

## ★ Will becoming a member be very time consuming?

Membership, which is voluntary, will last initially for three years. Those companies who register will be expected to participate actively in consultations approximately 6-8 times a year.

Panellists are of course free to resign from the panel should they wish to do so. On the other hand, panellists may wish to continue their membership and the Commission will try to accommodate such requests, provided statistical representation continues to be guaranteed.

## ★ How can my company become a member?

If you have decided that you would like to become a member of this consultative panel all you have to do is register on the Commission website:

[http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/ebtp/signup/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/ebtp/signup/index_en.htm) and enter the password given on your invitation.

National co-ordinators will check your details and providing they fit the profile of the sector/size set out in the matrix the application will be validated.

The Commission will see which companies are validated and will provide them with a password for use during forthcoming consultations.

## ★ Who will be co-ordinating the Panel in the UK?

The Department of Trade and Industry. If you have any questions or would like further information before you decide to join the European Business Test Panel please visit our web page:  
[www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/eptb](http://www.dti.gov.uk/ewt/eptb)

or the European Commission web page:  
<http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice/ebtp>.

Alternatively, you can send an email to:  
[ewt.ebtp@dti.gov.uk](mailto:ewt.ebtp@dti.gov.uk)



dti

EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
TEST PANEL



## ★ What is the European Business Test Panel?

The European Business Test Panel (EBTP) is a European Commission initiative to help improve and develop consultation links with businesses throughout the Community. Improving consultation is an important part of the Commission's "Better Regulation" Action Plan of June 2002, and a key element of the European Union's drive to make Europe the best place to do business in the world.

The EBTP allows selected businesses across Europe to give their views to the Commission on new legislative proposals and policy initiatives, which are under consideration. Businesses that become members of the EBTP will also be given the opportunity to provide their views on how current legislation operates and how it might be simplified.

## ★ How will the EBTP work?

The EBTP is a pan-European panel, consisting of up to 3,000 businesses

located throughout the European Community.

By becoming a member of the EBTP, businesses have the unique opportunity to give their views on the possible positive and negative impact of new proposals on their operation. In other words, businesses can indicate the extent to which such proposals are likely to generate or reduce costs and administrative burdens, or improve the environment in which they operate.

Consultations will be conducted entirely by means of the Internet, to allow for rapid and efficient returns and speedy delivery of results to members. Panellists will be alerted at least two weeks in advance that a consultation is being launched and will be given a time period (at least two weeks) within which to forward their replies.

Members are supplied with a short explanatory note setting out the objectives of the new policy initiative and are asked to complete a short questionnaire (10-15 questions), which is designed for quick and easy use.

During the consultation period, panellists can see how their counterparts have

responded. Of course, for confidentiality's sake, replies will be aggregated and will not be attributed back to individual businesses.

Business participants in the EBTP will not incur any costs and will be able to participate in their own language.

## ★ Feedback

These views will be fed into the policy-making process and policy makers will be committed to taking them into account when finalising their proposals. Panel members will receive feedback on the views expressed during each consultation as well as explanations as to what follow-up action has been given to them

## ★ Why your company is needed?

The Panel will be fully representative, with companies chosen from a wide range of sectors, and will include businesses of all sizes, based on a statistical model prepared by EUROSTAT.