



The European Commission Impact Assessment Board

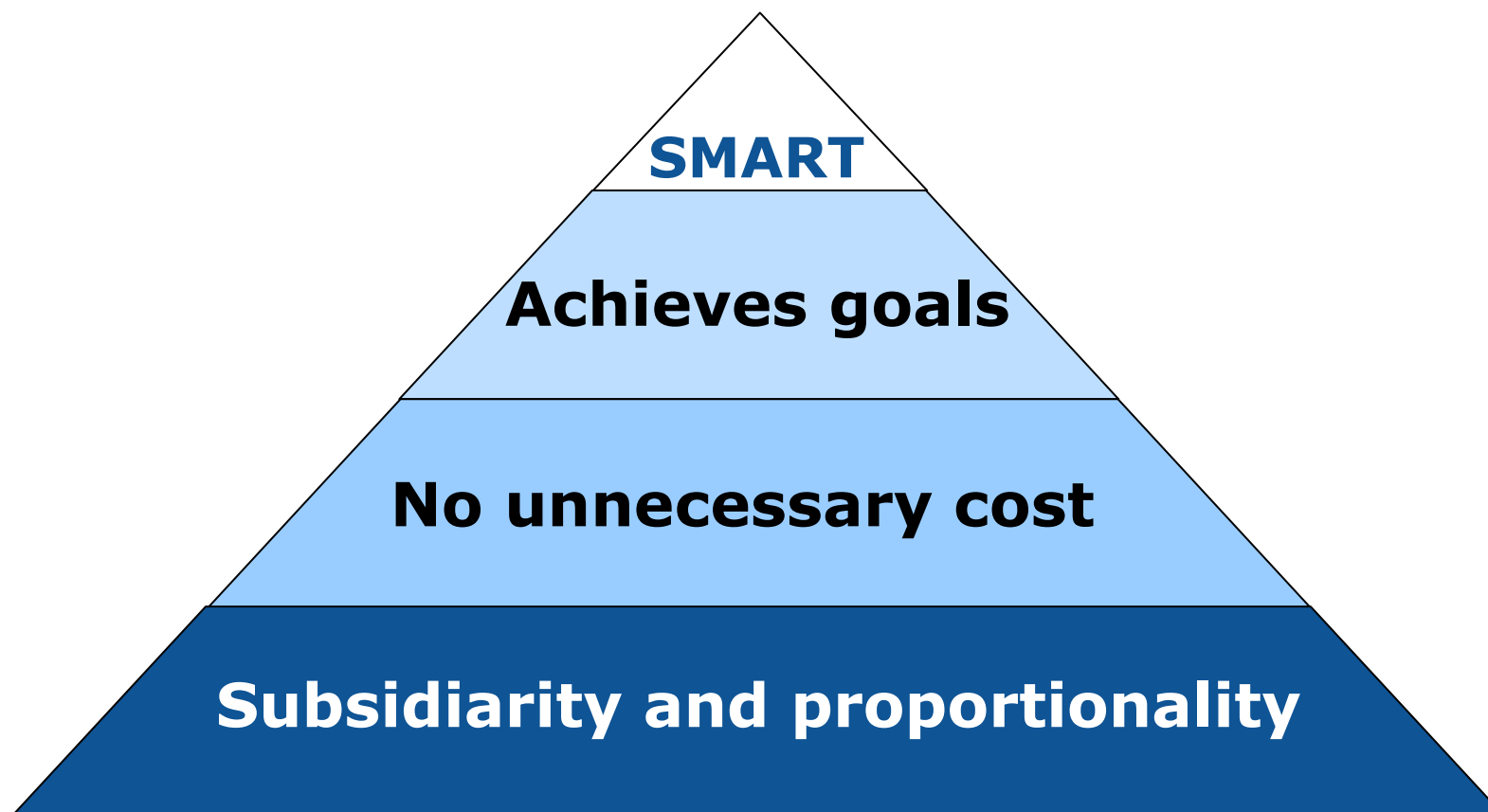
**Presentation by Riccardo Maggi
Deputy Head IAB Secretariat - European Commission**

**OECD-Czech Workshop on Regulatory Impact Assessment
Prague, Czech Republic 1 June 2012**



European
Commission

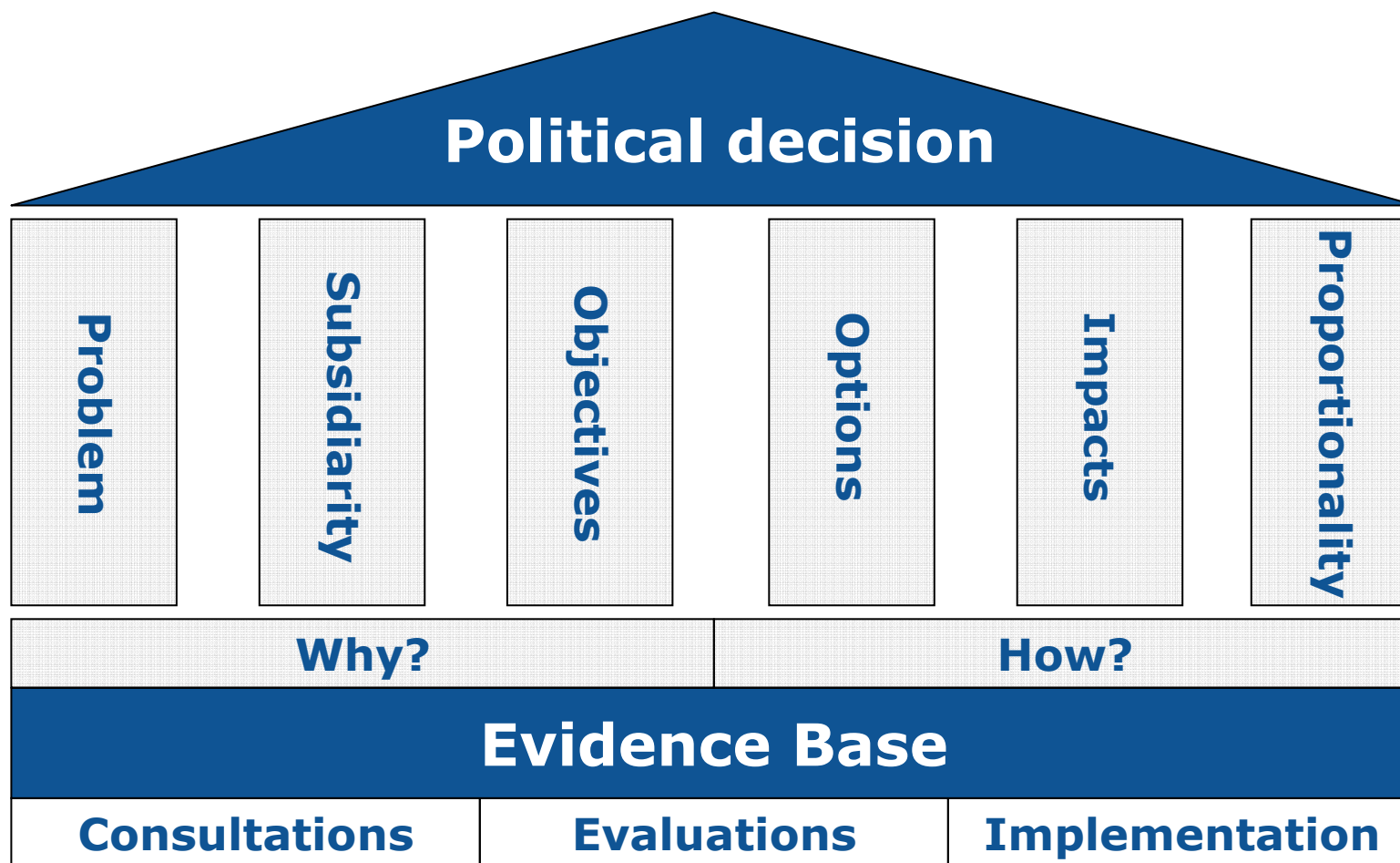
Context: Smart Regulation





European
Commission

Evidence-based policy-making





The Commission IA system

Established in 2002 – Its key features are:

Wide scope

All initiatives with significant impacts, from policy defining proposals to implementing measures

Integrated approach

All benefits and costs

Economic, social and environmental impacts

Collaborative efforts of all relevant Commission services

Transparency

Roadmaps, stakeholders input and publication of IAs and IAB opinions





The Impact Assessment Board

Established at end-2007, the IAB:

- Examines all the Commission's IA.
- Issues opinions asking for improvements or resubmission
- In principle a positive opinion is required for a proposal to be tabled to the Commission





The Impact Assessment Board

The IAB is independent of policy-making departments:

Members are high-level officials appointed in a **personal capacity**

On the basis of their **expert knowledge** in the three pillars of the integrated approach (economic, social and environmental impacts).

Chair: **Deputy Secretary General for Smart Regulation.**

Nine members share the work on a rotating basis to ensure a sustainable work burden and **avoid conflict of interests** while preserving the required expertise in all three areas.



How does IAB scrutiny work?

The author DG sends draft IA report to the IAB (8 weeks before launch inter-service consultation)

DG answers to the comments either in writing or orally during an IAB meeting

The proposal is tabled for interservice consultation and then Commission approval together with the revised IA report and the Board opinion

The IAB sends detailed comments to the DG (Impact Assessment Quality Checklist)

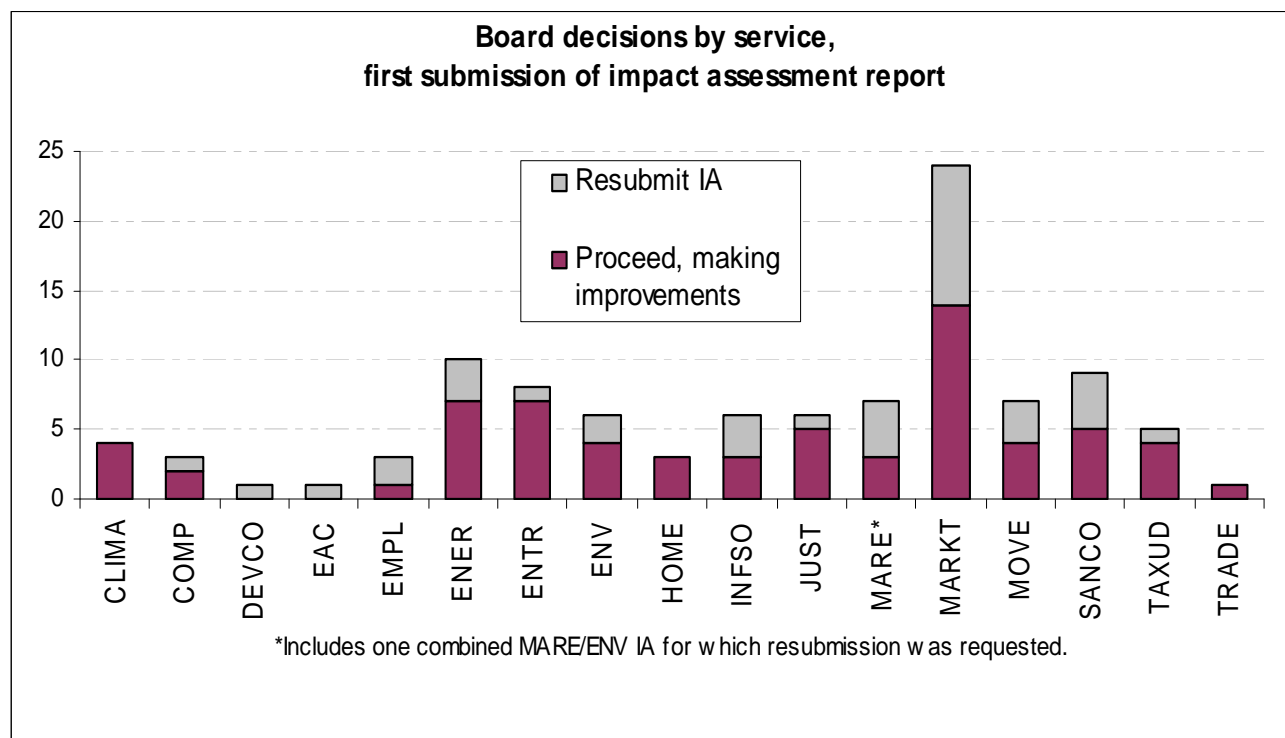
- **The IAB issues the opinion**
- **Critical opinion may lead to resubmission**

Opinion (and final IA) is published externally (on Europa website) once the policy initiative is adopted by the Commission

IAB quality control activities

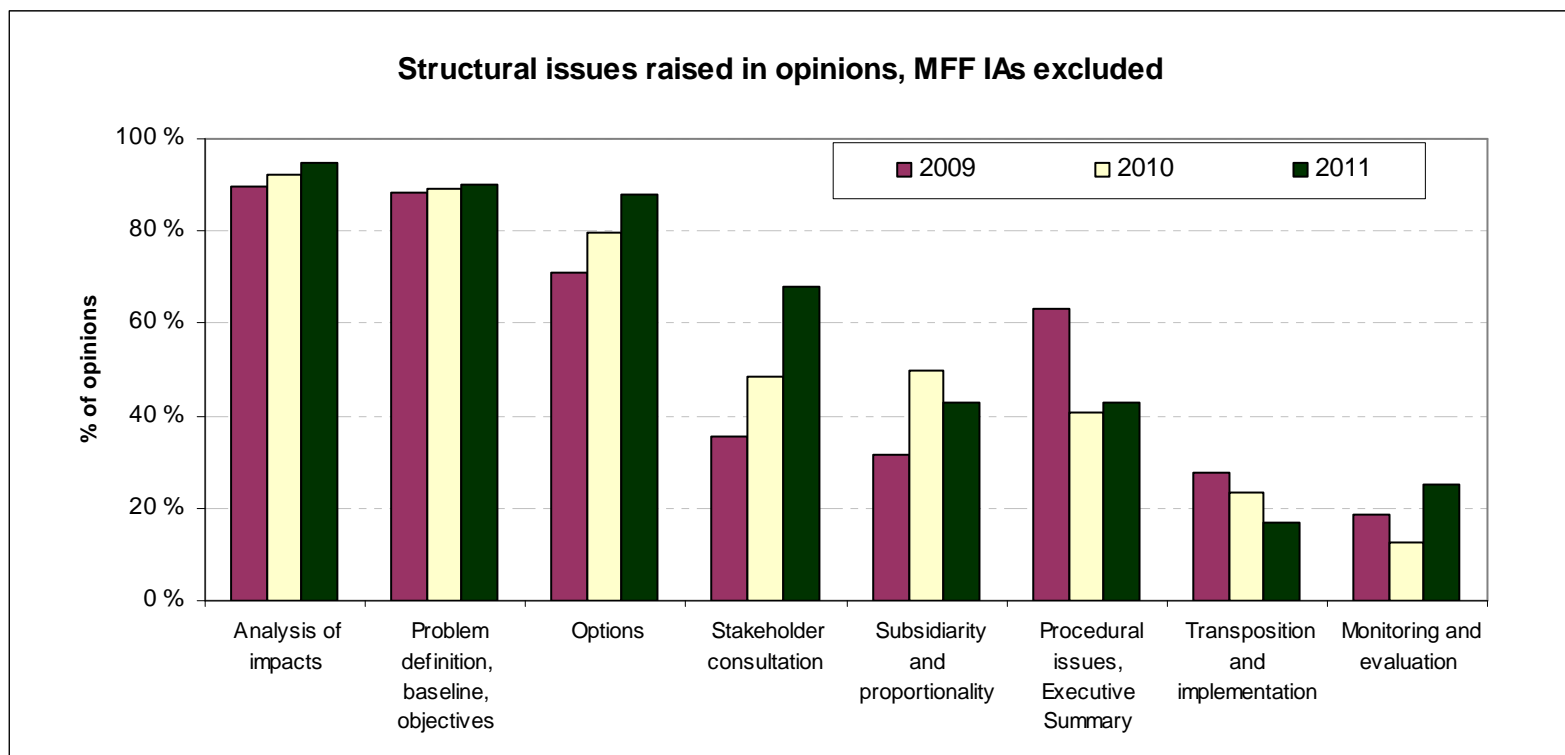
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2011- MFF
IAs	102	135	79	66	104	43
Opinions	112	182	106	83	138	37
Resubm. rate	9 %	33 %	37 %	42 %	36 %	n/a

Board decisions by service

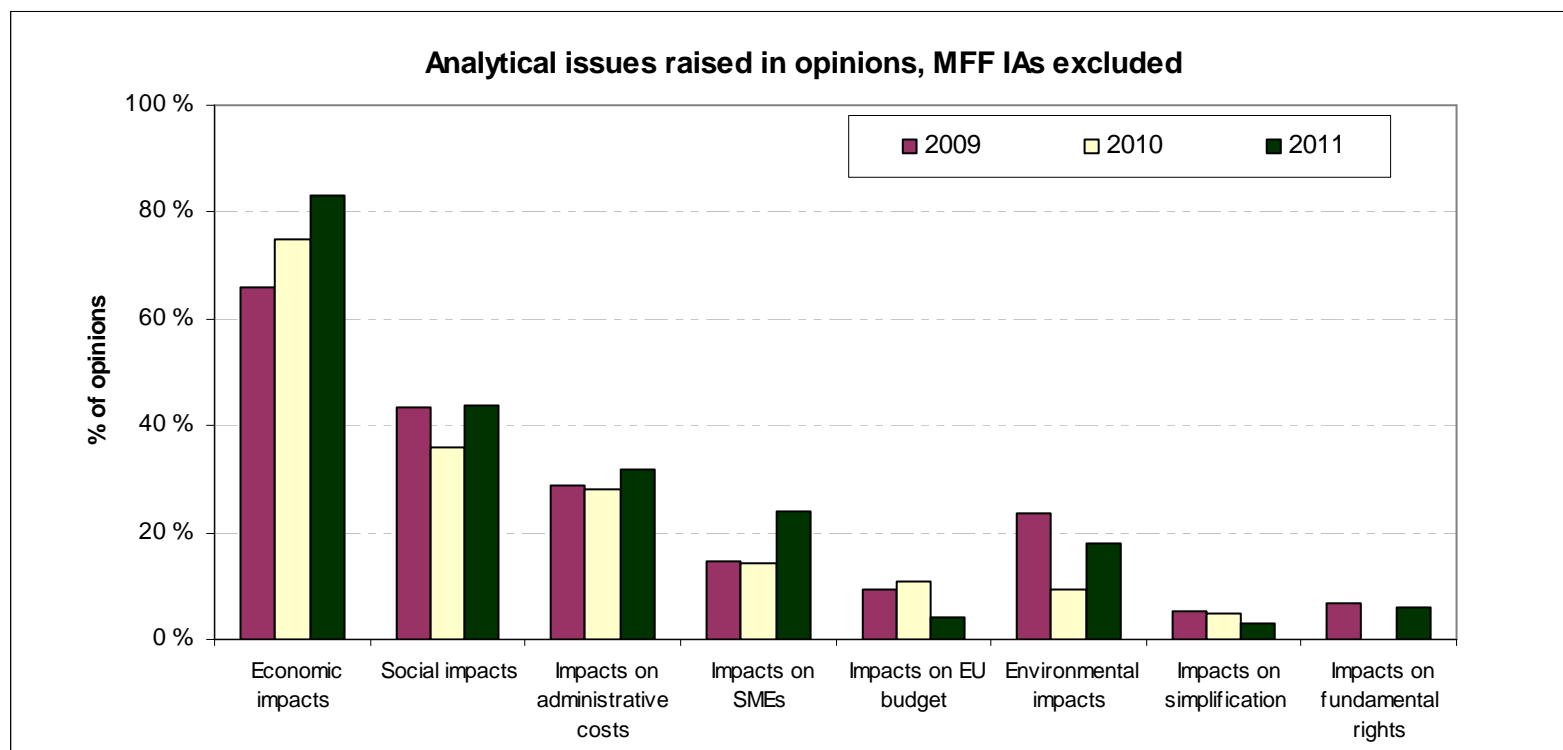


Quality of first-submission IA reports remains variable even though the resubmission rate decreased slightly for the first time since 2007

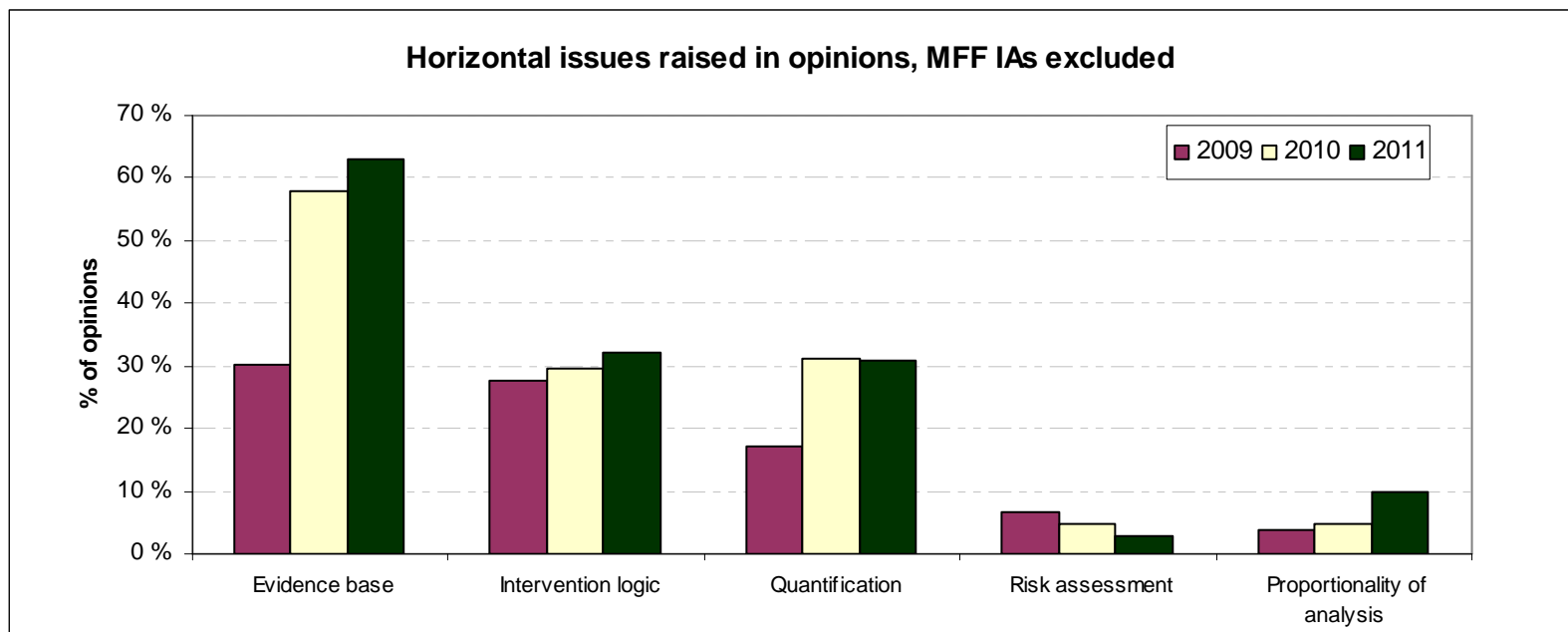
Trends in Board recommendations (1)



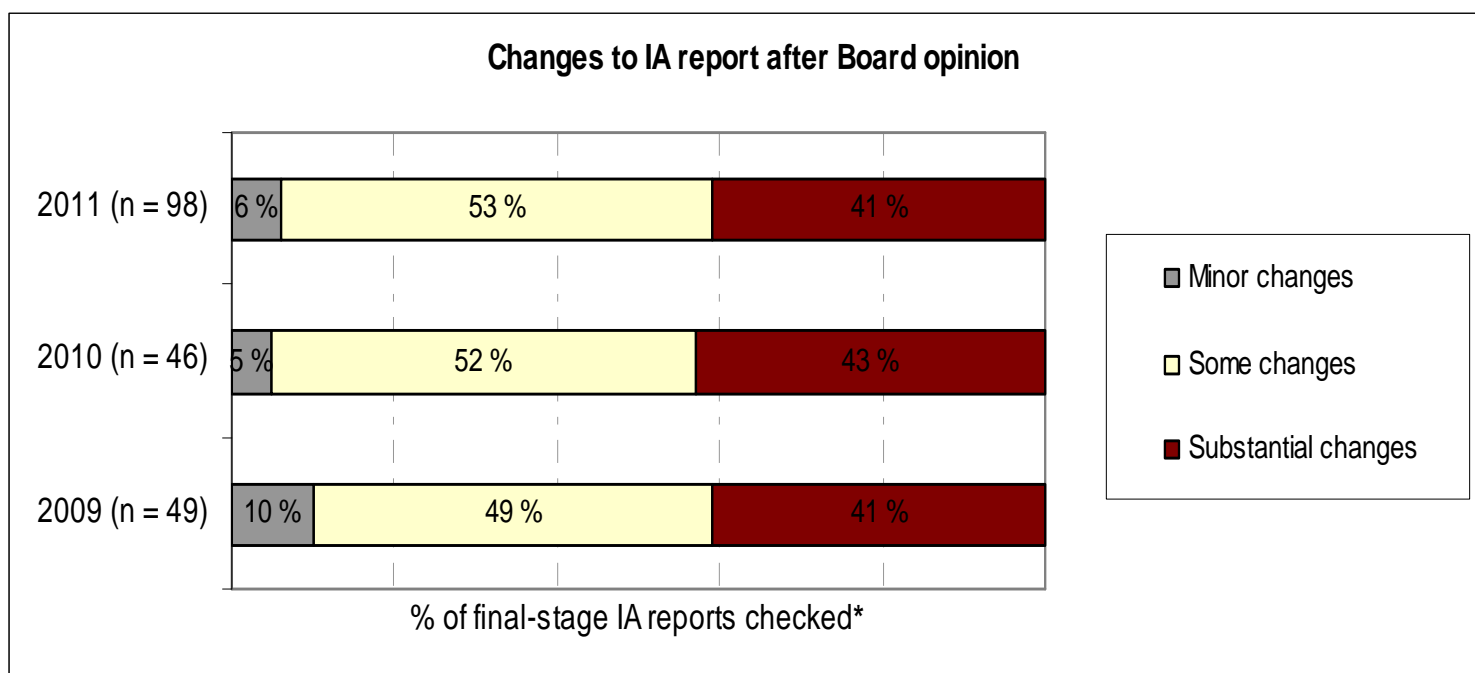
Trends in Board recommendations (2)



Trends in Board recommendations (3)



Follow up to Board recommendations





IAB impact: security scanners

- first draft IA identified as preferred option the use of scanners at airports without the possibility for passengers to opt out
- **IAB opinion questioned the evidence base** supporting the choice of this option over the alternative option allowing passengers to opt out
- **revised IA** no longer identified a preferred option among the two, **leaving the choice to political decision-makers** but highlighting the trade-offs
- adopted proposal allows passengers a choice





IAB impact: access to basic payment accounts

- first draft IA identified a **legislative proposal** as the preferred option
- the Board found that the **evidence base** to demonstrate the need and value added of an EU legislative initiative was **weak**
- the Commission issued a **recommendation**, and announced its intention to review the situation in 1 year's time and propose any further measures considered necessary, including legislative measures





External Assessments (1)

2010: European Court of Auditors Special Report

The Commission has put in place a comprehensive impact assessment system which for several aspects can be considered as good practice within the EU

IAB contributes to IA quality.

2012: Centre for European Policy Study

The Commission has successfully institutionalized its impact assessment system

Quality IA seems to be positively affected by the creation of the IAB





External Assessments (2)

2011: European Parliament Comparative Study

The Commission system generally compares favourably in having a well-developed systemic approach.

“Despite the fact that the IAB is internal to the European Commission and thus not truly independent, it is generally agreed that it had a positive effect on quality.”

Combining centralised scrutiny by the IAB with more decentralised day-to-day scrutiny by IA Steering Group yields a relatively effective form of quality control.





External Assessments (3)

2011: OECD "Sustainability in Impact Assessments A review of Impact Assessment Systems in selected OECD Countries and the E. Commission"

The IA process "has continued to gain importance. It has become a central process in the preparation of policy proposals and plays a significant role in their justification. The various aspects of sustainable development are fully integrated in the IA guidelines."





IAB Recommendations on Commission IA System

Better integrate public consultations results

Better exploit potential inter-service IA Groups

Give stronger role to IA support units

Improve quantification of costs and benefits

Fully assess genuinely alternative options

Thoroughly assess specific impacts when relevant

Systematically carry out and use evaluation





Information sources

Communication on Smart Regulation

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation/documents/com_2010_0543_en.pdf

Court of Auditors report

<http://eca.europa.eu/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/5372733.PDF>

Detailed information about forthcoming initiatives - roadmaps

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm

IA reports and IAB opinions

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/practice_en.htm

Impact Assessment guidelines

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/docs_en.htm

EC Better Regulation website

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/better_regulation/index_en.htm

