

28th Conference of Directors of the EU Paying Agencies – Namur Workshop “Control burden for the Paying Agencies ” by the BIRB

Introduction

The paying agencies (PA) have to meet numerous control obligations, both internal and external, which are imposed by both European and national regulations.

These obligations, either obligatory or voluntary, vary depending on whether or not tasks are delegated, whether or not there is an authority responsible for coordinating the PAs on a national level, the number of cases dealt with and the amount of money involved.

The control burden does periodically increase, even though as a paradox the European Court of Auditors has stated the EAGF error rate is less than 2 % for the second year in row and is still improving.

Proposal

It has been proposed to quantify the impact of these checks on PA human resources (and not in terms of financial resources) by measuring the number of days/civil servants dedicated to controls (customs not included) in all its forms. This information will be counted for two years, being the calendar years 2008 and 2009. A colour indicator shows if the control burden is decreasing, increasing or if it remains stable (respectively green, red or orange). The answers will allow to draft a statistic on this subject and to organise a workshop at the next conference of directors of the PAs. The results of this workshop will be used to draft recommendations for the Commission on subjects of simplification, coordination, etc of the PAs controls.

Questionnaire

A questionnaire, presented as an assessment grid for completing the number of days/civil servants needed for fulfilling the main legal obligations, has been attached to this document. It can be completed with various national or regional obligations. It is also possible to add comments (1 page maximum).

Practical arrangements

Please return the completed questionnaire to BIRB, birb@birb.be by 8 October 2010 at the latest. A summary of the results will be forwarded to all participants one week before the conference.