

IMPACT ASSESSMENT BOARD (IAB)

MANDATE

Mission

1. The IAB aims to improve the quality of the Commission's impact assessments by strengthening quality control and providing advice and support. It will work under the direct authority of the President.

Tasks

2. The IAB will provide advice and issue opinions on the quality of the impact assessment work before the impact assessment report is finalised by the responsible department and, where appropriate, issue recommendations for further work.

Scope of activity

3. The IAB will, as a priority task, examine all impact assessments, which accompany Commission initiatives with significant impacts (including proposals of delegated and implementing acts) .
4. Upon request, the IAB may also offer advice to the Secretariat General on horizontal issues relating to the further development of the Commission's impact assessment system. It may also offer support and advice, upon request, to individual departments on particularly challenging assessments and methodological issues.

Composition of the IAB and involvement of other departments

7. The members of the IAB shall be the Deputy Secretary-General responsible for smart regulation and eight permanent officials at Director level. Two members will be drawn from each of the following groups of Commission departments:
 - (1) Macroeconomic area of expertise: ECFIN, TAXUD, COMP, ESTA, TRADE (...)
 - (2) Microeconomic area of expertise: ENTR, MARKT, INFOS, MOVE, ENER (...)
 - (3) Environmental area of expertise: ENV, CLIMA, AGRI, MARE, REGIO (...)
 - (4) Social area of expertise: EMPL, HOME, JUST, SANCO, EAC (...)

The Deputy Secretary-General will chair and represent the Board. The Director of the department in the Secretariat General responsible for smart regulation will replace him/her in case of absence.

The Board will meet regularly to scrutinize impact assessments. To ensure that the analysis of each individual impact assessment will benefit from the necessary expertise in the three pillars – economic, social, environment – of the integrated approach to impact assessment, the Chair and four rotating Board members, representing the four groups of Commission departments identified above, will attend such meetings. The Chair will decide which member will participate at which meeting, with a view to ensuring balanced overall attendance at meetings and to avoid any conflict of interest.

8. The members shall be appointed by the Secretary General subject to approval of the President on the basis of their professional expertise and shall act independently of the interests of their home departments, but be able to draw on available expertise within those departments.
9. Meetings of the IAB are not public.
10. Any Commission department may be invited to contribute its expertise to the Board's examination of any individual impact assessment, or may request to receive advice from the Board on an impact assessment. These requests will be directed to the Chair, who will decide on the modalities.
11. The IAB will be supported by a secretariat within the Secretariat General.

Operation of the IAB

12. The work of the IAB will be governed by its Rules of Procedure, which are decided by the Chair under the authority of the President.
13. In scrutinising draft impact assessments, the IAB will (i) check the application of Commission guidelines and agreed standards in impact assessment work (ii) deliver an opinion as to whether the degree of analysis in the impact assessment is proportionate to the potential broad economic, social, and environmental impacts of the proposed initiative and (iii) assess whether the analysis is of sufficient quality with reference to the reliability of the data used and the tools/methodology applied for the analysis of the options.
14. Where considered necessary, the IAB will seek input from experts within or outside Commission services.
15. The IAB may provide advice and support in the preparatory stages of the impact assessments upon request and as appropriate.

Information Flow

16. All outputs of the IAB (opinions, 'prompt letters' and formal notes from the Chair on behalf of the Board) will be made available to all Commission services.
17. Opinions issued by the IAB will be part of the documentation available to the College before deciding on an initiative.