

## 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 IMCO COMMITTEE

Within Policy Department A, a [specific team](#) provides expertise and advice **to the Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)** in all areas of the committee’s remit.

The IMCO Committee is responsible for legislative oversight and scrutiny for EU rules on the **free movement of goods and services, free movement of professionals, Digital Single Market, customs policy, standardisation and the economic interests of consumers**. The powers and responsibilities of the IMCO Committee are listed in [Annex V of the EP’s Rules of Procedure](#).

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

### **Artificial Intelligence:**

#### Artificial Intelligence: Challenges for EU Citizens and Consumers



This briefing addresses the regulation of artificial intelligence (AI), namely, how to ensure that AI benefits citizens and communities, according to European values and principles. Focusing on data and consumer protection, it presents risks and prospects of the applications of AI, it identifies the main legal regimes that are applicable, and examines a set of key legal issues.



### **Contribution to Growth - Delivering economic benefits for citizens and businesses:**

#### Free Movement of Goods and Customs Union



The research indicates that the aggregate effect that the Single Market has brought in terms of output amounts to 386 billion euros annually, with 19 billion in agriculture and 367 billion in manufacturing. In comparison, the benefits from the Customs Union amount to 189 billion euros annually, with 176 billion euros arising in the manufacturing and 13 billion euros in the agricultural sector.



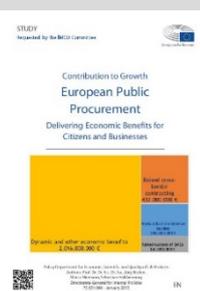
#### The Single Market for Services



The study indicates that the benefits from legislation adopted by the EP in the area of free movement of services amount to 236 billion euros annually. These benefits will further increase after 2019 to 284 billion euros annually in the area covered by Services Directive, 80 billion euros annually in the area of professional services and 20 billion euros annually in the area of services relating to public procurement.



#### European Public Procurement



This research indicates that the estimated benefit of the recent legislative actions of the European Parliament amount up to 2.88 billion euros annually – primarily in the area of dynamic and other economic benefits. At the same time the implementation of the European directives in the area of public procurement resulted in an increase of the total award values from less than EUR 200 billion to approx. 525 billion euros.



## Contribution to Growth - Delivering improved rights for European citizens and businesses:

### Legal Aspects of Protecting European Consumers



This study contains an analysis of the legal aspects of protecting European consumers, advanced during the 7th and 8th legislative period of the European Parliament (2009 - 2019). It examines policy developments in the area of consumer protection and (digital) single market, and identifies new substantive rights offered to EU consumers.



### European Public Procurement



This study evaluates the objectives of legislative actions in the area of public procurement during the 7th and 8th legislature and assesses the contribution of current initiatives to the achievement of EU objectives.



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All our research papers are available on our website:

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

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