

Conclusions of the Workshop on Statements

On 5 June 2019 in Helsinki

The Workshop on statements dealt with independent scrutiny bodies' roles and their different mandates and ways of involvement at the drafting stage of impact assessments and legislative proposals.

(1) Early involvement in the process is desirable

In order to provide helpful advice for the process of setting up an impact assessment, an independent scrutiny body should be involved early in the legislative process.

(2) Collaborative relationship between scrutiny bodies and ministries leads to better impact assessments

Collaborative relationship between the independent scrutiny bodies and the ministries can help to improve impact assessments and/or ex post evaluations. In independent scrutiny body always should serve as an independent adviser as well.

(3) The possibilities to influence governments informally in order to improve impact assessments are numerous

A veto power is a preserve of bodies which have democratic legitimacy. But a lack of veto power does not necessarily weaken an independent scrutiny body's position. Beside the formal public statements, there are many informal possibilities to influence the government aiming at improved impact assessments or ex post evaluations.

(4) The publication of statements is a vital element of effectiveness

The publication of statements is vital for the effectiveness of an independent scrutiny body. Both the Parliament and the media may pay attention for a negative statement of an independent scrutiny body. Negative opinions should be well dosed in order to receive sufficient attention.