



ESPAS

The European Strategy and Policy Analysis System

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Foresight in the European Union



Historical overview

What is ESPAS?

- **ESPAS is the European Strategy and Policy Analysis System**
- **Informal network at service level that brings together the various EU institutions and bodies.**

The role of ESPAS

- Identify and analyse the medium- and long-term trends facing the EU and their implications for EU policy.
- Promote longer-term thinking in the EU policy process
- Encourage the Union's various institutions to cooperate more closely in this field.
- Provide regular input to the EU institutions to nourish long-term strategic thinking.
- Engage with think tanks and international partners

ESPAS members

- European Commission, European Parliament, Council of the European Union and the European External Action Service (EEAS).
- The EESC, the CoR, the ECA, the EIB and the EUISS
- They are represented in the *ESPAS Steering Group*.

Origins of the ESPAS process

- Initiative by the EP in 2009: 2010 EU Budget amendment to make the European Commission *'explore the establishment of 'an inter-institutional system identifying long-term trends on major policy issues facing the EU'.*
- 2M€ for the period 2012-14.
- The EU institutions were invited to set up a fully functioning ESPAS system by the end of 2014.

ESPAS Outputs

- **Ideas papers**
- **Annual ESPAS conference**
- **Global Trends Report**
- **Events**

Current developments

- Since 2019, new emphasis on ‘anticipatory governance’
- VP in charge of strategic foresight
- Commission’s Annual Strategic Foresight Reports
- EU governments foresight network
- New foresight units across EU institutions and bodies
- Launch of the GTR 24 process

Lessons

- Since 2010, increasing realisation of the need for '*foresight for policy*'
- Increasing profile of strategic foresight
- Professionalisation of foresight work
- More collective foresight work (collective intelligence)

Thank you for your attention



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