



BRUSSELS EXPLAINED

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

31 JANUARY 2023

WHAT ARE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION HAS EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCE TO PROPOSE NEW LAWS

Public consultations:

1. Are used to justify the regulatory proposals prepared by the European Commission.
2. Are part of the regulatory process.
3. Aim to collect data and views of stakeholders and citizens.
4. Are structured and follow certain standard procedures.
5. Are conducted online.
6. Are formed by a Call for evidence and a public consultation.

[NEW PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS ARE PUBLISHED HERE.](#)



HOW DO YOU ENGAGE

PHASE	NAME	CONTENT	SHOULD YOU ENGAGE?	WHY?
1	Call for evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describes the problem to be tackled. • Identifies the objectives. • Explains why EU action is needed. • Outlines policy options. • Describes the main features of the consultation strategy, i.e. Public consultation with questionnaire. • Includes roadmap with key milestones of the proposal. 	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of content. • Influence decision making process. • Recognition as stakeholder.
2	Online Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of specific questions, often in the form of multiple choices. • Possibility to submit a position paper. • Cover all areas of competence of the European union, from fisheries to banking. • Normally open for 12 weeks. Shorter periods can be foreseen in case of urgency. 	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to specific questions. • Feedback in any EU language. • Possibility to provide a position paper. • Influence decision making process. • Recognition as stakeholder.

IN PARALLEL THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION CAN :

1. Organise hearings.
2. Host workshops.
3. Create expert groups.
4. Have one-on-one consultations.
5. Appoint external consultant.

Unlike the public consultations, these are often restricted and upon-invitation only.

You must therefore engage effectively with the European Commission to be part of these activities.

FOLLOWING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

PHASE	NAME	CONTENT
1	European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will gather and assess the information provided by stakeholders• Will draft a proposal• Will conduct an Impact Analysis – Assessment of the impact of the proposal on economic operators and society, including the impact on SMEs
2	Regulatory Scrutiny Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will screen the draft proposal and the Impact Analysis• Will approve or reject the proposal• In case of rejection, the European Commission will need to improve the proposal according to the recommendations received
3	European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the proposal passes the previous step, the European Commission will formally approve the proposal
4	European Parliament & Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assessment and adoption of the proposal

IMPORTANT TIPS FOR YOUR SUBMISSION

1. Keep your submission short and concise
2. Always include an executive summary
3. Use positive engagement
4. Propose solutions
5. Provide data and figures
6. Give yourself time to prepare your submission

FURTHER READING:

[Better Regulations Guidelines](#)

[Better Regulation Toolbox](#)

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