



Evaluation in the European Commission

5th European Environmental Evaluators Network Forum

15-16 September 2016, European Environment Agency (EEA),
Copenhagen, Denmark

CONTEXT

EU legislation is essential to achieve the objectives of both the EU treaty and the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth.

**Article 318 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union + Commission
Financial Regulation**

CONTEXT

- **Inter-institutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making – April 2016**
- **IIA- BL para 44 - Member States to cooperate with the Commission on obtaining information and data to monitor and evaluate the implementation of EU law.**
- **IIA-BL para 48 - Commission annual overview of the results of EU efforts to simplify legislation, avoid over-regulation and reduce administrative burdens.**

CHALLENGES

- **Calls for strengthened economic governance and financial regulation at EU level**
- **Member State administrative difficulty with transposition**
- **Business and citizen concerns: complexity and administrative weight of laws.**

CHALLENGES

- **Evaluations often presented the state of play**
- **Main focus on implementation and output, not impacts.**
- **Need to include a full analysis of why something has happened**

CHALLENGES

- **Whether changes can be attributed to EU action**
- **Insufficient focus on difficulties encountered**
- **Why the intervention may have fallen short of expected results or impacts.**

RESPONSES

- **Better Regulation package of May 2015**
- **Facilitate the achievement of public policy objectives at minimum cost**
- **Impact assessment / stakeholder consultation / evaluation**

RESPONSES

- **"Evaluate first" principle**
- **Strengthened ex-post evaluation**
- **Strengthened consultation practices –
12 week public open consultation**

RESPONSES

Definition of evaluation:

- **Substance - relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency and EU added value ;**
- **Process - public consultation / external contractors' reports / Services Working Document / Commission report**

RESPONSES

- **'Fitness checks' - Cross cutting evaluations**
- **To identify any excessive burdens, inconsistencies, gaps, ineffective measures and cumulative effects across and between policy areas.**

RESPONSES

- **Better timing of evaluations**
- **Evaluations ahead of impact assessment of options for the future**
- **Collecting evidence on an on-going basis (better monitoring)**

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXT

- **Commission organisational framework for evaluation is de-centralised**
- **Secretariat-General is responsible for overall policy and supporting measures**
- **Secretariat-General in inter-service groups on most evaluations**
- **Better regulation Guidelines and Toolbox**

REGULATORY SCRUTINY BOARD

- **Independent Regulatory Scrutiny Board**
- **Formerly the Impact Assessment Board**
- **Now examining major evaluations.**

CONCLUSION - KEY ISSUES

- **Quality of each evaluation exercise**
- **Strength and depth of supporting data and information**
- **Realistic and critical assessment - not a 'sales pitch'**