

# European Parliamentary Research Service EPRS



# Serving a diverse and multinational Parliament

- 751 Members
- 28 EU countries
- 205 parties / 8 political groups
- 24 languages
- 20 standing committees, 2 sub-committees, special committees



Members and  
parliamentary committees as clients

# CONSTITUTION OF A TEAM

- › **1953** Library European Coal and Steel Community
- › **2008** analytical service of the Library
- › **2012** Directorate for Impact Assessment and European added Value
- › **November 2013** DG EPRS

# RATIONALE FOR EPRS

- 2012: comparative analysis of **support to Members with other parliaments**
- ...has led to creation of **EPRS**, to strengthen:
  - › Research support **for Members**
  - › Support for **Committee scrutiny activities**
  - › **'Think Tank' capacity**



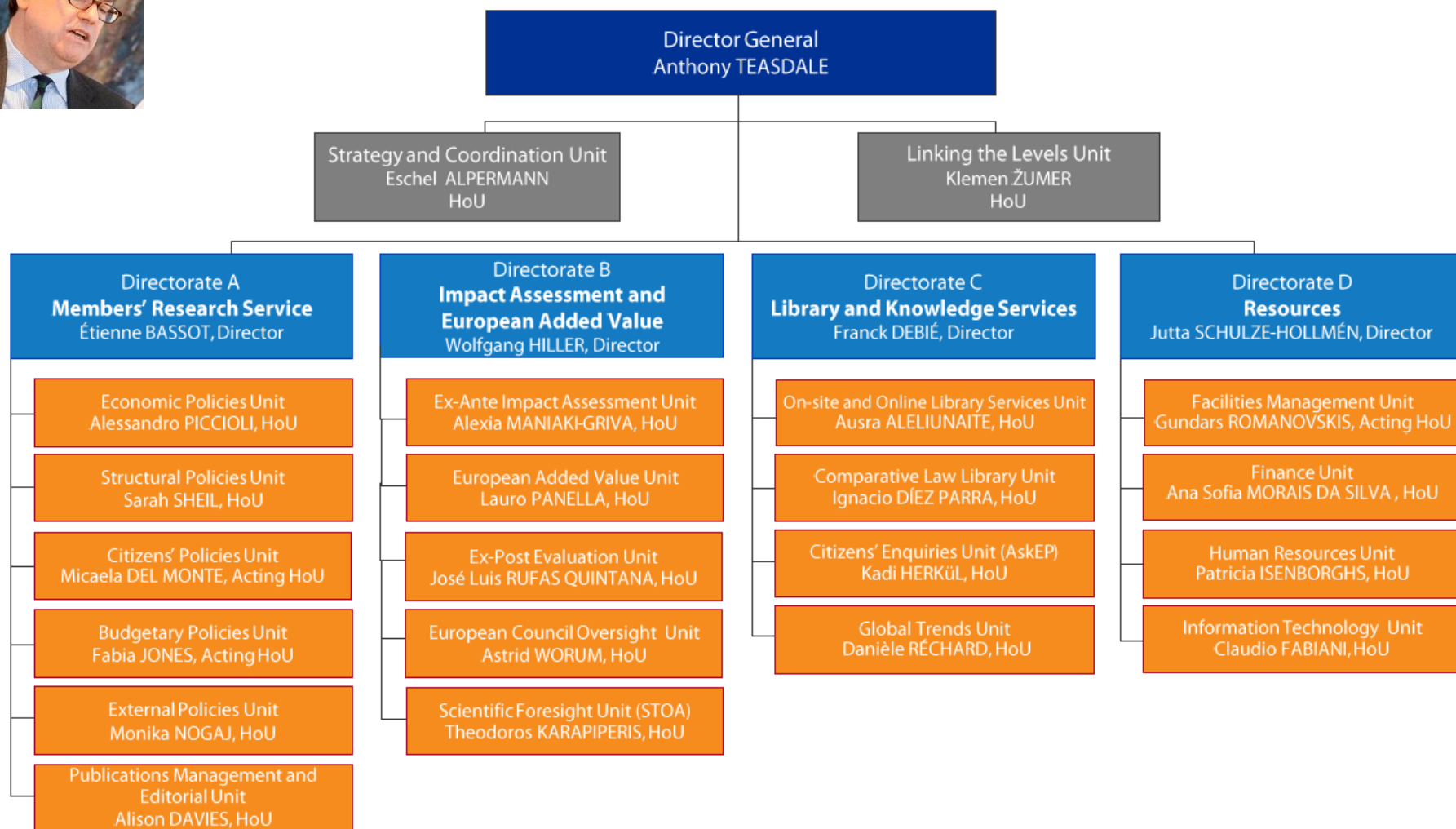
*“Provide Members with  
**independent and authoritative  
analysis of, and research on, EU  
policy issues**, in order to assist  
them in their parliamentary work.”*

***Empowerment through knowledge***

# EPRS PHILOSOPHY

- **independent** and **authoritative** work
- a **comprehensive service**
- a **client-oriented approach**
- a **single point-of-entry** for Members
- clear and **simple branding** of products
- complement written material with '**in person**' **briefing** for Members

# Directorate-General for Parliamentary Research Services (DG EPRS)





Fourth edition

In November 2017, the European Commission adopted a legislative proposal to apply key provisions of the 2009 Gas Directive to gas pipelines between the European Union (EU) and third countries. The proposal would apply EU internal gas market rules up to the border of Union jurisdiction, and Member States would need to cooperate with third countries to ensure full compliance with EU rules.

This legislative proposal may be seen as part of a broader response by the EU to the Gazprom-led Nord Stream 2 project, which would greatly expand the volume of natural gas transported from Russia to Germany via underwater pipelines. The Commission has expressed its opposition to the project and has asked the Council for a mandate to negotiate an agreement with Russia. This legislative proposal makes it more difficult for Russia to avoid an agreement if it wants to proceed with the project. A 2016 Parliament resolution on natural gas expressed criticism of Nord Stream 2. The Council has not yet reached a position on the subject.

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2009/73/EC concerning common rules for the internal market in natural gas

COM(2017) 660, 8.11.2017, 2017/0294 (COD), Ordinary legislative procedure (COD) (Parliament and Council on equal footing – formerly 'co-decision')

Committee responsible:	Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
Rapporteur:	Jerzy Buzek (EPP, Poland)

Rapporteur:	Jelzy Buzek (EPP, Poland)
Shadow rapporteurs:	Dan Nica (S&D, Romania), Zdzisław Krasnodębski (ECR, Poland), Morten Helveg Petersen (ALDE, Denmark), Neoklis

Syllikiotis (GUE/NGL, Cyprus), Claude Turmes (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg), Dario Tamburrano (EFDD, Italy), Barbara

	Kappel (ENF, Austria).
Next steps expected:	Vote in committee

1000

Consensus proposal  
National parliament  
EU and UK opinions  
Draft report  
Committee vote  
Trilogue  
Submission to plenary  
Vote in plenary  
Adoption

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EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Author: Alex Benjamin Wilson  
Members' Research Service  
PE 614.673

**Cost of Non-Europe Map**

Total: €1,751 billion

Market Segment	Cost (€ billion)
Single Market for Consumers and Citizens	€129
Digital Single Market	€415
Integrated Energy Markets	€250
Paying for the Lead (see mission)	€169
External resources	€69
Europe's Private Assets	€26

(Values in € billion (per year))

## STUDY

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

European Added Value Unit  
PE 603.239 – December 2017



## Impact Assessment and European Added Value

## Library and Knowledge Services

## Resources



# Members' Research Service

- Provides tailored **analysis and research**
- Publishes **briefing material** in all of the EU policy areas

## Briefing EU Legislation in Progress



### CONTENTS

#### Background

Introduction  
Context  
Existing situation  
Parliament's starting position  
Council starting position

#### Proposal

Preparation of the proposal  
The changes the proposal would bring

#### Views

Advisory committees  
National parliaments  
Stakeholders' views

#### Legislative process

#### References

EP supporting analysis  
Other sources

23 January 2018  
First edition  
The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure. Please note this document has been designed for on-line viewing.

Print



## Common rules for gas pipelines entering the EU internal market

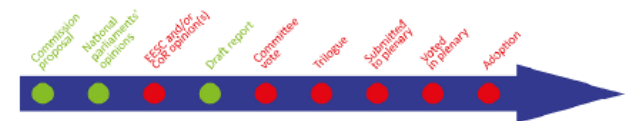
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Next steps expected:	Vote in committee

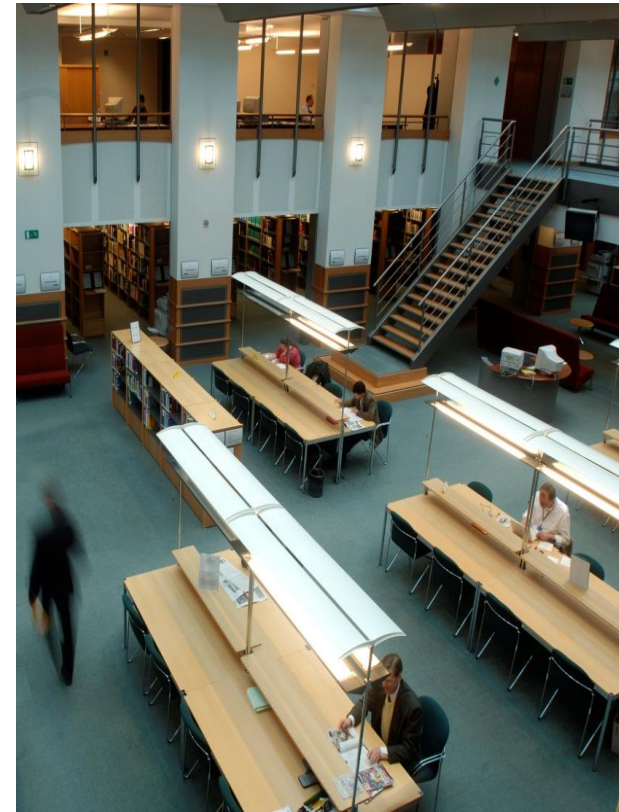


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EN

# Library

- Operates the **Parliament's Reading Rooms** in three places of work
- Provides **access to specialised book collections, journals and press/news**



Ex-ante and ex-post  
**evaluation of EU  
legislation and policies**  
for Committees.

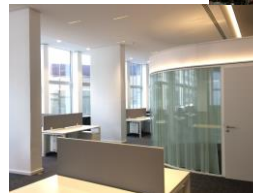


## RESOURCES DIRECTORATE

- **Human Resources:** all staff matters, including staff missions and Learning & Development.
- **Facilities management:** local property management, safety of staff, business continuity, EMAS, innovating working environment.
- **Finances:** providing advice to authorising officers; help- desk on all budget-related questions; ex-ante verification and financial archiving.
- **Information Technology:** assuring the interface between DG EPRS as client and DG ITEC; management of hardware and software.

# RESOURCES OF DG EPRS

- STAFF: 300
- BUDGET 2019: €10,3 M
- PLACES OF WORK: 3
- DECENTRALISED IT



## Strategy & Coordination

- **Overseeing** horizontal issues within the DG
- **Client Needs Team**
- **Members' Hotline**
- **Internal** and **external communication strategy**
- **Cooperation** with European and international think tanks, research institutions and national Parliaments' research services and libraries

## Linking the levels

- Developing and deepening **links with relevant (quasi-)governmental organisations** at various levels in relation to the EU policy and legislative cycle

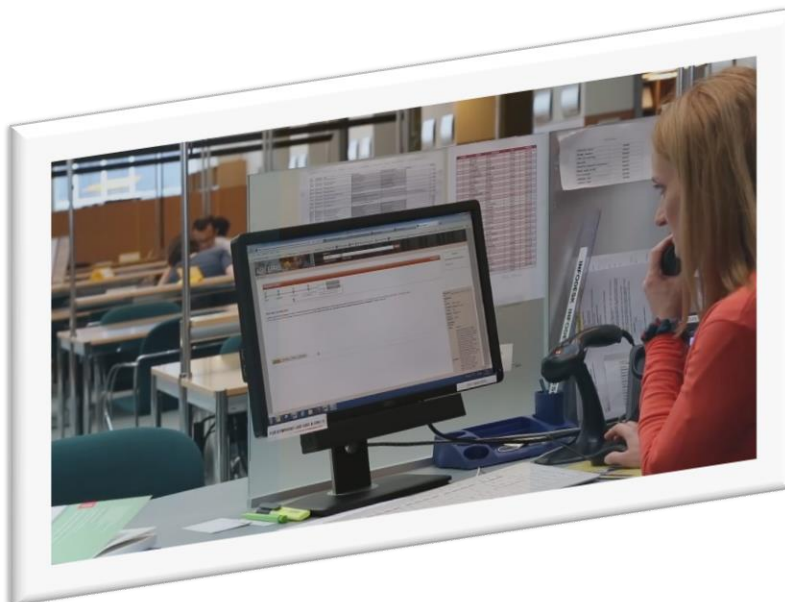
# EPRS at the service of Members with



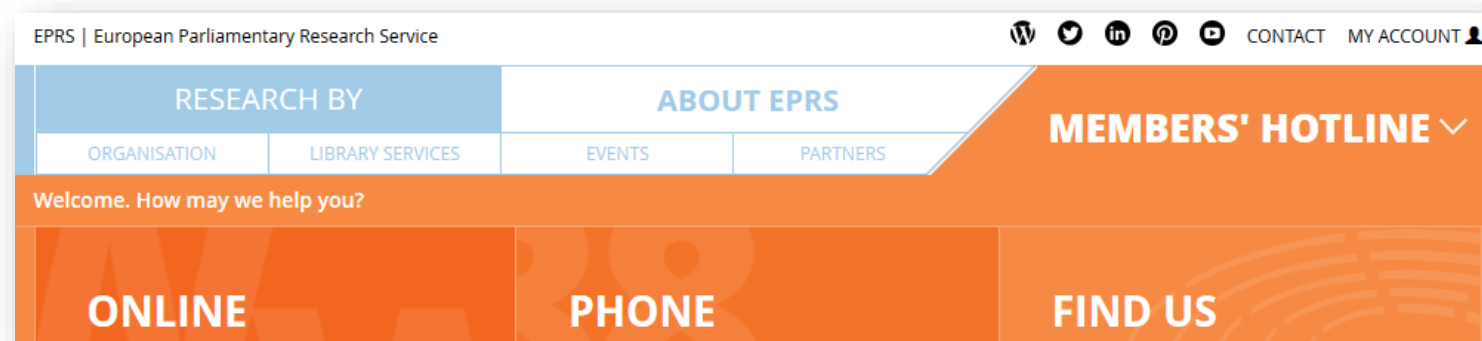
- Answers to individual Members' **requests**
- A comprehensive **range of publications**
- Access to a **wealth of information**
- A first-class **Library service**
- Extensive **training**



# Answers to individual Members' requests for research



- Over **16,000** substantive research requests answered since 2014 as well as over **96,000** reference requests
- **53%** answered same day or next day



- Over **5,000 publications** since 2014 designed to keep Members up-to-date on all EU policies, issues and legislation in a content-rich but easy-to-read style;
- Examples of EPRS' series of publications: *In-depth Analyses of key policies*, *Plenary at a glance*, *How the EU Budget is spent*, *EU Legislation in Progress*, *'Understanding...'* and *'What if...?'*;
- Use of EPRS publications by Members on social media has been increasing at a rate of 60 per cent a year.





## At a glance

Plenary – February I 2018



## E-commerce: Ban on unjustified geo-blocking and discrimination practices among customers

In May 2016, the European Commission proposed a new regulation that prohibits online sellers of physical goods and of some types of electronically supplied services and content from discriminating among customers based on their nationality or place of residence within the European Union. The Parliament is expected to vote on the proposal during the February I plenary session.

### Background

E-commerce is [growing](#) in the European Union. However, European Commission [investigations](#) have shown that two in three cross-border shopping attempts in the EU fail today because of [geo-blocking](#) and discrimination practices that, for instance, prevent online customers from accessing and purchasing a product or a service from a website based in another Member State, or automatically re-route them to a local site.

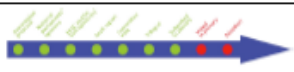
### European Commission proposal

In May 2016, in order to foster e-commerce and cross-border access to goods and services in the EU, the Commission proposed a [new regulation](#) to prevent traders from discriminating between online customers on the basis of their nationality, place of residence or place of establishment within the EU.

### European Parliament position

On 25 April 2017, Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) adopted its [report](#). Interinstitutional negotiations resulted in a trilogue agreement in November 2017. The main points of the agreed text are the following: **Ban on unjustified geo-blocking practices.** Geo-blocking practices are banned, (i) when customers buy online goods (e.g. clothes) to be delivered or collected at a specific location, (ii) when they receive electronically supplied services (e.g. cloud services, web hosting), or (iii) when they receive a service outside their place of residence (e.g. hotel booking, car rental). In these situations, online sellers cannot discriminate between customers on the basis of their nationality or place of residence, for instance by blocking some customers on the basis of their IP addresses, re-routing customers to a different website without their consent according to their IP address, or charging additional fees to customers from different Member States. **Limits.** The online traders will still be able to offer different terms and conditions to certain groups of customers. Furthermore, the text clarifies that the new legislation does not impose an obligation to sell and deliver goods cross-border (to another Member State) when the trader does not offer this service to its customers. **Scope of the regulation and copyright.** Some services such as financial, transport, electronic communication and healthcare services are excluded from the scope of the regulation. In addition, the co-legislators agreed that digital copyrighted content such as e-books, music or video games and audiovisual services (including movies and broadcasts of sport events) should not be subject to the regulation for the time being. **Review clause.** Negotiators agreed at the request of the Parliament to include a review clause, requiring the Commission to assess, within two years after the entry into force of the regulation, whether to extend the scope of the regulation, in particular to digital copyrighted content and audiovisual services. The Council [endorsed](#) the compromise text on 29 November 2017, which must now be voted in plenary.

First-reading report: [2016/2015\(000\)](#); Committee responsible: IMCO; Rapporteur: Róża Gräfin von Thun und Hohenstein (EPP, Poland). See also our [Legislation in Progress](#) briefing on the proposal.



EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service  
Author: Tamiela Madiega, Members' Research Service  
PE 614.684

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EN

## Briefing

EU Legislation in Progress  
February 2017



## Circular economy package Four legislative proposals on waste

### SUMMARY

Although waste management in the EU has improved considerably over a quarter of municipal waste is still landfilled and less composted, with wide variations between Member States. Waste management could deliver positive effects for the environment, health and the economy. As part of a shift towards a circular economy, the Commission made four legislative proposals introducing targets regarding reuse, recycling and landfilling, strengthening prevention and extended producer responsibility, and reporting obligations and calculation methods for targets.

### Proposals for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council

- amending Directive 2008/98/EC on waste
- amending Directive 1999/31/EC on the landfill of waste
- amending Directive 94/62/EC on packaging and packaging waste
- amending Directives 2000/53/EC on end-of-life vehicles, 2006/66/EC on accumulators and waste batteries and accumulators, and 2002/96/EC on electrical and electronic equipment

Committee responsible:	Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)	COM(2016) 681 of 02.12.2016
Rapporteur:	Simona Bonafè (S&D, Italy)	2015/2285(INI)
Next steps expected:	Vote in plenary, March 2017	2015/2285(INI)



This updates an earlier edition, of September 2016; [PE 589.75](#)

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service  
Author: Didier Bourguignon  
Members' Research Service  
PE 599.288



## Social governance in the European Union

Governing complex systems



## IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service  
Author: Nora Milotay  
Members' Research Service  
November 2017 — PE 614.579

EN

## **EPRS publications – basic principles**

- Written to be
  - Useful, with parliamentary context
  - Timely
  - Easy to understand for non-specialists
  - Balanced and impartial, evidence-based
- Must respect quality standards
- Actively disseminated

# Support throughout the entire legislative and policy cycle



European Commission Publications

## 2018 Commission work programme documents



## The Juncker Commission's ten priorities

State of play  
in autumn 2018



STUDY

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Authors: Etienne Bassot and Wolfgang Hiller  
September 2018 — PE 625.176

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Agenda-setting



Consultation



Legislation

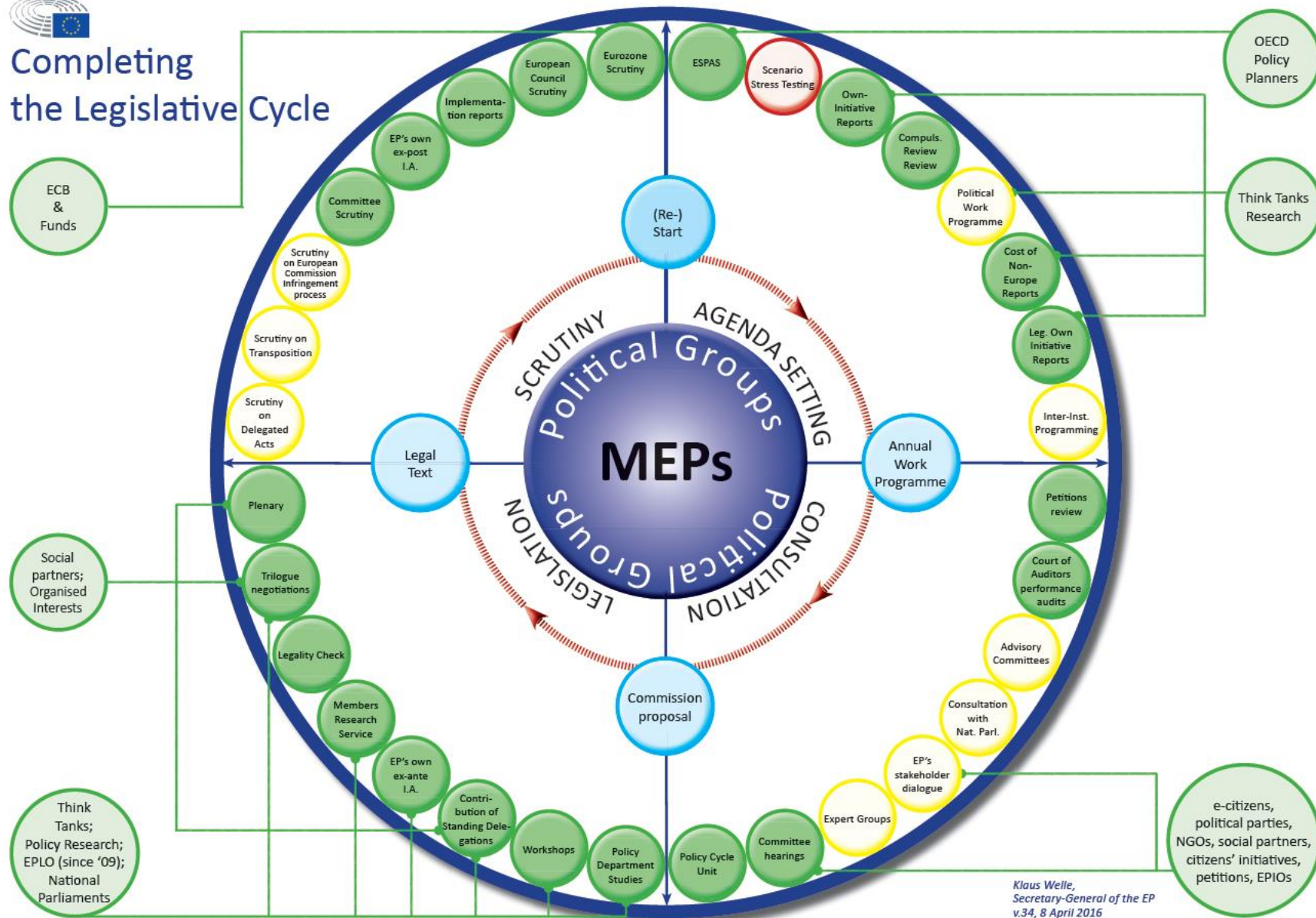


Scrutiny






## Completing the Legislative Cycle





# Support for Members' interaction with constituents

- **+150 model answers** to citizens' enquiries on EU issues to facilitate correspondence with the public;
- Examples of model answers:
  - *What measures is the EU taking to combat terrorism?*
  - *How is animal testing regulated at EU level?*
  - *How are air passenger rights protected in the EU?*



The screenshot shows the 'Ask EP' website interface. At the top, it says 'European Parliamentary Research Service' and 'MODEL ANSWERS TO CITIZENS' ENQUIRIES'. Below this, there's a search bar with 'animal testing' entered. To the left of the search bar, there are tabs for 'Text search' and 'Keyword search'. To the right, there's a dropdown menu set to 'EN' and buttons for 'Clear' and 'Search'. Below the search bar, there are three columns of categories: 'Economic and Social Policies', 'Institutional and Legal Affairs', and 'Structural and Cohesion Policies'. Each column has a list of sub-topics. On the right side, there's a button for 'Alerts on top issues' and a section for 'Recently updated model answers' listing 'Sakharov Prize (2017)' and 'Brexit negotiations'.

European Parliamentary Research Service

Ask EP  
Citizens' Enquiries

MODEL ANSWERS TO CITIZENS' ENQUIRIES

ALERTS ON TOP ISSUES

1.8.8

Text search Keyword search

EN animal testing x Clear

**Economic and Social Policies**

- Consumer Protection
- Economics and Monetary Issues
- Employment
- Energy
- Environment
- Financial and Banking Issues

**Institutional and Legal Affairs**

- Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- Contract Law, Commercial Law and Company Law
- EU Democracy, Institutional and Parliamentary Law
- EU Law: Legal System and Acts

**Structural and Cohesion Policies**

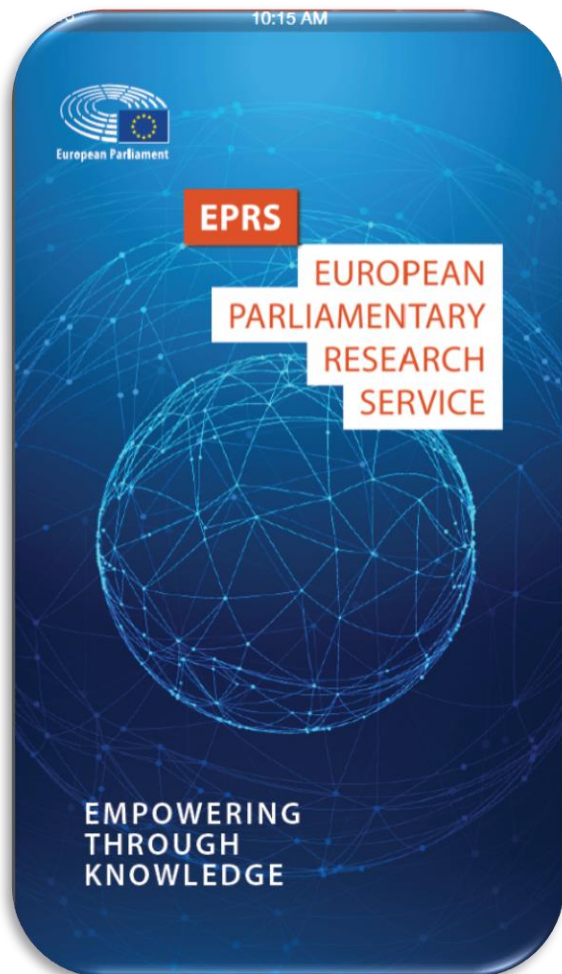
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Culture
- Education
- Fisheries
- Regional Development
- Tourism

Alerts on top issues

Recently updated model answers

- Sakharov Prize (2017)
- Brexit negotiations

iPhone / iOS  
Android



# EPRS App



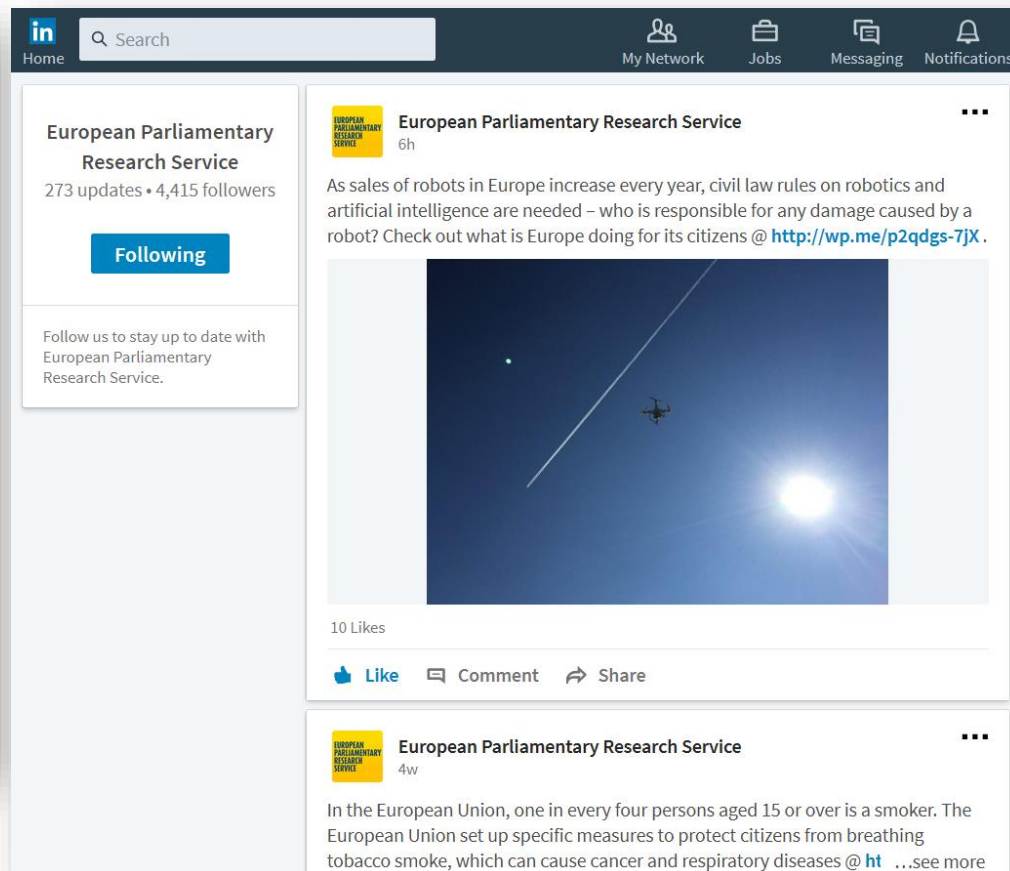
# Social Media

— Twitter



@EP\_ThinkTank

— LinkedIn



— YouTube



**EPRS**

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PARLIAMENTARY  
RESEARCH  
SERVICE**



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[www.eptthinktank.eu](http://www.eptthinktank.eu)



[www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank)



[www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu](http://www.eprs.sso.ep.parl.union.eu)



[epres@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:epres@europarl.europa.eu)



Members' hotline: 88100