

## **Summaries of Speaker Presentations**

for the workshop on "The Role of Audit Offices in Regulatory Policy"

### **Marc Hostert, Head of the Private Office of Mr. Henri Grethen, Member of the European Court of Auditors**

Should Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) play a role in better regulation? What role do SAIs play at the moment? What role could or should SAIs usefully play?

Many may consider this to be a natural playing field for SAIs, but SAIs have played a limited role to date. SAIs involving themselves in this field has been the exception and not the rule. One can point to some examples of where SAIs have highlighted the importance of impact assessments for good regulation. In 2010, the ECA published a report on that subject entitled "Impact Assessments in the EU institutions: Do they support decision making?"

Auditors are often hesitant about getting involved in drafting regulations, not only because auditors are required to base their expressed views on hard evidence, but also because by doing so they risk compromising their own independence to judge the situation later.

It may be worth exploring the scope for seeking auditors' intervention in some parts of the regulatory cycle.

### **Aroldo Cedraz, Vice-President of the Brazilian Court of Audit (TCU), Brazil;**

### **Davi Barreto, Secretary for Oversight of Privatization and Regulation of Transport, Brazilian Court of Audit (TCU), Brazil**

Regulation currently plays an important role in Brazil, since the country is about to inaugurate the largest round of concessions since the 1990s. The perspectives opened by the narrowing of partnerships between state and private initiative are promising and will require much effort of regulators and of the Brazilian Supreme Audit Institution. The Brazilian Court of Audit (TCU) oversees the quality of work done by regulatory agencies. With a dedicated team of almost 70 auditors, the TCU follows up key public concessions of infrastructure projects as highways, railroads, airports and hydroelectric plants.

Simultaneously, TCU oversight of regulators involves periodic audits, evaluating good governance practices of these institutions, their autonomy and transparency and, ultimately, the risk management of their activities. Thus, TCU seek to foster an institutional design that promotes stability and achieving the objectives of regulatory policies.

### **Alex Scharaschkin, Regulation Director, National Audit Office, United Kingdom**

The presentation will explain how the UK National Audit Office (NAO) evaluates the performance of regulators and the effectiveness of regulatory policy. It will set out some of the methodological challenges involved, and give examples of how the NAO has addressed these in recent work for the UK Parliament, with particular reference to the NAO's focus on the „value for money“ of policy implementation.