



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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PRESSE 55

Council adopts rules for relieving micro-enterprises from red tape

The Council today¹ adopted a directive aimed at exempting very small companies from accounting and financial reporting obligations ([79/11](#) and [6202/12 ADD 1 REV 1](#)).

The new provisions have the potential to significantly reduce administrative bureaucracy for those companies not exceeding the limits of two of the following criteria: a balance sheet total of EUR 350 000, a net turnover of EUR 700 000 and an average of ten employees during the financial year.

The directive will allow EU member states to exempt micro-enterprises from the publication of annual accounts. This optional exemption will be compatible with national obligations to keep records showing the company's business transactions and financial situation.

¹ The decision was taken without discussion at a meeting of the Economic and financial affairs Council. It follows an agreement with the European Parliament at second reading.

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