate and organisation

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council's mandate

1. *Issues written advisory statements on proposals for new or amended laws and regulations at the stage of public consultation.*
2. *Follows developments and practice in the area of regulatory policy and better regulation.*
3. *Issues general guidance to promote effective regulation.*
4. *Can assist ministries in examining impact assessments accompanying EU proposals.*

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council is subject to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. The Council is an arms-length oversight body, issuing advisory statements to proposals at the stage of public consultation. The Norwegian Better Regulation Council is independent and impartial, and the Ministry cannot instruct nor interfere in the Council's issuing of statements. The purpose of the Norwegian Better Regulation Council is to contribute to lessening the burden on business from new or altered regulations.

The Council

The members of the Norwegian Better Regulation Council were appointed in December 2015. The Council comprises a Chair, Deputy Chair, three other Council

members and an alternate member. The Council members normally have a term of office of four years with the option to prolong for a single term. The Council members are selected based on their expertise, professional integrity and extensive knowledge of the business community and the Norwegian regulatory process. They also have differing geographical affiliations. The Council holds meetings approximately once every month. The Council can also review cases between meetings.

The Secretariat

A Secretariat, attached to the Norwegian Better Regulation Council, assists with the preparation of draft statements to be reviewed by the Council. The Secretariat is also responsible for ongoing case handling, advisory work, and following up

responsible ministries and regulators that receive critical statements. The Secretariat is located in Hønefoss and its members' expertise lies within economics and law.

Dag Aarnes has been the Director of the Secretariat since 2018.

Aarnes has a degree in Economics and has extensive experience from both the public and private sectors.

International cooperation

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council participates in international work in our various disciplines.

We cooperate with other European oversight bodies through the RegWatchEurope network. We also have contact with the Regulatory

Scrutiny Board (RSB) in the European Commission. The Norwegian Better Regulation Council serves on the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee as a member of the Norwegian delegation. In June 2019, the Norwegian Better Regulation Council and the Norwegian Government Agency for Financial Management jointly hosted the OECD-conference "Measuring Regulatory Performance. The Future of Law-Making" in Oslo. The conference brought together delegates from the OECD's member countries to debate topics of regulatory policy and better regulation.



Overview of the process for work on statements

The diagram below shows the Norwegian Better Regulation Council's activities in connection with reviewing report quality and issuing statements.



RECEIPT

Ministries and regulators must submit all proposals for new or amended regulations that affect business to the Norwegian Better Regulation Council.



REVIEW

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council reviews the quality of all proposals that affect business and prioritises consultation cases for which it will issue a statement.



DRAFT PREPARATION

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council evaluates the proposal and regulatory impact analysis and prepares a draft statement.



ADOPTION AND DISCLOSURE

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council adopts and publishes the statement



SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION

The Norwegian Better Regulation Council submits the statement to the responsible authority, and publishes the statement at www.regelradet.no. The responsible authority must make the Norwegian Better Regulation Council's statement publicly available without undue delay.



GUIDANCE MEETING

If the Council deems the basis for decision making to be inadequate, the Norwegian Better Regulation Council initiates a guidance meeting with the responsible authority.





The Norwegian
Better Regulation Council

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