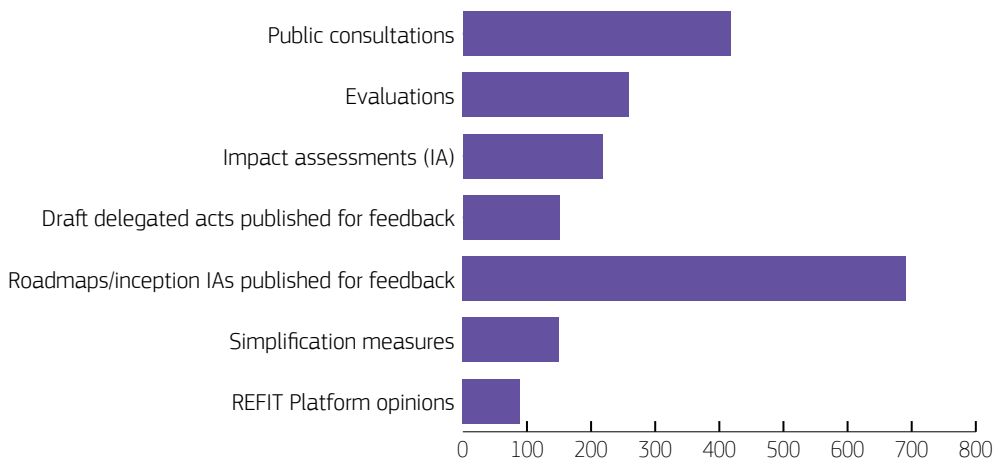




# Better regulation *at the heart of EU policymaking*

The Juncker Commission committed to deliver EU policy that brings clear results for European citizens and businesses. We have introduced more open, participative and evidence-based policymaking which allowed us to listen carefully to what Europeans have to say and take legitimate action when it was needed. We made sure to legislate only when common action at European level brought added value. This has been recognised internationally by the OECD which ranked the EU's regulatory policy as one of the very best in 2018.

## BETTER REGULATION ACTIVITIES 2015-2018



## WHAT WE'VE LEARNT

- The concept of better regulation is univocally supported and should remain at the heart of our decision-making processes for the future.
- In a 'post-fact' world of fake news, the rationale for evidence-based regulation is only growing stronger.
- Better regulation supports political decision-making but it does not substitute it.

BUT...

- The public and stakeholders would like to be even more engaged in EU policymaking and get better feedback.
- There is still room for improvement when it comes to the way we design and evaluate EU policies.
- There is a clear need for better communication and awareness raising around opportunities for citizens to participate in EU policymaking.
- Better regulation needs to be a shared effort of all those involved in designing and implementing policy solutions.

# 1. OPENING-UP POLICYMAKING

One of the top priorities of this Commission has been to engage Europeans and civil society more in our policymaking. We have invested extensively to provide the right tools, access and opportunities for citizens to tell us what they think about topics most important to them.

**Did you know?**

To engage more broadly with the public and stakeholders, in 2017 the Commission committed to translate public consultation questionnaires for ALL of its most important initiatives into 23 official EU languages. In 2018, more than 70% of public consultation questionnaires were translated into all those languages.

At the same time, this is an area where improvements are still needed, because there is a clear demand for more engagement from EU citizens.

**Did you know?**

Citizens and stakeholders can share their views throughout the entire lifecycle of a policy, from its initiation to its evaluation, through the ['Have Your Say' portal](#).

## HAVE YOUR SAY SUCCESS STORIES

- [Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy](#) (more than 320,000 contributions)
- [European Citizens Initiative](#) (more than 5,320 contributions)
- [Single use plastics/tackling marine litter](#) (more than 1,800 contributions)

## HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO POLICYMAKING

**Public consultation** of citizens and stakeholders on how well the policy worked on the ground.

12 weeks (online questionnaire)

**Roadmap:** The Commission announces an evaluation of an existing individual policy (evaluation) or a whole policy area (fitness check).

4 weeks

**Lighten the load:** Citizens and stakeholders can share ideas at any time on how existing EU laws and initiatives can be simplified and improved to be more effective and reduce the burden.

Always open

**Roadmap and impact assessment:** The Commission announces upcoming work on policies and legislation.

4 weeks

**Public consultation** of citizens and stakeholders on the scope, priorities and added value of EU action for new initiatives.

12 weeks (online questionnaire)

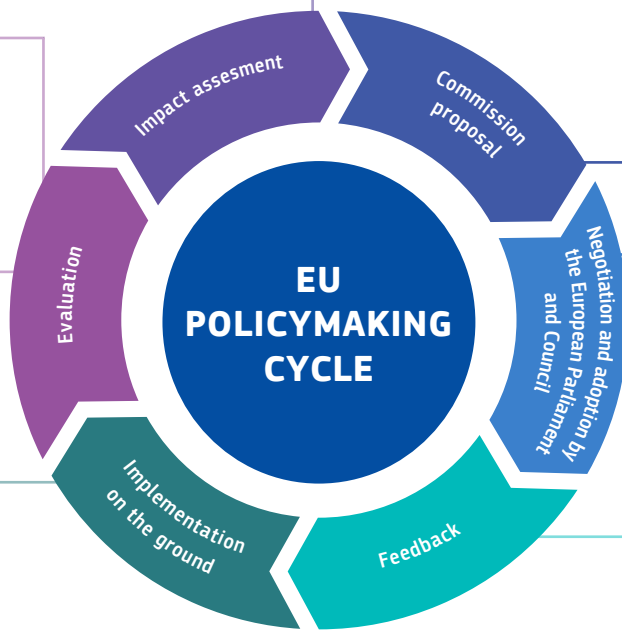
Once adopted by the College of Commissioners it is open for feedback, which is then shared with the European Parliament and Council.

8 weeks

**Implementing act:** Set conditions that ensure that EU laws are applied uniformly.

**Delegated act:** Supplement or amend non essential parts of EU legislative acts.

4 weeks



## 2. BETTER TOOLS FOR BETTER POLICIES

Impact assessments and evaluations are key tools through which the Commission gathers evidence and stakeholders' input to support policy decisions. Evaluations allow us to check whether European initiatives deliver the intended results without unnecessary costs and remain fit for purpose. Evaluations then feed into impact assessments, which check if Union action is necessary. Such assessments take into account economic, social and environmental impacts and help identify the most effective and efficient way to deliver the best results for all.

[The Regulatory Scrutiny Board](#), an independent group of Commission officials and external experts, checks the quality of all impact assessments and major evaluations. The results of their work are presented in regular annual reports.

### Did you know?

In 2018, 78% of impact assessments accompanying proposals to revise legislation were based on an evaluation. This is up from only half the impact assessments in 2016.

## 3. KEEPING EXISTING LAWS FIT FOR PURPOSE

The European Commission's regulatory fitness and performance programme (REFIT) makes sure that EU laws deliver their intended benefits for citizens, businesses and society at minimum cost and in the simplest way.

The REFIT Platform advises the Commission on how to make EU regulation more efficient and reviews the suggestions that EU citizens, businesses, national authorities and other stakeholders send via the ['Lighten the load' platform](#).

From 2015 to 2018, the REFIT Platform adopted 89 opinions. The Commission responded to all of them, indicating whether action is needed. We also follow-up on the Platform's opinions through the Commission Work Programmes, the REFIT scoreboard and the dedicated follow-up report. In addition, the Annual Burden Survey presents an overview of all our efforts to simplify legislation and reduce regulatory burdens.

### Did you know?

New legislation on modernising VAT for cross-border e-commerce from business/ online retailer to consumers was one of the 150 simplification proposals by the Juncker Commission. Thanks to these laws, a business no longer needs to register for VAT in each Member State where goods are sold online but they can use just one portal instead. In total, the new rules are estimated to deliver savings of €2.3 billion for businesses and generate €7 billion in VAT revenue for Member States.

## 4. BETTER REGULATION AS A SHARED EFFORT

Better regulation requires a shared effort from all those involved in designing, implementing and evaluating policy to deliver the best results on the ground. To this end, the European Parliament, Council and the Commission committed to follow the principles of better regulation, transparency and cooperation as part of the 2016 Interinstitutional Agreement on Better Law-Making. The agreement is still quite new but has already delivered clear results, such as the Joint Declaration of Legislative Priorities.

To support this shared effort, the OECD also points out that Member States could better promote the opportunities offered by the Commission's consultations and feedback mechanisms.

