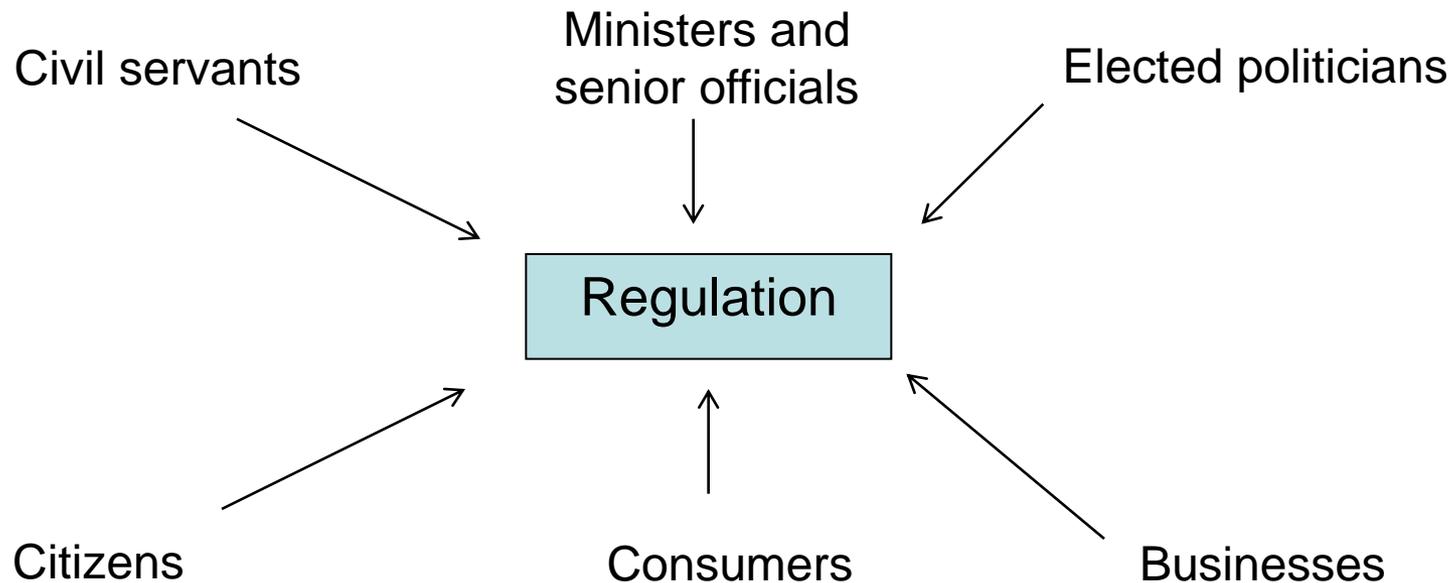


Citizen and Business Participation in Regulatory Policy

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Who is responsible for regulation?

Traditionally top-down but changing slowly



What purpose does it serve?

- Establish objectives that are relevant for society at large
- Contains special interests
- Promotes transparency and accountability
- Provides information to identify burdensome regulations
- Helps communicate the relevance of regulatory reform
- Creates incentives for the continuity of regulatory reforms

Serving broader societal goals

- *Compliance and the rule of law.* Regulations with the user in mind stand a better chance of being observed, prevent a slide into corruption such as failure to observe the law and the growth of an informal economy.
- *Innovation.* Engaging the widest possible range of stakeholders in the regulatory process will ensure that new ideas are captured.
- *Competitiveness.* Integrating the needs of businesses and in particular, their concerns over red tape and compliance costs, helps to ensure that the business environment is competitive.
- *Quality of life.* The removal of red tape has a direct effect on the improvement of citizens' lives.

Traditional forms of public consultation

Five instruments or different forms of public consultation:

- ***Informal consultation*** includes all forms of discretionary, ad hoc, and non-standardised contacts between regulators and interest groups.
- The ***circulation of regulatory proposals*** for public comment is a relatively inexpensive way to solicit views from the public and it is likely to induce affected parties to provide information.
- Public notice-and-comment is more open and inclusive process, and it is usually structured and formal.
- A ***public hearing*** is a meeting on a particular regulatory proposal at which interested parties and groups can comment in person; seldom an independent procedure, it usually supplements other consultation procedures.
- The use of advisory bodies is the most widespread approach to public consultation among the OECD countries

E-rulemaking, the brave new world

Public participation vs. public consultation

Governments need to be proactive in searching for new information – Web 2.0, social networks, RSS feeds

The public can and will organize itself where bureaucracies are slow to respond

Perception surveys are important tool

Challenges – noise vs. trend, raised expectations, privacy/security concerns

Future – open government?

Thank you

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