



External scrutiny of legislation

The European independent watchdogs

The Dutch approach

Dr. Steven van Eijck, chair

Advisory Board on Administrative Burden (Actal)

Stockholm, IRRC, November 12th, 2009



Why scrutiny?

To bridge the gap between politics and society

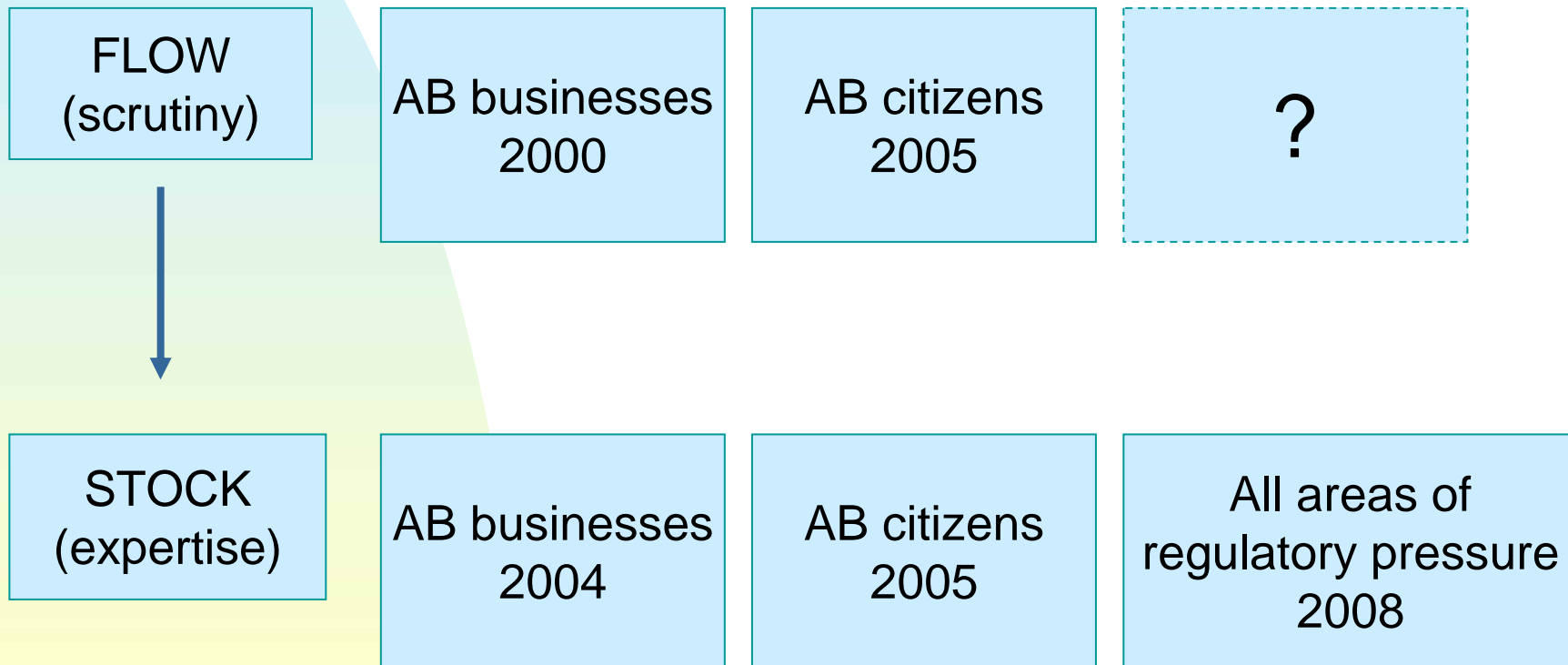
- Make policy decisions more transparent
- Improve evidence base for policy decisions
- Both government and Parliament



Key factors for success

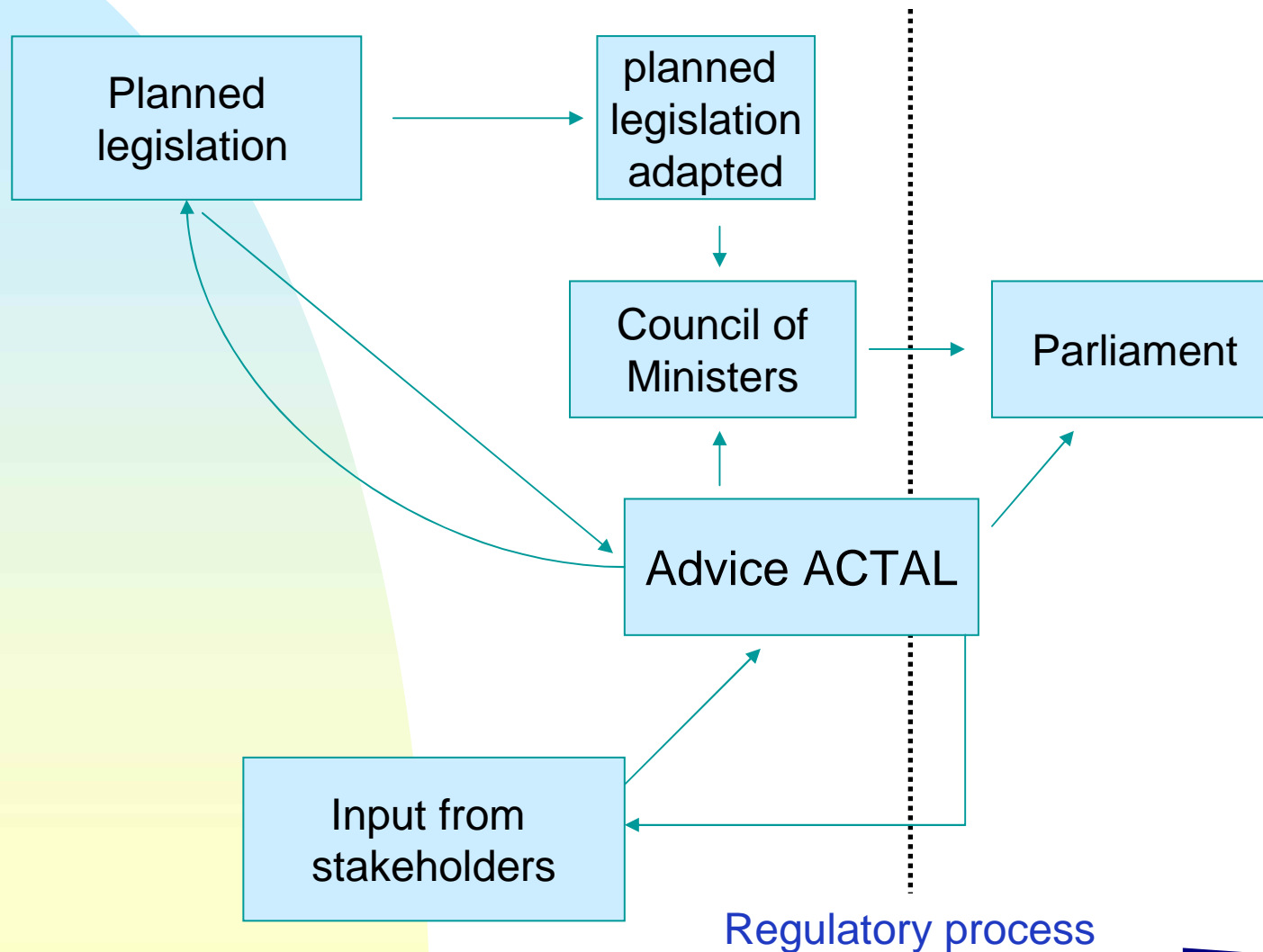
- Common methodology (SCM)
- Net target
- External, independent watchdog

The development of our mandate

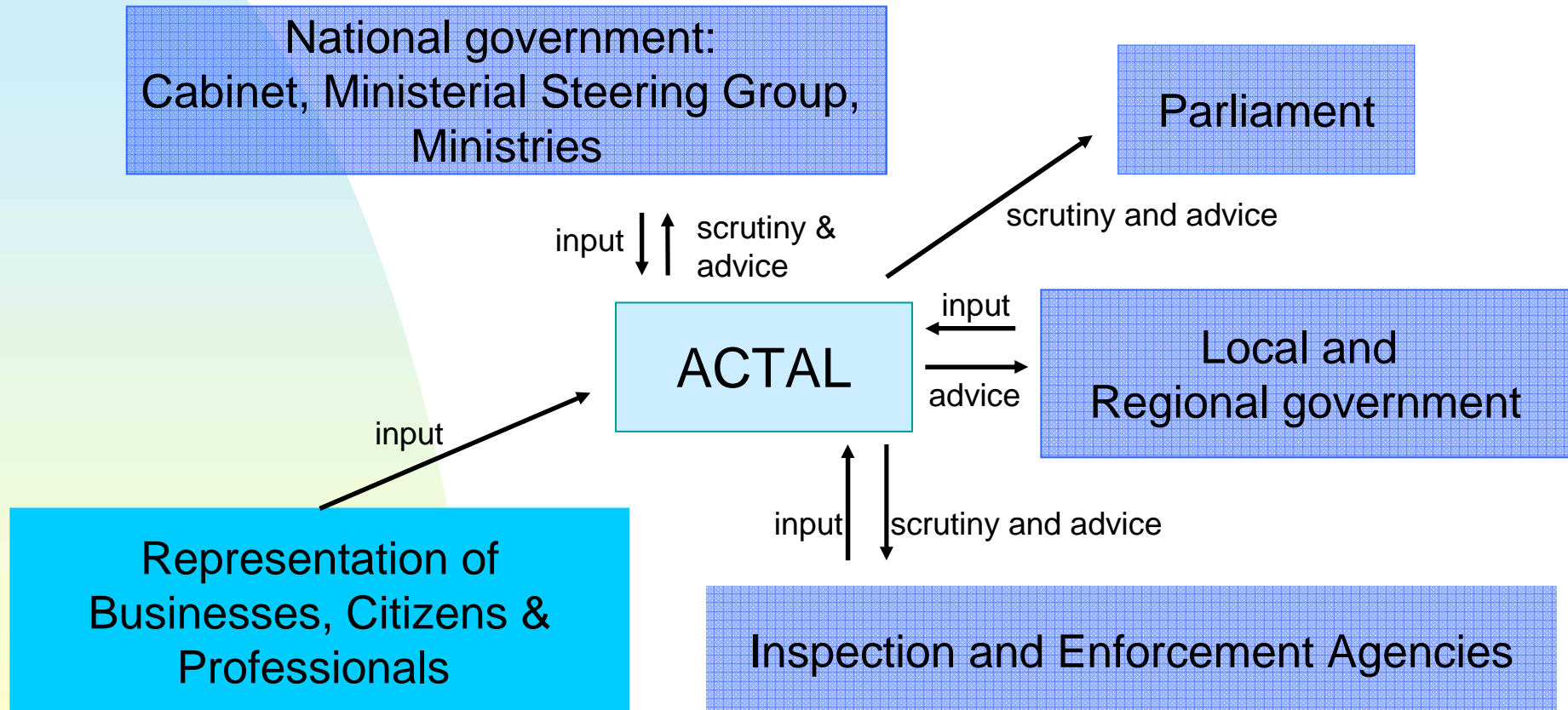


== scrutiny is a precondition to evolve into a centre of expertise

Scrutiny – how does it work?



Actal as independent watchdog



Results I

- Actal's position in regulatory process is commonly acknowledged
- Admin burdens are taken into consideration when designing regulation
- Stronger infrastructure within ministries
- Three agreements signed with ministries
- Progress culture shift substantial, but slow



Results II

- Less admin burdens
- Centre of expertise
- Domino-effect
- Local government will copy national infrastructure
- The model of Actal as inspiration for other countries

Lessons learned

- Common methodology (SCM) essential, net target gives focus and urgency
- Embed in regulatory process
- Strong network is crucial
- Gradual, but steady expansion of mandate
- Watchdog and expertise centre go hand in hand
- Scrutiny is a powerful and flexible tool



The future

- Will the culture shift last?
- What does this tell us for the EU level?



Contact information

Actal

P.O. Box 16228

2500 BE The Hague

The Netherlands

+31-(0)70-3108666

info@actal.nl

www.actal.nl