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## **EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

- **Monitoring**
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## 2. Impact of EU law-making

A considerable part of laws and regulation in today's European Union member state directly or indirectly originate from EU legislation. Especially regulations concerning economy and business have been and are in the EU focus in order to strengthen and harmonize the internal market.

Like all businesses interpreters and translators are affected by regulations drawn up on EU level for example basic rules for contracting and competition. Certain recent or current directives and regulations had and will have a special effect on the profession, for example:

- Laws concerning the mutual recognition of professional qualification
- The language regime concerning the so-called "EU Patent"
- The EU directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings (2010/64/EU)

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EU politics and its outcomes are relevant to translators and interpreters since EU laws directly influence their business. In order to prevent negative outcomes from EU legislation it is essential to thoroughly track the activities of all EU institutions in order to gather information about developing threats at an early stage, enabling FIT Europe to adequately react if necessary.

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## What is Monitoring?

Political monitoring is the observation of political developments in various ways in order to identify and analyze relevant processes, debates and events within the abundance of political information. Its main function is to establish a warning system for the respective organization: it is made sure that information about political developments and possible new regulations are gathered at an early stage leaving time for adequate reactions if necessary (see below).

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### **3. EU Institutions/Law-Making Process**

The law-making process in the European Union includes three institutions:

- European Commission as the initiator of EU legislations with the (almost) sole right to introduce bills in the legislative process
- European Parliament as the elected representation of the EU citizens in most policy fields that has to consent to all bills in order to become laws
- Council of the European Union as the assembly of member states governments that also has to agree to all directives and regulations

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In the usual legislative procedure all institutions take part in the process at different stages while constantly communicating informally.

Before the formal legislative procedure there are usually long and diverse debates in which an issue develops. There can be years from the first discussions to a bill. During this process consultation processes both within the institutions and publically take place and strategic documents are published (e.g. Green Books, White Books, resolutions).

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#### **5. Follow-up**

Monitoring activities provide results in the form of relevant information on political developments and processes. In order to reasonably use the information, the risk that the identified developments pose to the relevant organization have to be assessed. On the basis of this assessment adequate communication measures can be planned and carried out in order to influence the political debates, processes and policy outcomes (lobbying).

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