Interparliamentary Committee Meeting

Better law making from a digital perspective

Expert and research publications

This Thematic Digest contains a list of publications from the European Parliament's expertise and research capacities within the Directorates-General for Internal Policies (IPOL) and Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS), relevant to the topics of debate of the Interparliamentary Committee Meeting on the subject of better law making from a digital perspective, organised by the Committee on Legal Affairs.

[States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis: Situation in certain Member States IV](#)
(Cyprus, Czechia, Greece, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia)
Briefing by Zuzana Alexandre, Micaela Del Monte, Gianna Eckert, Silvia Kotanidis, Vendula Langova and Violeta Rakovska, July 2020

[States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis: Situation in certain Member States III](#)
(Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden)
Briefing by Naja Bentzen, Albin Boström, Micaela Del Monte, Ingeborg Odink, Martina Prpic, Mari Tuominen, June 2020

[States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis: Situation in certain Member States II](#)
(Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Malta, Romania, Slovenia)
Briefing by Nikolai Atanassov, Hubert Dalli, Costica Dumbrava, Gianna Eckert, Ulla Jurviste, Anja Radjenovic, Sofija Voronova, May 2020

[States of emergency in response to the coronavirus crisis: Situation in certain Member States I](#)
(Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain)
Briefing by Krisztina Binder, Maria Diaz Crego, Gianna Eckert, Silvia Kotanidis, Rafal Manko and Micaela Del Monte, May 2020

> Member States have adopted a range of emergency measures in response to the unprecedented public health crises generated by the coronavirus pandemic. These four briefings cover all 27 Member States and focus on three key aspects: i) the constitutional framework of the state emergency or legitimation of the emergency legislation; ii) the concrete measures adopted; and iii) the extent of parliamentary oversight exercised on the adopted measures.

[Public sector innovation: Concepts, trends and best practices](#) – **[Podcast](#)**
Briefing by Cemal Karakas, June 2020

> Citizens and businesses alike benefit from a professional and modern public administration in terms of better governance, faster service delivery, co-creation and co-design of politics. This briefing introduces different types of public sector innovation, identifies its objectives, drivers and challenges. Furthermore, it explains guidelines and actions on the EU level and best practices in the EU Member States and in third countries.

[The practice of democracy: A selection of civic engagement initiatives](#)
Study by Gianluca Sgueo, June 2020

> This study is part of the 'Re-thinking democracy' series, launched in December 2019 and devoted to analysing current and future challenges facing direct and representative democracy. The study describes current challenges to democratic principles and infrastructure across the world. It then explores a selection of participatory initiatives run by local, national and supranational administrations. The study identifies three trends that are driving innovation in democratic participation, as well as the key risks that threaten the success of participatory initiatives.

[Digital Services Act - a collection of studies](#)
Briefing coordinated by Christina Ratcliff and Mariusz Maciejewski, May 2020

> The Digital Single Market is affected by increasing fragmentation in tackling illegal content online, difficulties to promote market entry and consumer welfare, and ineffectiveness of enforcement and cooperation between Member State.s This collection of studies reviews various policy areas regarding digital economy and their impact on European society, presenting recommendations on better regulation.

[Parliaments in emergency mode: How Member States' parliaments are continuing with business during the pandemic](#)
Briefing by María Díaz Crego and Rafał Mańko, April 2020

> The coronavirus pandemic has forced also public institutions to move quickly to adapt their ways of working. These changes are particularly challenging for parliamentary institutions, as their functioning is based on the principles of pluralism, deliberation and transparency. This briefing provides an overview of the variety of approaches that national parliaments in the EU have adopted to address this challenge.

Collective intelligence at EU level: Social and democratic dimensions

Briefing by Nora Milotay and Gianluca Sgueo, March 2020

> Is it possible to encourage large groups of people to engage in collective thinking? Is it possible to coordinate citizens' participation in finding solutions to global challenges? To answer these questions, the briefing explains the rising importance of social innovation within the EU's innovation paradigm and presents some of the attempts to leverage social innovation through collective intelligence. It also analyses how public institutions crowdsource ideas, opinions, and skills for more inclusive and effective policy-making.

Digital democracy: Is the future of civic engagement online?

Briefing by Gianluca Sgueo, March 2020

> This briefing examines three key global trends that are driving the ongoing digitalisation of democratic decision-making. First, demographic patterns highlight growing global inequalities. Second, a more urbanised global population makes cities the ideal setting for innovative approaches to democratic decision-making. Third, technological advancements will cut the costs of civic mobilisation and pose new challenges for democratic systems.

Using technology to 'co-create' EU policies

Briefing by Gianluca Sgueo, February 2020

> This briefing examines what EU decision-making will look like in the next decade and beyond, as well as the technological progress promoting more transparent, inclusive and participatory decision-making at EU level. The briefing also points to the challenges that need to be addressed to redeem the promise to render EU policy-making even more participatory through technological innovation.

Identifying optimal policy making and legislation

Briefing coordinated by Mariusz Maciejewski, May 2019

> This briefing looks at the Smart Single Market Regulation as an approach towards improving the effectiveness of the Single Market by providing a tool for effective consideration of policy options for achieving clear policy objectives, with the use of ICT and a wider range of data sources. One of the conclusions drawn is that quantified benefits from the legislation adopted in the areas of free movement of goods, services, Digital Single Market and public procurement amount to €985 billion/year with significant potential future benefits.

Contributing to growth: European Digital Single Market - Delivering improved rights for citizens and businesses

Study coordinated by Mariusz Maciejewski, May 2019

> The study reviews all the rules adopted during the 8th Parliamentary legislature (2014-2019) to strengthen the Digital Single Market. On that basis, the report analyses the rights and obligations as well as the institutions and procedures created or improved in the main policy fields of the Digital Single Market (e-commerce and online platforms, e-government, data and AI, cybersecurity, consumer protection and electronic communications networks and services). The report also identifies remaining gaps and possible actions for the forthcoming Parliament's legislature.

Gaps and errors in the TED database

In-depth Analysis coordinated by Vera Milicevic, February 2019

> The accessibility of TED public procurement data has improved in recent years. However, downloadable TED data up to 2017 is complex and includes numerous gaps and errors. Some indicators suggest that much public procurement in the European Union is not published on TED at all. The Commission is in the process of implementing a major reform of public procurement rules and processes, which is expected to improve the quality of TED data. However, the new rules still permit much data to be marked as 'not for publication'.

[Contribution to growth: European Digital Single Market - Delivering economic benefits for citizens and businesses](#)
Study coordinated by Mariusz Maciejewski and Frédéric Guardéres, January 2019

> Numerous legislative measures have been initiated or enacted in support of the overall achievement of a Digital Single Market (DSM). This study provides evaluations of contribution to the EU GDP generated by DSM legislation issued by the European Parliament, as well as evaluations for the future potential of contribution to growth from candidate initiatives for the 9th legislative term of the European Parliament.

[The role of the European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the legislative process](#)
Study by Mariusz Maciejewski, December 2018

> This report reflects on the role of the European Parliament in promoting the use of independent expertise in the European legislative process. Independent experts have produced a number of studies, which have helped Parliament to identify the Digital Single Market as the leading European policy. Digital technologies pose challenges in terms of affecting markets and political processes, including elections. However, they can also support citizens, their freedom and ability to make choices, and support civic organisations in enforcing rights.

[Review of status of the Commission's register of expert groups and their composition](#)
Study coordinated by Rudolf Verdins, November 2018

> This study aims to provide insights into the development, since 2016, of the European Commission's system of Expert Groups, including the Register of Expert Groups. It finds that the European Commission's revised Horizontal Rules, introduced in May 2016, triggered important improvements in terms of balance of interests, transparency and gender balance. Nevertheless, there is further room for enhancing the system. This study gives a number recommendation in this regard.

[Prospects for e-democracy in Europe](#)
[Part I: Literature review](#) – [Part II: Case studies](#) – [Part III: Policy options](#) – [STOA Options Brief](#)
Study coordinated by Gianluca Quaglio, Theodoros Karapiperis, February 2018

> Digital tools could create stronger connections between Europeans and the EU decision-making process and, by doing so, might contribute to reducing the EU democratic deficit. This report investigates what lessons can be drawn from local, national and European experiences of the use of digital tools in the functioning of EU decision-making procedures and institutions.

[The role of eGovernment in deepening the single market](#)
Briefing by Marcin Szczepański, September 2017

> The EU actively promotes the implementation of eGovernment practices, in particular in cross-border situations. This briefing highlights the EU principles for the development of eGovernment, explains the current situation in the EU Member States and points to policy responses and initiatives on EU level with a focus on cross-border e-services.

[Public sector reform: How the EU Budget is used to encourage it](#)
Study coordinated by Vera Milicevic, August 2016

> This study reviews the current budgetary instruments that directly or indirectly support public sector reforms, and analyses the coherence, EU added value and complementarities within them. Case studies on four Member States and an analysis of current networks and award initiatives to disseminate best practices complete the study. Recommendations include improving the consistency of Country Specific Recommendations related to administrative reforms, increasing the effectiveness of the Structural Reform Support Programme, and ensuring coherence and complementarity between all EU-funded interventions.

Reducing costs and barriers for businesses in the Single Market

Study coordinated by Mariusz Maciejewski, April 2016

> The study notes that reducing business costs and regulatory and market barriers is necessary to complete the Single Market. However, monitoring of barriers and costs in the EU is piecemeal and unsystematic, and quantification and clear identification of barriers and costs is lacking, making prioritisation of policy actions difficult. Resulting costs of slow reform process and vague initiatives with uncertain time horizons in the area of e-commerce alone amount to €748 billion. However, ICT and e-government can be particularly efficient in reducing these costs and barriers.

Electronic budgeting: Innovative approaches to budgeting

Briefing by Gianluca Sgueo, November 2015

> The EU has supported the building of digital infrastructures and the sharing of best practices on efficient delivery of eGovernment services for the last 15 years. This briefing analyses the introduction of digitalised procedures in the EU budgetary field. One of the most distinctive features of such e-budgeting is that it seems to promote an active role for citizens and civil society organisations.

eGovernment: Using technology to improve public services and democratic participation

In-Depth Analysis by Ron Davies, September 2015

> eGovernment aims to improve government efficiency through the reduced cost of electronic information management, the reorganisation of government agencies and the reduction of administrative silos of information. This publication provides an overview of eGovernment services and the various policies, programmes and funding mechanisms in the European Union supporting their development. It also summarises benchmarks of EU progress in this area, and describes future challenges in establishing open digital government.

Performance-based full policy cycle for the Digital Single Market

Study coordinated by Mariusz Maciejewski, October 2013

> The overall objective of the study is to: (i) provide a best practice model of a comprehensive performance-based policy cycle, from conceptualisation of the policy to ex-post assessment and evaluation; (ii) apply the analytical framework of the model to policies aiming to achieve the Digital Single Market; and, (iii) on the basis of the analysis undertaken, identify areas where the current policy process is deficient and develop recommendations for improvements.

Policy departments

The Policy Departments of DG Internal Policies (IPOL) and DG External Policies (EXPO) are responsible for providing expertise and policy advice to support the activities of the parliamentary committees and other parliamentary bodies. Based on analyses carried out either in-house or externally, policy departments provide independent, specialised, objective, high-quality and up-to-date information in all areas of Parliament's activities.

A wide variety of formats is used by the Policy Departments in order to deliver their policy analysis, most frequently in response to a request from a parliamentary committee or delegation. Their written output serves a variety of purposes by feeding directly into the legislative work of a specific committee or serving as a briefing for delegations of Members, or as background notes and speaking points for Parliament's political authorities.

The Policy departments also organise events, including workshops and expert panels, to enhance Parliament's analytical capacity and develop common approaches to current issues.

European Parliamentary Research Service

The European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) provides Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues relating to the European Union, in order to assist them in their parliamentary work.

As the European Parliament's in-house research service and think tank, EPRS provides a comprehensive range of products and services, backed by specialist internal expertise and knowledge sources in all policy fields, so empowering Members and committees through knowledge and contributing to the Parliament's effectiveness and influence as an institution.

EPRS also supports and promotes parliamentary outreach to the wider public.

Access the publications in this document and more...

European Parliament Think Tank	europarl.europa.eu/thinktank
Supporting Analyses for Committees	europarl.europa.eu/supporting-analyses
Fact Sheets on the European Union	europarl.europa.eu/factsheets