

Supporting informed policy making

A glance at the Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value at the EP

Stephan Huber,
Head of Unit, Policy Cycle Unit
European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)

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HOME	RESEARCH BY		RELIABLE	INDEPENDENT	MEMBERS' HOTLINE
POLICY AREA	PUBLICATION TYPE	AUTHOR	INFORMATIVE	AUTHORITATIVE	
			OBJECTIVE		

ORIGINS OF THE DIRECTORATE

- 2003: Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-making introduces the idea of:
 - considering the effects of policy proposals in their economic, social and environmental dimensions;
 - simplifying and improving the regulatory environment in the EU.
- 2011: EP (Niebler) report on *Guaranteeing independent impact assessments* calls for the “creation of an autonomous impact assessment structure for the European Parliament”.
- EP Bureau decides to create a Directorate for Impact assessment and European Added Value to **identify, quantify and justify the EP's general policy priorities**. The Directorate was created in January 2012.
- November 2013: The Directorate becomes part of the newly created DG EPRS.
- New Inter-Institutional Agreement on Better Law-making voted in EP on 9 March 2016.



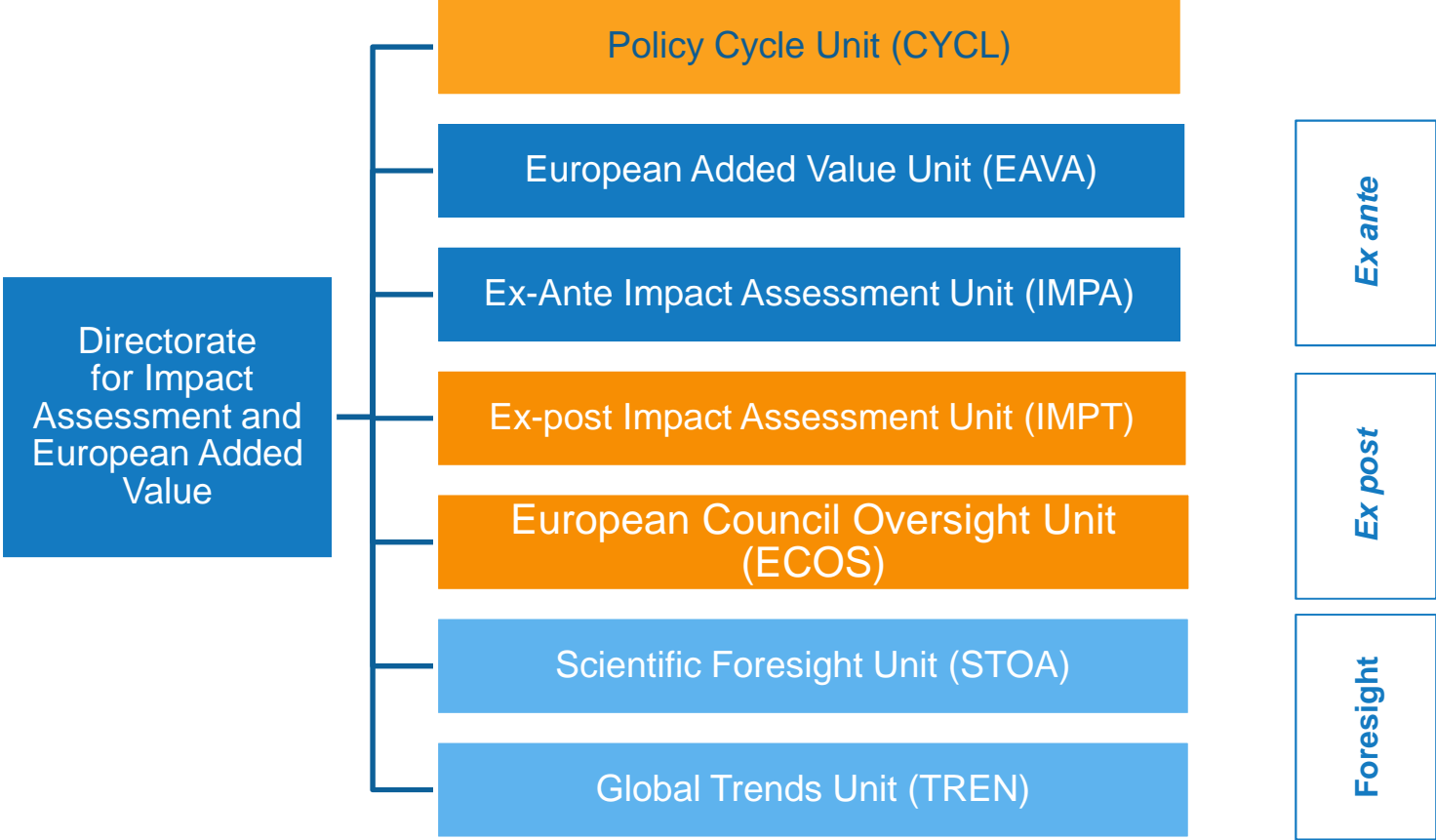
IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Impact assessment** supports the legislative process at all stages of decision-making, meaning
 - before (*ex ante*) and
 - after (*ex post*)the adoption and/or implementation of EU policy or legislation.
- **Added value** is a specific type of impact assessment.
- **Foresight** is strategic forward-looking, to identify long-term trends.

This is reflected in the Directorate's organisation chart, which is structured by stage in the policy cycle (rather than by policy areas).



ROLES AND SERVICES - ORGANIGRAMME

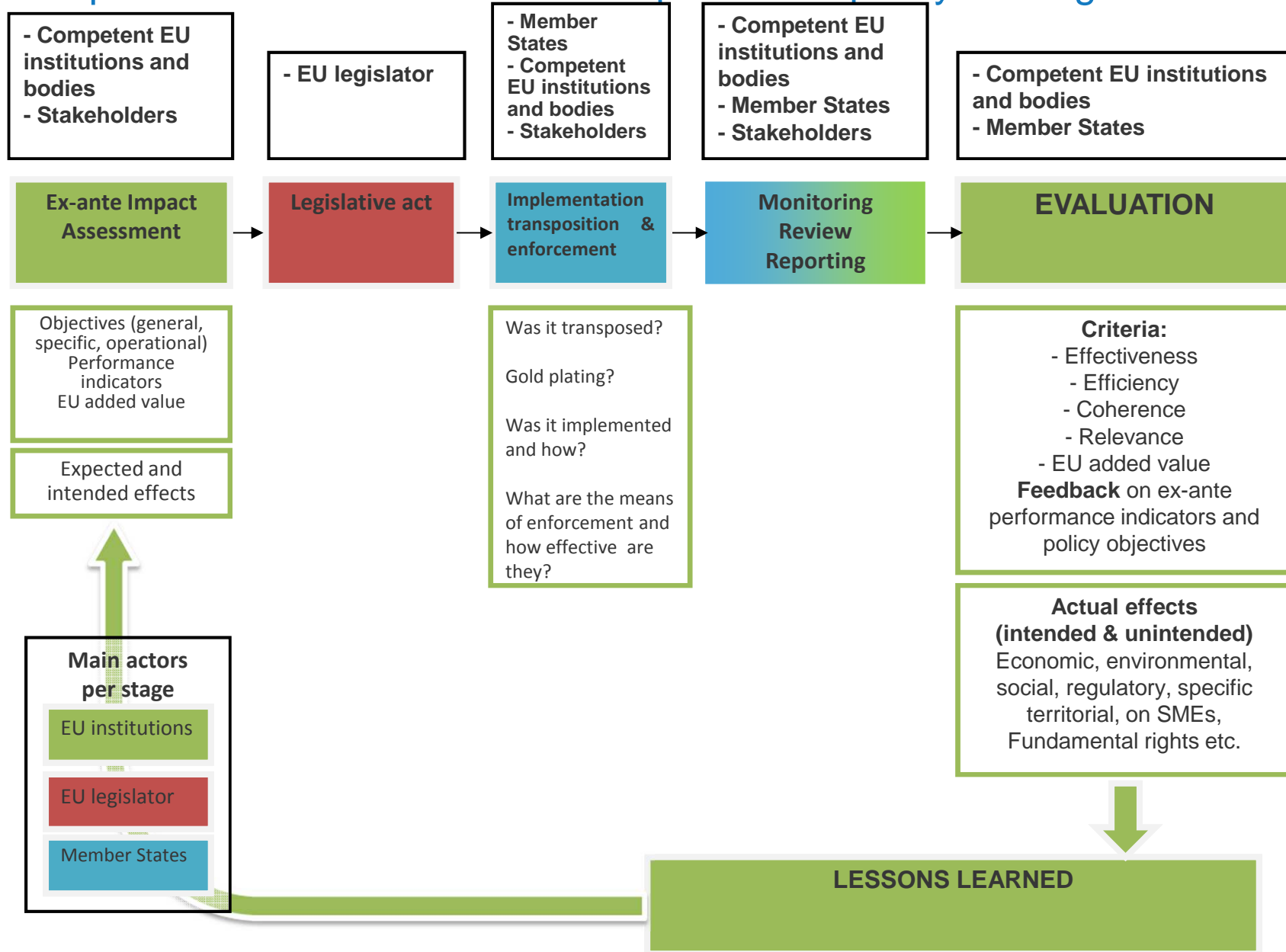


SPECIFIC MISSION OF THE DIRECTORATE

- Support for **parliamentary committees**
- Conducts ex-ante and ex-post evaluation of
 - EU legislation and policies
 - spending programmes and international agreements
- in order to:
 - identify the benefit of common action at European level (evidence based policy making),
 - enhance EP's capacity for scrutiny and oversight of the executive, strengthen its influence on policy formulation and development and contribute to the improvement of the quality of legislation.
- Work done:
 - at the **request of the committee**
 - **automatically**, on a regular basis.
- Covers the whole legislative cycle, from **agenda setting, consultation, legislation to scrutiny.**



Ex-post evaluation as an essential part of the policy making



EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE UNIT (EAVA)

- supports committees in justifying **legislative initiative reports** by **European Added Value Assessments**; EP has the right to ask the Commission to submit a proposal (Art. 225 TFEU);
- helps Parliament identify areas where common European action or better coordination of existing national and EU policies would be cost-effective or would help realize collective ‘public good’ via its **Cost of Non-Europe reports**;
- The synthetic document “**Mapping the Cost of non-Europe**” allows to visualize and compare the relative potential for gains in different areas.
- EAVA services have a strong quantification aspect.



EX-ANTE IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT (IMPA)

- **Ex-ante impact assessment** analyses the likely effects of important policy initiatives, including draft laws, and the reasoning behind them, before European institutions take a decision on them.
- IMPA helps committees scrutinize the quality, completeness and independence of Commission impact assessments through **initial appraisals**
 - Systematic analysis of all incoming IAs
 - Identification of their strengths and weaknesses.

Committees may also request

- Detailed appraisal of Commission IA
- complementary IAs
- IA on substantive amendments they propose (such IA is commissioned from external experts).



EX-POST IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- **Ex-post impact assessment (= evaluation)** aims at retrospectively assessing the effectiveness of EU legislation or policy, by means of evidence-based evaluation on whether it has actually achieved the expected results. *Ex-post* findings ideally feed into amended proposals.
- The services monitor the Commission work with regard to transposition and implementation, impact, application and effectiveness of EU legislation.
- **Two units:**
 - Ex-post Impact Assessment Unit (since November 2013)***
 - Policy Cycle Unit (Policy Performance Appraisal Unit until November 2015)***



EX-POST IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNIT (IMPT)

- Core product = ‘**European Implementation Assessments**’
 - Automatic background analysis drawn up for committees, whenever they undertake an **implementation report**.
 - Implementation reports are no longer subject to quota.
 - Documents are prepared in-house or externalized, in close cooperation with the committee secretariat and the rapporteur.
- Other analysis upon committee request



POLICY CYCLE UNIT (CYCL)

- The **Policy Cycle Unit** supports the EP's scrutiny and policy making capacities through a range of products intended to provide Members and committees with timely, content rich and tailor made information.
- Monitor the growing interaction between ex-post work on evaluation and ex-ante work in the fields of impact assessment and potential added value.
 - Provides **briefings on the state of implementation of existing legislation or EU programmes** the Commission has put for revision or amendment in its Annual Work Programme;
 - Provides a **rolling check-list on review clauses** in EU legislation;
 - Provides a **rolling check-list on the Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors**;
 - Provides a **rolling check-list on review and monitoring clauses in international agreements**;
 - Provides a **rolling check-list on the state of play of evaluation activities in the European Commission**;
 - Drafts Briefings on **horizontal issues** linked with ex-post evaluation, performance appraisal and general issues on the policy cycle.

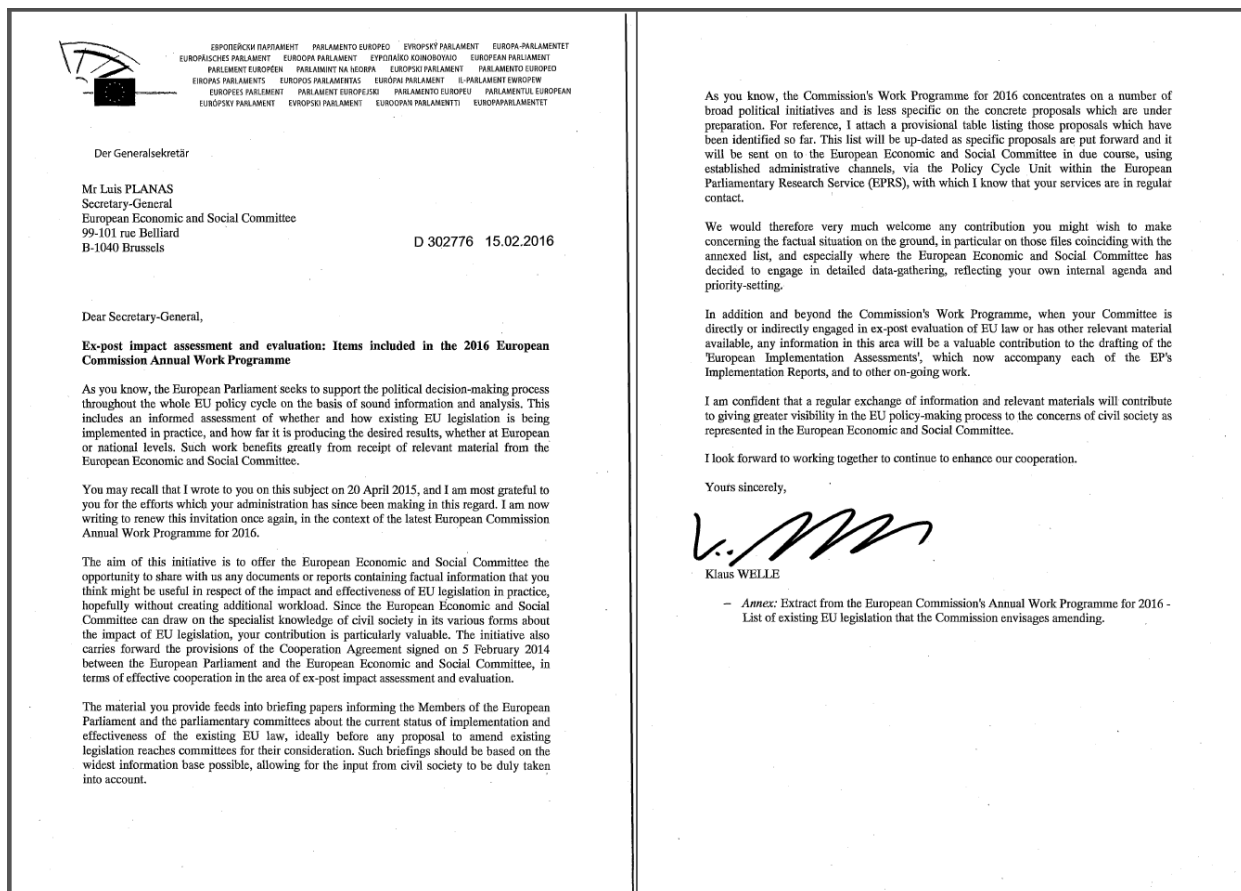


IMPLEMENTATION APPRAISALS

- Each such briefing focuses on a **specific EU law which is likely to be amended or reviewed** as foreseen in the European Commission's Annual Work Programme.
- Implementation Appraisals aim to provide a **succinct overview of material publicly available on the implementation, application and effectiveness of an EU law to date** - drawing on available input from the EU institutions and external organisations, including EESC.
- They are provided to assist parliamentary committees in their consideration of the new proposals, once tabled.
- Basis: our list of 'relevant files'
- Being relevant:
 - content wise
 - at the right time
 - in the right format.



REACHING OUT EXERCISE TO THE EESC



— The same exercise is made with the Committee of Regions and National Parliaments



'Relevant files' - Extract from the European Commission's 2016 Work Programme

No. in CWP 2016	Title	Type of initiative/ REFIT objective	Timescale	Description of scopes and objectives	Legislative Acts Potentially Concerned and Remarks
Annex I: New Initiatives					
A new Boost for Jobs, Growth and Investment					
1	New Skills Agenda for Europe	Legislative / Non-legislative	2016	The Agenda aims at promoting skills development, including the mutual recognition of qualifications, supporting vocational training and higher education and reaping the full potential of digital jobs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professional Qualifications Directive 2005/36. - Decision 2241/2004 on a single Community framework for the transparency of qualifications and competences (Europass) <p>Potential issues that could be addressed are: the mutual recognition of qualifications, vocational training, higher education and digital jobs.</p>
2	New start for working parents	Legislative / Non-legislative	Q4 2016	A set of legislative and non-legislative measures to better address the challenges of work-life balance faced by working parents and support the participation of women in the labour market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Directive 92/85 on maternity leave; - Directive 2010/18 on parental leave; - Directive 2006/54 on equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation; - Directive 2010/41 on equal treatment between men and women engaged in an activity in a self-employed capacity; - Directive 2003/88 on working time; - Directive 97/81 on part-time work. <p>Potential issues that could be addressed are better enforcement, leave and working arrangements, and 'workers with dependant relatives'. In case of legislative initiatives, the European Commission has to carry out a consultation before submitting any proposal in the social policy field (see TFEU 154).</p>
3	Circular Economy Package	Legislative / Non-legislative	Q4 2015	The aim is to address economic and environmental concerns by maximizing efficiency in the use of resources, covering the whole value chain (including sustainable consumption, production, waste management) and through innovation, thereby enabling the development of new markets and business models. The package will consist of a broad action plan, including actions on monitoring effective progress, and a waste proposal with long-term targets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste Framework Directive 2008/98; - Landfill Directive 99/31; - Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive 1994/62. <p>Potential issues that could be addressed could also include an eco-design plan and considerations regarding biomass. See also Energy Union below.</p>



'Relevant files' - Extract from the European Commission's 2016 Work Programme

No. in CWP 2016	Title	Type of initiative/ REFIT objective	Timescale	Description of scopes and objectives	Legislative Acts Potentially Concerned and Remarks
4	Review of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2014-2020	Legislative / Non-legislative	2016	The mid-term review of the MFF will address how to better target funding on the priorities the EU faces. The review will also look for ways to further orientate the EU budget towards results and simplify the applicable rules (REFIT) e.g. for the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and will explore the scope for further simplification under the Horizon 2020 funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council Regulation 609/2014 laying down implementing measures for the system of own resources of the European Union; - Regulation 1303/2013 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund; - Regulation 1301/2013 on the European Regional Development Fund; - Regulation 1304/2013 On the European social fund; - Council Regulation 1300/2013 on the Cohesion Fund; - Regulation 1305/2013 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.
A Connected Digital Single Market					
6	Implementation of the Digital Single Market Strategy	Legislative / Non-legislative	<p>12/2015 (portability, copyright and digital contract rights).</p> <p>Q2 2016 (copyrights, geo-blocking)</p> <p>Q4 2016 (modernisation of VAT)</p>	<p>The Digital Single Market Strategy (DSMS 2015) outlined in May 2015 will be taken forward with three sets of actions: 1) a Communication on copyright and legislative proposal on portability, followed by legislative proposals on copyright and the review of the satellite and cable directive, legislative proposals on digital contract rights, geo-blocking, and VAT for electronic commerce, and the review of the Regulation on consumer protection cooperation; 2) reviews of the telecoms regulatory framework and the audio-visual and media services Directive, and 3) a legislative proposal on the free flow of data.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directive 2000/31 on certain legal aspects of information society services, in particular electronic commerce, in the Internal Market; - Directive 2006/123 on services in the internal market; - Regulation 2006/2004 on consumer protection cooperation; - Council Directive 93/83 on the coordination of certain rules concerning copyright and rights related to copyright applicable to satellite broadcasting and cable retransmission, - Audio-visual Media Services Directive 2010/13; - Directive 2001/29 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society. <p>Potential issues that could be addressed include portability and copyright; digital contract rights; geo-blocking; VAT for e-commerce (see also Action Plan on VAT, item no 11 in CWP 2016 New Initiatives); and the free flow of data, a review of the Satellite and Cable Directive, a review of the telecoms regulatory framework. These reviews can potentially lead to legislative proposals.</p>



ROLLING CHECK-LISTS

- ***Evaluation in the European Commission: Rolling Check-List and State of Play*** - This publication provides in one single document comprehensive information on the systematic approach of evaluation in the European Commission and on current and future evaluations.
- ***Special Reports of the European Court of Auditors: A Rolling Check-List of recent findings*** - This rolling check-list is intended to present a comprehensive overview of the European Court of Auditors' (ECA) Special Reports and links them to the positions taken in the EP.
- ***Review Clauses in EU Legislation: A Rolling Check-List*** - This check-list presents a comprehensive overview of “review clauses”, namely review, evaluation and reporting provisions contained in EU legislation since the 6th parliamentary term.
- ***International Agreements - Review and Monitoring Clauses: A Rolling Check-List*** - This rolling check-list looks into various management and reporting clauses that could be found in international agreements concluded between the EU and third countries.



EUROPEAN COUNCIL OVERSIGHT UNIT (ECOS)

- Monitoring and analysing the European Council conclusions in respect to the delivery of the commitments made.
- European Council is formally not accountable to the EP
- European Council President reports to EP after each formal summit
- MEPs can ask written questions relating to the political activities of the European Council President

Services include

- a rolling check-list of commitments to date (updated 4x/year)
- Regular briefs on European Council meetings (outlook and outcome)
- Briefings and studies



STOA

- The **Scientific Foresight Unit (STOA)** provides strategic advice in the field of science and technology options assessment and scientific foresight.
- Analyses implications and options for future policy-making in the fields of science and technology.
- Undertakes research and workshops, upon request of the STOA Panel or pro-actively and organizes a high-level annual lecture.
- Has been existing for 20+ years.
- Overseen by a Panel of Members.
- It provides the STOA secretariat.



GLOBAL TRENDS UNIT

- The newly created **Global Trends Unit** provides strategic advice in mid-and long-term policy foresight.
- It serves as Parliament's contact point in the inter-institutional think tank **ESPAS** (= European Strategy and Policy Analysis System)



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www.eptthinktank.eu



www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu



epres@europarl.europa.eu



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