

The background of the left side of the page is a photograph of the European Union flag, featuring a blue field with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle. The flag is draped over a building with large windows.

# BRUSSELS

# EXPLAINED

**ridens**  
public affairs

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This Briefing note will address  
Public Consultations.

The note will provide  
information on how to best  
engage with policymakers  
before, during and after the  
end of the public consultation.

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# WHAT ARE PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS?

## European Commission


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

[New public consultations are published HERE.](#)

An official website of the European Union How do you know? ▾

 European Commission

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Law

### Published initiatives

[Have your say](#) > Published initiatives

The Commission would like to hear your views on laws and policies currently in development. Click on an initiative to find out more, view feedback, or give your own feedback. Please note that the Commission may decide to modify or abandon an initiative at any time.

**Keywords** ⓘ

**Topic**

-Any- ▾

**Stage**

-Any- ▾

**Feedback status**

-Any- ▾

**Feedback open from**

📅

**Feedback open to**

📅

**Type of act**

-Any- ▾

**Document category**

-Any- ▾

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COMMISSION ADOPTION: OPEN

**Firearms – review of export rules and import & transit measures**

Topic	Home affairs
Type of act	Proposal for a regulation
Feedback period	27 October 2022 - 23 December 2022

COMMISSION ADOPTION: OPEN

**Instant payments**

Topic	Banking and financial services
Type of act	Proposal for a regulation
Feedback period	27 October 2022 - 23 December 2022

COMMISSION ADOPTION: OPEN

**Water pollution – EU rules on urban wastewater treatment (update)**

Topic	Environment
Type of act	Proposal for a directive
Feedback period	27 October 2022 - 23 December 2022

### Initiatives (2586)

Showing results 1 to 10



# WHY DO EU PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS MATTER TO YOU?

## NUMBER CRUNCH

1	City - Brussels
15 000	Lobbyists
15 000	Different views
1	Your story

**You should participate in the public consultation**

## What does it matter to you?

**There are several reasons why you should dedicate time and resources to participate in public consultations.**

## Why?

1. Aid the European Commission to understand the areas the EU is meant to regulate
2. Excellent opportunity to provide input in an early-phase of law-making
3. Submissions are registered and used as future reference for institutions, other interested parties and your own organisation
4. You are acknowledged as an interested stakeholder

# HOW DO YOU ENGAGE?

## Two phases of a public consultation

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

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.

**In parallel to the open public consultations, the European Commission can :**

1. Organise Hearings
2. Host Workshops
3. Create Expert Groups
4. Have One-on-one consultations
5. Appoint external consultant

# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER YOUR SUBMISSION?

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

# TIPS FOR YOUR SUBMISSION

## Important tips

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](#)

## How do you continue to engage?

Ridens will be pleased to discuss with you whether any public consultation is relevant to your business, how to submit an effective response and what the best strategy is to engage.