

## Policy Department Services

Policy departments are research units that support parliamentary bodies (the President, committees, and the Secretary General) in performing their legislative and institutional tasks. They provide in-house and external expertise to support the committees and other parliamentary bodies in shaping legislation and exercising democratic scrutiny.

For an overview of all the available research services the European Parliament has to offer, please visit: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/sources.html>

What makes policy departments unique?

- They are dedicated to serving committees and respond to their requests for expertise.
- They operate on the basis of political priorities set by committees.
- As well as support from in-house specialists, they also offer access to paid external experts.

### POLICY DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND QUALITY OF LIFE POLICIES

Policy Department A provides high-quality expertise, up-to-date analysis and independent research to the **committees it supports: ECON, EMPL, ENVI, ITRE and IMCO.**

Policy department A serves its committees by:

1. **Connecting committees** with an extensive network of expertise in academia, specialist consultancy firms, and think tanks, other EU institutions and international organisations;
2. **Providing** expert policy advice and carefully targeted research at any point in the legislative cycle that is independent, of high quality and mindful of political sensitivities; supporting the scrutiny role of committees;
3. **Repurposing committee research** to support informed engagement between EU citizens and Members; ensuring that parliamentary work is carried out objectively and by experts;
4. **Managing** committee expertise budgets, implementing projects, using external expertise to meet requirements set by the Committee coordinators.

**In-house** policy analysts and researchers provide ad-hoc information and policy analysis, either in response to a specific request or on their own initiative and following personal consultation with Members. They also support the work of the President and the Secretary-General with briefings and background information.

**External** paid expertise is provided exclusively at the request of the committee, following a decision by the Committee coordinators. A budget appropriation is allocated each year to committees for this purpose. When working with external experts, the policy department ensures that the research meets the highest standards of independence and quality, and addresses the committee's specific needs. To this end, external experts are selected through procurement procedures based on objective selection and award criteria. The policy department then closely oversees their work to ensure that it is fully in keeping with the research request.



The most common research products delivered by Policy Department A are:

- **“At a glance”**: a 2-page research paper providing a concise summary of a particular policy, legislative proposal or event, including essential information with text and graphics, plus links and suggestions for further reading.
- **Briefing**: a concise research paper providing background information to closely-defined topics, which can feed for example into the drafting of a committee report.
- **In-depth analysis**: a medium length research paper generally directly linked to an upcoming legislative proposal or an own-initiative report.
- **Study**: a longer-term research paper usually offering comparative examinations of the laws or policies of Member States or third countries in areas where no such analysis is available. They may form the basis for later parliamentary work or for more focused research.
- **Workshop**: a dedicated session with a group of experts to address a specific issue raised by the committee. A workshop brings in contracted independent experts from external organisations, such as universities, and it is not necessarily open to the public.

## HOW IS EXPERTISE REQUESTED FROM POLICY DEPARTMENT A?



## FOCUS ON THE ITRE COMMITTEE

Within Policy Department A, a [specific team](#) provides expertise and advice **to the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)** in all areas of the committee’s remit.

The ITRE Committee is responsible for shaping the EU’s industrial, research and innovation and energy related policies. The powers and responsibilities of the ITRE Committee are listed in [Annex V of the EP’s Rules of Procedure](#).

## A SELECTION OF RECENT RESEARCH PAPERS REQUESTED BY THE ITRE COMMITTEE

### **Research:**

#### Europe – the Global Centre for Excellent Research



The world of research and innovation is becoming increasingly multipolar with China joining the ranks of science and technology leaders. For the EU, increased global research capacities offer a larger global talent pool and opportunities for specialisation, but also increased competition for investment, talent and the position as world-leader in critical technological fields.



#### Brexit and Horizon Europe



This document summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop on “Brexit and Horizon Europe”, which was held on 21 November 2018. The effects of Brexit on the Horizon Europe Programme were assessed.



### **ICT:**

#### 5G Deployment: State of play in Europe, USA and Asia



This in-depth analysis compares 5G deployment in the EU with other leading economies – the USA, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and Taiwan. On a range of indicators, the EU compares well. However, this is not a short-term race. 5G is more complex than previous wireless technologies and should be considered as a long-term project to solve technical challenges and develop a clear business case.



#### Roaming: One Year After Implementation

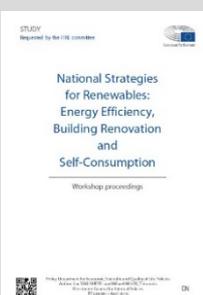


This in-depth analysis examines the impacts one year after implementation of the EU’s Roaming Regulation that introduced Roam Like at Home (RLAH), by reviewing both the retail and wholesale markets. The retail roaming market was found to be performing well for most stakeholders. However, in the wholesale market, adjusting the wholesale price cap is necessary so that MVNOs may compete more effectively.



**Energy:****Sector coupling: how can it be enhanced in the EU to foster grid stability and decarbonise?**

Sector coupling involves the increased integration of energy end-use and supply sectors with one another. This can improve the efficiency and flexibility of the energy system as well as its reliability and adequacy. Additionally, sector coupling can reduce the costs of decarbonisation. To foster the full potential of sector coupling in several end-use and supply applications, it is important that existing techno-economic, policy and regulatory barriers are removed.

**National strategies for renewables: energy efficiency, building renovation and self-consumption**

This report summarises the presentations and discussions of the workshop on with the same title held on 22nd February 2018. National strategies were discussed in relation to energy efficiency targets and other policies, including building renovation and self-generation of electricity. The current situation and its likely evolution were presented and evaluated, with possible policy initiatives identified to effectively address the challenges.

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All our research papers are available on our website:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/itre/supporting-analyses.html>

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Manuscript completed: May 2019; Date of publication: June 2019

Administrator responsible: Francesca BELTRAME; Editorial assistant: Roberto BIANCHINI

IP/A/ITRE/2019-02

Print ISBN 978-92-846-5053-8 | doi:10.2861/94123 | QA-01-19-596-EN-C

PDF ISBN 978-92-846-5054-5 | doi:10.2861/589541 | QA-01-19-596-EN-N