



MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Since 1996, the ERIF has played an important role in:

- establishing formal requirements for cost-benefit analysis at EU-level in the Amsterdam Treaty;
- the Commission adopting its modern system of impact assessment, and in their design;
- the content of the Commission's guidelines for the use of the Precautionary Principle;
- EU-US dialogue on the use of precaution in decision-making, managing the risks posed by new technologies, and ensuring food safety;
- DG SANCO adopting modern guidelines to improve the collection, validation and use of scientific evidence as an input for regulatory decision-making, and in their coverage and content;
- the form and structure of governance used for EU-level risk assessment agencies;
- the creation and role of the European Commission's Impact Assessment Board (IAB) – now Regulatory Scrutiny Board;
- the expansion of the scope of the Commission's impact assessment process to encompass comitology and other major implementing measures;
- the inclusion, in the latest revision of the Commission's IA guidelines, of requirements for impact assessments of risk management measures to take account of scientific risk assessment;
- the revision of the operating methods of the Commission Scientific Committees, including greater transparency and more co-operation with risk management agencies;
- the establishment of the Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission – now converted into the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors to the European Commission (as a part of the Scientific Advice Mechanism, SAM);
- the establishment of a Directorate on Impact Assessment and European Added Value in the European Parliament;
- the inclusion of performing risk-risk tests in the OECD 2012 Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance;
- the appointment of a Science and Technology Advisory Council at the EU level;
- the development of detailed guidelines to support the establishment of a Commission-wide policy for ex post evaluation of regulatory decisions;
- the recognition by the European Council in 2013, that the regulation of risk affects innovation in the EU;
- the adoption in 2013 by the European Commission's Independent Scientific Committees of new Rules of Procedure that recognize the unacceptability of all forms of bias, require risk assessments to exclude

risk management advice and to meet internationally-accepted standards; and require assessments of risk to be based on the best data (and science) and to explain the criteria used for evaluating evidence;

- the recognition, in many key passages of the 2015 Better Regulation “package” launched by the European Commission (and notably in the technical guidelines and the attached tool-kit) of the relevance of considering wider, complex impact of regulatory decisions through value chains, including stigmatization, defensive R&D, and distortion of investment flows;
- the acknowledgment, among top EU decision-makers and thought leaders, of the appropriateness of applying the Innovation Principle to EU decision-making – including the recognition of the principle in the Competitiveness Council Conclusions of May 2016;
- the creation of dedicated Commission internal units addressing the interface between regulation and innovation, and the piloting of specific toolbox on R&I on selected initiatives;
- the inclusion of the Innovation Principle in the Regulation on “Horizon Europe” in December 2018;
- the launch of a dedicated European Commission’s website on the Innovation Principle;
- the reiteration of the importance of – and call upon the European Commission to – systematically applying the Innovation Principle in the Competitiveness Council Conclusions of February 2020.