



## SME TEST BENCHMARK 2022

MAKING BETTER REGULATION WORK BETTER FOR SMEs

# An analyse of the application of the SME Test across European Commission services

26 impact assessments (IAs) were checked against the European Commission's better regulation guidelines, to verify whether and to what extent the SME Test, a mandatory element of the IA, is rigorously carried out.

# 1

69% of the proposals' inception impact assessments (IIAs) take into consideration whether SMEs are affected.

24 initiatives respect the 12-week period for an open public consultation and 16 cases overlapped with holidays, affecting the capacity of SMEs and stakeholders to contribute to the consultation.

# 2

# 3

62% of the IAs reveal a satisfactory level of stakeholders engagement in the consultations.

25 initiatives include an open public consultation. 22 include a questionnaire available in all the EU 24 official languages. It is an improvement from the accessibility results registered in Eurochambres' 2017 SME Test Benchmark.

# 4

# 5

The SME Test does not differentiate enough the impact between different sub-categories of SMEs, nor IAs consider enough mitigating measures for SMEs.

Only 10 out of 26 consultations of the IA report include one or more dedicated sections presenting SMEs' views. This is a disappointing result.

# 6

# 7

IAs do not pay sufficient attention to indirect impact on SMEs when considering mitigating measures.

**Eurochambres, Business Europe, and SMEUnited** call on the European Commission to apply the SME Test guidelines consistently and to improve the efficacy of their scope. IAs need to be regularly revised as information about the likely costs and/or benefits evolves.