

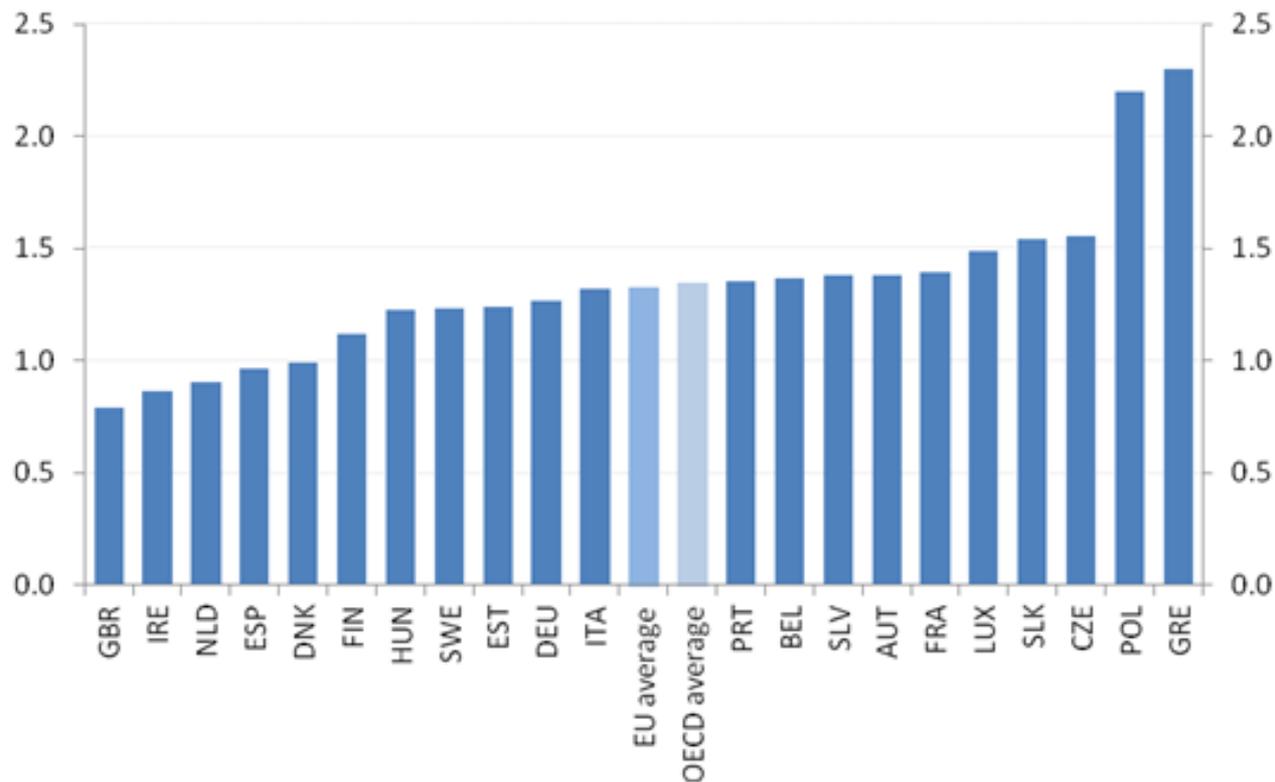
Top Priority Regulatory Barriers to be Removed

Presentation at the European Competition
and Consumer Day: Growth and New
Opportunities – the Role of Competition and
Consumer Behaviour

8 March 2012

Jørgen Elmeskov, OECD

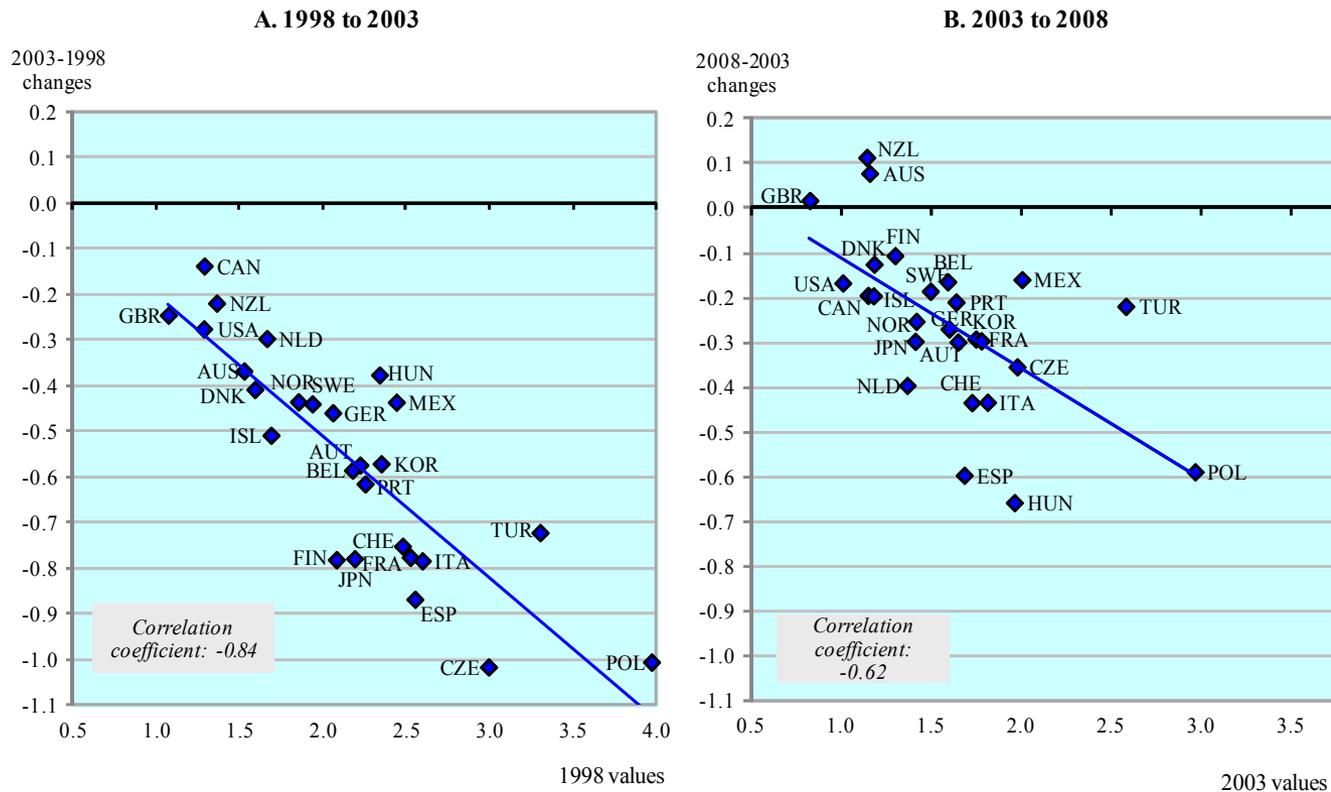
Anti-competitive product market regulations across EU countries, 2008



Source: *OECD Indicators of Product Market Regulation, 2008.*

Convergence in regulatory stance

Level and change in index points of the product market regulation indicator: Index scale of 0-6 from least to most restrictive

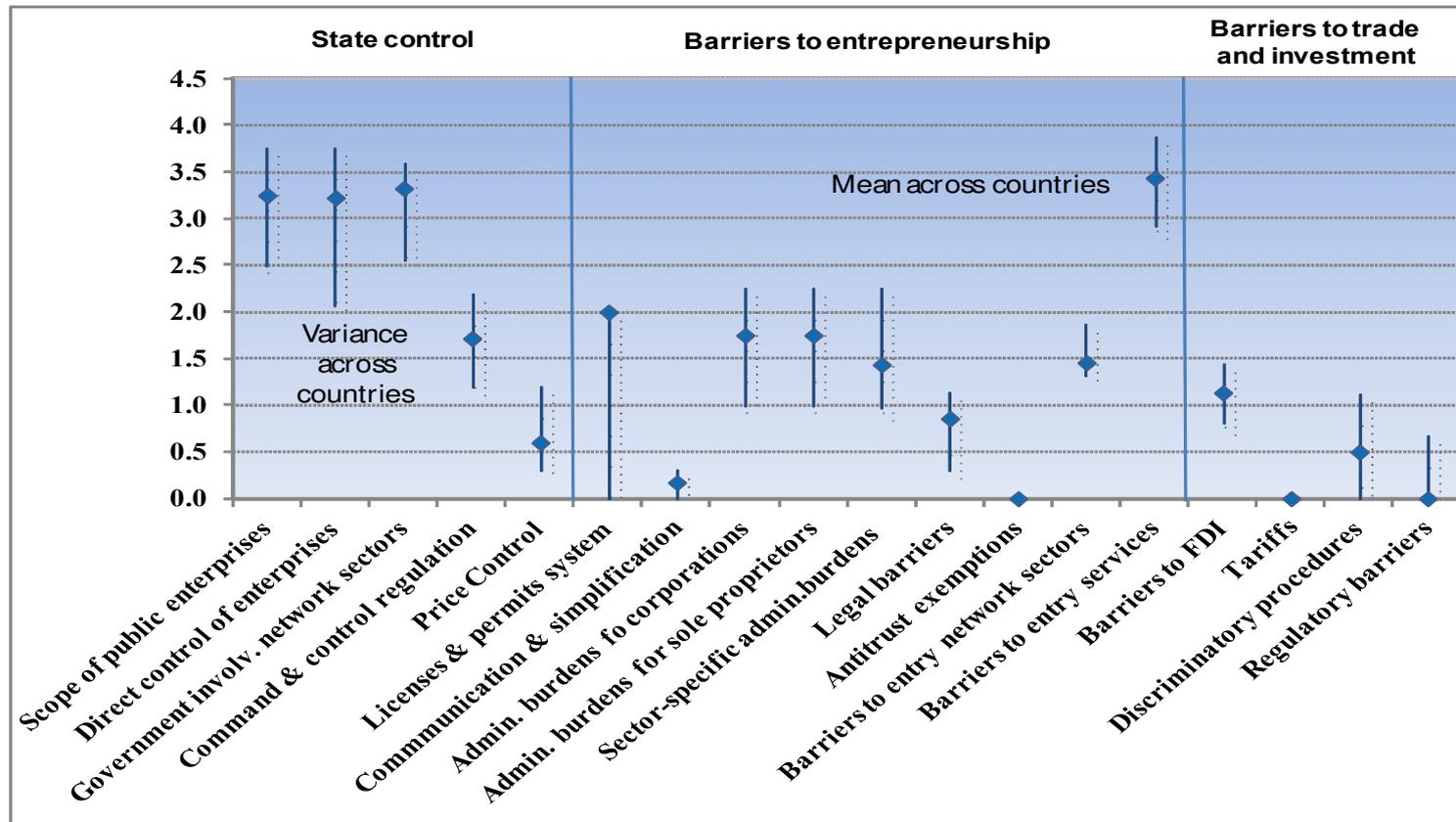


Source : OECD, Product Market Regulation Database.

Distance from best practice regulation across regulatory domains

Index scale of 0-6 from least to most restrictive

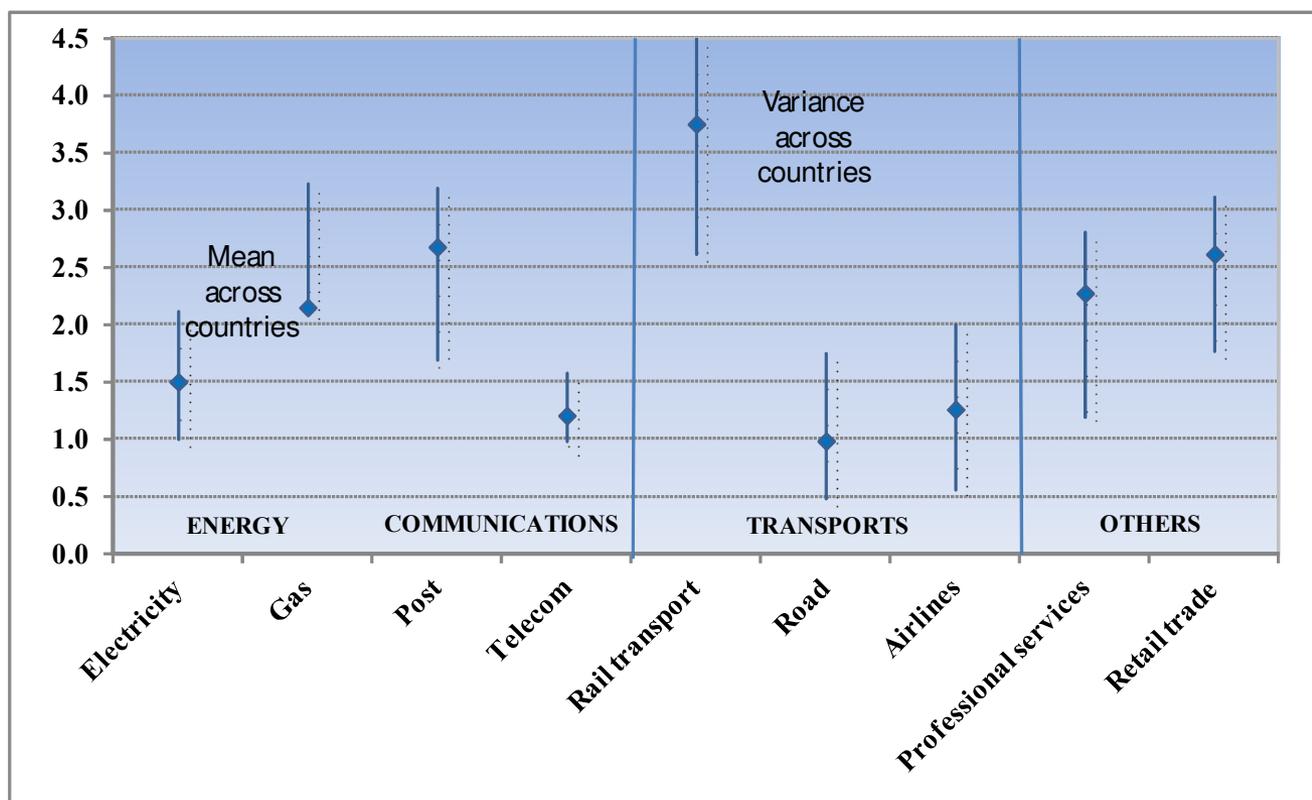
By regulatory area



Distance from best practice regulation across sectors

Index scale of 0-6 from least to most restrictive

By sector

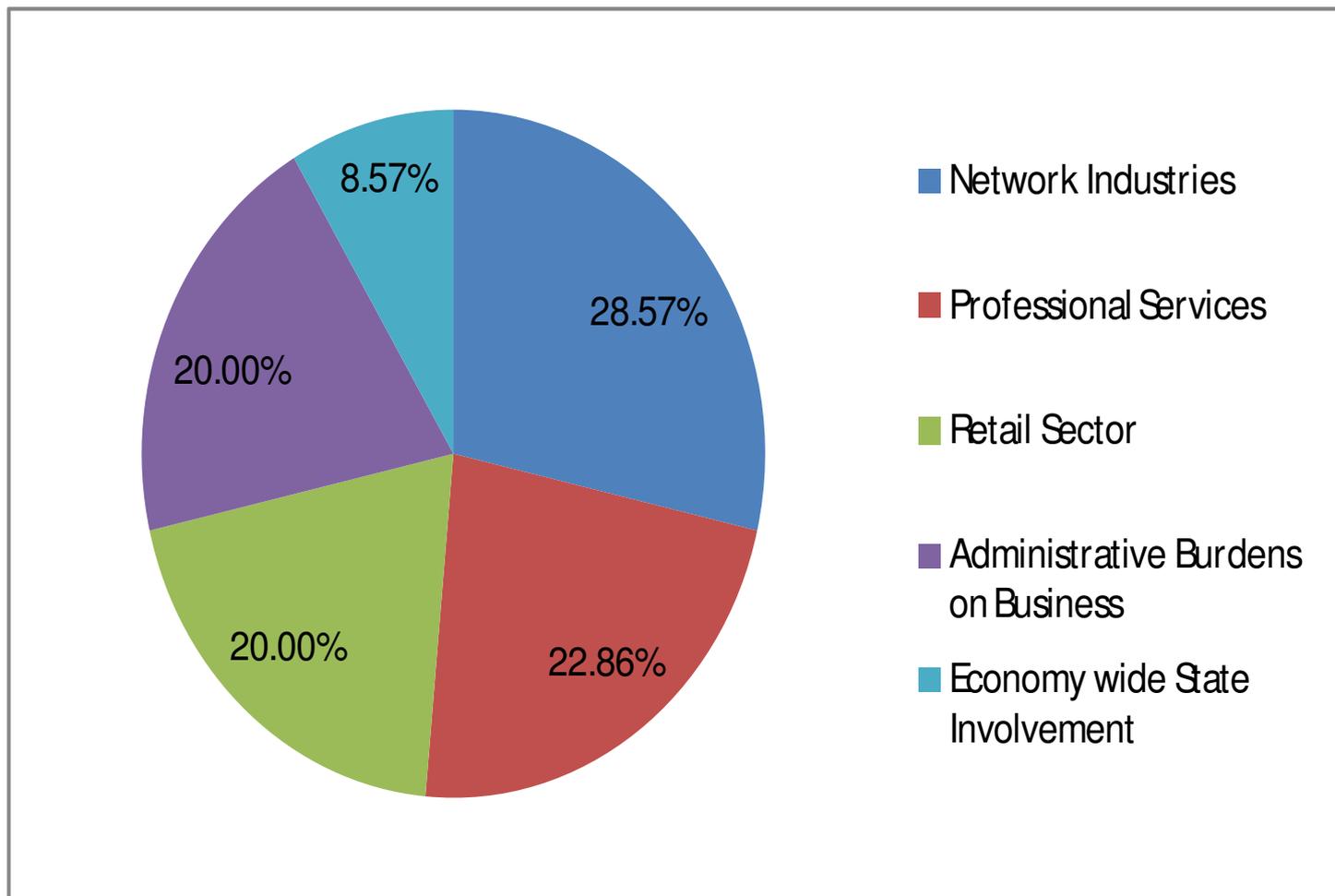


Going for Growth: Policy priorities to boost growth

- Regulation can be anti-competitive and yet not very important
- The importance for growth is taken into account in OECD's *Going for Growth* exercise
 - Systematic benchmarking of policies and (aspects of growth) performance to identify weaknesses that correspond
 - Among the policy-performance pairs, the five likely to have the largest effects on growth are selected for each country (and for the European Union level)
- *Going for Growth* policy priorities focus to a large extent on removing regulatory barriers to competition
 - One-quarter to one-third of policy priorities fall in that area
 - Other important policy areas include education policy, labour market regulation and income transfers

Breakdown of *Going for Growth* priorities on product market regulation by sector/area

In percentage of the number of PMR priorities in EU OECD countries



A different perspective: policy priorities at the EU level

Going for Growth policy priorities for the European Union

- Increase competition in the services sector
 - Ensure complete and effective implementation of the Services Directive and proper enforcement of its legal and practical provisions. Ensure that the payments area is completed swiftly
- Raise competition in network industries
 - Strengthen the evidence base for single market initiatives by identifying specific barriers to competition and efficiency. Ensure EU-level measures are fully implemented in national markets, including functional separation of supply and production activities in energy markets. Push ahead with initiatives to reform and integrate the transport, postal, telecommunications, port services and energy markets
- Reduce producer support to agriculture
- Reform financial regulation and deepen market integration
- Improve the functioning of the labour market (including through easier mobility, enhanced by portability of rights)

Other policy areas of importance for competition and growth

- Public procurement
- Competition policy
- Labour market policy
- Financial market policy