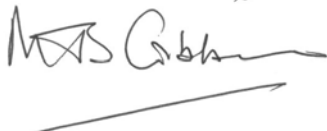
 <b>Regulatory Policy Committee</b>	<b>OPINION</b>	
<b>Impact Assessment (IA)</b>	Joining the Hague Agreement on Designs	
<b>Lead Department/Agency</b>	Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	
<b>Stage</b>	Final	
<b>Origin</b>	Domestic	
<b>IA number</b>	BIS0351	
<b>Date submitted to RPC</b>	12/02/2013	
<b>RPC Opinion date and reference</b>	12/03/2013	RPC12-BIS-1350(2)
<b>OIOO Assessment</b>	<b>GREEN</b>	
<p><b>Overall comments on the robustness of the OIOO assessment.</b></p> <p>The IA says that the proposal is a regulatory measure that will be net beneficial for business (an 'IN' with zero net cost). This appears to be a reasonable assessment of the likely impacts of the proposal which is consistent with OIOO methodology.</p>		
<p><b>Overall quality of the analysis and evidence presented in the IA</b></p> <p>The IA explains clearly the proposed benefits to business of joining the Hague system which allows businesses to register design rights in any signatory country, through one application in one language. At present the EU is a member, but the UK is not, which means that businesses only obtain design protection in the UK via an EU application. This is more costly than selecting an individual country. The Hague agreement would create savings as businesses would not need to manage multiple applications to gain the desired registration coverage.</p>		
<b>Signed</b> 	<b>Michael Gibbons, Chairman</b>	