



**CIRCULAR 2010/02  
TO ALL MEMBERS**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>29 JANUARY 2010</b>
<b>AUTHORS</b>	<b>RONNY VERHOEVEN</b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>EUROPEAN BUSINESS TEST PANEL</b>

Dear Members,

The European Business Test Panel (EBTP) is a unique tool allowing the European Commission to obtain direct feedback from companies on Commission legislative proposals or initiatives, likely to have an impact on businesses.

The EBTP is, at the moment, composed of around 3.600 companies of different sizes and sectors located in all EU Member States. Companies selected as EBTP members reply to online questionnaires sent to them by the European Commission on a regular base.

Companies which are members of the EBTP panel will be informed at an early stage about some of the major upcoming political issues being discussed at EU level that may impact their operations. Through the EBTP companies will have a unique opportunity to give their views on the possible (positive or negative) impact of new proposals. In other words, businesses can indicate the extent to which such proposals are likely to generate or reduce costs, administrative burdens, red tape, or improve the environment in which they operate. These views will be fed into the policy making process and policy makers are committed to taking them into account when finalising their proposals.

There are national coordinators for the EBTP in each country. For Cyprus these are Mr. Andreas Nicolaou and Mrs. Skevi Matheopoulou at the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

The role of these national coordinators is, among others, (1) to promote the EBTP in their country, (2) to guard over the correctness of the identity and contact details of the subscribers and to make amendments when requested and (3) to remove any member companies which would choose to opt out of the EBTP.

The national coordinators do not have access to the completed questionnaires as these are routed directly to the EBTP central databases at the DG Internal Market and Services in Brussels.

All business details are stored in a secure database and only aggregate data will be used in any reports on the results (of which the member companies will



receive a copy automatically). Individual replies and opinions expressed during the consultation process will be kept until the results have been completely analysed and then deleted.

The Republic of Cyprus is entitled a total of 90 member companies. According to information received, only around 30 have signed up until now, not including any international business companies or shipping companies.

We strongly advise our members to take part in this most democratic process and to have the voice and the opinions of the Cyprus International Business Community be heard at EU level.

A lot more information about EBTP can be found on the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/ebtp> and the registration forms can be found on the same website under "sign up".

We would be grateful if CIBA members (1) would fill up the gap of around 60 missing Cyprus based companies and (2) send us a short message to inform us of their subscription so that we can update the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism.

With thanks in advance and kindest regards,

