

ROADMAP	
Roadmaps aim to inform citizens and stakeholders about the Commission's work to allow them to provide feedback and to participate effectively in future consultation activities. Citizens and stakeholders are in particular invited to provide views on the Commission's understanding of the problem and possible solutions and to share any relevant information that they may have.	
<b>TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE</b>	Stocktaking of the Commission's 'better regulation' approach
<b>LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT</b>	Secretariat General – Directorate C "Better Regulation and Work Programme"
<b>INDICATIVE PLANNING</b>	Q2 2018 – Q1 2019
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/planning-and-proposing-law/better-regulation-why-and-how_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/planning-and-proposing-law/better-regulation-why-and-how_en</a>
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A. Context, purpose and scope of the stocktaking
<p><b>Context</b></p> <p>'Better regulation' is a tool to ensure the Commission's policy proposals are based on solid evidence, well designed and deliver on their objectives in the most efficient way. It also aims to actively engage European citizens and stakeholders in EU policymaking.</p> <p>Better regulation is not about "more" or "less" EU legislation, and it is not about deregulating or deprioritising certain policy areas. Instead, it means providing a basis for timely and sound policy decisions. This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• targeting EU efforts to where they add value to national efforts</li> <li>• regularly reviewing whether EU laws are fit for purpose, by listening actively to input from those most affected on a daily basis</li> <li>• (where needed) changing, simplifying and/or even repealing laws, in response to this feedback.</li> </ul> <p>To that end, the European Commission has, for over a decade, been developing a comprehensive better regulation policy <a href="#">covering the whole policy cycle</a>. In 2002, for example, it introduced <a href="#">impact assessments and consultations</a> for its proposals and initiatives.</p> <p><b>2015 measures</b></p> <p>In 2015, the Juncker Commission made better regulation one of its top priorities. This was reflected in organisational changes within the Commission, work programmes with a renewed focus on key priorities ("<i>big on big things</i>") and a mandate to go even further with better regulation at EU level.</p> <p>The result of that was the <a href="#">2015 better regulation package</a>, designed to promote a step-change in the regulatory culture of the EU, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more <b>transparency</b> in EU policymaking (greater scrutiny and accountability)</li> <li>• actively <b>engaging</b> with all groups that have a stake in those policies, to increase their input into the EU policymaking</li> <li>• <b>reducing regulatory burdens</b> while still providing the same social and environmental protections.</li> </ul> <p>Specifically, this translates into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• more <b>stakeholder engagement</b> with the possibility for stakeholders to contribute at all stages of decision-making: from planning, through analysis of the evidence (impact assessments, evaluations, etc.), to the final proposal (including draft delegated and implementing acts)</li> <li>• greater <b>quality assurance</b> – with a new oversight body (the Regulatory Scrutiny Board) that has a wider remit (covering evaluations, fitness checks and impact assessments) and new members hired from outside the Commission</li> <li>• significantly improved <b>internal procedures</b> – with comprehensive guidelines on impact assessment, evaluation, implementation, better legal drafting, monitoring and stakeholder consultation</li> </ul>

- better **communication** about the Commission's proposed policies (Every proposal now contains a clearer explanatory memorandum which, *inter alia*, sets out how the proposal has followed the better regulation principles and why *EU* action is needed on the issue in question.)
- a **structured forum** – the REFIT Platform – for the Commission to gather feedback from civil society on how to improve existing EU laws.

#### Further developments

- **May 2015** onwards – the Commission regularly reports on how well it is implementing its better regulation policy
- **April 2016** – the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the Commission sign an agreement on better law-making, a significant step forward
- **July 2017** – the Commission completes a major update of its 2015 Better Regulation Guidelines and Toolbox, covering the entire policy cycle
- **October 2017** – in its [annual report on better regulation](#), the Commission announces a review of its better regulation policy to date.

#### Purpose and scope

The aim of this review is to assess how well the various better regulation procedures and bodies used by the Commission are working in practice. The results will be used to formulate recommendations for further improvements.

The focus will be on the **changes made by the Commission since May 2015**, mainly with regard to:

- planning
- evaluation (including implementation)
- stakeholder consultation (including feedback)
- impact assessment
- Regulatory Scrutiny Board
- REFIT Platform and REFIT Programme.

## B. Better regulation

#### Consultation of the general public and interested parties

The aim of the consultation is to complement the evidence we already have on how the Commission's better regulation policy and tools have worked.

The main groups we are addressing are:

- members of the public
- NGOs and non-state interest groups
- businesses
- trade, business and professional associations (at both European and national level)
- European institutions and bodies
- organisations representing national, regional, local and municipal authorities
- national and international public authorities
- research and academic institutions
- consultancy firms.

The following consultation activities are envisaged:

- feedback on this Roadmap
- a 12-week online public consultation starting in June 2018 (in 23 official EU languages, published on the [Have Your Say](#) webpage)
- a survey of Commission staff
- targeted consultation of other relevant specialist bodies, including the European Parliament, the EU Council, the Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee, the REFIT

Platform and the Regulatory Scrutiny Board.

We will use the following methods to publicise the stocktaking exercise:

- **webpage** for the public consultation
- **social media** and other channels, to raise awareness and promote the consultation
- **press releases** – for the launch of the consultation and the publication of the final report
- **summary report** (alongside the final report) – explaining the results and how they have been incorporated into the final report.

#### **Data collection and methodology**

The stocktaking will look at a mix of evidence, such as:

- **external and internal analyses and assessments:**  
e.g. the OECD'S regulatory policy outlook, audit reports from the Court of Auditors, academic publications, reports by the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, opinions by the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, stakeholder position papers, etc.
- **internally-generated statistics** ("desk research" on evaluations, impact assessments and public consultations).

These sources will be complemented by consulting all relevant interest groups; see the section above for more details.