THIRD WORKSHOP AND HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE OF THE APEC-OECD CO-OPERATIVE INITIATIVE ON REGULATORY REFORM

Presentation by Mr. Manuel Santiago dos Santos – European Commission on the European Union's Action Plan on Regulatory Quality

- <u>Subjects of the presentation</u>:

- The shift in emphasis on regulatory reform priorities that has occurred in the European Union over the recent years

- The action plan that has been adopted to simplify and improve the Community's regulatory environment.

- The accumulated experience of the EU on regulatory assessment procedures.

- In the late 1980's, the European Community focused on market reforms under the '1992 Single Market programme', which concerned the harmonisation of national legislation to promote competition and e intra-community trade.

- With the Internal Market now largely accomplished the focus of regulatory reform has shifted to improved regulatory quality that meets evolving societal needs and technological development.

- The European Commission's regulatory package addresses three complementary subjects:

- The simplification and the improvement of the EU's regulatory environment,

- The introduction of a mandatory Impact Assessment system,

- The adoption of Minimum Standards for Consultation.

- <u>Simplification the EU's regulatory environment</u>:

- - Well prepared and more appropriate legislation

- - Simplifying the "acquis communautaire"

- - Better transposition and application

- - New culture for the European institutions

- <u>EU's Impact Assessment system</u>

- - Preliminary Assessment for all initiatives planned for adoption

- - Extendend Impact Assessement for major initiatives

- <u>Minimum Standards for consultation</u>

- - Clear content

- - Adequate publication

- - Sufficient time for participation (6/8 weeks)

- - Proper feedback

- - Easier access trough unique web-portal

- The European Commission has built on previous experiences developed in house and elsewhere in the OECD countries.

- Examples:

- Business Impact Assessment

- Environmental Impact Assessment