A YEAR AND A HALF OF THE MEMBERS' RESEARCH SERVICE

(Part of the European Parliamentary Research Service)

Etienne Bassot (Director)
Cape Town, 13 August 2015
Why does expertise matter? (1)

"Empower through knowledge"

- EP is responsible for building an entire continent’s democracy
- No systematic interdependence between the EP and the Executive
- Expertise is essential to the EP:
  - to maintain autonomy
  - to affirm political, legislative and budgetary powers
  - to make scrutiny of the Executive possible
Why does expertise matter? (2)

- MEPs cannot be experts on all topics
- MEPs generally work in one or two specialised committees, but
  - all vote in plenary
  - all have responsibility to the electorate
- All need support in the form of research and analysis
Overview

- Created in 2013; now, after 18 months, 2.5 times bigger
- 751 Members as clients
- 28 EU Countries
- 24 languages
- 20 Parliamentary committees (+ 1 special committee and 2 sub-committees)
- Exclusively internal capability
Core values

• Non-partisan

• Objective

• Authoritative

• Client-oriented & proactive
Organisation

- 5 thematic units
  - Economic Policies
  - Structural Policies
  - Citizens' Policies
  - Budgetary Policies
  - External Policies
- One editorial and publication management service
- Quality chain
Services + products

• Tailored, on-demand analysis and research to individual Members (development of premium services)

• General briefing material of a clear, readable and content-rich kind, made available proactively and collectively to all Members, in any field of European Union competence
Online presence

• European Parliament think tank dedicated website
• Blog
• Intranet
• Newsletters and mail alerts
Who we are

• A variety of staff: 70 policy analysts, 42 information specialists, 3 statisticians, 11 editing and support staff

• Different origins: colleagues from the library, redeployed linguists, highly specialised PhD holders

• Specialisation + Blended training focused on skills
Key indicators (1)
Key indicators (2)

Number of completed Directorate A products
November 2013 - July 2015

- Total analytical publications: 600
- Plenary At a Glance: 39, 79, 118
- Other At a Glance: 96, 125, 221
- Briefings: 121, 109, 230
- In-depth Analysis: 12, 19, 31
- Total other products: 146, 49

Legend:
- Nov. 2013/31st Dec 2014
- Jan to 13th July 2015
- Total
THE NEXT STEPS

• Review how users access our services (Hotline)
• Further develop collaborative documents (for example, involving a researcher and a statistician)
• Jointly identify gaps in expertise to broaden our offer to MEPs
• Further enlarge client base
Thank you!

Questions