



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Regulatory Scrutiny Board

Brussels,
Ares(2018)

Opinion

Title: Evaluation of the EU agencies under the remit of DG Employment
(version of 19 July 2018)*

Overall 2nd opinion: POSITIVE

(A) Context

Four EU agencies are active on labour market and training issues:

- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA);
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound);
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP);
- European Training Foundation (ETF).

This report assesses each of the four agencies over the period 2011-2016. It considers issues of coherence and overlaps, and whether there is scope to streamline certain functions.

The EU is currently aligning the founding regulations of the agencies to the reference framework on EU decentralised agencies. Discussion on the next Multiannual Financial Framework and a proposal for a European Labour Authority (ELA) might also affect the agencies.

(B) Main considerations

The Board notes substantial revisions to the report. Most of the prospective analysis and Commission commitments for future action are removed. The scope and context of the evaluation are clearer. They now refer to the ongoing alignment of the four agencies with the 2012 Common Approach to EU decentralised agencies.

The Board gives a positive opinion, but considers that the report could be further improved with respect to the following key aspects:

- (1) The report does not sufficiently explain the reasoning behind limiting the scope and discarding some variations of the reinforced cooperation scenario.**
- (2) The report does not sufficiently present stakeholders' views with regard to choices about the reinforced cooperation scenario.**

* Note that this opinion concerns a draft impact assessment report which may differ from the one adopted.

(C) Further considerations and recommendations

(1) The scope of the evaluation now excludes any evaluative questions that might lead to a conclusion that the current mandates and objectives of one or more of the Agencies are no longer optimal. In particular, it does not question the relevance of the current mandates and tasks, nor the coherence of delegating these activities compared with other policy domains. The report should more convincingly justify this restrictive approach.

(2) The report no longer contains prospective analysis and Commission commitments for future action. It nevertheless still refers to a future Action Plan. The report develops a more modest scenario of strengthened cooperation. While this seems appropriate, the report should provide stronger justification for reducing the number variations of the reinforced cooperation scenario. The report could otherwise keep these proposals at this stage of the policy process. A more granular reporting of stakeholders' consultation could better support the choices made to shape the reinforced cooperation scenario.

(3) The context section now explains better the changes envisaged in the Commission's 2016 revision of the founding regulation. The report explains that revisions did not propose changes to the tripartite structure, and argues that the evaluation findings do not support policy changes in this regard. The report could further explain its reasoning on this.

Some more technical comments have been transmitted directly to the author DG.

(D) RSB scrutiny process

The lead DG is advised to ensure that these recommendations are taken into account in the report prior to launching the interservice consultation.

Full title	Evaluation of the EU agencies under the remit of DG Employment: EUROFOUND, CEDEFOP, ETF and EU OSHA
Reference number	2016/EMPL/020
Date of RSB meeting	Written procedure