

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTION

1. Introduction and context

Entrepreneurship is paramount to growth and job creation. Complex and cumbersome registration procedures can be a serious obstacle to starting a business. As such, the regulatory environment should encourage entrepreneurial activity and make it as simple as possible to set up new businesses.

The European Charter for Small Enterprises, endorsed by the Feira European Council in 2000, also emphasised these issues, calling for “Cheaper and faster start-up” as one of its ten action lines.

Additionally, the conclusions of the **2006 Spring European Council** state (point 30):

“The Member States should establish, by 2007, a one-stop-shop, or arrangements with equivalent effect, for setting up a company in a quick and simple way. Member States should take adequate measures to considerably reduce the average time for setting up a business, especially an SME, with the objective of being able to do this within one week anywhere in the EU by the end of 2007. Start-up fees should be as low as possible and the recruitment of a first employee should not involve more than one public administration point.”

2. Previous work and documentation

The Lisbon European Council called for benchmarking of the time and cost of setting up a company. The results of this benchmarking exercise, conducted by the Commission together with the Member States, were presented in January 2002¹.

The annual Charter implementation reports have shown that, since the publication of the benchmarking report, several Member States have succeeded in further reducing the time and costs of setting up a business. The Charter reports have also shown that online registration systems have become operational in several Member States during the last few years.

3. Scope of the workshop and expected outcome

To identify the current key issues and main problems faced by entrepreneurs in the member states in terms of time and costs required to start-up a business.

Cheaper and faster start-ups is one of the 10 lines of the European Charter for Small Enterprises. Identification of good practices will be one of the focus areas in the next Charter Conference to be held in Berlin on the 4th and 5th of June 2007. The results of this workshop will be used as input for the Conference.

¹ “Benchmarking the Administration of Business Start-ups”, final report, European Commission Enterprise Directorate-General, January 2002.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/start-ups/benchmarking.htm

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11. Office: BREY 14/110. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 29953448 Fax: (32-2) 2966278.

4. Proposed Agenda

The workshop is scheduled to take place in Brussels on the 13th of November with the following schedule:

1. Registration of participants	9:30 – 10:00
2. Introduction: context and objectives for the workshop	10:00 – 10:30
3. Exposition of cases by Representatives of the Member States	10:30 – 11:15
4. <i>Break</i>	<i>11:15 – 11:30</i>
5. Exposition of cases by Business Representatives	11:30 – 13:00
6. <i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>13:00 – 14:30</i>
7. Summary of the morning session and results from questionnaire	14:30 – 14:45
8. Open debate	15:00 – 17:00
9. Conclusions and closure	17:00 – 17:15

5. Participants

- Participants will have a very good knowledge of the main difficulties faced by potential entrepreneurs in the setting up of a new business both in the pre-registration and registration stages.
- The main working language will be English

6. Registration

Any person wishing to attend the workshop will have to complete the questionnaire including both the personal data and the questions. Due to potential space restrictions (max. attendance 120 persons) we may not be able to accommodate all requests. Confirmation to selected participants will be sent directly by e-mail. **No transportation or subsistence allowance will be paid to any participant except for the selected speakers (see next point).**

7. Exposition of cases: guide and requirements

Time has been allocated during the workshop for 7 business representatives to expose the main difficulties or relevant policy improvements found during the start up phase. **Presentations based on actual experiences will be particularly welcome.**

In as much as the workshop is open to any possible problems from any type of company, comments on **cost and difficulty for the establishment of a Limited company** (as defined in the final page of the questionnaire) will be preferred so as to provide a common focal point.

Cases should be presented:

- Format: Powerpoint
- Duration: 15 minutes
- Content: “Problems faced by entrepreneurs in relation to start-up procedures”.

Seven of all presentations received will be selected to be presented at the conference. Speakers of the selected presentations will be paid transportation and subsistence expenses in line with Commission rules on reimbursement of expenses.

8. Contact

Mr. Inigo URRESTI

Tel: +32 (0) 2 29 97620

Fax: +32 (0) 2 29 66278

e-mail: inigo.urresti@ec.europa.int

The workshop on start-ups is going to bring together business representatives and representatives from Member States in order to review the present situation and identify the key issues on Business Start-up procedures. This questionnaire is key to highlight the main administrative issues affecting SMEs during that phase and will be used to help steer discussions towards the most relevant concerns of the business community.

Your comments will be a very valuable and welcome contribution even if you are not planning or not able to participate. For persons wishing to participate in the workshop filling this questionnaire is compulsory as it will also act as their registration request.

Please return your questionnaires by October the 13th at the latest to:

entr-startups@ec.europa.eu

Personal Data

Name and Family Name	
Organisation	
Title/Position	
Country	
Telephone	
e-mail	
Would you like to register to attend the workshop?*	

* Maximum capacity of the venue is 120 participants. Confirmation of registration to selected participants will be sent by e-mail.

In as much as the workshop is open to any possible problems from any type of company, **comments on length of time-scale, cost and difficulty for the establishment of a Private Limited Company*** are particularly welcome to provide a common focal point.

Questions

<p>1.- Which are the key problems in terms of time, cost or burden faced by a potential entrepreneur in your country? Are there any specific cases or experiences that you would like to highlight?</p>

2.- Could you please highlight the most significant initiative(s) from your Government in the last 2 years that have made a real contribution to reduce the administrative burden for start-ups?

3.- Which are the focal areas in which Governments should intervene to tackle the most pressing issues?

4.- What is the role of business organisations in facilitating this progress?

***PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY.** An incorporated legal entity with the following characteristics: legal identity separate from and independent of the owners or shareholders; liability to creditors is limited to the extent of the company's assets; liability of the shareholders/owners is limited to the amount of capital contributed and subscribed for; more than one shareholder; and unable to raise any form of capital through public subscription or to be listed on a public capital market. The enterprise is set up to trade actively (not dormant).

Indication of the equivalent societal form in several other countries is provided in page 90 (Annex B) of the study "Benchmarking the Administration of Business Start-ups", to be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/entrepreneurship/support_measures/start-ups/benchmarking.htm