

We want to get rid of this too...

*Reduction of the administrative burden
for businesses*

12-maands voortlopend EMU-saldo in % van het BBP
Bron: Eurostatgegevens
sept 2006 – okt 2006, of het trimester

Tabel 1: Overzicht van de 12-maandcijfers 2006

12 maanden	In % van het BBP of maandelijkse publieke uitgave
sept 2005 - okt 2005	0,2%
sept 2005 - okt 2006	0,2%
sept 2006 - okt 2006	0,2%
sept 2006 - okt 2006	0,4%
sept 2006 - okt 2006	0,2%
sept 2006 - okt 2006	0,2%

sept 2006 - okt 2006

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Contents

Introduction and manual

1. Noticeable reduction of the administrative burden

1.1 A final review before the finish line

- 1.1.1 General
- 1.1.2 Wages, contributions and taxes
- 1.1.3 Reporting and companies
- 1.1.4 Environment
- 1.1.5 Safety and risk
- 1.1.6 Healthcare
- 1.1.7 And then the numbers...

1.2 Noticeable reduction at municipalities and in Europe?!

- 1.2.1 The most recent interim review at municipalities ...
- 1.2.2 The most recent interim review in Europe...

2. Challenges for the future

2.1 Challenge 1: A structural low level of the administrative burden...

- 2.1.1 Towards an improved methodology...
- 2.1.2 From measuring to proper simplification proposals...
- 2.1.3 From proposals to timely implementation...

2.2 Challenge 2: Dealing with other costs of regulation...

2.3 Challenge 3: Dealing with the administrative burden in the (semi-)public sector...

3. Concluding remarks

Annexes

- Package of most important 2003-2007 measures
- Improving the methodology

Introduction and manual

This is the final report before the elections on the progress of dealing with the administrative burden of and irritations at businesses. Entrepreneurs need room to be enterprising and thereby contribute to our welfare and employment. It is therefore important that they are not impeded by all kinds of unnecessary and inefficient laws and regulations. That is why reducing red tape and regulations has been an important spearpoint of this government.

Over the past years efforts have been made to remove contradictory rules, to simplify licenses and permits, to reduce the burden arising from supervisors and to substantially reduce the administrative burden.

The objective is to reduce the administrative burden for businesses by a quarter by 2007. This objective will be attained in 2007. At the end of 2006, 16.4% will be realized. 9.5% is expected to be realized in 2007, resulting in an overall reduction of 25.9%.

Chapter 1 provides a final review of the series of measures implemented by the government to reduce the administrative burden. Attention is drawn to what has already been attained, what the latest developments are with regard to the simplification to be implemented in 2007 and what this will mean for the realization of the objective. This chapter also provides insight into the developments at municipalities and in Europe in the field of the reduction of the administrative burden.

In Chapter 2 the government looks ahead. Although much has been realized in the past few years, the government believes that there are still some challenges ahead in the field of the degree of regulation. The government is developing instruments to deal with those challenges. The instruments are explained in this chapter.

Chapter 3, finally, provides a brief overview by the government of the results attained in the field of reducing the administrative burden for entrepreneurs.

H 1. Noticeable reduction of the administrative burden

1.1 A final review before the finish line...

Many entrepreneurs are irritated by laws and regulations with an inefficient structure and/or if they fail to see the immediate use of the relative laws and regulations. In 2005 this was the top 10.

Top 10 of the administrative obligations that most annoy SME entrepreneurs¹

1. Statistics/questionnaires
2. Laws and regulations concerning working conditions
3. Tax returns
4. Records personnel
5. Environment
6. Applications permits/licenses
7. Kilometre records
8. VAT
9. Reproduction rights
10. Annual accounts

The government has, from the start, made every effort to remove these irritations and to reduce the administrative burden. Once the total series of measures have been taken by 2007 considerable simplifications in many of these fields mentioned in the Top 10 will have been implemented resulting in a reduction of the administrative burden for entrepreneurs.

For example, in the past years the number of questionnaires has been considerably reduced by maximum use of existing sources, the limit amounts in the law of annual accounts have been increased, various definitions were harmonized in the field of wages and taxes and the VAT return form is now digital.

In 2007 the final important simplifications of this government are implemented. This means, inter alia, that entrepreneurs will be able to prepare financial reports for the Tax and Customs Administration, Chamber of Commerce and Statistics Netherlands (XBRL) in one single step, detailed tax rules will be simplified, a statistics holiday will be introduced for SME entrepreneurs, important simplifications will be implemented in working conditions regulations, environmental rules will be updated and preparations will be made for the national introduction of the environmental permit.

Below, please find the presentation of the final interim balance, classified according to domain. The full series of measures have been included in Annexe 1.

1.1.1 General

A field in which many efforts have already been made to remove irritations among entrepreneurs is that of statistics. The scale of the ancillary administrative burden is most limited in the Netherlands, but the irritations among the SMEs in particular are considerable. In order to reduce those irritations, Statistics Netherlands has taken many measures already in the past couple of

What was it like, what is it like ... Statistics

Businesses that import or export goods are obliged in the context of the European Intrastat Regulation to complete questionnaires in that field. Under Dutch pressure, the observation threshold was increased from € 225,000 to € 400,000 in 2005. As a result, the number of businesses having to furnish such data was reduced from 30,000 to 23,000...

¹ Source: EIM, The nuisance of the administrative burden, What annoys SME entrepreneurs most? (in Dutch language), Zoetermeer, August 2005. Report commissioned by the Dutch Federation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises.

years. In 2007 the administrative burden will even be reduced by 70% compared to 1994. This is due to the fact that Statistics Netherlands increasingly uses existing sources, such as those of the Tax and Customs Administration. This means, for example, that this year will see the end of the Employment and Wages questionnaire, as the registrations in the context of the Social Insurance Reduction of Administrative Burden and Simplification Act can now be used. Statistics Netherlands has also reduced the questionnaires, made more use of digital questionnaire tools and in a European context increased the observation threshold for statistics of international trade, as a result of which fewer entrepreneurs have to comply with this obligation.

Further simplification Statistics in 2007

However, Statistics Netherlands continues to move ahead and in 2007 some more important measures are taken to reduce the irritations among entrepreneurs in relation to their statistics obligations. For example, the decision has been made to introduce the so-called 'statistics holiday' for 677,000 SME businesses with less than 10 employees in the course of 2007. If an entrepreneur cooperates with a questionnaire the chance that the same entrepreneur will be selected for the same questionnaire in the next year is drastically reduced.

In addition, Statistics Netherlands will deal with the accumulation of questionnaires for the said target group. If a business has been randomly selected for a questionnaire, the chance that that business will again be included in the random test for another questionnaire in the same year is strongly reduced.

Statistics Netherlands is also going to improve the communication with entrepreneurs completing the questionnaires. Ideally, entrepreneurs are better informed of the questionnaires and receive benchmark information from Statistics Netherlands, the questionnaires are improved and the information on the website of Statistics Netherlands will be more specifically geared towards entrepreneurs.

Finally, thanks to the implementation of the XBRL taxonomy, it will be easier for the entrepreneur to deliver data to Statistics Netherlands.

Introduction common commencement dates

Another issue that entrepreneurs complain about is the frequent amendment of laws and regulations, with sometimes tight implementation deadlines. The government wishes to deal with this and at the same time provide entrepreneurs at the earliest stage possible with the opportunity to participate in the development of laws and regulations.

In the future the following main rules should apply:

- Regulations are only amended at fixed moments in the course of a year;
- A reasonable term will be observed between the publication of the new regulation and the date of entry into force to enable entrepreneurs to prepare their organization for the new rules.
- Businesses and institutions are as early as possible given the opportunity to comment on new laws or regulations.

Explorations were carried out in seven domains to examine to what degree the above points might be realized. These show that there are good opportunities to introduce the above points.

The Government has examined what the wishes are of entrepreneurs and

The seven domains...

- **Finance:**
 - *Financial sector laws and regulations*
 - *Tax laws and regulations*
- **Health, Welfare and Sport:**
 - *Labelling (Commodities laws and regulations)*
 - *Exceptional Medical Expenses Act (Healthcare laws and regulations)*
- **Education, Culture and Science:**
 - *Education laws and regulations*
- **Housing, Spatial Planning and Environment:**
 - *Environmental laws and regulations*
 - *Constructions laws and regulations*

institutions with regard to the above points. A questionnaire among 400 entrepreneurs and institutions in the care and education sectors shows that more than 70% of entrepreneurs and institutions appreciate fixed entry into force dates. They prefer one or two moments of change per annum. In addition, most entrepreneurs and institutions opt for an implementation period of at least three months in the conclusion of new or amended laws and regulations and almost three quarters of the organizations would like to have the opportunity to give comments on new and amended laws and regulations beforehand. Almost the same percentage of the organizations indicates that, where appropriate, they would (most likely) use such a consultation round.

Where possible, the introduction is harmonized with the pending initiatives in the domains. For example, in the conclusion of financial sector legislation the sector is frequently consulted; in the field of tax laws and regulations and in the field of the Exceptional Medical Expenses Act and in the building sector fixed entry into force dates already apply in many cases.

Before the end of the year the Government will inform this House on the way in which common commencement dates (including reasonable implementation deadlines) are implemented in the seven domains. It will also indicate in which exceptional cases one may depart from this, for example when implementing simplifications for businesses.

The further discussion of the consultation point is linked up with the project 'Public Internet Consultation in the Preparation of Regulation', that recently commenced in the context of the 'Useful Legal Order' programme of the Ministry of Justice. The report including the discussion of the 'Public Internet Consultation' system is expected in the Spring of 2007.

Given that a substantial part of laws and regulations concerns the implementation of European Directives, the Netherlands will draw attention in Brussels to the fact that the Netherlands is introducing common commencement dates and ask the European Union to take this into account in determining the implementation deadlines of Directives. At the suggestion of the Netherlands concrete proposals for implementation of common commencement dates at European level by the European Commission are already being developed in the field of Labelling.

The wish of entrepreneurs, institutions and Parliament is that the above points are introduced for the entire Government. The Government thus believes that once the system is implemented and seems to work well in the aforementioned domains, the system may well be introduced Government wide.

Central information desk for entrepreneurs with expected laws and regulations

For many businesses and institutions it is also most important to be informed in good time of expected laws and regulations. Many businesses and institutions currently have little insight into which regulations are expected next year, what the effects will be and when they will enter into force. If it is up to the Government, this will soon be a thing of the past.

A previous questionnaire shows that 91% supports a central information desk. The Government has therefore decided to inform entrepreneurs and institutions in good time which laws and regulations will be prepared next year via the website www.bedrijvenloket.nl, based ideally on a comprehensive list.

Entrepreneurs and institutions will then have direct and easy access to information on:

- Which laws and regulations are being prepared and whether those regulations apply to them.
- How the amendment to the regulations will affect them;
- When the regulations are expected to be published and enter into force.

Every three months, the list will be fully updated. The list may also be updated in the interim, at the initiative of departments themselves. The list on the website will, if necessary, also be made available to entrepreneurs via other specific channels.

The Government involves businesses and institutions in the care and education sectors in the set-up and the content. A first demo of the list was recently submitted to a panel of entrepreneurs for their comments. Naturally, business and institutions are actively involved in the further development of the list.

Comprehensible forms

Every day, tens of thousands of Dutch people complete forms for the Government. For example, to pay taxes or to apply for a subsidy. Annually, this also includes a large number of entrepreneurs. They often spend hours completing such forms.

Almost everyone finds Government forms complicated. This complaint was also expressed frequently at the administrative burden helpdesk. For that reason, the Ministry of the Interior, ACTAL and ICTU developed 'The Form Manual'. The form manual provides form makers with a series of concrete guidelines for comprehensible forms. They apply to paper and digital forms.

The Government believes it is important to deal with the simplification of forms in the short term. A test is therefore developed to quickly determine the language level of a form, and how it might be simplified. By the end of October all standard forms included in the e-forms programme in any event have to be available in simple Dutch. Some other forms will also be simplified before the end of the year.

1.1.2 Wages, contributions and taxes

Over the past years, important simplifications have been realized in the 'wages, contributions and taxes' domain. For example, the Government recently updated the Unemployment Act. The new Act, inter alia, offers a more flexible test to review whether the unemployment should be attributed to the employee. The employee is no longer obliged to object to the dismissal. This relieves employer, employees, the CWI and the judiciary since pro forma proceedings, conducted merely to secure the right to the unemployment benefit, are no longer necessary.

Another important simplification in this field is the introduction of the sub-regulations relating to the Social Insurance Reduction of Administrative Burden and Simplification Act. In the past entrepreneurs had to submit practically the same information several times to different government bodies in regard of wage tax and social security contributions. Per 1 January 2006, this is a thing of the past. The calculation method of wage tax and social security contributions has become uniform to a large extent and employers only need to supply the data to the Tax and Customs Administration, and not to the UWV as well. Those data may also immediately be used for other purposes, such as statistics. This means that entrepreneurs are relieved from those obligations as well.

The digital VAT return form has also reduced paperwork. Until 2004, entrepreneurs filed a paper tax return form. This caused unnecessary additional work for entrepreneurs, their accountants *and* the Tax and Customs Administration. After all, most entrepreneurs already had digital records. Based on a print-out they or their accountants had to transpose the relevant information to a paper tax return form. Next, the Tax and Customs Administration had to process the information. A cumbersome procedure. Also, in practice, errors were frequently made on manually

What was it like, what is it like ... VAT tax return

'It has become easier to file a tax return. Much easier. First, the figures from the client were taken from the administrative package and we had to complete a tax form manually. After which, you printed a list of the VAT that had to be paid or the VAT that should be refunded. This shows what will be refunded or what they have to pay. You then had to transpose this list to the tax form. This is no longer necessary, you have the information in your computer.'

Ms Van Altenborg, tax consultancy firm Sidler on the digital VAT tax return form.

completed forms. The digital tax return form removes in many cases this intermediate step, reducing the paperwork of entrepreneurs *and* the Tax and Customs Administration.

In 2007, some more simplifications were implemented in the field of the wage domain (Purple Crocodile) and regulations for sportsmen and –women and artists.

Amendment proposal 'Purple Crocodile'

This Spring, the Government submitted the Amendment Plan 'Purple Crocodile'. The major part of this bill consists of working out specific proposals from the 'Experience counts' report in the field of wage tax and social security contributions that was published last year. For example, the bill proposes – to list but a few proposals – simplifications for regulations relating to gifts in kind (such as the Christmas hamper), paying a fixed sum for travelling costs, meal regulations and telephone and Internet reimbursements. The wage tax statement will be abolished. However, it also includes some measures outside the wage domain to reduce the administrative burden and ancillary irritations. For example, the motor vehicle tax on trailers will be abolished. The intended entry into force of this bill is 1 January 2007.

What is it like, what will it be like amendment proposal 'Purple Crocodile'

The amendment plan 'Purple Crocodile' includes a large number of simplification proposals in, inter alia, the wage domain. Below, please find some examples of simplifications that will be implemented:

- The regulations relating to gifts will be replaced by one regulation. Taxation will be imposed at a fixed rate of 20% on one or more gifts in kind up to € 70 per calendar year. No more conditions are attached to the occasion at which the gifts were presented. It thus also includes the Christmas hamper. Any other regulations relating to gifts are repealed.
- The current regulations provide different amounts and conditions for the telephone, the second telephone, cable/ADSL and ISDN. These regulations are repealed and replaced by one simple regulation. The reimbursements and compensation for telephones or the Internet are simply exempted if they are used for more than just accidental business purposes.
- At present, a maximum of 80 business meals per annum may be offered free of tax or reimbursed. In the event of more than 80 meals, a fixed sum per meal must be added to the wages, whereby different sums are used, for example, for breakfast or a hot meal. This limit is abolished, and in future it will therefore only be considered whether the meal is a business meal.

These are just three examples. The overall reduction of the administrative burden for businesses is expected to be € 51 million.

Sportsmen, - women and artists

The tax regulation for professional sportsmen, -women and artists is often mentioned as a great cause of the administrative burden and irritations in those sectors. The interests of all parties are however divergent, as a result of which they are not easy to resolve. The 2007 Tax Plan presented on Budget Day does however include amendments to these regulations which are satisfactory to all parties.

The reduction of the administrative burden is first of all due to the abolition of the tax obligation including reimbursement orders for foreign artists and professional sportsmen and –women.

Child care

In the 2007 Tax Plan also a measure is introduced by which the administrative burden and irritations concerning child care will be reduced. Thanks to the new approach, employers will no longer be confronted with administrative burdens in the wage tax contribution linked to the time-consuming wage elements in the child care field.

One-man business without personnel

In reply to a motion by MPs Verhagen and Rutte with regard to easing the administrative burden for entrepreneurs, the remuneration of the general director and sole shareholder who is the sole staff member, will be subjected to income tax/national insurance

contributions and income-dependent contribution to the Healthcare Insurance Act solely through tax assessments. This shift will result in a reduction of the administrative burden in the field of wage tax and national insurance contributions.

What was it like, what is it like ... employing the first employee

Small entrepreneurs have to deal with a considerable administrative burden once they employ a first employee. Although this is inevitable, the Government has ensured that the paper mountain is reduced in 2007. In particular simplifications in the field of wage tax returns and the working conditions regulations contribute to this. For example, the number of bodies which a new employer has to deal with has been reduced. This means, inter alia, that the entrepreneur no longer has obligations to the UWV and Statistics Netherlands in relation to the employment of an employee.

1.1.3 Reporting and companies

Things must also become a great deal easier for entrepreneurs in the field of reporting in the next 18 months. Various important results have already been attained. For example, the Netherlands has managed at European level to ensure that the limit sums in the law of annual accounts will be increased by twenty per cent.

Increasing those limit sums means that from next year more entrepreneurs may suffice by completing the simplest annual accounts form. For example, they only need to prepare and file an abridged balance sheet and profit and loss account. The Government will implement the European increase by the publication of new limit sums. This means that the measure will already apply to annual accounts relating to 2006.

Something else that is already possible and will reduce costs for entrepreneurs is the on-line filing of annual accounts with the Chambers of Commerce. The efficient processing and immediate reply by the Chambers of Commerce saves the financial intermediary, the entrepreneur and the Chambers of Commerce much time, administrative acts and costs. Annually, 700,000 businesses must submit their financial data to the Chambers of Commerce. In the past, the compulsory filing of the annual accounts with the Chambers of Commerce would cost businesses around € 30 per single set of annual accounts. This included costs incurred, for example, to print, dispatch and scan the annual accounts. For digital filing the costs per single set of annual accounts amount to just 75 eurocents. Hence, a considerable reduction.

Digital filing is a first step taken towards the complete digital processing of financial data. This should have substantial benefits for entrepreneurs. In 2007 a most important step is taken with the introduction of the XBRL taxonomy.

Introduction digital 'data dictionary' financial reports (XBRL taxonomy)

In June of this year, the Dutch XBRL taxonomy, a digital data dictionary for financial reports (annual accounts, tax returns and lists of statistics) was completed. At present, we are working hard to implement the taxonomy that will radically simplify the composition of these reports from the entrepreneur's financial records. Attention will thereby be drawn to the necessary infrastructure to make sure that an easy exchange of the reports with the Chambers of Commerce, the Tax and Customs Administration and Statistics Netherlands will also be possible.

On 9 June a covenant was signed on the collaboration between the Government and businesses on the use of the XBRL taxonomy for financial information obligations to the Government. Leading software suppliers thereby confirmed that they will include this

XBRL taxonomy example for foreign countries

Other countries monitored with great interest the Dutch approach to reduce the administrative burden for entrepreneurs via a XBRL taxonomy. Australia, New Zealand and the United States have already initiated projects following the Dutch example. Many EU Member States and Japan have also expressed their interest in the innovative project.

'data dictionary' in their packages without increasing the price.

If such an accounting package is used, the right data for the annual accounts, tax returns and economic statistics can be gathered in one

step from the records and filed digitally with the Chamber of Commerce, the Tax and Customs Administration and Statistics Netherlands. It is expected that the digitalization of the reports will save entrepreneurs (or their intermediaries) on average 33% of the time required to compose annual accounts.

The intermediaries, such as accountants and tax consultants, pledged by signing the covenant that they will pass on the cost benefits ensuing from the use of the taxonomy to their clients. This means that the real benefits of the data dictionary will accrue to the entrepreneurs.

Overlap tax and commercial annual accounts

Where companies at present often prepare two different documents for the Chambers of Commerce and the Tax and Customs Administration, they may suffice by one set of annual accounts on tax basis from 2007 which they can file with both organizations. If necessary, the Dutch Civil Code will provide explicitly that, in their preparation of the annual accounts, small enterprises may use the valuation principles applied to the preparation of the tax annual accounts (corporation tax return). Occasionally an explanatory note to the figures may be required.

The XBRL taxonomy is supplemented to facilitate this process. By using a software package including the taxonomy, the annual accounts for the Chamber of Commerce and the profit statement for the Tax and Customs Administration can be gathered in one step from the entrepreneur's financial records. If the Dutch Civil Code needs to be amended, the Government will implement such amendment in good time – e.g. by inclusion in a pending amendment to the Dutch Civil Code or in the legislative proposal regarding simplification of permits/licences and the reduction of the administrative burden.

If an accountant or tax consultant performs these activities – which is the case for 95% of the entrepreneurs – the entrepreneur may assume that only half of the costs will be charged from 2007.

The law of the private limited company

The bill to simplify this law and make it more flexible has been presented to the Council of State for its opinion. Ideally, it should be submitted to Parliament before the end of this year. The bill intends to make the legal form more attractive, in particular, for smaller or starting enterprises. The bill, for example, seeks to abolish the mandatory minimum capital of € 18,000 upon incorporating a BV and the mandatory bank account and to make a BV more flexible in terms of the internal structure.

1.1.4 Environment

In 2003, when the Government surveyed the complaints in the field of the administrative burden, many complaints referred to regulations included in the 'environmental' domain. For example, entrepreneurs were irritated by the complex manure legislation, the frequency of inspecting liquid-proof floors, the number of permits/licenses required to build/renovate buildings, the number of entrepreneurs having to apply for a separate environmental permit and the administrative burden relating to construction regulations.

Over the past years the Government has made every effort to resolve those bottlenecks. A large number of bottlenecks have been resolved and in 2007 the final measures will be implemented.

What was it like, what is it like... Environment

- In 2005, the frequency of the compulsory inspection of liquid-proof floors was reduced from around once every 18 months to once every six years...
- One central desk for waste products was set up. While before all businesses in the waste processing sector had to report on paper to provincial bodies, they now have one central desk and it is digital...
- Since 1 January 2005 the manure disposal contract is abolished, the annual statement no longer has to be filed by half of all agricultural entrepreneurs due to the risk approach in the

new manure policies and the manure records take considerably less time for entrepreneurs to complete as a link is made with information systems of entrepreneurs...

- The category 'building permit free buildings' has been extended and anyone who has to contact the local authorities needs to submit less data. For a light test the decision deadline is shorter and the buildings aesthetics committee need not be called in...

Perhaps the most important measure for the entrepreneur that still has to be realized is the introduction of the environmental permit. The fire safety regulations will also become uniform, the building materials decree will be simplified and the environmental rules will be modernized.

Introduction environmental permit

The environmental permit provides the solution for the entrepreneurs' complaint that all kinds of different permits and licenses from different desks are required for the construction or renovation of a building or when commencing another activity. In future, all will be processed in one single application. And there will only be one single desk with one contact point and one body for the entrepreneur to deal with.

As briefly stated in the previous progress report (April 2006), public authorities and businesses are already making every effort to realize all this in time. For public authorities, the greatest challenge is to prepare the organization for combining all information for such a single environmental permit into one back office. Entrepreneurs will deal with an integral, more extensive preparation of the permit application. Pilots show that this will save the entrepreneur a great deal of time, but it is important that all processes are well set up. The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment ensures that all public authorities and businesses involved do not have to re-invent the wheel. Based on conferences and courses, the Ministry facilitates the exchange of know-how. Much attention is also drawn to the development of the digital desk and digital application forms. The development of the project is on schedule. Ideally, in 2007 the implementation of the environmental permit will be further developed. From 1 January 2008, all municipalities, provinces, water boards and businesses must use the environmental permit.

Modernization environmental rules

The most recent update of the modernization of environmental rules is that the draft decree 'General Rules for Establishments Environmental Management' was published in the Government Gazette on 29 June 2006. The objective is to publish the decree early 2007 after which it will enter into force. The new decree means that for around 37,000 businesses the permit obligation will be replaced by general rules, i.e. 17,000 more than stated by the Government in their previous progress report on the administrative burden. Businesses that cannot mainly be classified under one sector do not fall under one of the current orders in council and must apply for a permit. The bakery also acting as a catering business with a terrace is a popular example. Under the new decree the businesses will simply fall under the activities order in council and such businesses no longer require a permit. They may suffice by reporting to the local authorities, saving them time and money. Given that more businesses no longer fall under the permit obligation, the reduction of the administrative burden will be some tens of millions of euros more than originally expected.

The general rules applying to around 280,000 businesses will also be included in the Activities Decree following a clean-up and harmonization. After the Activities Decree and the Decree Amending the Agriculture Environmental Management (end of 2007) enter into force, the number of establishments subject to the permit obligation will amount to around 45,000 out of around 400,000 businesses in total. In the long term, more businesses will fall under the new simplified rules. Only businesses with large-scale environmental effects, such as major chemical plants, will in future require an environmental permit.

Simplification Building Materials Decree

In the previous report on the administrative burden the Government already noted that the building materials decree, which many entrepreneurs find complicated, will be converted into a soil quality decree. The new decree is based on the principle that the smaller the risk, the fewer the rules. The decree is at present before the Council of State for its opinion and the ancillary ministerial regulation is now available for consultation. The decree will be published in the Bulletin of Acts and Decrees in January 2007. The deadline for the entry into force is still under discussion.

Uniform fire safety regulations

At present, every municipality has its own regulations and this is a source of irritation among businesses, especially businesses that work across municipal borders. The Fire Safe Use of Buildings Decree including one set of national regulations will enter into force in May 2007. This decree removes unnecessary local differences, provides more legal certainty and equality before the law, offers better opportunities for information and supporting ICT applications and is more in line with the 2003 Buildings Decree and environmental regulations.

1.1.5 Safety and risk

Within the 'Safety and Risk' domain the Government has taken various measures to reduce the administrative burden. The road waybill for road transport of goods has been simplified, shipping companies need to register less data regarding rest periods, sailing

What was it like, what is it like ... registration vehicles

'Sometimes we had to go to the post office several times a day. This took up a lot of our time; in addition, you have to find a parking spot and wait in the queue. Occasionally, the person behind the desk told us: come back later, it is too busy or you have too many certificates to deal with now. All that time, the customer did not have his/her driving license. Now, the customer comes to collect his/her new care and within five minutes the vehicle registration certificate is printed.'

Mr Op het Veld, General Director VW and Audi Dealer Auto Arena in Venlo

hours and the composition of the crew, the transport questionnaire has been simplified and the frequency reduced and garage businesses are now permitted to register a car digitally in the new owner's name and to print out the new vehicle registration certificate.

The Government is also making every effort to reduce the administrative burden in the field of working conditions

laws and regulations. Over the past years, many Risk Surveys and Evaluations have been developed and geared towards the specific sectors. They are available via www.rie.nl. Completing such specific surveys and evaluations is easier and quicker for entrepreneurs. Currently, specific digital surveys and evaluations are available for around 80 sectors and their number will soon increase. In addition, since 1 July 2005, businesses with less than 10 employees (should they use an approved sector-specific survey and/or evaluation) no longer have to call in working conditions services to review the surveys and evaluations. Businesses with 10 to 25 employees may suffice by a lighter review by the working conditions service, if they use an approved sector-specific survey and/or evaluation.

Further simplification working conditions regulations

The next important step in the field of working conditions regulations is the introduction of the new simplified Working Conditions Act. In the new set-up of the working conditions legislation employers and employees will bear more responsibility. The Government determines a responsible protection level for employees and employers, employees then decide by mutual consent how to realize this in practice. The working conditions catalogues have an important role in this respect. In the catalogues employers, in consultation with the social partners, specify the resources they require to attain the safety objectives laid down by the Government. It is expected that in 2007 and 2008 most working conditions catalogues will be developed. The Ministry for Social Affairs and

Employment wishes to promote the development of the working conditions catalogues with a subsidy scheme.

The debate regarding the new Working Conditions Act is in full swing. The Government seeks to have the new Working Conditions Act enter into force as from 1 January 2007.

In 2007 the administrative burden of the Public Administration Probity Screening Act (BIBOB Act) and the Licensing and Catering Act will also be dealt with.

Simplification BIBOB Act

The BIBOB Act provides administrative bodies with an additional instrument to screening probity of partners they work with. For example: applicants of certain permits/licenses and subsidies and candidates for certain public contracts. All this to prevent the Government from inadvertently facilitating criminal offences. The application of this instrument does however mean that entrepreneurs have to complete some questionnaires. At present, this instrument is being evaluated and at the end of 2006 Parliament receives the BIBOB evaluation, which also provides indications on how to reduce the administrative burden for businesses. The option of applying the BIBOB in various stages will in any event be considered in the development of reduction proposals.

Licensing and Catering Act

The Government still seeks to reduce the administrative burden for both (sports) canteens and commercial businesses by amending the licensing system of the Licensing and Catering Act. Following legislative changes a new licensing and catering license is required for a new (sports) canteen or catering enterprise, or where an establishment fails to meet the requirements following an extensive renovation. This legislative amendment will reduce the number of license applications by, on average, 1,500 (sports) canteens and 7,000 commercial catering entrepreneurs per annum. However, the bill is behind schedule and is now expected to be submitted to the House of Representatives in November 2006.

1.1.6 Healthcare

An extensive and complex system such as the healthcare system always entails an administrative burden. However, the Government has also taken some measures in this field to reduce the burden. For example, in 2004, the Government initiated the declaration case programme to improve the declaration process and to reduce the administrative burden. Annually, thousands of healthcare providers send millions of declarations for medical treatments to the healthcare insurers. On average 5% cannot be processed due to inaccurate patient details, rates, codes, absence of authorization, etc. Correcting such errors is time and energy consuming and a source of irritation among all parties. The errors in the declaration process were caused for the most part by the slight use of ICT. The declaration case programme ensured that from 1 January 2006 the

What was it like, what is it like ... the declaration process

Correcting errors in the declaration process is time and energy consuming and a source of irritation among all parties. The introduction of the digital exchange of messages in the declaration process between healthcare providers and insurers reduces the error percentage from 5% to less than 1%...

exchange of messages in the declaration process between healthcare providers and insurers is digital. The error percentage in declarations is thereby reduced to 1%.

In the past healthcare institutions had to render account every year. For example, they had to account for the policies pursued (annual report), financial accounting (annual accounts) and the

quality (quality annual report). All in all, this involved a large number of documents at different points in time. The reports are now harmonized and streamlined. A framework has been established for the annual reporting. That framework is, per sector, filled with specific performance indicators. This annual report constitutes the accounting report of the institution vis-à-vis all partners involved, including the Government. The Government

also implemented simplifications in the field of the building regulations in the healthcare sector, in the patient contribution regulations Exceptional Medical Expenses Act and in the checks for medical devices and the ancillary package leaflet.

In 2007 another important measure is implemented to ensure that healthcare institutions are no longer bothered more than once with the same request for information. The 'supplementary healthcare programme' will also be further implemented to noticeably reduce the administrative burden in the healthcare sector.

One single request for data in the healthcare sector

This project regulates who makes which request for information and for what purpose. The project is still on schedule. The leading principle is that a request for information should only be made once. In line with this, a system will become available this year that provides insight into where information can be located and how it may be accessed. From 2007 healthcare institutions will thus not be bothered more than once with the same request for information.

Additional healthcare programme

In order to further reduce the experienced administrative burden in the healthcare sector the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has prepared a supplementary programme. Additional activities will be taken in this respect.

- A covenant between sectors of healthcare providers and insurers *and* the healthcare non-departmental public bodies will be prepared. The covenant lays down agreements on joint action to deal with the administrative burden, bureaucracy, regulatory pressure and practical implementation. These issues are presently being studied for the covenant.
- The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport sets up a 'flying squad' to assist healthcare providers and professionals with advice and practical help in removing bureaucratic obstacles and bottlenecks. A coordinator for the flying squad has been appointed and started his activities in the second half of September.
- As part of the introduction of the system of common commencement dates, the ministry will better inform healthcare institutions and professionals on rules, (intended) changes to those rules and the relation between changes. As regards the Exceptional Medical Expenses Act, an Internet site for providers of exceptional medical expenses is under construction.
- Over the next period, the Healthcare Authority will review all policy rules to detect the unnecessary administrative burden and to implement simplifications.

A noticeable reduction of the administrative burden...

How entrepreneurs experience the administrative burden continues to be an important point of special attention for the Government. Although many simplifications have already been implemented, entrepreneurs have not experienced yet this as such. This is due to different factors, as already noted by Actal and the Netherlands Court of Auditors:

- Some measures entail once-off investment costs before they result in a reduction of the administrative burden;
- Entrepreneurs need to get accustomed to the new situation/working method before they notice the reduction of the administrative burden;
- In some cases the regulatory pressure is partly caused by regulations of the sector itself;
- An entrepreneur still experiences the remaining administrative burden, while the burden that has been removed is quickly lost out of sight;
- In practice, an entrepreneur, understandably, makes no distinction between the administrative burden and other costs he/she must incur.

Over the past period, the Government has taken action to increase the awareness of the reduction. Much attention is thereby drawn to communication, e.g. via websites, newsletters and leaflets. It must be clear to the entrepreneur what has changed and is changing and how he/she might benefit from that. It is also important that reducing the regulatory pressure is a priority for *all* those involved; Central Government, other public authorities, Europe, but also businesses themselves.

The Government continues to emphasize this. Finally, the Government not merely reduces the administrative burden, but also seeks to remove contradictory regulations, to simplify permits/licenses and to reduce the supervisory burden.

All in all, the policy is starting to have effect and the results of this operation are becoming more and more evident. The Government expects that this awareness will further increase in 2007 with the realization of another round of simplifications.

1.1.7 And then the numbers...

The reduction of the administrative burden for businesses is on schedule. In 2007, the Government's objective will be attained. In some fields, entrepreneurs have noted increases, e.g. by the introduction of the new healthcare system or financial supervision, but as stated by the Government beforehand in its own 'rules of the game' such increases have to be compensated. All in all, the net administrative burden of laws and regulations is reduced by a quarter in 2007. Below, please find a nationwide overview of the development of the administrative burden in the period 2003-2007.

Cumulative overview of the reduction	through 2005	through 2006	through 2007
Finance	646	786	915
Social Affairs & Employment	388	541	680
Health, Welfare & Sport	- 1	676	755
Justice	60	144	903
Housing, Spatial Planning & the Environment	96	160	519
Transport, Public Works & Water Management	137	197	264
Economic Affairs	28	43	60
Agriculture, Nature & Food Quality	122	148	158
Education, Culture & Science	0,2	0,5	5
Interior & Kingdom Relations	- 14	- 13	- 9
Total net reduction	1463 (9%)	2697 (16,4%)	4251 (25,9%)

Some small changes have occurred compared to the picture presented in the Government letter 'A Central Role for the Entrepreneur' of April 2006. These changes for the most part cancel each other out. The total reduction increases slightly in 2007. For a general explanation of the statistics, the Government refers to Annexe 7 of the 2007 Budget Memorandum.

The Government recently sent an extensive report to Parliament including a reply to the Smeets motion² and the results of an ex post measurement carried out by the Government in relation to six efficiency measures. This report already noted that the EIM established that almost 88% of the measures implemented through 2005 benefited small and medium-sized enterprises. The EIM therefore, within the scope of the reply to the Sylvester motion³, established that 75% of the total reduction benefits entrepreneurs with less than 10 employees.

As already stated by the Government in the said report, both the departments involved and businesses experienced the ex post survey as a useful exercise. An ex post survey provides insight into the actual results of the intended increase of efficiency and suggest new ideas to further reduce the administrative burden for businesses. Measures are

² Parliamentary Documents II, 2005-2006, 29515, No. 119.

³ Parliamentary Documents II, 2005-2006, 30300, XIII.

therefore periodically subjected to random ex post surveys. At present, a second round of ex post surveys is carried out. These surveys are almost completed. Once they are completed, Parliament will be informed of these surveys, and the implications of the results for the series of measures.

The preceding paragraphs already show that some important measures still have to be implemented in 2007. To be absolutely sure, the Government had another risk assessment carried out to safeguard the timely implementation of those measures.

Results risk assessment...

In September a previously performed risk assessment was updated. The total reduction potential of the examined measures amounts to € 2.5 billion (94%) of the total series of measures realized in 2006 and 2007.

The most important outcome of this update is that the intended reduction will almost fully be realized. Compared to the previous risk assessment the controllability has further increased. In some cases, additional measures of control are required, but these have already been taken by the departments.

As regards the reduction proposals Labelling Health Protection, the Seamen's Decree and part of the Prices Act (total administrative burden of € 126 million), it will be virtually impossible to realize them in good time, even if additional measures of control are taken. All three cases concern situations in which European politics and regulations play a major part and in which the Dutch influence is limited. The Government therefore already wrote off the intended reduction in an earlier stage.

1.2 Noticeable reduction at municipalities and in Europe?!

For an entrepreneur it is irrelevant whether an obligation ensues from municipal, national or European laws and regulations. He or she must perform the obligation which costs time and money. This also means that the reduction of the administrative burden, as far as the entrepreneur is concerned, will only be noticeable once all levels participate.

1.2.1 The most recent interim review at municipalities...

Reducing the regulatory pressure at local level continues to be an important point for special attention, and it finally seems to gather pace. The VNG (Association of Netherlands Municipalities) is making every effort and a large number of the new municipal programmes deal with the local regulatory pressure. Improving the services of the municipalities is an important objective for the next four years. Increasingly more municipalities review their local regulations in terms of contradictory rules, an unnecessary administrative burden and bottlenecks in granting permits/licenses. An important aspect in that respect is the improvement of municipal services for entrepreneurs and citizens.

The Government seeks to further increase the number of municipalities dealing with the local regulatory pressure. At regional meetings Central Government draws attention to ways in which to deal with the local regulatory pressure. This is in line with existing initiatives such as the so-called I-teams. These teams have already concluded contracts with one third of the municipalities to strengthen the digital services provided by municipalities.

In order to ensure that not every municipality re-invents the wheel, the Government, in conjunction with the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) supports municipalities already dealing with or initiating operations to reduce the regulatory pressure. The instruments already developed specifically for municipalities are thereby harmonized and disclosed for use in the municipalities. In addition, the municipal experiences in reducing the regulatory pressure are gathered and exchanged. This

includes the covenants signed by the State Secretary for Economic Affairs with 32 aldermen for Economic Affairs. Finally, the Government intends to provide financial support to municipalities that wish to review their regulations.

Financial facility for municipalities in dealing with the local administrative burden ...

The Government intends to provide financial support to municipalities that wish to review their regulations. Municipalities may use such funds to call in external bureaus to review local regulations in terms of the administrative burden. The financial facility will be available until early 2009 (the term of office of the present municipal executive).

Municipalities may only use the financial facility if they commit themselves to preparing a series of measures further to the review to deal with the bottlenecks.

1.2.2 The most recent interim review in Europe...

European Commissioner Verheugen recently indicated that he seeks to realize a quantitative European reduction objective in the field of the administrative burden, following the Dutch example. This is important news, given that around half of the administrative burden in the Netherlands has its origins in European regulations. It is expected that the final decision-making relating to the quantitative reduction objective will take place in the Spring of 2007.

The Government seeks to make every effort to turn the Commission's words into deeds in the next couple of years. This is essential, given that, at European level, the Commission has only put forward a few EU laws for simplification. For example, in the field of European waste legislation, the Commission has sought to streamline and clarify the definitions used in the various waste Directives. This will benefit entrepreneurs having to deal with such Directives. The Commission has also proposed to update the Community Customs Code. The idea is that all customs formalities in the European Union should be dealt with digitally. The Commission also seeks to establish one desk for authorized importers to deal with all formalities. The proposals in the field of customs and waste are presently pending before the European Parliament and the European Council.

European files the Government would especially like to simplify are, for example, building, waste, statistics, the law of annual accounts, labelling, VAT and working conditions.

In the meantime, the Netherlands seeks to reduce to a minimum the administrative burden caused by Europe. It is important in that respect that the Netherlands has a consistent message in Europe where Brussels asks our opinion in relation of new policy proposals. The Government has therefore decided to specifically entrust one staff member of the Dutch Permanent Representation in Brussels with drawing attention to the administrative burden in all policy proposals.

H 2. Challenges for the future

Although the achievements are already considerable, the Government is aware that things can and should always be improved. In the progress report on the administrative burden 'A Central Role for the Entrepreneur' of April 2006 the Government for the first time outlines a possible future policy with regard to the administrative burden of regulations for businesses.

The Government sees three challenges for the future:

- *A structural low level of the administrative burden for entrepreneurs*
- *Dealing with the other costs for entrepreneurs in relation to laws and regulations*
- *Dealing with the administrative burden in the (semi-)public sector*

Please find below a further outline of what is being prepared to ensure that a new Government has the instruments to face future challenges.

The Government thereby likes to use the experiences of other parties with expertise in dealing with costs of regulation. For example, the Government at an early stage asked Actal to advise on opportunities to further improve the method to measure the administrative burden. Actal issued an opinion entitled 'Towards a Noticeable Reduction of the Administrative Burden: Advice on Broadening and Measuring Methodology'. The Netherlands Court of Auditors also issued an opinion making suggestion to improve the methodology.

The experiences of the United Kingdom and Denmark are an important source. These countries recently, following the Dutch example, completed their nationwide measurements of the administrative burden and they have a good track record in the field of dealing with the costs of regulations in general.

Finally, the OECD and the World Bank prepare a review into the effectiveness of the Dutch approach and efforts to reduce the administrative burden for businesses. They will thereby assess and make recommendations regarding the general approach. This not only includes the methodology, but also the general infrastructure. The OECD and the World Bank will issue a preliminary report in November with conclusions and recommendations (final report scheduled for January 2007). The Government has asked the OECD and the World Bank to base their recommendations on well-known 'world leading examples'.

2.1 Challenge 1: A structural low level of the administrative burden for entrepreneurs...

Proper insight into the scale of the administrative burden and, in particular, its composition is an important first step towards dealing with the administrative burden of laws and regulations. Since 2003, the departments therefore systematically calculate the administrative burden based on a standard methodology, i.e. the standard costs model (SCM). This standard was developed in collaboration with the EIM and was first applied systematically and integrally in the zero-based measurement in 2003 to quantify the administrative burden for businesses. The methodology also serves as a basis for the zero-based measurement of the administrative burden for citizens.

As briefly stated in the previous progress report, the 'Administrative Burden Toolkit' is at present being improved and extended. The toolkit is a starter's package for the new Government to structurally keep the administrative burden at a low level. This paragraph describes exactly which instruments form part of the toolkit and which actions the

Government takes to further improve these instruments. A further improvement of the methodology used to outline the administrative burden, more insight into ways leading to noticeable simplifications and to disclose the know-how in the field of monitoring and embedding are points for special attention.

2.1.1 Towards an improved measuring methodology...

The SCM is an instrument providing insight into where the information obligations can be found in laws and regulations and which costs they cause for entrepreneurs. The SCM thus provides tools for the implementation of simplifications, on the basis of which departments may jointly prepare proposals to noticeably reduce the administrative burden for entrepreneurs.

Over the next period, several assumptions of the SCM are reviewed to see how they might be better harmonized in practical terms with the day-to-day practice (see Annex II). The opportunities to extend the methodology will also be examined with different 'labels' to further increase the usefulness of the measurements. The improved method should ensure that in future it will be easier to find noticeable reduction proposals.

Over the next few months the efforts relating to the methodology are being intensified. In early November, experts of the departments, Actal, research agencies and foreign departmental administrative burden bureaus will carry out an extensive evaluation of the methodology to outline the improvements. The final results are laid down in a new manual to measure the administrative burden. A new Government may use this improved method to structurally keep the administrative burden for entrepreneurs at a low level.

2.1.2 From measuring to good simplification proposals...

An essential step in the process to reduce the administrative burden of laws and regulations is the formulation of simplification proposals. It is thereby important to involve the field in the formulation of such proposals.

Businesses have been closely involved in formulating the current series of simplification measures to reduce the administrative burden affecting them. They have been involved based on the so-called 'mixed committees', Internet desks, the model business project and the reports of the independent Stevens regulatory Burden Committee.

Within the scope of the toolkit of the administrative burden various instruments that were applied in the identification of simplification proposals will be evaluated. The results of this evaluation will be laid down in 'simplification guidelines'. The guidelines contain basic principles for a proper simplification process. 'Best practices' relating to simplifications are also included.

(Parliamentary Documents II, 2005-2006, 29515, no. 114)

Last January, MP Koopmans of the CDA political party asked the Government to study measures to reduce the administrative burden by an additional € 2 billion. First of all, for example, by the further reduction of the supervisory burden, tenders and simplification of European files such as labelling. Given the scale of such tasks, such a study necessarily involves far-reaching political options, e.g. in the field of taxes and reporting. Considerations in that respect should be given by a next Government. The Government is currently carrying out a study to provide the new Government with a first set of ideas.

2.1.3 From proposals to timely implementation...

In order to really reduce the administrative burden of laws and regulations, it is important (a) to safeguard the progress of the implementation of the formulated simplification proposals and (b) to reduce to a minimum the increase of the

administrative burden ensuing from new laws and regulations. Strict monitoring is thus essential to actually realize the reduction of the administrative burden of laws and regulations. At the same time, the ideas relating to the administrative burden should be embedded to reduce the increases to a minimum.

Departmental level

At present, the departments themselves are responsible for realizing their series of measures. The departments involved have thus organized a process and set up a structure to monitor the reduction of the administrative burden and to embed the ideas within the department. Practical experience shows that departments have organized this in different ways.

In November 2005 the manual 'The Departmental Embedment of the Administrative Burden' was published. The manual formulates some preconditions important for a sound departmental organization of the administrative burden. The manual also includes a checklist on the basis of which departments may simply review their own organization of the administrative burden. The Government seeks to implement a peer review of the departmental organizations of the administrative burden. This would produce per department an overview of the state of affairs and any points for future improvements.

Government wide

For an overall view of the development of the administrative burden of laws and regulations, it is also important to monitor such development Government wide. In the case of the reduction of the administrative burden for businesses this is monitored within the scope of the budget cycle. At the start of the operation, the Government drew up some rules to safeguard the realization of the objective. The Government laid down these rules in Annexe 10 to the 2004 Budget Memorandum. The next period will be used to evaluate these rules and to review their usefulness and how they might be improved.

2.2 Challenge 2: Dealing with other costs of regulation

Compliance costs

The administrative burden is expensive and an obstacle for entrepreneurs. However, regulations entail more costs for entrepreneurs than just the administrative burden. They also face the so-called compliance costs. It is important to also deal with these costs and to avoid any increases where possible. The Government is already dealing with these costs by removing contradictory regulations, drastically reducing the number of permits/licenses and simplifying licensing systems.

In order to counteract existing compliance costs, the Government asked EIM to carry out a survey in 2004 to review whether it might be possible and useful to measure these costs relating to existing laws and regulations (just as the administrative burden), and whether such measurements might produce indications to identify simplifications. The conclusion of this study was that an integral measurement of existing compliance costs is neither possible nor useful.⁴ Thanks to the Stevens Committee some irritating compliance costs were identified, such as the frequent amendments to laws and regulations and the non-uniform fire safety regulations. The Government has already responded to these complaints.

In view of the findings of the said study by EIM, Actal is presently reviewing the opportunities to develop a methodology to identify bottlenecks in certain fields and realize simplifications. The Ministries of Finance and Economic Affairs, the business organisations SME Netherlands and VNO-NCW are currently reviewing a sound method to deal with unnecessary and irritating compliance costs.

⁴ 'Compliance costs for businesses' (in Dutch language), EIM, 12 May 2005.

It seemed, however, possible to develop a methodology for new laws and regulations to quantify compliance costs. As from 1 June 2006, the methodology is a standard component of the Business Impact Assessment (BIA). It is compulsory to include the results of these measurements in the paragraph relating to the business effects in the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying new regulations. The financial costs, such as the costs of court fees, dues and taxes, are traditionally also part of the BIA.

Supervisory and inspection burden

Another point for special attention for the future is the burden caused by the control carried out by inspectorates and law enforcers. Supervision of the proper implementation of and compliance with laws and regulations is important, but entrepreneurs occasionally experience their supervision as a real burden. For example, entrepreneurs complain about the large number of supervisors visiting their enterprise without any kind of coordination and often requesting the same kind of information.

Within the scope of the 'Unequivocal Supervision' project, the Government is already making every effort to reduce the supervisory burden and it thereby draws specific attention to the accumulation and concurrence of supervisory powers. An important aspect of the project is the active promotion and improvement of the collaboration between supervisors. It deals with the coherence between the first and second line supervision and thus the collaboration with decentralized authorities.

In this respect, the Government is working closely with businesses and employers' organizations such as VNO-NCW and SME Netherlands. The Government has set up a Supervision Taskforce combining all parties involved in the reduction of the supervisory burden. The Taskforce manages the results on behalf of the Government. In addition, an important part of the implementation is entrusted to a new Inspection Council in which all relative State Inspectorates collaborate and are geared towards improving the collaboration and the reduction of the supervisory burden by a quarter.

In order to identify the bottlenecks relating to the supervisory burden, the Government developed a methodology in line with the SCM which, in addition, measures the experienced supervisory burden. The Government already applied the methodology to measure the burden in the Schiphol Airport and Hospitals domains. The methodology has been laid down in a manual and is part of the starter's package for the new Government.

2.3 Challenge 3: Dealing with the administrative burden in the (semi-)public institutions...

Public institutions and professionals in the (semi-)public sector are impeded by regulations imposed within Government. The Government could gain much by systematic policies geared towards preventing any new, unnecessary administrative burden and by removing the existing, internal, disproportional administrative burden. It would ensure that nurses, police officers and teachers can return to doing their job. This Government has therefore already reduced the administrative burden for healthcare and educational institutions by using the SCM.

However, the existing regulatory burden has a great impact on the operation of the Government as a whole. The Government has therefore gained experience with measuring the internal administrative burden using the SCM. Pilots were carried out within the scope of the so-called 'Control Tower'. The pilots showed that the quantitative results are most useful to identify simplification measures.

The next Government may well further intensify the actions against the internal administrative burden and thereby use the infrastructure developed to deal with the administrative burden. The 'toolkit' therefore contains a detailed manual to measure the internal administrative burden.

H3 Concluding remarks...

Reducing the administrative burden of laws and regulations has been on the political agenda since 1994. In the period 1994 – 2002 a great deal of experience was gained in dealing with and measuring the administrative burden. Ultimately, this led to the present infrastructure, dealing with budgeting the administrative burden and the ancillary methodology, the SCM.

All this meant that the Government was able to formulate dozens of concrete measures nationwide and to implement them in order to reduce the administrative burden on balance by a quarter. Although there is still room for improvement, this is a great achievement, also compared to other countries.

The Dutch methodology and the ancillary infrastructure has become an example for many countries across the world. In total, around 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, Denmark, Germany, France and Austria, have already adopted the Dutch system. And interest in this system is growing and growing. In addition, the European Commission and various international organizations are using the methodology to outline the administrative burden.

All in all, substantial progress has been made in the past four years. Many simplifications have been implemented and the 'administrative burden toolkit' which the Government is preparing will help to keep the administrative burden of laws and regulation at a structural low level and contribute to embedding this issue.

Finally, the Government would like to note that attention for regulatory pressure should not be a one-off item, it must remain a continuous point for special attention. It is important that, in that respect, attention is drawn to all aspects of regulations; the administrative and other compliance costs, the experienced costs, the quality of public services and the room for choice on the part of entrepreneurs. What continues to be important is the systematic evaluation of legislation, outlining the effects of new laws and regulations and thereby developing high-quality laws and regulations. After all, for the proper acceptance of and compliance with laws and regulations it is essential for them to be efficient and in line with existing processes and/or customs of their target group. This is the only way for the Government to actually attain the pursued objectives with the relative laws and regulations.

Package of most important 2003-2007 measures

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
All businesses				
Employees' social insurance schemes - gifts to employees: no information required to determine annual pay	Since 1 January 2003, businesses no longer have to provide information on gifts to employees. This information was formerly used to determine the annual pay.	1 January 2003	34	Social Affairs
Audit opinion: cancelled for VAMIL and MIA	Businesses were obliged to present an audit opinion when applying for random depreciation such as the VAMIL, and the environmental investments deduction scheme. Effective 1 January 2003 this requirement has been abolished resulting in businesses saving costs otherwise incurred with respect to audit opinion applications.	1 January 2003	20	Finance
Occupational health and safety Act – Risk Inventory and Evaluation: a convenient website	In support of entrepreneurs the website www.rie.nl states in an accessible and clear manner what the occupational health and safety obligations of entrepreneurs are since 1 January 2003.	1 January 2003	7	Social Affairs
Reproduction Rights Organization collects fees payable to copy right holders	Until 2003, the maker of a photocopy had to ask permission from the copyright holder for each and every multiplication. Since 1 February 2003, all fees are paid to the Reproduction Rights Organization, which in turn pays these to the right-holders. In 2004, this decision was transformed into the Business Reproduction Rights Regulation. Businesses pay a fixed annual sum, dependent on the level of their reproduction activities. The regulation makes a distinction between a low and high average level of photo reproduction activities subject to reproduction rights. The number of employees per business and the SBI-code of a business as used by Statistics Netherlands, furthermore determine the rate of the flat-rate fee. More information on reproduction rights can be found on http://www.reprorecht.nl/site/ .	1 February 2003	57	Justice
Wage tax: simplification of commuting allowance	Since 1 January 2004, the tax rules governing compensation of travelling expenses by employers have been simplified. Since that date, commuting distance is regarded as business travel. At the same time, the maximum tax-free business travel compensation has been set at € 0.19 per kilometre (2006), irrespective of the mode of transport. This means that the employer may compensate every business travel kilometre, including commuting distance, tax-free up to the applicable maximum. If the employee travels by public transport, the employer may also opt for tax-free compensation of the actually incurred travelling costs.	1 January 2004	25	Finance
Employees' social insurance schemes – commuting distance regulation: simplification	Until 2003, employers had to provide information on the commuting distance of their employees. Since 1 January 2004, commuting distance is considered business travel by standard. At the same time, the maximum tax-free business travel compensation has been set at €0.19 per kilometre (2006), irrespective of the mode of transport. This means that as of 2004, the employer may compensate every business travel kilometre, including commuting distance, tax-free up to the applicable maximum. If the employee travels by public transport, the employer may decide to either pay compensation up to € 0.19 per kilometre or to	1 January 2004	25	Social Affairs

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	pay tax free compensation of the actually incurred travelling costs.			
Turnover tax: once every quarter for small business	Until 2003, many small businesses were compelled to file monthly turnover tax returns. Since 1 January 2004, the threshold for quarterly returns has been raised to €7,000 so that more small businesses can file turnover tax returns once very quarter. Businesses that used to file quarterly returns may file annual returns provided they satisfy specific conditions.	1 January 2004	14	Finance
Employees' social insurance schemes – Review of Disability Insurance Act: extension of employer's obligation to pay wages to sick employees	As of 1 January 2004, sick employees continue to receive wage payments for a period of two years. Only after two years of sick leave have passed, employees may become eligible for disability benefit under the Act. This results in a decrease of the number of Disability Benefit applications and therefore less information that needs to be provided. This also marks the first step in a total reform of the Disability Insurance Scheme.	1 January 2004	8	Social Affairs
Labour market: abolishing of the Together Act	The Act compelled businesses to report the percentage of their employees from ethnic minorities. The Act applied to every employer with a staff of least 35. Due to the cancellation of this Act on 1 January 2004, businesses no longer need to retain separate personal records. In addition, the 'annual <i>Together Act</i> report' containing figures on the percentage of ethnic minority workers and a description of the measures taken to promote labour market participation of ethnic minorities, no longer needs to be drawn up.	1 January 2004	7.5	Social Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety - Risk inventory and Evaluation: more economical test for Small and Medium-sized enterprises	Since 4 February 2004, a lighter test for businesses employing 10-25 workers will be used, provided these businesses use branch-specific RI&Es. These RI&Es were agreed on branch level between employers and employees and can be found on www.rie.nl and www.arbo.nl .	4 February 2004	28	Social Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety – Work Safety Report regulation: a supplementary Risk Inventory and Evaluation for high-risk business replaces the Occupational Health & Safety report for each installation	Under the previous regulation, businesses working with hazardous substances had to compile a work safety report for each designated installation. This report included a description of the company and the designated installation, the present substances and processes, the anticipated dangers and the technical and organizational precautionary measures taken. As per 1 January 2004, this obligation has been replaced by a supplementary (RI&E) for each business covering all designated installations.	25 February 2004	1.8	Social Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety: cancellation of compulsory work consultations	Article 13 of the Occupational health and safety Act 1998 compelled businesses to hold regular work consultations if the working conditions required this. If necessary, businesses are well able to organize this for themselves. For this reason, Article 13 was abolished on 1 May 2004.	1 May 2004	89.2	Social Affairs
Labour market – Foreign Nationals Labour Act: simplification of short-term labour 2) Introduction Knowledge Immigrants	1) As of 1 May 2004, performing artists and musicians working in the Netherlands for periods shorter than 4 weeks, are exempt from the obligation to obtain a work permit. 2) As of 1 October 2004 the Knowledge Immigrants Regulations is introduced; employers wishing to employ a knowledge immigrant (a person earning more than €45,000) no longer require a separate work permit, but may suffice by a residence permit via the Immigration & Naturalization Service.	1 May 2004	2	Social Affairs

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
Employees' social insurance schemes: abolishing the Disability Insurance (Self-employed Persons) Act	Until July 2004, self-employed persons had to provide information for the purpose of insurance cover under the Act. Following the cancellation of this Act as per 1 August 2004, the compulsory reassessment of incapacity for work within one year of the commencing date of the disability benefit (for self-employed persons having become unfit for work after 1 July 2004) has been cancelled).	1 August 2004	20	Social Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety - Knowledge: information on preventive policy	Not all small and medium-sized enterprises are fully aware of their statutory obligations in the field of safe working conditions. Obtaining the required information will therefore be made easier, either directly, via branch organizations or administrative offices. A better knowledge and understanding of these obligations will significantly contribute to employers adopting a more effective preventive policy. Adequate examples of efficient absenteeism prevention and work reinstatement measures as well as other practical tools such as an RSI prevention manual, will result in a considerable reduction of the administrative burdens for employers. For more information see: www.arbo.nl .	2004 - 2007	55	Social Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety - Risk inventory and Evaluation: tailor-made RI&E development geared towards specific branches of trade and industry.	Filling in a Risk Inventory and Evaluation (RI&E) is sometimes too complicated. Many branches have meanwhile been offered such an RI&E tailored to their specific needs via www.rie.nl . Filling in a tailor-made RI&E is easier and faster. Currently, such digital RI&Es are available for more than 40 branches. In 2005-2006, more branch-specific RI&Es will be developed.	2004 - 2006	23	Social Affairs
Profit tax return and turnover tax return: henceforth electronically	Since 1 January 2005, paper tax returns have been replaced by an electronic tax return programme. Businesses may file their income, corporate and turnover tax returns free of charge via www.belastingdienst.nl . The website also publishes an overview for businesses of both filed and outstanding tax returns.	1 January 2005	50	Finance
Rightfulness of insurance cover under the Compulsory Health Insurance Act: simplified verification	Employers had to report their employees to the health insurer using a written employer's statement. As per 1 January 2005, such reports can be made electronically to Workers Insurance Authority UWV. More information can be found on: www.rinis.nl .	1 January 2005	32.5	Health
Immovable Property (Valuation) Act	In 2005, a technical modification was made in the Act. This resulted in, among other things, fewer possibilities to object to the valuation of immovable property under the Act.	1 January 2005	6.4	Finance
Employees' social insurance schemes - Employment Relationship Statement: more clarity	Clients must be able to demonstrate to the Tax Administration and the Workers Insurance Authority that they do not have to withhold and pay wage tax and employees' social insurance contributions in respect of the contracted party by means of an Employment Relationship Statement. As of 1 January 2005, the status of the client is more clearly shown on the Statement. Businesses no longer need to retain extensive administrative records to avoid any subsequent tax and insurance contribution assessments.	1 January 2005	2.7	Social Affairs
Electronically reporting business detail adjustments to the Chamber of Commerce	Businesses formerly had to report adjustments to the Chamber of Commerce by letter. As of 31 March 2005, this may be done electronically. More information can be found on www.kvk.nl .	31 March 2005	2.3	Economic Affairs
Occupational Health & Safety :	As of 1 July 2005, businesses employing less	1 July 2005	7	Social

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
cancellation of compulsory use of occupational health and safety agency	than 10 workers no longer have to call in a labour service for testing their Risk Inventory and Evaluation (RI&E), provided they use an approved branch-specific RI&E. Cancellation of this obligation means that the various occupational health and safety agencies must increasingly compete with each other.			Affairs
Labour market – Tender procedure municipalities: simplification of work reinstatement companies	The obligations that municipalities had to perform in the tender procedure deciding on a reinstatement company have been considerably reduced. The tender procedure's efficiency has also been increased.	2005-2007	18.7	Social Affairs
Annual pay statement 2006: simplification and a single contact point	Until 2006, employers had to send an annual pay statement to the Workers Insurance Authority UWV for the employees' social insurance contributions, and a wage tax/national insurance contribution return to the Tax Administration. As of 2006, these reports have been combined, which means that employers only need to send one report electronically to the Tax Administration. This report has been further simplified by making the wage concept uniform. In the recent past, both UWV and the Tax Administration used the concepts of pay subject to employees' social insurance contributions, table pay and daily wage amount used for calculation of benefit rates. As of 1 January 2005, the subsidy wage usually equals the <i>fiscal wage</i> . Since 1 January 2006, this has also applied to the above uitkeringsloon. In other words, the new (Reduction of administrative burdens and simplification of social insurance laws) Act stands for a simplified, once-only report to be made electronically to a single contact point. It is expected that the wage earned by an able-bodied wage earner compared to the income received by an equivalent disabled person used for the calculation of disability benefit rates, will also be harmonized in the course of 2007. More information can be found on: www.loonaangifte2006.nl .	1 January 2005 and 1 January 2006	200 + 95	Finance + Social Affairs
Employees' social insurance schemes - Cancellation of the Social Insurance Schemes (Report) Decree	Following the introduction of Walvis and SUB, the social insurance reports to be made to UWV were cancelled as per 1 January 2006.	1 January 2006	26.7	Social Affairs
Annual report and accounts: electronic presentation	In the past, businesses had to send their annual reports and accounts to the Chamber of Commerce by post. As of 1 January 2006 they may also deposit this documentation electronically via www.kvk.nl/online .	1 January 2006	7	Justice
Chamber of Commerce: abolishment of mandatory publication in Government Gazette	Previously, entrepreneurs had to publish certain amendments in the Trade Register via a paid publication in the Government Gazette. As of 1 January 2006, the Trade Register Act has been amended and such publications are placed on www.kvk.nl/publicaties free of charge.	1 January 2006	0.7	Economic Affairs
Cancellation of the requirement to demonstrate the business economic necessity in case of dismissals	If an employer and the Works Council (OR/PV) reach an agreement on collective dismissal, a dismissal assessment to be made by the Work and Income Centre (CWI) will not be required. As of 1 March 2006, the CWI no longer assesses the business economic necessity in case of collective dismissals, provided employer and trade unions reached agreement on this (this is included in the Dismissal Decree). This proposal is meant specifically to preclude double assessments. In the event of a collective dismissal the employers' associations must be consulted, naturally taking account of the	1 March 2006	3.7	Social Affairs

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	necessity and magnitude of the number of jobs lost. If the trade unions agree, it would be illogical for the CWI to assess, once again, the necessity of the dismissal.			
Restriction imputability assessment unemployment benefit	As of 1 October 2006, the imputability assessment of the unemployment benefit (part of the Act amending the Unemployment Benefit System) in order to reduce pro forma procedures at the CWI and the Preliminary Relief Judge. This measure means that employment contracts will more often be terminated by mutual consent (ie no permission required from CWI or Preliminary Relief Judge) without the employee losing the right to an unemployment benefit. This thus means considerably more flexibility of the dismissal practice.	1 October 2006	13	Social Affairs
Annual accounts: increase limit amounts	Where they exceed a certain limit amount, businesses fall under the extensive reporting regulation of the law of annual accounts. By decree of 7 February 2004, the limit amounts were increased by 4.3%. On 14 June 2006, the 2006/46/EC Directive was adopted including an increase of 20%. This means that many businesses may suffice by filing the simple form of annual accounts. For example, they only need to prepare and file an abridged balance sheet and profit and loss account. An ancillary benefit is that more enterprises will profit from the use of XBRL and the overlap of the commercial and tax annual accounts.	October 2006	86	Justice
Simplification APK (periodic motor vehicle test): soot test trucks and business cars	As of 31 December 2006, the soot test for diesel cars (trucks and business cars) is simplified without any harm to the environment. The test is simplified by programming the metres in such a way that the result 'right' or 'wrong' is achieved more quickly. This saves time and money. In addition, the obligation to retain the soot test receipt (2 years) is abolished.	31 December 2006	6.3	Transport
Simplification APK: 30 check points are abolished.	The APK is reduced by 30 check points. They relate inter alia to the operation of the ancillary brakes or parking brakes that are no longer checked separately. The field of vision of the mirrors is no longer checked (after all, this depends on the driver's positioning), and the blinding lights are no longer checked. The latter is a requirement of use. By abolishing such checks the test is quicker.	31 December 2006	2.1	Transport
Repeal of various tax regulations	In the period 2003-2006 various tax regulations are repealed. One of the implications is that the relative administrative burden is also cancelled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abolition of different contribution reductions, abolition of premium savings, abolition of holiday schemes (this scheme was partly reintroduced in 2004) €50.8 million, - abolition of issuance of bicycle declaration and abolition of check bicycle conduct in relation to the random depreciation and the environmental investment deduction €21.5 million, - abolition of certain bunker declarations in relation to excise duties, tightening incentive total energy and abolition of mandatory representation in legal proceedings €2.1 million, - simplification regulations products own company, abolition of contribution reduction training non-profit €3.65 million, - abolition of training deduction, expiry package of film measures €3.2 million, - abolition of scheme for low-sulphur fuel and 	2003-2006	0	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	<p>conversion of fuel tax into tariff measure €1.9 million,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - abolition of contribution reduction childcare € 18.3 million, - abolition of the temporary increase of the general tax credit, abolition of random depreciation of occupational health and safety investments, less tax returns cross-border business parks, abolition of group financing scheme €2.65 million, - abolition of contribution reduction occupational health and safety non-profit, abolition of Home PC scheme, amendment to employee concept for employees living abroad € 1.25 million, - extension periodic invoicing by dropping the requirement of similarity €1.7 million 			
Learning businesses: standardization recognition	<p>Businesses offering pupils from the upper secondary vocational education an internship must meet the requirements of different knowledge centres. The quality requirements to recognize learning businesses vary per knowledge centre. Thus a business with several specializations, e.g. a contractor with office staff (administrative), carpenters (construction) and electricians (installation) faces different quality requirements from different knowledge centres. In addition, the supervision of one knowledge centre may be more stringent than that of another centre. A standard recognition for learning businesses will be completed before the end of 2006. The umbrella organization of knowledge centres Colo (www.colo.nl) has developed a system for this.</p>	end of 2006	0	Education
Wage tax: Purple Crocodile	<p>Based on the 'Experience counts' report a large number of simplifications in the wage domain are introduced. These amendments are realized by the Ministries of Finance and for Social Affairs and Employment. By the middle of 2006, a bill was sent to the House of Representatives intending, inter alia, the following:</p> <p>A general scheme for gifts is introduced. A final tax levy at a fixed rate of 20% is imposed on one or more gifts in kind up to €70 per calendar year. No more conditions will be attached to the occasion at which the gifts are presented. Gifts for idealistic reasons are exempted.</p> <p>The so-called 80-meals scheme is abolished. This means that all meals with more than an ancillary business character may be compensated or provided free of tax, e.g. in the event of working late, business meetings with clients. The fixed additions to the wages on account of these meals exceeding 80 meals per annum are thus abolished.</p> <p>Compensations and benefits relating to staff parties, staff trips and staff associations are exempted if three quarters of a functional unit are entitled to such compensation or benefit and if not only the directors-major shareholders are entitled to the compensation or benefit.</p> <p>The present schemes for the telephone, the second telephone, cable/ADSL and ISDN are replaced by one single scheme. The</p>	1 January 2007	34 + 16	Finance + Social Affairs

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	<p>compensations and benefits for telephones or Internet are exempted in the event of more than ancillary business use.</p> <p>The scheme for fixed travel allowances free of tax is extended. Employees working for the most part (ie 70% or more) on a fixed location are entitled to a fixed travel allowance free of tax as if they work on that location the entire year.</p> <p>The fixed additions to the wages for the annual public transport pass that is also used for work or commuting purposes are abolished. In addition, the tickets for payment of the travelling expenses incurred no longer have to be kept per employee.</p> <p>Abolition of the addition of €68 in the event of the application of the bicycle scheme. Sport activities based on a company fitness scheme will become possible outside working hours and subject to certain conditions outside the company.</p>			
Annual accounts: use of the same data for commercial accounts and accounts for tax purposes	At present, companies render account to two bodies in relation of their financial situation, namely to the Chamber of Commerce (commercial accounts) and to the Tax and Customs Administration (accounts for tax purposes). As of 2007, the vast majority of small and medium-sized enterprises may suffice by filing the accounts for tax purposes with the Chamber of Commerce. In particular, small and medium-sized enterprises will benefit from this. Entrepreneurs using XBRL in their accounting package will be able to supply their data to the Chamber of Commerce and the Tax and Customs Administration in one single step.	1 January 2007	325 + 75	Justice + Finance
Annual accounts: simplification supply of information	Entrepreneurs and their intermediaries (accountants and accounting offices) spend a great deal of time on the input of data and supply of information required for the preparation of annual accounts. In June 2006, the Dutch Taxonomy Project (NTP) supplied the Dutch XBRL taxonomy for the exchange of financial data. XBRL is an international open software standard for marking financial data in financial records. If an accounting package is used that is geared towards this 'data dictionary', the right data relating to the annual accounts, tax return and economic statistics from the records are gathered and supplied to the Chamber of Commerce, the Tax and Customs Administration and Statistics Netherlands in one single step. Entrepreneurs may thus reduce, in particular, the costs of accountants and tax consultants. Leading software suppliers have already indicated that they will incorporate the XBRL taxonomy in their packages without additional costs for entrepreneurs. It is expected that the digitalization of the reports will save entrepreneurs (or their intermediaries) on average 33% of the time required to compile the annual accounts. For small entrepreneurs this amounts to savings of around 9 hours per annum, medium-sized companies will save around 140 hours. For more information, please refer to www.xbrl-ntp.nl and www.xbrl.org	1 January 2007	350	Justice

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	(international).			
Occupational health and safety – General simplification of the Occupational Health and Safety Act: end of detailed rules	The amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1998 that are expected to enter into force on 1 January 2007 will give employers and employees more room to organize the way in which they meet the occupational health and safety requirements applicable in their own branch. They will have more responsibility. Employers and employees prepare occupational health and safety catalogues. An occupational health and safety catalogue provides a framework and is a practical and accessible tool providing opportunities to comply with the public provisions setting out objectives and reflecting the agreements made by the employers and employees. An efficient occupational health and safety policy at the lowest possible costs and a minimal administrative burden.	1 January 2007	92.9	Social Affairs
Company law: digital convocation notice shareholders' meeting private limited companies (BVs) and public limited companies (NVs)	At present, companies must announce their shareholders' meetings in daily newspapers or dispatch a convocation notice by regular mail. This is no longer mandatory for all BVs and NVs with registered shares. Only NVs with bearer shares still have to publish an announcement in daily newspapers. For major NVs with bearer shares the costs of publishing a notice in a daily newspaper are relatively low. The effects of this measure (no costs for publication in daily newspapers and savings as a result of a digital convocation notice) will be noticeable as of 2007.	1 January 2007	69	Justice
Employment relationships – Childcare Act: simplification	The 2007 Tax Plan includes the bill for a mandatory employer's contribution to childcare. For employers already making an employer's contribution the implementation costs are removed.	1 January 2007	8.9	Social Affairs
Chamber of Commerce: digital registration	At present, entrepreneurs cannot register digitally with the Chamber of Commerce. This option is in development and it is expected that it will be available by the middle of 2007. The option of amending data digitally is also extended. More information: www.kvk.nl .	Middle of 2007	5.3	Economic Affairs
Statistics: fewer and simpler questionnaires, in particular for SME.	Increasingly fewer and simpler forms will be presented to, in particular, SME entrepreneurs in the period up to 31 December 2007. This is possible due to the fact that use is also made of other sources, e.g. existing data from the Tax and Customs Administration. Questionnaires will also be simplified to reduce the average completion time. In addition, digital provision of data is possible in increasingly more instances. A European success should also be noted. After all, since 1 January 2005 the threshold for statistics on international trade in goods has been increased from 225,000 euros to 400,000 euros. The number of businesses having to supply data is therefore reduced from 30,000 to 23,000.	31 December 2007	9.6	Economic Affairs
Company law: declaration of no objection upon incorporation company is abolished	Upon incorporation of a public limited company (NV) or private limited company (BV) a declaration of no objection is mandatory. Ideally, in 2007, this declaration is replaced by a system in which the civil-law notary informs the Minister of Justice of the incorporation. This means that companies, immediately upon notification, may participate in commercial transactions. Foundations also have to be reported upon incorporation. In addition, the	2007	7	Justice

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	declaration of no objection presently required upon amending the articles of association will be abolished. Instead, the Chamber of Commerce has to notify the Minister of Justice of any modifications within the structure of the artificial person. The civil-law notary or the Chamber of Commerce supplies the data in this respect as a result of which the entrepreneur only needs to supply the data once.			
Public Administration Probity Screening Act (BIBOB Act)	At the end of 2006, the House receives the evaluation of the BIBOB Act. This evaluation provides tools to reduce the administrative burden for businesses. The possibility of gradually applying the BIBOB Act will in any event be reviewed: a light questionnaire in the first instance, a supplementary questionnaire in case of doubt. The reduction proposals for the BIBOB Act will be completed by the end of 2006.	31 December 2007	3	Interior
Personal Data Protection Act (WBP): reduction of notification obligation	The Personal Data Protection Act is being evaluated. The reduction proposals are expected in 2007 in the form of simplification of the Act and its implementation. In addition, the provision of information regarding the Personal Data Protection Act is being improved to remove some misunderstandings.	2007	2.8	Justice
Amendment to the Road Haulage Act: abolition of registration obligation	Businesses with their own road transport must register with the SIEV Foundation. The registration must be renewed every 5 years. As of 31 December 2007 this obligation is abolished for businesses with a principal activity other than transportation. They may use their own means of transport without registering.	31 December 2007	2.2	Transport
Inheritance Tax Act: harmonization with income tax	The inheritance tax return and the income tax return following the decease of a taxpayer must be further harmonized. For example, by providing modified tax forms for the income tax and inheritance tax returns. This measure is presently in development.	2008	12	Finance
Company law: simplification and flexibility BV law	The legal form BV must be made more attractive both from a national and international perspective. This means that the rules of Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code should be aligned with practical experience. This concerns, inter alia, the facilitation of decision-making outside a meeting and the abolition of the mandatory minimum capital of € 18,000 upon the incorporation of a BV. In addition, other formalities such as the mandatory bank statement is abolished. BVs are given the opportunity to set up a more flexible internal structure: for example, by allowing shareholders to appoint their own managing director. More room is also provided to determine the voting ratio in the shareholders' meeting. Such modifications make the legal form BV more attractive for smaller or starting enterprises. This measure will probably enter into force in 2008.	2008	7.8	Justice
Car branch				
Modification of the Road Traffic Act	Since 31 December 2004, it has taken less time for car firms to retain compulsory administrative records. By means of a publicity campaign and through specific instructions, car sellers were encouraged to retain streamlined administrative records of registration numbers of the motorcars in stock.	31 December 2004	20	Transport
Modification of the Road Traffic Act: digitalizing the issue of part II of the	Since 31 December 2004, the Road Transport Directorate has digitalized the issuance of part II	31 December 2004	9.9	Transport

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
vehicle registration certificate	of the vehicle registration certificate. Car firms no longer need to go to the post office.			
Modification of the Road Traffic Act: digitalization periodic motor vehicle test	The document processing of the periodic motor vehicle test has not yet been fully digitalized. As of 31 December 2006 the Road Transport Directorate will see to the further digitalization.	31 December 2006	18.2	Transport
Modification MR stock in trade: digital warranty against liability	The warranty against liability for clients of car firms is not yet digital. As of 31 December 2006 the Road Transport Directorate will ensure that the data of the warranty against liability are available digitally for expeditious processing.	31 December 2006	1.1	Transport
Abolition national and European type approval	Car manufacturers and importers have to deal with the so-called type approval of cars. A distinction is thereby made between national and European type approvals. In the review of the vehicle regulations the national type approvals are for the most part withdrawn. In addition, the administrative charges are reduced from 1.4 million to 0.4 million euros per annum.	31 December 2008	8.6	Transport
Energy sector				
Monitoring the electricity and gas market: less and more efficient organization of information obligations	The Energy Monitoring Board (DTE) requires less data and operates a more efficient data collection procedure. As a consequence, businesses have to supply less data.	mid 2004	3.3	Economic Affairs
Export and import sector				
Customs procedures: simplification	As of 2005, the customs procedures applicable to import and export firms have been simplified. Businesses profit from reduced administrative burdens because of the use of electronic data exchange (New Computerized Transit System - NCTS), the cancellation of certain statements and the introduction of the Schiphol free zone	1 January 2005	25.4	Finance
Financial sector				
Investment institutions: Fewer institutions subject to compulsory reporting	Until 2002 all investment institutions had to submit form '8985'. This form comprises the balance sheet, including information on the use of derivatives, result overviews and an overview of the proportion between own and fund capital. Due to the modified reporting instruction introduced on 1 January 2003, sixty percent of the institutions no longer need to fill in this form.	1 January 2003	11.8	Finance
Money transaction offices: automation of the reporting procedure	For money transaction offices an external accountant had to calculate the correspondence between the money flows reported to De Nederlandse Bank (DNB) and the annual accounts. As of 2003, offices may add up the reported figures themselves using the 13 th month statement of the DNB and save accountant costs in preparing these figures. The DNB also developed a programme with which money transaction office can fill in the monthly reporting statements much quicker resulting in nine hours time saving.	2003	1.2	Finance
Securities firms: simplification and limiting the frequency of contribution model	Every year securities institutions had to supply an exhaustively filled in contribution model. Since 1 January 2004, institutions only need to provide the contribution model every two years. As of 1 January 2005, the content of the model has also been modified. The model previously focussed entirely on compliance with the rules and regulations for which questions were asked about all components of the Securities Transactions (Supervision) Act (Wte). The new model only contains questions pertaining to the major risks. Filling in the answers is also less time-consuming since the answers given in previous years can be copied. By using filter	1 January 2004	13.7	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	questions only questions that are relevant for specific institutions are considered.			
Compulsory reporting of assignment cancelled	Until 2004, the transfer of a claim had to be reported to the debtor. As of September 2004 it is also possible to transfer a claim by an authentic or registered private instrument, without notification to the debtor. This new regulation has resulted in substantially reduced administrative burdens for the business community. A possibility is offered to creditors (e.g. banks and insurers) to assign large quantities of claims at once (bulk assignments), without having to report this to the respective debtors. To protect the debtor, it is stipulated that the transfer towards him shall not take effect until notification thereof has been made.	1 September 2004	2.1	Justice
Financial Supervision: fewer reports to be made by credit institutions	As of 1 January 2005, credit institutions have to make reports less frequently. For example, the form on position calculation in respect of foreign currency and gold has been cancelled unless De Nederlandse Bank (DNB) explicitly makes a request for these reports. The same applies to liquidity reports to be supplied by Dutch EU branch offices of credit institutions established in other EU Member States. In addition, institutions only need to fill in forms such as the operational balance sheet of the consolidated company, credit risks and elements of verification capacity only once every quarter whereas previously this was once a month. DNB may, however, make a request for the provision of interim information.	1 January 2005	11.7	Finance
Supervision insurers: improvement of the reporting software	Insurers use software for presenting reports. Since 1 January 2005, software (PVS for damage insurers and life assurers; PNS for funeral in kind insurers) has become more user-friendly and faster due to the addition of Windows user applications. Initialling the statements by accountants and the board of directors may now be done electronically.	1 January 2005	1.2	Finance
Investment institutions: one permit for multiple funds or institutions	Until 2004, a manager of multiple funds or institutions had to apply for a permit in respect of each single fund or institution. As of 1 September 2005, the manager receives a single permit, which is valid for all funds and institutions.	1 September 2005	4	Finance
Investment institutions: publishing annual report and accounts on the Internet	Since 1 September 2005, investment institutions have the opportunity to inform participants of the annual accounts and other documentation via the Internet and per e-mail, in combination with publication in a national daily newspaper. In the past, investment institutions had to inform participants that the documents were available either through an advertisement in a national newspaper or by sending a notification thereof to the address of each participant. Moreover, documents had to be made available to the participants free of charge whereas this can now take place using the Internet or e-mail. At the participant's request, these documents still need to be sent by post but the investment institution may charge for this.	1 September 2005	2.8	Finance
Investment institutions: publishing the intrinsic value on the Internet	Institutions for collective investments in securities (ICBEs) are under obligation to set the intrinsic value of the rights of participants on a daily basis and publish this twice per month. As of 1 September 2005 they may use the Internet for this purpose.	1 September 2005	1.1	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
Investment institutions: lower frequency of compulsory audit opinions	Until 2004, a manager of multiple funds or institutions had to apply for a permit for each separate fund or institution. As of 1 September 2005, the manager receives one permit, which is valid for funds and institutions. Because of the structure of the new basic permit, adjustments made to the basic document (registration document) are less frequently in need of an audit opinion.	1 September 2005	1	Finance
Reporting unusual transactions: limited to suspicious transactions	Financial institutions used a system indicator prescribing a detailed situation: cash transactions of and above 10,000 Euros whereby the client has identification problems and acts as a front man, had to be reported. On 1 November 2005, this system was replaced by a regulation in which the financial institution's own judgment is central in determining whether a transaction may involve money laundering or financing terrorism. As a result of this measure, transactions need to be reported less frequently. In 2007, the scheme is extended by non-financial institutions, e.g. car firms.	1 November 2005	21.1	Finance
Supervising securities transactions: electronic gathering of information	The Supervisory Authority may request a securities firm for information on an ad hoc basis. This non-public information may be sent electronically to the AFM via the AFM Extranet using a secure connection. In the past, this information had to be submitted on paper	2005	1.4	Finance
Sanction law: risk-based monitoring of international payments	In the past, financial institutions had to monitor international payments on the basis of sanction lists. These lists state the financial sanctions applicable in the Netherlands to specific countries, areas, persons (e.g. terrorists) and/or legal entities. Since the end of 2005, institutions may ease the monitoring burden somewhat by using risk-based monitoring procedures.	2005	1	Finance
Supervision of credit sector: adjustments and new reports	Credit institutions regularly had to adapt their reporting procedures in respect of a new report or the modification of an existing report. Since 1 January 2006 this has changed. Any new reports or modifications that may be required shall not make adaptations of the businesses' system necessary.	1 January 2006	17.6	Finance
Reducing the retention period for accountants	Previously accountants and accounting offices had to retain the records relating to the nature and scale of their activities for a period of ten years. This retention obligation has been reduced to five years.	Middle of 2006	1.6	Finance
Financial Information Leaflet: available digitally	As of 1 October 2006 the Financial Information Leaflet (FB) will be made available digitally and only at the client's request. The FB is placed on the Internet and, on request, sent to the client (also by e-mail). In addition, the FB will be condensed, not geared towards individuals and standardized. Information that is omitted is, for example, information on whether a complaints procedure applies to the product, whether there is a reconsideration period and what the tax implications are.	1 October 2006	96.9	Finance
Financial Services Act: texts required by law on the Internet	As of 2006 institutions may refer in prospectuses etc to the Internet for texts required by law of the Credit Offers Decree. Upon request, these texts are provided to clients without Internet.	2006	2.7	Finance
Financial Supervision: restriction number of insiders in compliance scheme	By making the financial institutions responsible for appointing insiders the compliance scheme may be brought more in line with the actual circumstances at every institution. In 2007 this	Early 2007	5.5	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	will result in savings as there are fewer insiders. More stringent rules apply to insiders than to non-insiders (in particular the obligation to report private transactions).			
Supervision of credit sector: digital reporting tool	At present, credit institutions use around 40 different applications for reporting. This will change as of 1 January 2007. An integral application based on the Internet ("E-line DNB ") is in development. The maintenance and management will be in the hands of the Netherlands Central Bank (DNB), hence the reporting institution will no longer be faced with the installation and management of the applications. Upon logging in, the credit institution only sees the relevant reporting obligations on screen. The data is sent directly to the DNB via a secured connection. This working method is less error-sensitive and precludes unnecessary work. The reports for money transaction offices are already sent through E-line DNB and soon the financial SE reports will also be sent in this manner. The other applications will soon be integrated.	1 January 2007	2.6	Finance
Supervision securities transactions: continuous obligation direct dealing institutions is abolished	In 2007, issuing institutions only dealing directly in securities no longer have to publish and file semi-annual and price-sensitive information.	Middle of 2007	8.2	Finance
Identification Provision of Services Act: less stringent identification and verification obligation	In 2006-2007, the identification obligation will become more flexible on account of the following measures: - Identification is no longer required at listed companies and companies governed by public law, - In major companies only a limited number of people is obliged to provide identification. Thereafter, service providers may rely on the approval of those contacts, - Artificial persons are identified on the basis of on-line information of the Chamber of Commerce, - Managing directors of an artificial person are identified on the basis of an extract from the Chamber of Commerce, - No obligation to identify prior to the actual provision of services exists for notarial deeds, non-face-to-face business and pressing provision of services, - Partnerships are identified on the basis of an audit report, - No obligation to identify exists for very low-risk services (e.g. pre-paid cards and inheritance tax returns), - The obligation to examine or investigate only applies in the event of reasonable doubt that someone acts on behalf of another party.	2007	4	Finance
Financial sector and legal sector				
Compulsory Identification in Service Industry Act: exemption for legal professions	Since 1 June 2003, legal professionals (lawyers, civil-law notaries, trust offices, tax consultants) have been under obligation to identify their clients when rendering services. To reduce the administrative burden for legal professional categories an exemption regulation was introduced on 22 August 2004. This regulation allows for identification by means of an advance payment for service providers operating under supervision.	1 June 2003	3	Finance
Catering industry, sports sector and				

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
leisure industry				
Water supply Act – fewer businesses subject to legionella legislation	In 2004, all businesses operating a collective water supply system were subject to the Water Supply Act. The new regulations introduced on 28 December 2004 apply to fewer businesses. Only hospitals, buildings with an accommodation function, asylum seekers' centres, penitentiary institutions, swimming pools campsites and marinas are still dealing with legionella legislation. Moreover, if the situation has not changed, a risk analysis does not need to be carried out every three years.	28 December 2004	40	Environment
Licensing and Catering Act	In October 2006, the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport submits a bill to Parliament to amend the Licensing and Catering Act. The bill provides inter alia that a new license is only required upon establishing a new catering locality or after an extensive renovation. At present, for example, every new management has to apply for a new license. Owners or managing directors who are not involved in the operation of the catering business regarding which the license is applied for, no longer have to meet the requirement of having insight into the responsible provision of alcoholic drinks. Hence, they no longer require a Social Hygiene Declaration. These measures mean that fewer licenses will be applied for as a result of which the costs incurred on account of administrative charges are expected to be lower.	1 January 2007	1	Health
Hygiene codes: differentiation	The Royal Dutch Catering Association is presently examining whether the current HACCP system (Hazard Analysis Critical Points), ie the Hygiene Code for the catering industry may be divided into two or three hygiene codes, in order to make a distinction between catering businesses in which no, few or many high-risk actions are carried out. It is expected that this will remove the most important irritations.	Middle of 2007	0	Health
Industrial and building sectors, businesses subject to building permits				
Businesses exempt from and subject to a building permit – reduced reporting obligation	In the past, businesses carrying out small-scale reconstructions had to have their plan preventively tested by the municipal authorities. As of 1 January 2003, this is no longer required. The category constructions subject to compulsory reporting have been abolished. In addition, the category constructions exempt for a building permit have been extended. Businesses that still have to report to the municipality may in 50% of the cases use the 'light procedure' meaning that the applicant has to provide less information and documentation. Processing times in the light procedure are also shorter and the urban aesthetics committee need not be consulted. Of the 200,000 building plans that were tested preventively before the legislative reform, about 50,000 can be carried out without a building permit. Another 75,000 constructions subject to the compulsory building permit fall under the light procedure.	1 January 2003	11.3	Environment
Mining Act: fewer compulsory reports	Businesses operating in the mining industry were compelled to report their current activities. As of 1 January 2003, the reporting obligation only covers new and adjusted mining activities.	reduction noticeable as from 2004	1	Economic Affairs
Building Materials Decree – simplification	For 1,400 producers of building materials and 65,000 contractors a new Soil Quality Decree	2007	14.4	Environment

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	will enter into force in 2007. The present Building Materials Decree is regarded as too complicated, overly detailed and relatively stringent. Regulations including the same principal aspects will replace the Building Materials Decree. For example, the burden of proof is simplified, just as the assessment of building materials, which is harmonized with the EU 'Building Products' Directive. By using the accumulated expertise, the inspection of building materials that usually more than meet the requirements will become more flexible. The 'temporary exemption scheme Building Materials Decree 2004' already regulates this.			
Legal sector				
Central Register of Wills (CTR): digital access	Until August 2004, civil-law notaries had to fill in a registration card using a typewriter to provide information on new or adjusted wills. As of 1 September 2004, civil-law notaries can provide this information using a software application developed by the <i>Justis Service</i> . Around 1,100 of the total of 1,400 civil-law notary offices nowadays make use of this computerized method.	1 September 2004	3	Justice
Legal Aid Act: simplification application procedure for attorneys	At present, in order to apply for legal aid, attorneys have to submit an extensive questionnaire to assess the financial capacity of the person seeking justice. As of 1 April 2006 the statement of name and address and the tax and social insurance number suffices.	1 April 2006	5.8	Justice
Abolition of local counsel obligation	As of the middle of 2007, attorneys may perform all procedural acts at each court and at all courts of appeal. A local counsel outside one's own district is no longer required. Due to the introduction of a national registration with the Netherlands Bar Association an attorney does not have to be registered and sworn in the new district after moving to that district. A notification of the move suffices.	2007	0.1	Justice
Agricultural businesses				
Compulsory disinfection of cattle trucks after each fourth transport of cloven-hoofed animals cancelled	Until 1 November 2004, dairy farmers and cattle transporters were compelled to clean and disinfect the cattle truck at a recognized washing place after each fourth transport of cloven-hoofed animals. After each transport of pigs or ruminants, each cattle truck must be disinfected at the place of delivery, e.g. a farm or slaughterhouse. The disinfection book and the obligation to maintain a register of cleaning and disinfection activities will be retained.	1 November 2004	<0.1	Agri-culture
Regulation governing additional instructions on contagious animal diseases: cancellation of visitors' register	Until 1 November 2004, dairy farmers were compelled to keep a register of visitors to their farms. This obligation has been cancelled. Various forms of control of pig farmers, such as the compulsory Swine Vesicular Disease (SVD) test, have been cancelled as well.	1 November 2004	14.9	Agri-culture
Introduction of a single relation code for agricultural farmers	Until 2004, the agricultural farmer had to use different relation codes in his contact with the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food quality, such as a BRS number, a manure number and an I&R number. As of 1 January 2005, one relation code applies to all matters dealt with by the Regulations Department. With the use of this single code, he can also contact	1 January 2005	12	Agri-culture

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	special services to lodge an application in the framework of the Joint Agricultural Policy.			
Better coordination of the inspection in the fishing industry	<p>During the period 2005-2006, the VIRIS and GRAS catch and registration systems were combined. Since the spring of 2005, the <i>Biesheuvel</i> groups (approximately 35% of the sea fishing sector) have profited from a reduction of their administrative burdens as its own administrative system had been linked to that of the government. The fishing industry uses GRAS while the Agriculture department uses VIRIS. The difference between these systems is that GRAS also contains the financial administration of fishing companies. In the past, providing information to the groups was done in writing after which the data had to be manually entered in GRAS. To further an efficient working method for both the sector and the government, information updates on catches and fishing rights are submitted to the groups in Excel on a weekly basis.</p> <p>This takes place at the <i>Agriculture desk</i> to which the groups can log in. This enables groups to inspect whether the group's administrative records correspond with the Fishery Directorate quicker, easier and earlier. If any differences are observed, groups may contact the Agriculture department in an early stage thus preventing problems from occurring later on.</p> <p>The first phase has meanwhile been completed with a positive evaluation early in December by both the sector and the government. In the first instance, the secretarial offices of the nine groups benefit from the system. Each group covers 15 up to more than 100 ships (400 ships in total). Given the positive experiences the aim is to expand the system so that in the future individual fishing companies can use the system as well.</p>	2005-2006	< 1	Agriculture
Manure legislation: simplification	<p>Dairy farmers, agricultural farmers, intermediaries, exporters and processors were under obligation to conclude a manure contracting agreement (MAO) and to send this to the Regulations Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. This agreement had to be signed prior to the year of production, and during the first year the agricultural farmer had to keep an updated overview for inspection by the General Inspection Service (AID). The MAO was abolished in January 2005, and as of 1 January 2006, because of the new risk-oriented approach in the new manure policy, the annual statement will be abolished as well for 50% of all agricultural farmers. This is expected to result in an annual burden reduction of €7 million. In addition, the company's administrative system will in principle become form-free. Due to the link with the data from the information systems of businesses and data already kept under other applicable laws, keeping manure records will take considerably less time.</p>	1 January 2006	87	Agriculture
One Agricultural Environmental Management Decree instead of dairy farming and arable farming decrees	<p>Agricultural businesses have to comply with the Dairy Farming Environmental Management Decree, the Arable Farming Environmental Management Decree and the Manure Basins Environmental Management Decree. This means that in the Netherlands around 43,750</p>	October 2006	40	Environment

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	agricultural businesses are subject to permits. Once these three decrees are replaced by 'Agricultural Businesses and Mechanized Wage Businesses Decree' around 25,000 businesses will no longer be subject to permits. They will only have a reporting obligation, whereby fewer reports and surveys need to be submitted.			
Company register instruction Identification and Registration (I&R) Cow is cancelled.	The European Commission has indicated that the data in the central database may, subject to certain conditions, serve as the prescribed business register. This means that cow owners with Internet no longer have to keep a written business register as of 1 October 2006. If a cow owner does not have Internet, the written register must be kept.	1 October 2006	13.1	Agriculture
Use of management packages facilitates the notification of changes at I&R	For entrepreneurs with a management package it is easier to notify the I&R system of changes in the livestock herd. They no longer have to use the telephone number with voice response.	1 October 2006	8.8	Agriculture
One digital transport document for pig transports	In the course of 2007, pig owners and cattle transporters may use a new, digital Identification and Registration system developed at the initiative of commerce and industry. This system integrates the data flows of Identification and Registration pigs (I&R), Pig Delivery Regulations (RVL) and the Business Control of Animal Diseases Regulations (RBD). The information may be supplied via the Internet. Information has to be supplied less often in view of the fact that information supplied digitally can be used more than once.	2007	8	Agriculture
More efficient data collection for agricultural calculation data and basic registrations	As of the middle of 2007, the agricultural entrepreneur only has to supply data to the Regulations Department once a year. And only if they are new to the department. The data may be supplied via an Intranet site on which the questions for the different regulations are combined in one document where possible. Furthermore, the digital form will pre-print the information already known as a result of which the entrepreneur only has to adjust data in the event of any changes. The number of questions is reduced by the use of different data sources.	Middle of 2007	2.6	Agriculture
Agricultural tenancy law: reform and technical review	In 2007 the agricultural tenancy law will be amended. The present Agricultural Tenancy Act will be incorporated in the Dutch Civil Code and all regulations relating to special contracts will henceforward be combined in one Code. The agricultural tenancy law will be reviewed in technical terms and will be reformed. The review of agricultural tenancy contracts by the Agricultural Tenancies Authorities will be maintained at the sector's request, although the procedures will be simplified.	2007	0.1	Justice
One Agricultural Environmental Management Decree instead of dairy farming and arable farming decrees	In line with the introduction of the Agricultural Businesses and Mechanized Wage Businesses Decree in April 2006, 15,000 more businesses subject to permits, in particular, intensive livestock farms, will come to fall under the scope of the general regulations in 2007. This concerns in particular intensive livestock farms.	31 December 2007	35	Environment
<i>Plantkeur</i> : improving phytosanitary inspections	On 1 January 2005 the <i>Plantkeur</i> project was launched in order to improve the clarity, efficiency and transparency of the inspection system of quality and phytosanitary inspections. In the past year, in close collaboration with the vegetable inspectorates and sector organizations,	1 January 2008	0.8	Agriculture

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	a plan was worked out in which part of the inspection duties were transferred to the inspectorates. Responsibilities remain unaltered and the phytosanitary guarantees provided by the government also remain unaltered. The PD is converted into a knowledge and audit service. The implementation is expected in 2008.			
Trademarks and patents				
Electronic application for trademarks and models	Until 2003, businesses dealing with trademarks and patents had to lodge applications in writing. Since 31 December 2003, this can also take place electronically. As a result, less time is required for processing applications and examining the trademark register. More information can be found on the Benelux Trademark Office: www.bmbconnect.org .	31 December 2003	3	Economic Affairs
Modification of the Patent Act: digital patent application	As of December 2005 it is possible to apply for a patent digitally. Previously, the application had to be in writing. This saves time and money.	1 December 2005	1.9	Economic Affairs
Modification of the Patent Act: the stamp obligation is cancelled	As of 1 August 2006, businesses save time and money due to the cancellation of the stamp obligation.	1 August 2006	1	Economic Affairs
Modification of the Patent Act: the translation obligation is cancelled	If an entrepreneur wished to have a European patent apply in the Netherlands, a Dutch translation always had to be filed. Costs are saved by cancelling this obligation for patents in the English language.	Middle of 2007	7.4	Economic Affairs
Environmental permit and businesses subject to compulsory reporting				
Businesses subject to or exempt from environmental permits – uniform forms	Of the 400,000 businesses falling under the Environmental Management Act, some 300,000 must make an environmental report (the others need a permit). In 2004 a standard form for these reports became available. The form is published on the website Infomil, www.infomil.nl . The Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment and the Ministry of Economic Affairs in cooperation with the provinces, municipalities, water boards and UWV set up Infomil. The standard form prevents that the government requests too much information and that applicants forget to supply necessary data. It is also being examined whether the reports and permit applications can be linked to the basic register of companies. This would make it possible to introduce partial pre-filled in forms.	31 December 2004	6.4	Environment
Reporting waste materials – easier and electronic	Approximately 3,000 businesses had to make waste materials reports to the provincial authorities. This was replaced by a central reporting desk on 1 January 2005. Hazardous waste is now to be reported to the National Waste Notification Bureau (LMA), and industrial waste to the LMA and the provinces of Noord-Holland, Zuid-Holland and Noord-Brabant. The fixed description form has been cancelled as well. The data included in this form may be entered into the contract signed by the waste processor with the business involved. Another major reduction of administrative burdens is reached by cancelling the obligation to return the accompanying letter to the different partners in the waste chain. This saves 11.4 million Euros. Paper reports will disappear. Reporting and supplying data will be done as much as possible electronically via the Internet. The	1 January 2005	11.4	Environment

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	electronic acknowledgement of receipt is one example of this new procedure. More information can be found on www.vrom.nl/afvalstoffen .			
Waterproof flooring – less frequent compulsory testing	Companies that perform activities that may pollute the soil must have waterproof flooring. This concerns greenhouse farming, motor vehicle installations, marinas, storage and transport firms, gas stations, textile cleaning companies and building and timber companies. Since 1 May 2005, the frequency of the compulsory tests has been lowered from around once every 18 months to once every six years.	1 May 2005	33	Environment
Public environment report – obligation cancelled	In the past, 250 businesses from the industrial sector had to present an annual environmental report to the government and publish a special 'public-friendly' version of this report as well. These reports drew very little attention. For this reason, the obligation to draw up such a special version was cancelled as per 30 June 2005. Businesses only need to submit a report to the government. This report is public, so interested parties may obtain a copy. Reports can henceforth also be sent electronically resulting in some €200,000 cost savings each year.	30 June 2005	14.5	Environment
Groundwater Act: reduction of reporting frequencies	The frequency of the mandatory reports for businesses withdrawing groundwater is reduced from once a month to once every three months.	31 December 2006	9.3	Transport
Simplification operational phase environmental permit	The measuring and registration obligations included in the environmental permit are simplified. For example, by reducing the inspection frequency of the fluid-proof floors and fire extinguishers (via the Use of Building Works Decree) and by performing some surveys such as the soil zero situation and energy surveys less often.	Middle of 2007	50	Environment
Environmental permit obligation – general rules replace permit	For 20,000 businesses, inter alia in the Metal Sector, the environmental permit will be replaced by general rules on environmental activities in 2007. A separate permit for performing environmentally harmful activities in businesses will no longer be required in most cases. Ultimately, only a limited number of businesses, performing activities with extensive and complex environmental effects, will require an environmental permit. The general rules entail a lower administrative burden than an environmental permit. And businesses need to carry out fewer inspections and submit fewer reports.	2007	64	Environment
Environmental rules – general reform	The general environmental rules presently apply to around 300,000 businesses. Since businesses and municipalities do not always regard the rules as relevant and the regulations are sometimes difficult to implement, the environmental legislation will be reformed. The fact that regulations sometimes only concern a very small number of businesses and that regulations tend to accumulate, is another reason for amending the legislation. This will not affect the level of protection of the environment. Specifically the reform means that, in 2007, many businesses will no longer be obliged to have a permit. A website, expected soon, will make it easy for businesses and municipalities to find out with which regulations they have to comply. The regulations will no longer be sector-oriented, but be based on the nature of the	2007	64	Environment

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	<p>activities. This makes more sense, since many activities are carried out in more than one sector. Businesses will also have more room to meet the environmental standards in their preferred manner, e.g. by innovative techniques. Given that in future businesses with a greater environmental burden will also fall under general rules, the enforcement will become more flexible. For businesses conducting activities with limited relevance to the environment the new system will entail a light regime. Although these businesses fall under the general rules, only some general regulations will apply to them. The following businesses fall under the new rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building and wood businesses - Retail trade and artisanal trades - Catering, sports and leisure institutions - Yacht ports - Provisions and installations - Motor Vehicle Establishments - Storage and transport businesses - Dentists - Gas stations - LPG gas stations - Textile cleaning businesses - Residential and accommodation buildings 			
Introduction one environmental permit – combining permits and exemptions for housing, spatial planning and the environment	<p>In building, renovating or using, for example, a warehouse or factory, businesses face different regulations in the field of housing, spatial planning and the environment. These regulations each have their own criteria, procedures, official desks, deadlines, administrative charges and supervisors. Different government bodies issue the permits. Businesses spend a great deal of time adhering to the procedures. They occasionally have to deal with contradictory decisions of different bodies. As of 2007 one permit suffices: the so-called environmental permit. The environmental permit is geared towards the party requiring the permit. The permit may be applied for once at a central desk. The environmental permit is accompanied by a procedure followed by a decision. There are appeal proceedings available against this decision. The environmental permit replaces the current permits of the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. Permits of other public authorities – ministries, municipalities, provinces and water boards – will also be replaced by the environmental permit.</p>	2007	56.7	Environment
Postal and telecom sectors				
Postal Act: fewer reports	<p>Until 2003, postal companies had to report to the government in respect of the following: service points, mailboxes, tariff development and return per category. Since 31 December 2003, the requirements have become more lenient and reports are only marginally reviewed.</p>	31 December 2003	2.5	Economic Affairs
Telecommunications Act: application of ICT, fewer reports and fewer licenses	<p>Telecommunications businesses had extensive reporting obligations. An important part of those obligations has been cancelled by the introduction of the new Telecommunications Act in 2004. In 2005, 2006 and 2007 even more obligations are cancelled. Together with the application of ICT (e.g. digital processing of queries, on-line registration and changes at OPTA) this will result in fewer information</p>	31 December 2007	17.6	Economic Affairs

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	obligations for telecommunications businesses in the event of renewal requests and, for example, in respect of the reporting frequency (only upon changes). Some categories will furthermore be exempted from licensing (e.g. maritime radio licence).			
Transport sector				
Less and simplified transport questionnaires	Until 2003, road haulage companies had to fill in an extensive transport questionnaire every quarter of a year. For cross-border transport to EU Member States, the frequency of these questionnaires has been lowered from four times a year to only once a year since 31 December 2003. For transport to countries outside the EU the frequency will remain unchanged but the questionnaire has been drastically shortened and, moreover, digitalized. Standard data are kept and therefore need to be provided only once.	31 December 2003	9.5	Transport
Cross border transport: Community permits	Until 2004, the international transport sector used separate journey or term authorizations. Since 31 December 2004, a Community Permit for transport to new EU countries has resulted in a decrease of required formalities.	31 December 2004	9.2	Transport
Sailing times Act and crew numbers for inland shipping: simplification	Until 2004, shipping companies had to enter and update detailed information on rest times, sailing times and crew numbers in the service book. As of 31 December 2004, less information is required from captains.	31 December 2004	1.6	Transport
Road haulage: simplification of consignment note	Road haulage firms spend a lot of time on filling in consignment notes. As of 1 January 2005, this will take less time as the number of fields to be completed has been reduced from fifteen to five.	31 December 2005	49	Transport
Ships Act: regular sounding of coffer dams and tanks requirement cancelled	The 1965 Ships' Decree compelled the captain to regularly sound the coffer dams (watertight space between two holds) and tanks of the ship during the trip. As these soundings nowadays are made by way of standard procedure, the statutory provision was abolished as per 31 December 2005.	31 December 2005	21.4	Transport
Easing information obligation and fewer rules for seagoing ships	Until 2005 shipping companies had to keep and update compulsory ship's details in a log. Under the new Ships Decree 2004 and as of 31 December 2005, only the internationally required information needs to be collected. Companies may decide for themselves how to register the compulsory information. The obligation to issue documents has also been abolished. Some information only needs to be provided at the special request of the Inspectorate. Seagoing ships previously had to deal with numerous rules and regulations in the Netherlands. Since this number has been drastically reduced, the annual administrative burdens have also decreased from around €63 million each year to approximately €34 million (reference date 1 January 2005). Particularly the number of safety rules has been cut. Due to the Ships Decree 2004 our safety legislation for seagoing ships is now properly in line with international laws.	31 December 2005	8.6	Transport
Ships Act: certificate of seaworthiness of heavy ships replaced by national safety certificate	As of 31 December 2005, shipping companies no longer need to apply for a national certificate of seaworthiness for ships heavier than 500 GT. This has been replaced by a national safety certificate for freight ships longer than 12 metres and heavier than 500 GT.	31 December 2005	1.9	Transport
Introduction digital tachograph	As of 2006 the digital tachograph will be	1 May 2006	2.5	Transport

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	introduced in the road transport sector. This means that the registration pages no longer have to be completed manually and checks require less time. The data of the digital tachograph may also be used for the carrier's own information demands. As of May 2006 the digital tachograph will be mandatory for new trucks and for vehicles dating from after 1 January 2006 of which the old analogue tachograph is broken. The introduction will be gradual: business and commerce will have ten years.			
Introduction I-check for permits	The introduction of the I-check means that permits, such as permits for ocean shipping, can be applied for digitally. I-check is an Internet programme removing the need of the user to find all kinds of rules and paragraphs of legislative texts. It provides the user with the necessary information based on a question/answer system.	31 December 2006	3.2	Transport
Ships Act: simplification ship's journal	As of 31 December 2006, the load line certificate no longer has to be included in the ship's journal. In addition, the mandatory issuance of the ship's journals for inspection to the Shipping Division of the Transport, Public Works and Water Management Inspectorate is abolished. This will only be done at request.	31 December 2006	2.1	Transport
Consignment note: increase of lower limit and digitalization	The consignment note obligation will be further reduced in three ways: 1. The increase of the lower limit of the Road Haulage Act of trucks from 500 kg carrying capacity up to 3,500 kg. This means that a large number of transports can be carried out without a consignment note. 2. The digitalization of the international consignment note CMR. 3. The digitalization of the national consignment note. The advantage of signing consignment notes digitally is a more effective archive, quicker registration of the confirmation of the delivery by e-mailing the copies signed digitally by the clients. This also enables more efficient invoicing.	31 December 2007	16	Transport
Seamen's Decree: relief of information obligation	Shipping companies are obliged to inspect food stocks and the cleanliness of the accommodation and to register all this in the ship's journal. This extensive information obligation is cancelled.	31 December 2007	12.3	Transport
Reform supervision	As of 31 December 2007 businesses will be able to supply information more simply to the Transport, Public Works and Water Management Inspectorate. This measure will be worked out in further detail.	31 December 2007	6	Transport
Less transport questionnaires by increasing limit	By increasing the questionnaire limit fewer businesses will be obliged to complete a transport questionnaire.	31 December 2007	3.2	Transport
Modifying the Road Haulage Act: more flexible deployment of personnel	Businesses in the road haulage sector had to submit evidence of employment of their employees. As of 31 December 2007, employers are no longer obliged to submit a statement per employee to the Inspectorate.	31 December 2007	2.2	Transport
Modifying the Seamen Act: seamen's book no longer mandatory	Foreign officers on ships sailing under the Dutch flag had to have a Dutch seamen's book. This is no longer mandatory as of 31 December 2007.	31 December 2007	1.2	Transport
Introduction of on-board computers cabs: abolition of manual records of cab rides.	As of 31 December 2008, cabs will be equipped with on-board computers. Drivers no longer have to keep manual records of the cab rides and checks are easier and quicker.	31 December 2008	7	Transport

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
Temporary Employment agencies and Work Reinstatement services				
Labour market – Allocation of workers by intermediaries Act (WAADI): compulsory permit cancelled	Before the WAADI took effect, temporary employment agencies had to apply for a permit. Following the introduction of the WAADI on 1 September 2003, this obligation was cancelled resulting in a simplification of the procedure concerning information gathering from intermediaries.	1 September 2003	1.4	Social Affairs
Labour Market: Job Seekers Recruitment Act (WIW) cancelled.	The cancellation of the WIW on 1 January 2004 also ended the costs incurred by the municipal Wiv organizations for e.g. reports and file keeping procedures in connection with recruitment of job seekers.	1 January 2004	1,6	Social Affairs
Care sector				
Authorizations: abolishing procedural authorization conditions	Up to now individual care providers and care institutions needed procedural permission (from the care insurer) for many of their activities. As per 1 January 2003, these have been statutorily abolished, although in case of complex hospitalizations (often longer than 21 days) and situations involving a 'wrong bed', the insurer will confer with the care provider or care institutions. For all other cases protocols have been drawn up whereby care providers and care insurers consult each other.	1 January 2003	30	Health
Water supply Act – fewer businesses subject to legionella legislation	In 2004, all businesses operating a collective water supply system were subject to the Water Supply Act. The new regulations introduced on 28 December 2004 apply to fewer businesses. Only hospitals, buildings with an accommodation function, asylum seekers' centres, penitentiary institutions, swimming pools, campsites and marinas are still dealing with legionella legislation. Moreover, if the situation has not changed, a risk analysis need not be carried out every three years.	28 December 2004	40	Environment
Compulsory Health Insurance Act: cancellation of model agreement	The Compulsory Health Insurance model agreement was cancelled on 1 January 2005. The care agreement to be signed between the care insurer and the care provider no longer needs to be drawn up in accordance with a prescribed model. It is up to the provider and the insurer to confer on the contents thereof.	1 January 2005	15	Health
Construction in the care sector: fewer regulations – phase I	Construction applications previously included a great deal of administrative tasks (prolonged and complex procedures). This has changed; as of 1 January 2005 the applications have become simpler involving digital procedures. In the framework of the capital charges letter, many more provisions will be abolished during the period up to 2012.	1 January 2005	6	Health
Inspections of medical aids and formation leaflets: simpler and more effective	Inspections and enclosing information leaflets took a great deal of time. This situation had improved because the inspections have been simplified since 1 January 2005. Preparing information leaflets will henceforth be supported by ICT. This will reduce the time required for processing inspections and enclosing the information leaflet.	1 January 2005	3.8	Health
Embryos Act: more efficient information	In the past, patients were informed by the doctor in a series of interviews. This was a timely process. As of 1 January 2005, the doctor provides all information during a single extensive interview.	1 January 2005	2.7	Health
Declaration procedure: automation	Declaration procedures between insurers and providers were marked by a high error percentage (not all sectors fully use digital	1 January 2006	91	Health

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	<p>messages). On 1 January 2006, declaration procedures have been fully digitalized resulting in a very low error percentage. The following factors have significantly contributed to this achievement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Care providers will start using nationwide declaration services enabling them to obtain a patient's insurance status quickly and effectively, to submit declaration and receive information in return on previously submitted declarations. · Establishing common standards for declaration procedures (including code system management). This refers to making arrangements between care providers and care insurers. These agreements cover, among other things, the implementation of COV (verification of insurance entitlement), declaration report and return message and the minimum service level thereof. 			
General Exceptional Medical Expenses Act (AWBZ): simplification and digitalization of own contribution scheme	As regards home care, the registration of the care provided has been simplified. To adequately plan the care to be given to patients at home the following applies: planning = realization, unless a modification is reported. The care provider only needs to enter the adjustments into his or her planning. For other types of care different ICT tools are used, e.g. barcode pen, IO-loggers and PDAs. This makes the registration process less time-consuming and less error-prone. It also results in more time available for the primary task of providing care to the patients.	1 January 2006	51	Health
Care Insurance Act: abolishing procedural authorization conditions	With the introduction of the Care Insurance Act (ZVW) on 1 January 2006, part of the procedural care authorization conditions were abolished. The obligation to obtain prior permission for treatment from the insurers is no longer a statutory condition set by the government. However, in practice, prior permission from the care insurer continues to be necessary. The responsible parties are exploring possibilities of concluding further agreements in this respect.	1 January 2006	42.1	Health
Compulsory Health Insurance Act: cancellation of contracting obligation	In the past, every care provider had to sign a compulsory contract with each health insurance organization. As of 1 January 2006, this is no longer necessary. Contracts are only signed with providers that can provide care and comply with the stipulations of the agreement (e.g. quality and price).	1 January 2006	37	Health
Construction in the Care sector: fewer regulations – phase II	The WTZi replaces the Hospital Facilities Act (WZV), the Temporary Provision (Social Services) Act (TVWMD) and the regulations governing authorization laid down in the Health Care Insurance Act (Zfw) and AWBZ. The aim of the WTZi is to gradually create more freedom and responsibility for the care institutions through less government interference with capacity and construction of care institutions. To provide care for the account of the Care Insurance Act (Zvw) or the AWBZ, care institutions must have an authorization. If a care institution plans to build or rebuild, a permit must sometimes be applied for as well. This is arranged for under the above WTZi.	1 January 2006	28	Health
Social accounting: one annual document	Care institutions will henceforth render account via the care annual document. This document combines a large number of	1 January 2006	21	Health

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	accounting channels of an institution and harmonizes the filing deadlines.			
Medical Scientific Research Act: removing double obligations	Doctors and care institutions were instructed to inform both the local and the national commission. In practice, this double information obligation was not duly complied with because a large number of examinations had already been protocollized. Since 1 January 2006, the obligations have been adjusted accordingly. Further use of ICT also ensures a shorter processing time in respect of medical treatment activities.	1 January 2006	0.6	Health
Reduction data supply pharmacists: fewer data	Pharmacists had to record a considerable number of data relating to business operations. This is reduced as of 1 January 2007, since some less relevant data is removed. Examples: closing down of a pharmacy or calling in a second pharmacist within a pharmacy.	1 January 2007	30	Health
Ambulance transport: reduced mandatory information supply	The Ambulance Transport Act has been amended in order to operate more effectively. The supply of information per ride has been cancelled. This was a double obligation ensuing from the Ambulance Transport Act and the Quality Act. As of 1 January 2007, it is only provided in the Quality Act. This measure applies less to regional ambulance services.	1 January 2007	3	Health
Licensing and Catering Act	In October 2006 the Minister of VWS submits a bill to Parliament to amend the Licensing and Catering Act. The bill provides inter alia that a new licence only has to be applied for upon establishing a new catering locality or following an extensive renovation. At present, for example, every new management has to apply for a new license. Owners or managing directors who are not involved in the operation of the catering business regarding which the license is applied for, no longer have to meet the requirement of having insight into the responsible provision of alcoholic drinks. Hence, they no longer require a Social Hygiene Declaration. These measures mean that fewer licenses will be applied for as a result of which the costs incurred on account of administrative charges are expected to be lower	1 January 2007	1	Health
Movement of prescriptions: simplification and digitalization	To date, a paper prescription is required to obtain medicinal products. As of the middle of 2007, this is no longer required. (Repeat) prescriptions may then also be sent digitally by the doctor to the pharmacist, who may in turn deliver the medicinal products at the patient's home.	Middle of 2007	85	Health
Hygiene codes: differentiation	The Royal Dutch Catering Association is presently examining whether the current HACCP system (Hazard Analysis Critical Points), ie the Hygiene Code for the catering industry may be divided into two or three hygiene codes, in order to make a distinction between catering businesses in which no, few or many high-risk actions are carried out. It is expected that this will remove the most important irritations.	Middle of 2007	0	Health
Other target groups				
Turnover tax: possibility of electronic invoicing	Businesses that send or receive larger numbers of VAT liable invoices can achieve cost savings by sending or receiving these invoices electronically. The Turnover Tax Act has been adjusted since 1 January 2004 to such an extent that electronic invoices can also be used in the	1 January 2004	161	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	accounting process in respect of the Tax Administration. To further facilitate the introduction of the electronic invoice, the Act will be modified some more and the Tax Administration will inform the businesses about the different electronic invoicing methods that are available.			
Dogs and Cats Decree 1999: choice in the implementation of the compulsory identification and fewer reporting obligations	Breeders, (intermediate) traders and managers of dogs and cats asylums were under obligation to tattoo the dog or cat for identification purposes or to provide the animals with a transponder. As of 2 April 2004, the owner may decide how he wishes to identify the animal (necessary to indicate which injection book belongs to which dog or cat). Business owners of dogs and cats are also exempt from making reports to the I&R HKB Bureau on e.g. the transponder number, date of birth, death, sale, injection and identification. These reports had to be made every quarter of a year. These reports have been cancelled because most of these data are mentioned in the injection book of which a copy must be retained.	2 April 2004	2.1	Agriculture
Food chain: abolishing national provisions under the Commodities Act	The section of the legislation pertaining to EU Regulations not determined at European level was abolished in 2004. An example of this is the Bread and Dough Decree. This is noticeable as of 2005 and 2006.	2005 + 2006	2	Health
Foreign companies	Companies having their registered offices within the EU no longer need to satisfy the obligation established in relation to registration in the Dutch trade register or preparing and depositing annual reports and accounts pursuant to Netherlands law. This produced a reduction of the administrative burdens for 166 businesses.	1 July 2005	0.6	Justice
Occupational health and safety – Commodities Act: less pressure equipment	As of the end of 2005, businesses with pressure equipment are subject to fewer inspections. Pressure equipment includes all industrial equipment containing fluid or oil, with the risk of ejection, e.g. a press machine for car parts or a steam engine. Regulations for pressure equipment in the user phase have also become less stringent.	1 August 2005	2.5	Social Affairs
Assay Act: fewer compulsory tests	Until 2005, gold objects were subject to a test threshold of 0.5 grams. As of 1 January 2006, this is 1 gram. The threshold for silver objects was 1 gram, this will be raised to 8 grams. As a result of this, the number of tests has been reduced by 55%.	31 December 2005	2.9	Economic Affairs
Wage tax: in a group context	As of 1 January 2006, the wage tax for businesses operating in a group has been simplified. The Tax Administration may be requested to arrange for the joint payment of wage tax from one business in the group. This regulation for instance also leads to a simplification of procedures covering the movement of workers within the group. For example, if an employee moves from one business to another within the group, the identification obligation need not be satisfied once again.	1 January 2006	2	Finance
Wage tax: simplification of R&D credit regulation	The R&D tax credit regulation (WBSO) as regards withholding and paying wage tax has been simplified. Maintaining a day-to-day registration of hours is no longer required. A project administration will suffice. The calculation of the wage and tax credit has been drastically simplified and a final settlement return is no longer required. This means that	1 January 2006	0.4	Finance

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	<i>SenterNovem</i> will all but entirely implement the arrangement. The Tax Administration will still only check the calculation of the amount of the tax credit.			
Capital tax: cancellation	The tax on gaining capital by issuing shares (capital tax) was abolished on 1 January 2006. This tax was levied on, among others, private and public limited companies having their registered offices in the Netherlands. This form of taxation increasingly hindered businesses wishing to operate in the Netherlands or expand their commercial activities in this country, or that wish to strengthen their organization structure. In those cases tax no longer needs to be paid, which also means that tax returns do not have to be filed.	1 January 2006	0.1	Finance
Uniform Remediation Decree	The Uniform Remediation Decree ensures that the rules and procedures covering simple soil remediation will be simplified. This means that a remediation firm can start working within a period of 5 weeks whereas this used to be 15 to 30 weeks on average. Uniform remediation no longer requires a remediation report to be drawn up or soil examination to be carried out. A manual is available with which remediation firms, municipalities and provinces can determine whether this Decree applies to them. The Manual can be downloaded from the website of the Environment department.	14 February 2006	2.4	Environment
Occupational health and safety – Commodities Act: fewer inspections elevators	Businesses with elevators face frequent mandatory inspections. As of 1 April 2006, the inspection upon first usage of an elevator is cancelled and the elevators will be subject to fewer inspections.	1 April 2006	2	Social Affairs
Leisure entrepreneurs: regulations balloon flights abolished	Leisure entrepreneurs have to comply with regulations on keeping and transmitting registrations of balloon flights. This information is supplied to the Transport, Public Works and Water Management Inspectorate. As of 31 December 2006 these regulations are abolished.	31 December 2006	2.4	Transport
KCA logo is cancelled	At the start of 2007 the obligation of attaching a KCA logo (the well-known crossed out litter bin) will be cancelled for some products. Producers are thus no longer obliged to show this logo on the label of products such as glue, cosmetics, detergents, paint, paint thinners and removal liquids. The producer is however free to continue to attach the logo. The obligation to attach the logo continues to apply to a limited number of products, such as electronic equipment and certain batteries. This is a European obligation.	1 January 2007	5	Environment
Modification of regulations relating to private security organizations and detective agencies: simplification of licences and relief of notification obligation	Until the end of 2003, private security organizations and detective agencies had to prepare a complaints procedure and personnel instructions for the application of the licence required for operating such an organization or agency. A standard complaints procedure and standard instructions for personnel are now available as part of the standard application form. The form may be downloaded from the Ministry of Justice's site: www.minjus.nl . The security organization only has to date and sign the standard forms. Furthermore, in 2007, the licence's term of validity of 5 years for a security organization will also apply to the permission of the management of such an organization and the annual reporting obligation	2004-2007	4.1	Justice

Measure	Explanatory note	When	x € mln.	Who
	will be cancelled.			
Burial and Cremation Act	As of 2008 various provisions in the Burial and Cremation Act will be repealed or simplified: for example, notifying the right holder of the expiry of the term of the grave rights; it is proposed that the obligation to inscribe undeletable letters and figures on an urn be cancelled; it is proposed that the obligation to keep an urn for twenty years following placement in the crematorium be cancelled; the mandatory use of the Environment Inspectorate for some activities will be cancelled; fewer permits are required from the mayor and leave from the public prosecutor for clearance; in many cases no leave is required from the mayor for the extension of burial or cremation due to a weekend or a holiday, by extension of the term; the possibility of temporary embalming (thanatopraxy) to reduce the use of an exemption. The Burial and Cremation Act is the basis of a number of forms, such as the certificate as to the cause of death for statistics, the death certificate and the leave for burial or cremation. It is intended to make these forms available digitally.	1 January 2008	0.6	Interior
Food chain: food labelling (EU)	Many acts were required for attaching a label. This will be reduced from 1 January 2009. The label will also become more comprehensible for consumers by not stating ancillary information on the label. As of 2009, informing consumers will also be possible via an information portal or Internet site. Example: a label only states information on ingredients and allergens. Other data (such as, for example, vitamins and minerals) that are subject to frequent change, may also be made available via an Internet site.	1 January 2009	85	Health

Annexe II Improving the methodology

Measuring the administrative burden is an important step towards noticeable reduction proposals. The measuring process produces indications, on the basis of which departments - in collaboration with the field - may prepare reduction proposals actually resulting in a noticeable relief of the administrative burden for citizens and entrepreneurs.

In the next period, the Government will review how the quantitative method might be further improved and whether there are opportunities to further increase its usefulness. The final outcome will be laid down in a new manual on measuring the administrative burden for businesses.

The SCM is a most useful instrument but, like all scientific models, it continues to be an approximation of reality in which the use of assumptions is inevitable. In the next period, the Government will examine some assumptions incorporated in the SCM and review how they might be brought more in line with practical experience.

The Government thereby focuses on two assumptions of the SCM:

- Mixed costs
- Actual compliance vs. complete compliance

Actal and the Netherlands Court of Auditors, in their respective advice reports on the methodology, also drew attention to these two SCM assumptions.

Below, please find an outline by the Government of the first couple of ideas. They will be worked out in further detail in collaboration with several parties involved, including Actal and the Netherlands Court of Auditors, in the next few months.

Mixed costs

In some cases the Government obliges businesses, via laws and regulations, to gather and/or to keep information, while such businesses already gather and/or keep such information on account of its relevance to their own business operations. Businesses therefore already incur (some of) the costs relating to gathering and/or keeping this kind of mandatory information, since they require the information for their own business operations. In such a case, the SCM refers to 'mixed costs'. The present agreement is that these costs are 100% regarded as an administrative burden ensuing from laws and regulations and as such appear in the measurements.

Actal advises to deal with the mixed costs in a differentiated manner and thereby not to include aspects of the ordinary business records in the new zero-based measurement as far as possible. Where this is not possible, the Board advises to mark the obligations by a percentage of mixed costs.

The Government believes that a new measurement should provide proper insight into which information obligations entail 'mixed costs'. This is important for the simplification process, as reductions made in relation to obligations with a substantial amount of mixed costs are often not as noticeable to the entrepreneur. However, the Government would like to note in this respect that this is not always the case. As businesses are free to decide how to perform their administrative acts (instead of the Government deciding it for them) they may organize information flows at their own discretions and increase the efficiency; as a result, the administrative burden is reduced. It thus continues to be important to always involve entrepreneurs in the preparation of simplification proposals and to jointly determine whether a proposal will produce a simplification or not.

The Government is currently examining how to best outline the mixed costs in future. It thereby takes account of the feasibility. The added value of, for example, the breakdown of costs should be in balance with the additional costs this requires. To date, experiences abroad show that a breakdown occasionally requires much time and that the added value does not always offset such an effort.

At present, the Government believes that it might be useful to label the mixed costs in the next measurement and only break down the costs if this is deemed useful by all parties involved (departments/businesses). This allows the parties involved to determine themselves which transparency they require to realize noticeable simplification proposals. In that respect, the Government does however require that all parties involved subscribe to the outcome. If not, the costs will be 100% included in the measurement.

Complete compliance vs. actual compliance

The current regulations indicate that estimates should be based on 100% compliance. As usual, practice is different and (in some cases) not all entrepreneurs adhere to the rules. The Government believes that the measurements of the administrative burden should be based on complete compliance, unless there are solid, reliable figures that indicate how many businesses actually comply with the information obligation. For example, in the case of the 'incident-bound administrative burden' exact figures are often known to the enforcement and/or implementing organizations. In such cases, measurements should be based on actual compliance.

In the event of new legislation, the Government will use the 100% compliance criterion, given that in the draft new regulations the Government also presumes that regulations are complied with. This method is already used within the Business Impact Assessment (BIA).

Extension of methodology

Actal advises to add some more labels to the new zero-based measurement in order to increase the usefulness. Actal thereby suggest, for example, labels for the compliance and the applicant of the information obligations.

The Government considers these suggestions with a great deal of interest and reviews for which aspects the labels might have an added value. For example, labels connected with information obligations provide the opportunity to make links thereby gaining more insight into information chains and supra-departmental aspects. This allows the Government to further examine possible reductions in more complex fields.

For the moment, the Government may extend the methodology by labels in the field of the implementing body (e.g. the municipality, supervisor or implementing organization) and the degree of irritation caused by an information obligation. The final label should indicate the extent to which businesses are irritated by the underlying regulation. This is a tool that might be considered in looking for simplification proposals.

In addition, the SCM method will in future also encompass the administrative burden relating to procurement laws and regulations and the acquisition of subsidies.