Institutional Architectures and Administrative Dynamics in Regulation. A Comparative Study of National Authorities

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Abstract: *Within escalating demands on governments to maintain efficient, transparent, and resilient markets, national regulators are emerging as pivotal players in public governance. The Council of European Energy Regulators comprises 30 regulatory authorities from the member states and nine from observer states at the European level. In line with their responsibilities, regulatory authorities should contribute to the rule of law by formulating and enforcing laws, approving products, issuing licenses, inspecting facilities, investigating violations, and imposing penalties for non-compliance. The research presents a new comparative examination of the factors that influence regulatory effectiveness, focusing on how institutional frameworks and administrative dynamics shape regulators' ability to formulate effective rules. To answer this research question, the study of different authorities, comparable in competence to the Romanian one, in France, Spain, Portugal, Iceland, Norway, Poland and Lithuania demonstrates that variations in organizational structure, power dynamics, and internal coordination mechanisms influence the quality of regulatory interventions, the responses to dysfunctions, and the consistency of sanction implementation. Furthermore, it points out that institutional structures vary in performance, based on levels of independence, technical expertise, and administrative professionalization. The paper emphasises that effective regulation arises from both adaptable administrative processes and a well-structured institutional framework, alongside its legal purpose. The conclusions provide valuable recommendations for improving regulatory capacity and restructuring institutions to establish more robust, accountable authorities capable of meeting the requirements of contemporary markets.*

The study is a practical/descriptive one.

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