

2nd Parliamentary TA Debate

Strengthening Technology Assessment for Policy-Making

7-8 April 2014, Lisbon, Portugal

Technology Assessment for policy-making

How will we provide and organize healthcare services to an ageing population whilst, at the same time, the proportion of the working population is on the decline? Will health policies promote the use of genetics for the prevention of certain diseases? How can reliable and affordable energy be supplied to individuals and industries whilst preserving the climate and the environment?

Shaping the future of Europe and national States is a challenge for policy-makers as it relates to very complex and often uncertain situations. Nevertheless, people expect policy-makers to take the best possible decisions. Consequently, policy-makers have to consider all relevant and known facts as well as the needs and ambitions of societal actors.

Technology Assessment can help policy-makers in this respect, as it provides scientific evidence, scenarios, policy analysis and insights concerning the societal challenges and opportunities related to science, technology and innovation. It works with methods which integrate various scientific disciplines, as well as the interests and values present among citizens and stakeholders in society. This provides policy-makers with a wide and integrative view of the issues with which they have to deal.

PACITA: Strengthening TA through debate

The project "Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment" (PACITA) is a four-year EU financed action plan under FP7 aimed at increasing the capacity and at enhancing the institutional foundation for Technology Assessment. It is based on the diversity of practices in Parliamentary Technology Assessment across Europe and is designed for mutual learning between policy-makers, scientists and TA professionals.

One of the activities of PACITA is to set up various arenas of discussion on Technology Assessment and its contribution to policy-making. Several events are being held, including debates with policy-makers from all over Europe. A first debate took place in Copenhagen in June 2012 and was dedicated to the general issue of "Knowledge-based Policy-making". A second debate will take place in April 2014 in Lisbon on "Strengthening Technology Assessment for Policy-Making". Discussions will focus on the opportunities and means to strengthen Technology Assessment in Europe.

The aim of these dialogues with policy-makers is to build a common understanding of Technology Assessment, while taking into consideration the political and institutional specificities of each country. Such a common understanding is a necessary step towards the further deployment of TA activities in Europe.

The 2nd Parliamentary TA Debate (Lisbon, 7-8 April 2014)

The second Parliamentary TA Debate should provide an opportunity for policy-makers from all over Europe to meet and share their experiences with respect to governance of science, technology and innovation. Policy-makers attending the meeting will consist of elected members of Parliaments, members of ministries, scientific advisors, EU officials, stakeholders, etc.

During the first Parliamentary Meeting held in June 2012 in Copenhagen, the policy-makers shared with the TA community their expectations and concerns related to the mission of Technology Assessment. It derived from the discussions that Technology Assessment is expected to create transparency on science and technology, thus helping policy-makers to appreciate both the scientific and society-related aspects of research and innovation policies. But it also appeared that Technology Assessment is challenged by the globalisation of science, technology and politics, so that it has to reflect on new forms of policy advice.

At the second Parliamentary TA Debate, the discussions should go a step forward and address the paths for strengthening TA for policy-making.

- In which direction should Technology Assessment head in order to increase its usefulness to policy-makers and to democracy?
- How do the various political cultures of science and of democracy within Europe affect Technology Assessment?
- How can the EU contribute to the strengthening of Technology Assessment across Europe?

Participants will discuss these questions on the basis of concrete projects and initiatives, and of their everyday life as politicians and policy-makers. In order to promote a thorough and critical review of the prospects and limits of Technology Assessment in Europe, the program of the meeting will alternate between presentations and debate sessions.

Programme

April 7th – Opening of the conference and working dinner

Palácio Conde D'Óbidos, Sala do Conselho Supremo (Jardim 9 de Abril, Lisboa)

From 18:00 **Welcoming aperitif**

19:30 **Working dinner**

[The PACITA project: strengthening knowledge-based and socially robust policy-making](#)

Lars Klüver, PACITA coordinator and Director of the Danish Board of Technology, Denmark

[30 years of Technology Assessment for Parliaments – and still valid today](#)

René Longet, former member of the Swiss Parliament and expert in sustainable development, Switzerland

[A next wave of TA? Barriers and opportunities for expanding the European TA landscape](#)

Leonard Hennen, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS), Germany

April 8th – Debating Technology Assessment

Portuguese Parliament, Salão Nobre

9:00 **Introduction**

[Debating Technology Assessment, a short introduction](#)

Wiebe Bijker, Professor of Technology & Society at the University of Maastricht, the Netherlands

9:15 **Doing politics and shaping policies with Technology Assessment**

[Paths towards a responsible introduction of Public health genomics](#)

Maria de Belém Roseira, Assembly of Republic, Parliamentary Committee of Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities, Portugal

[Societal and political issues in personalized healthcare](#)

Felix Gutzwiller, Swiss Parliament, Committee for Science, Education and Culture of the Council of States, Switzerland

[STOA at the service of the European Parliament](#)

António Fernando Correia de Campos, European Parliament, Chairman of the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel, Brussels

10:15 **Discussion**

Policy-makers share their expectations and experiences with respect to Technology Assessment

Moderation: Wiebe Bijker

11:00 Break

- 11:30 **Keynote**
Open and responsible innovation for addressing the “grand challenges”
René von Schomberg, DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission (participating in personal capacity), Brussels
- 12:00 **Prospects for parliamentary TA in new countries**
Panel discussion and dialogue with:
- Sébastien Brunet, Head of the Walloon Institute for Evaluation, Prospective and Statistics (IWEPS), Belgium
 - Rui Pedro Duarte, Assembly of Republic, Committee on Education, Science and Culture, Portugal
 - Alena Gajduskova, Parliament of the Czech Republic, First Vice-President of the Senate, Czech Republic
 - Leonard Hennen, Institut für Technikfolgenabschätzung und Systemanalyse (ITAS), Germany
 - David Cope, Foundation fellow, Clare Hall, University of Cambridge and former Director of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, United Kingdom
- Moderation: Wiebe Bijker
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 **(Re)establishing links between Parliament and Technology Assessment**
TA in Austria and Denmark: reconsidering the role of TA towards Parliament
- Jens Henrik Thulesen Dahl, Danish Parliament, Research, Innovation and Further Education Committee, Denmark
 - Ruperta Lichtenecker, Austrian Parliament, Chairwoman of the Committee for Research, Innovation and Technology, Austria
- 14:20 **Strengthening Technology Assessment in Europe**
Panel discussion and dialogue with:
- Ulla Burchardt, Former member of the German Parliament, Lecturer at the Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany
 - Jan Kazmierczak, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Sejm (Parliament) of the Republic of Poland
 - Rinie van Est, Rathenau Institute, the Netherlands
 - Francisco Veloso, Professor at Católica Lisbon School of Business and Economics, member of the Portuguese Council for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Portugal
- Moderation: Lars Klüver
- 15:20 **Closing remarks**
Sergio Bellucci, Director of the Swiss Centre for Technology Assessment TA-SWISS, Switzerland
- 15:30 End of the conference