

Evaluations in Democracy

European Parliament April 10th 2013

Hearing:

***Is the European Parliament benefiting
from evaluation?***

Moderator: Tarja Cronberg, MEP

Contributions from

- Library of the European Parliament
- Policy departments
- Impact assessment Directorate

The role of the EP Library

A well informed Parliament:

- The EP Library doesn't produce or order evaluations

BUT

- Provides access to worldwide evaluations
- Informs MEPs and supporting services of evaluations conducted at European and national level
- Gives visibility to EP impact assessment reviews and policy studies' key data and figures

SECTION1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

The right information at the right place and time

Library's contribution to the visibility of evaluation activities:

- References to evaluations included in Library keysources, catalogue, briefings, and MEPs' requests
- Library products are accessible both on the **Library intranet** site and via **social media** (blog, Twitter and Facebook)
- *Library Briefings* are published on *the Register*
- *Contributes to EP think-tank project*

SECTION1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy
departments

SECTION 3: The impact
assessment and Europe
added value directorate

Main gaps identified

Use of evaluations:

- Shortcomings in transparency of EC expenditure in and number of evaluations
- Some documents are not published or easily searchable for end-users
- Most documents available only in English
- Complex subjects involve long/overly technical evaluation reports difficult to use

SECTION1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

Recent positive developments

- Increased interest in the topic (more MEP questions, more stakeholder consultations, hearings, etc.)
- Increased number of IA and evaluations → EC: from 23 IA in 2003 up to approx. 100 in 2012
- Involvement of national parliaments:
 - COA's annual report to be sent also to them
 - Some national parliaments evaluate EU legislation: HoC, BT.

SECTION1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

Policy Departments: mission

- Created in 2004 to improve committees' access to external expertise (*"raising the game"*)
- Provide parliamentary bodies with technical and legal expertise (committees, chairs, rapporteurs, President)
- Mission: enhance Parliament's role as co-legislator and budgetary authority; provide the instruments for scrutiny of the EU executive

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

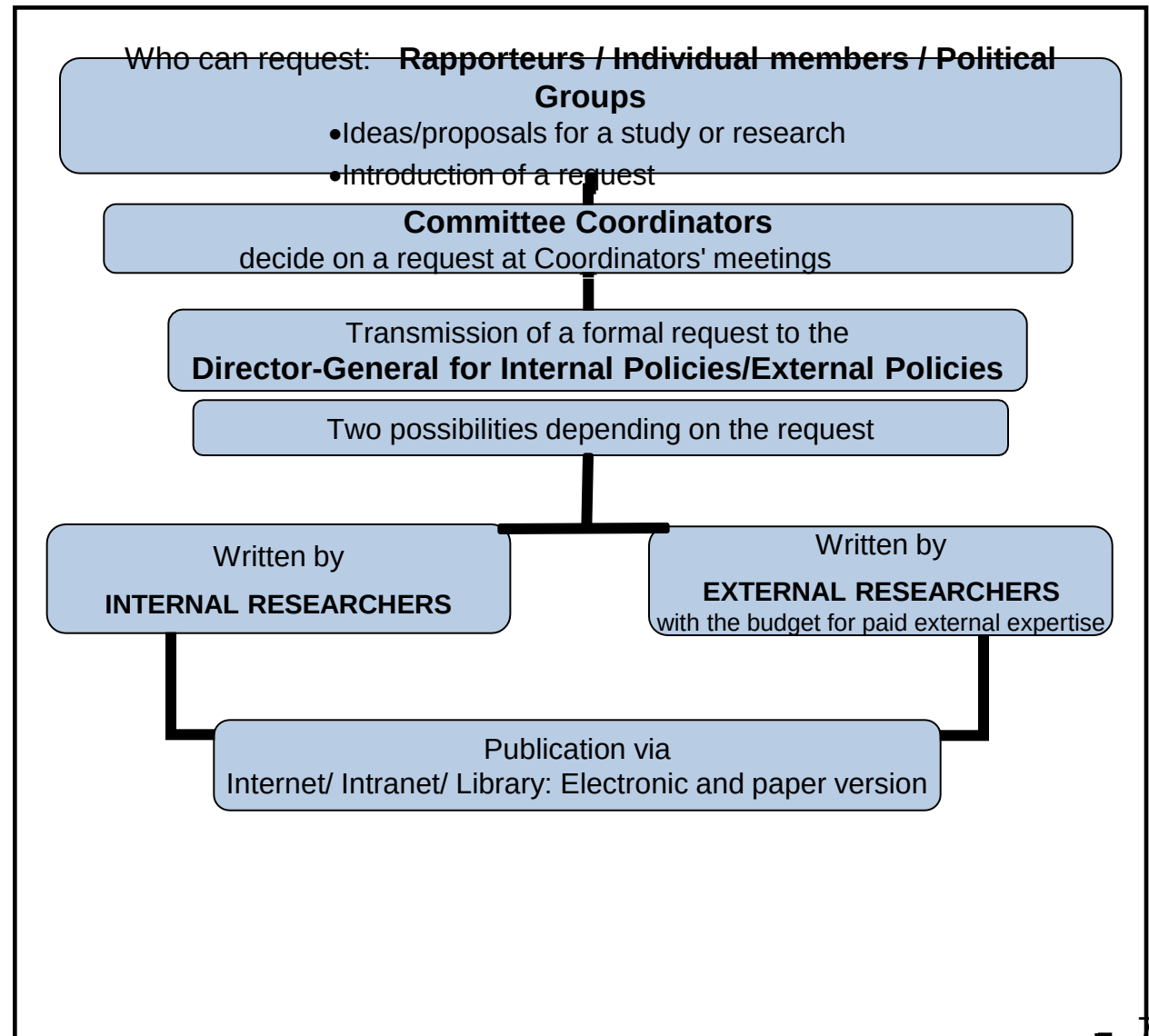
SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

Policy Departments: procedure

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate



Policy Departments: products

- **Briefing notes:**

Topical contributions which can be delivered rather quickly (two to four weeks). Briefing notes are usually used as a basis for committee discussions, e.g. in the context of a second reading, a committee delegation at an international conference or a visit to a third country.

- **Studies:**

Medium-term studies are detailed contributions of a length, cost and delivery time depending on the complexity of the subject. They often have a link to an anticipated legislative proposal or an own-initiative report.

Long-term studies are often comparative studies of the legal situation in the Member States. The scope of such studies, and the research involved, implies that there is usually no immediate legislative application, although they provide a valuable basis for later parliamentary work.

- **Evaluation of legislation:**

Complementing the work of Directorate G *ex post* impact assessments in the form of studies or briefings evaluate the consequences of legislation at strategic moments such as a revision proposal or mid-term review of a major policy programme. Evaluating the implementation of legislation helps to attain the goals of better law-making.

- **Panels:**

A panel consists of a group of experts set up to provide regular background material. This instrument was first introduced by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs in order to obtain in-depth expertise for the quarterly monetary dialogue with the President of the ECB.

- **Workshops:**

These bring together a group of experts for a single meeting, usually in the context of a parliamentary report. Workshops are similar to public hearings but focus on objective evidence rather than stakeholder positions. Experts are requested to provide written expertise – usually in the form of briefings.

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

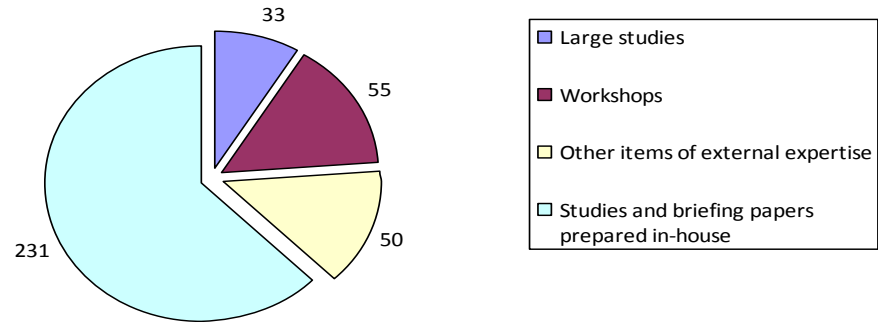
Policy Departments: statistics

SECTION 1: The Library

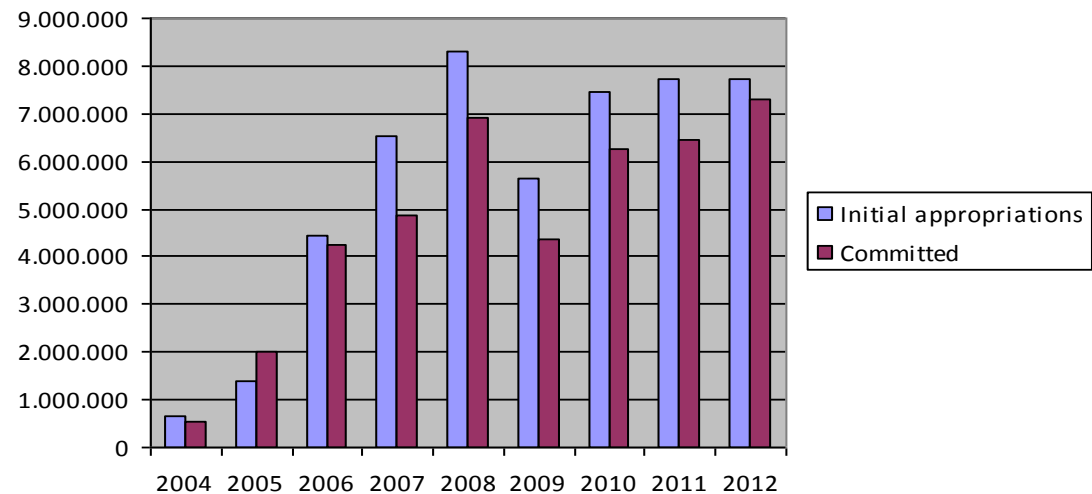
SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and Europe added value directorate

DG IPOL EXPERTISE IN 2012



Expertise budgets 2004-2012



Impact Assessment, European Added Value and STOA

Background:

New directorate established in January 2012.

- Encompasses **two new functions** - ex-ante Impact Assessment and European added value - and one existing function - Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA).
- Dovetails with **long-term EP objectives** of:
 - i) Better Law-Making agenda, and ii) identifying Cost of Non-Europe.
- Fits with emerging concept of **EU 'policy cycle'** - initiation, legislation, implementation, evaluation.

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and European added value directorate

Impact Assessment

Services provided:

- **Initial appraisals of all Commission IAs** (routine service to EP committees to identify methodological strengths and weaknesses).
- **Detailed appraisals of Commission IAs.**
- **Substitute or alternative IAs.**
- **IAs on selected amendments during legislative process.**

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and European added value directorate

European Added Value

Services provided:

- **‘Cost on Non-Europe’ Reports.**
- **European Added Value Assessments** (EAVAs) to accompany EP legislative initiative reports.
- **Background analysis and papers.**
- **Analysis of the added value of existing EU policies.**

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and European added value directorate

Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA)

Services provided:

- **Studies of forward policy challenges**
(Current examples: eco-efficient transport, sustainable natural resources, security of e-government, policy implications of cloud computing and social networks, 'science metrics': measuring scientific performance).
- **Workshops and STOA Annual Lecture.**
- **MEP-Scientist pairing scheme.**
- **Liaison with wider scientific community.**

SECTION 1: The Library

SECTION 2: The Policy departments

SECTION 3: The impact assessment and European added value directorate

Debate

- Objectivity vs subjectivity
- Transparency
- Cost-benefit
- Timing
- Internal vs external evaluations
- Technical vs political