Update on OECD work on international regulatory cooperation

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OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance (2012)

IRC: an integral part of GRP

What is IRC? (2013)

Definition
10 case studies, incl. RCC
OECD typology & classification of costs and benefits

Focus on specific IRC approaches (2013 - 2016)

Mutual Recognition Agreements
Good Regulatory Practices
International organisations


Joint meetings of Regulatory Policy and Trade Committees
Understanding the trade costs of regulatory divergence and remedies
Trade costs of regulatory divergence & remedies

A joint undertaking of the Regulatory Policy Committee and the Trade Committee bridging 2 policy communities.

The trade costs

- Information costs
- Specification costs
- Conformity assessment costs

The IRC approaches

- Adoption of good regulatory practice
- Mutual recognition
- Regulatory provisions in trade agreements
- Adoption of international standards developed by international standard setting bodies
- Transparency disciplines of WTO

International standards: a driver for convergence

**Benefits**

- Support globalised production and markets
- Reduce costs for countries of their development
- International platforms can help anticipate on new regulatory fields

**Challenges**

- Potential of standards is under exploited
- International dimension & appropriateness to local needs
- Potential quality issues

- Need to work with domestic regulators
- Need to work with international IO
The role of international organisations


**Contributions by 50 IOs**

- Inter-governmental organisations (closed membership), 10: APEC, CARICOM, COMESA, ESCWA, NATO, OAS, OIV, OSCE, OECD, UNECE
- Inter-governmental organisations (universal membership), 21: FAO, IAEA, IMF, IMO, ITU, OIE, OIF, OIML, OPCW, OTIF, UNDP Water and Oceans, UNEP, UNIDO, UNODC, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO/OMC
- Secretariats of conventions, 4: BRS, CBD, CITES, OZONE
- Trans-governmental networks, 9: AHWP, IAF, IAIS, ICN, ILAC, IMDRF, IOSCO, PIC/s, SAICM
- Private standard setting organisations, 5: ASTM, IATA, IEC, IFAC, ISO
- Supranational organisation, 1: EC

**Scope of the initial overview**

- Contours of IRC within the IOs
- Governance and operational modalities
- Implementation and impacts
- Ensuring the quality of IRC
- Environment and assessment
Partnership for effective international rule-making

• Voluntary structured framework of IOs for:
  – exchange of experience on effective rule-making of international organisations;
  – analytical work building on evidence collected from the group of IOs and other sources.

• “Rules” understood broadly as legal, technical and policy instruments - from legally to non-legally binding

• “Rule-making” from the design & development of “rules” to their implementation and enforcement

• Cross-cutting: IOs with a wide range of mandates

• Going beyond IGOs, involving public & private
## Partners and Observers

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Annual meetings – next planned for 12 April at the Palais des Nations

Working groups on 5 focus themes led by focal points
  - Understanding variety in international rules
  - Implementing IO instruments
  - Ensuring effective stakeholder engagement
  - Developing culture of evaluation of IO instruments
  - Maximising opportunities for co-ordination among IOs

Dedicated electronic portals for exchange of documents and information

Collect of practices to support evidence-based work

Studies of specific IOs
The case of IRC @UNECE

- Large number and diversity of sectors encompassing: Trade, Environment, Transport, Sustainable Energy, Forestry, Housing and Land Management, Statistics, etc.
- Large variety of instruments developed (conventions, regulations, standards, recommendations, charters, action plans... )
- Number & diversity of actors participating in IRC
- 72% of respondents rated UNECE effective in the development of legally binding regulations, standards and technical recommendations as well as “soft law tools”
- “UNECE’s achievements have made it a go-to source for improving global public goods and services, with more than 100 countries beyond the UNECE region benefiting from its work” (UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon)

The work continues...

- UNECE will co-host the next Annual meeting of the Partnership, planned for 12 April, with ISO and IEC

- UNECE is the convenor of one of the Groups, tasked to look into the variety of international instruments

- The Group aims at delineating a broad typology of international instruments with the objective of
  - developing terminology of the variety of IO instruments;
  - examples of instruments developed by different organizations
  - Identify variations i.e. organizations that define their instruments in ways that are different from most others
  - development, maintenance and update, is different across organizations and is suited to different needs
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The OECD Regulatory Policy Committee was created by the OECD Council on 22 October 2009 to assist countries in implementing government-wide policies to promote regulatory policy and governance. Information about OECD work on international regulatory cooperation at: www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/irc

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