



Better Regulation Watchdog

Who we are

We are a group of organisations of European consumer, environmental, development, citizen and public health organisations, trade unions and organisations advancing social justice. We work to promote and defend the rights of citizens to high social, labour, environmental, consumer and public health standards.

What brings us together

We are united by a mission to improve social, environmental, labour, consumer, economic and public health standards for citizens and to continue building an inclusive and competitive Europe founded on economic, social and environmental sustainability.

We are united in our concern that European legislation is increasingly presented by the European institutions and some member states as a burden when the vast majority of regulatory measures are essential for guaranteeing the rights of citizens, workers and the environment as well as the EU's four freedoms.

We are united in our concern that the European Commission's "Better Regulation" agenda does not further public interest, but rather aims to weaken or neglect essential regulations protecting workers, consumers, citizens and the environment¹. The focus of EU decision making should be on improving regulation, not deregulation.

We are united in our concern that the appointment of Edmund Stoiber to the post of Special Adviser for Better Regulation sends a wrongly conceived and ill-considered policy on "Better Regulation". We are particularly concerned about a number of recommendations from the High Level Group on Administrative Burdens, chaired by Mr. Stoiber, that do not serve the public interest: introducing a system of offsetting new burdens on businesses stemming from EU legislation by removing existing burdens (the 'one in - one out' proposal); setting a net target for reducing regulatory costs; and exempting SMEs and micro-businesses from EU obligations as far as this is possible.

We are united in our concern that, in its one-sided drive to "reduce regulatory burdens" and under increasing pressure from a large number of major business groups, the European Commission might undermine essential regulations and subordinate the public good to corporate interests.

¹ These include, for example, future initiatives on information and consultation of workers, revising food law, maternity leave, musculoskeletal disorders and carcinogens, consumer over-indebtedness and air quality.



Our aims

- To closely follow the developments on Better Regulation and the initiatives and actions from the European Commission, the Parliament and Member States in this area;
- To increase understanding among civil society, media and decision makers about the risks and potential negative impacts of the Better Regulation agenda on social, environmental, labour, consumer and public health standards for citizens and the public interest;
- To provide input into the Better Regulation processes and debates, such as REFIT and the European Commission's Work Programme, in order to ensure that it does not lead to the weakening, or withdrawing of public interest standards and safeguards;
- To challenge the widely-held belief that regulation is a burden for society;
- To ensure that public interest representatives are adequately involved in the debate and decision-making process.

How we operate






Through knowledge-sharing our network adds value to the member organisations' monitoring, evaluation and advocacy work in relation to the Better Regulation agenda. The network's aims can also be achieved by:




- Sharing information and expertise about Better Regulation initiatives and their impacts on public interest standards;
- Organising public debates on the impacts of Better Regulation;
- Promoting research exposing the interests behind and the impacts of Better Regulation;
- Advocating our positions to decision makers;
- Informing our networks reaching out to tens of millions of European citizens about the consequences of the Better Regulation agenda on their daily lives;
- Campaigning to put public pressure on decision makers;
- Conducting media outreach, through press releases, press conferences, social media;
- Hosting Working Groups that focus on Better Regulation in relation to specific areas of interest to our members (e.g. public health, labour, consumer, environment, development etc);
- Arguing for the benefits of legislation.

Who are we? Steering Group members








	<p>The European Consumer Organisation</p>	<p>BEUC, The European Consumer Organisation has a membership of 41 well respected, independent national consumer organisations from 31 European countries (EU, EEA and applicant countries). BEUC acts as the umbrella group in Brussels for these organisations and our main task is to represent our members and defend the interests of all Europe's consumers.</p>
	<p>Finance Watch</p>	<p>Finance Watch is an independent non-profit Members' association set up in 2011 to act as a public interest counterweight to the powerful financial lobby. Our mission is to strengthen the voice of society in the reform of financial regulation by conducting advocacy and presenting public interest arguments to lawmakers and citizens. Our Members are civil society organisations and expert individuals, supported by a full-time secretariat.</p>
	<p>Friends of the Earth Europe</p>	<p>Friends of the Earth Europe is the largest grassroots environmental network in Europe, uniting more than 30 national organisations with thousands of local groups. Friends of the Earth Europe is the European arm of Friends of the Earth International which unites 74 national member organisations, some 5,000 local activist groups, and over two million supporters around the world.</p>
	<p>UNI Europa</p>	<p>UNI Europa is the European trade union federation for 7 million service workers in sectors that constitute the backbone of economic and social life in Europe. With 272 national trade unions in 50 countries, we aim for quality jobs, for quality services. UNI Europa is one of four regions of UNI Global Union. Visit www.uni-europa.org</p>
	<p>Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund</p>	<p>Founded in 1945, the Austrian Trade Union Federation (ÖGB) is the only Austrian organization representing the interests of workers based on voluntary membership. The ÖGB is non-partisan although in its efforts to achieve its goals, it does influence politics. The ÖGB has a major function in the development of new laws: it initiates the drafting of bills and provides political reviews of and comments on bills submitted by other bodies which are then incorporated in decision-making processes.</p>

Members – in alphabetical order

	<p>ActionAid</p>	<p>ActionAid is an international organisation, working with over 15 million people in 45 countries for a world free from poverty and injustice. Our head office is in Johannesburg. The EU office of ActionAid aims at making the voices of people living in poverty heard by policymakers in Brussels.</p>
	<p>Algemeen Christelijk Vakverbond - Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens</p>	<p>"It has taken over 100 years for the ACV-CSC to develop into what it is today: a trade union organisation with more than 1.6 million members, undoubtedly Belgium's largest union. The ACV-CSC is considered as a distinguished and prestigious partner in industrial relations, recognised by both employers and government."</p>
	<p>CEE Bankwatch Network</p>	<p>CEE Bankwatch Network works across the central and eastern European region to monitor the activities of international financial institutions and EU funds and propose constructive environmental and social alternatives to the policies and projects they support.</p>
	<p>Centrale Générale des Syndicats Libéraux de Belgique - Algemene Centrale der Liberale Vakbonden van België</p>	<p>CGSLB-ACLVB is the Belgian liberal trade union. With almost 300.000 members, it is one of the three trade unions seating at the national social dialogue institutions. It is also a member of both European and International Trade Union Confederation.</p>
	<p>Corporate Europe Observatory</p>	<p>Corporate Europe Observatory (CEO) is a research and campaign group working to expose and challenge the privileged access and influence enjoyed by corporations and their lobby groups in EU policy making.</p>

	<p>Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund</p>	<p>As the trade union umbrella organisation, the DGB represents the German trade union movement in dealing with the government authorities at federal state and national level, the political parties, the employers’ organisations and other groups within society. The DGB coordinates joint demands, themes and campaigns for its 8 member unions, which represent more than 6 Million workers in Germany. It supports them in industrial disputes, advocates their interests vis-à-vis politicians and the general public.</p>
	<p>Diversity Development Group</p>	<p>NGO ‘Diversity Development Group’ (DDG), founded in 2012, is a non-profit organization with an objective to carry out scientific, applied and infrastructural projects in the field of education, equal opportunities, diversity and migration. The main task of organization is to improve and manage diversity towards a sustainable, tolerant and socially responsible society.</p>
	<p>ELA (Basque Workers Solidarity)</p>	<p>ELA is the majority trade union in the Basque Country, with more than 110.000 members in the private and public sector.</p>
	<p>Eurocadres - Council of European Professional and Managerial Staff</p>	<p>Eurocadres is the trade union voice of almost six million professionals and managers. We are one of three recognised European cross-sectoral social partners representing employees and participating in the European cross-sectoral social dialogue. We voice the interests of professionals and managers through social dialogue, advocacy and lobbying as well as through our networks, joint work with member organisations and cooperation with partners.</p>
	<p>European Coalition for Corporate Justice</p>	<p>With 21 member groups who represent over 250 organisations from 15 countries, ECCJ is the only European coalition bringing together European campaigns and national platforms of NGOs, trade unions, consumer organisations and academics to improve European laws governing activities of business and their impacts on people and planet. EPS</p>







	<p align="center">European Environmental Bureau</p>	<p>The EEB is the environmental voice of European citizens, we stand for environmental justice, sustainable development and participatory democracy. Our aim is to ensure the EU secures a healthy environment and rich biodiversity for all.</p>
	<p align="center">European Federation of Building and Woodworkers</p>	<p>EFBWW is the European trade union organization representing construction and woodworkers, by organizing, supporting, influencing EU-policies and creating labour relations. EFBWW has 73 affiliated organisations in 33 countries.</p>
	<p align="center">European Federation of Food, Agriculture and Tourism Trade Unions</p>	<p>EFFAT is the European Federation of Trade Unions in the Food, Agriculture and Tourism sectors. As a European Federation representing 120 national trade unions from 38 European countries, EFFAT defends the interests of more than 2.6 million members towards the European Institutions, European industrial federations and enterprise management”</p>
	<p align="center">European Federation of Journalists</p>	<p>The European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) is the largest organisation of journalists in Europe, representing over 320. 000 journalists in 60 journalists’ organisations across 39 countries.</p>
	<p align="center">European Federation of Public Service Unions</p>	<p>EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 265 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local, regional and central government, in all European countries including the EU’s Eastern Neighborhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information please go to: http://www.epsu.org</p>
	<p align="center">European Public Health Alliance</p>	<p>EPHA is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations.</p>


	<p>European Trade Union Committee for Education</p>	<p>The ETUCE, the European Trade Union Committee for Education is the European Region of Education International representing 131 teachers' unions in Europe with 11 million individual members from all levels of education. The ETUCE is the European Social Partner in education and a European Trade Union Federation in ETUC, The European Trade Union Confederation.</p>
	<p>European Trade Union Confederation</p>	<p>The European Trade Union Confederation was founded in 1973, it now represents 90 trade union organisations in 39 European countries, plus 10 European Trade Union Federations.</p>
	<p>European Transport Safety Council</p>	<p>ETSC is a Brussels-based independent non-profit making organisation dedicated to reducing the numbers of deaths and injuries in transport in Europe. Founded in 1993, ETSC provides an impartial source of expert advice on transport safety matters to the European Commission, the European Parliament, and Member States. http://etsc.eu/about-us/</p>
	<p>European Transport Workers' Federation</p>	<p>The ETF represents more than 3.5 million transport workers from more than 230 transport unions and 41 European countries, in the following sectors: railways, road transport and logistics, maritime transport, inland waterways, civil aviation, ports & docks, tourism and fisheries.</p>
	<p>Fédération Générale du Travail en Belgique</p>	<p>FGTB is the Belgian General Federation of Labour, one of the three Belgian trade union confederation. FGTB is composed of 6 branch unions, representing 1.517.500 members. FGTB is member of ETUC and ITUC.H</p>
	<p>FinUnions - Finnish trade union representation to the EU</p>	<p>FinUnions is the Brussels office of Finnish trade union confederations. FinUnions represents more than two million union members and informs them about EU affairs that are relevant to their interests.</p>
	<p>Food & Water Europe</p>	<p>Food & Water Europe champions healthy food and clean water for all. We stand up to corporations that put profits before people and advocate for a democracy that improves people's lives and protects our environment.</p>

	<p>Friends of the Earth (England, Wales and Northern Ireland)</p>	<p>Friends of the Earth (EWNI) is a grassroots environmental justice organisation, with over 200 local groups making it the largest environmental network in the UK. FOE (EWNI) is a member of Friends of the Earth International which unites 74 national member organisations, some 5,000 local activist groups, and over two million supporters around the world.</p>
	<p>German Forum on Environment and Development</p>	<p>The German Forum on Environment and Development was founded on December 12th 1992 after the UN conference on Environment and Development (“Rio”) and serves as an NGO network for both environmental and development CSOs. Its main objective is to coordinate German CSOs in national and international political processes on sustainable development.</p>
	<p>GLOBAL 2000 - Friends of the Earth Austria</p>	<p>GLOBAL 2000 is the largest Austrian environmental organisation. We are focusing on GMOs, agriculture and food issues as well as on nuclear power and climate change. We are working on national level but also on EU related and international environmental issues together with our partners of FoEE and FoEI.</p>
	<p>Global Justice Now</p>	<p>We are a democratic social justice organisation working as part of a global movement to challenge the powerful and create a more just and equal world. We mobilise people in the UK for change, and act in solidarity with those fighting injustice, particularly in the global south. We used to be the World Development Movement.ECEC</p>
	<p>Greenpeace</p>	<p>Greenpeace is an independent global campaigning organisation that acts to change attitudes and behaviour, to protect and conserve the environment and to promote peace. Greenpeace is present in more than 40 countries across Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. To maintain its independence, Greenpeace does not accept donations from governments or corporations but relies on contributions from three million individual supporters and foundation grants.</p>

	<p>industriAll European Trade Union</p>	<p>IndustriAll European Trade Union represents 6.9 million workers and 200 national trade union affiliates across supply chains in manufacturing, mining and energy sectors on the European level.</p>
	<p>International federation for human rights</p>	<p>A universal movement FIDH was established in 1922, and today unites 164 member organisations in more than 100 countries around the world. FIDH coordinates and supports their activities and provides them with a voice at the international level, including the United Nations and the European Union.</p>
	<p>International Fund for Animal Welfare</p>	<p>Founded in 1969, the International Fund for Animal Welfare saves individual animals, animal populations and habitats all over the world. With projects in more than 40 countries, IFAW provides hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters. We also advocate saving populations from cruelty and depletion, such as our campaign to end commercial whaling and seal hunts.</p>
 <p>Les Amis de la Terre</p>	<p>Les Amis de la Terre France</p>	<p>Friends of the Earth France is an organisation for the protection of the environment and human rights, uniting dozens of local groups in France, and part of the Friends of the Earth Europe network.</p>
	<p>Maison du Peuple d'Europe</p>	<p>The “Maison du Peuple d’Europe (MPE-HVE)” is a non-profit organization established in Brussels in 2013, whose mission is to develop a progressive and democratic European identity. The organization wants to address the lack of a European public space by developing shared values and providing civil society organizations (trade unions and national ngos active in fields such as social matters, human rights, cross-sector development of civil societies, but also mutual societies, cooperative enterprises and those of share ownership) and individuals with innovative tools to “report” on the activities of Belgian decision-makers and MEPs.</p>

	<p>Mouvement Ecologique</p>	<p>Mouvement Ecologique is a national organization and the luxemburgish section of Friends of the Earth. It is an environmental NGO, based on volunteers and dealing with themes like climate change and energy, CETA and TTIP, democracy, mobility, nature protection, land scape, policy on the environment...</p>
	<p>New Economics Foundation</p>	<p>New Economics Foundation is the UK's leading think tank promoting social, economic and environmental justice. Our purpose is to bring about a Great Transition – to transform the economy so that it works for people and the planet.</p>
	<p>NOAH Friends of the Earth Denmark</p>	<p>NOAH is the Danish member of Friends of the Earth. NOAH was the first environmental organisation in Denmark established in 1969 working for just and sustainable societies.</p>
	<p>Open Knowledge</p>	<p>Open Knowledge is a worldwide non-profit network of people passionate about openness, using advocacy, technology and training to unlock information and enable people to work with it to create and share knowledge.</p>
	<p>Österreichische Bundesarbeitskammer</p>	<p>The Federal Chamber of Labour represents the interests of 3.4 million employees and consumers in Austria. Together with the nine Chambers of Labour in each Austrian province, the following main tasks are fulfilled: - Fundamental research for the benefit of workers and consumers - Participation in and control of legislation - Services - International presentation</p>
	<p>Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business</p>	<p>Polish Institute for Human Rights and Business (PIHRB) is an independent and impartial think tank offering advanced expertise in Human Rights and Business, labour law and relations, social unrest, stakeholder engagement and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), as well as educational and awareness raising programmes</p>

	<p>SOLIDAR</p>	<p>SOLIDAR is a European network of NGOs working to advance social justice in Europe and worldwide. With 60 member organisations based in 27 countries (22 of which are EU countries), member organisations are national NGOs in Europe, as well as some non-EU and EU-wide organisations, working in one or more of our fields of activity. The network is brought together by its shared values of solidarity, equality and participation.</p>
	<p>Stichting Fern</p>	<p>Fern is a non-governmental organisation to keep track of the European Union’s involvement in forests and to coordinate NGO activities at the European level. Our work centres on forests and forest peoples’ rights and the issues that affect them.</p>
	<p>Trades Union Congress</p>	<p>The TUC is the voice of Britain at work. We represent more than 5.5 million workers in 52 unions, ranging from all sectors of the economy.</p>
	<p>Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue</p>	<p>The Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD) is a forum of 75 US and EU consumer organisations which develops and agrees on joint consumer policy recommendations to the US government and European Union to promote the consumer interest in EU and US policy making. Find more information at www.tacd.org</p>
	<p>Transnational Institute</p>	<p>TNI is an international research and advocacy institute, coordinated from Amsterdam, concerned with knowledge empowerment of progressive social movements.</p>
	<p>Transport & Environment</p>	<p>Transport & Environment’s mission is to promote, at EU and global level, a transport policy based on the principles of sustainable development. Our work in Brussels is supported by 41 members and 8 support organisations working to promote an environmentally sound approach to transport across Europe.</p>

	<p align="center">Uplift</p>	<p>Uplift is a community of people taking coordinated action for progressive change in Ireland. Campaigns are informed by our shared values; to promote social justice, to defend fairness, protect our rights, preserve the planet and to deepen democracy.</p>
	<p align="center">War on Want</p>	<p>War on Want is a membership organisation committed to fighting the root causes of poverty and human rights violations, as part of the worldwide movement for global justice.</p>
	<p align="center">Werkstatt Ökonomie</p>	<p>In different projects and in close cooperation with other NGOs on regional, national and international level, Werkstatt Ökonomie advocates for economic and social rights. A special focus is Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<p align="center">World Future Council</p>	<p>The World Future Council (WFC) works to spread best policies to safeguard the rights of future generations. It provides decision makers with effective policy solutions. Its 50 eminent members from around the globe have already successfully promoted change. The WFC is registered as a charitable foundation in Hamburg, Germany. For more information, visit www.worldfuturecouncil.org</p>