



Press Release

Luxembourg, 24 May 2018

EU Auditors to examine public participation in law-making

The European Court of Auditors is conducting an audit of public participation in EU law-making. In particular, they will examine the public consultations with stakeholders undertaken by the European Commission when preparing its legislative proposals. The auditors have today published a Background Paper, “Consulting the public when preparing EU law”, as a source of information for those interested in the subject.

Before the Commission proposes new legislative initiatives, it assesses their potential economic, social and environmental consequences. It also consults interested parties such as citizens, businesses and other organisations. The auditors will assess the effectiveness, appropriateness, transparency and openness of these public consultations with stakeholders.

“Public consultations aim to foster transparency and accountability and to ensure broad public approval and support for EU initiatives”, said Annemie Turtelboom, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the audit. “We will examine the degree to which they are achieving those objectives.”

The auditors will review the Commission’s framework for public consultations and examine a sample of the Commission’s public consultations. The report is expected to be published in mid-2019.

Note to Editors

After the 2014 European elections, the European Commission adopted a “Better Regulation Agenda”. The aim of the agenda was to review the EU’s law-making practices to ensure that they meet modern requirements and citizens’ expectations for maximum transparency and wide consultation. It also advocated offering additional opportunities for interested citizens and other stakeholders to participate throughout the entire lifecycle of policy development and implementation.

The purpose of this press release is to convey the main messages of the European Court of Auditors’ Background Paper. The full paper is available at eca.europa.eu.

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