

International Seminar on Governmental Foresight

10 May 2024

Sala Jordi Maragall, CIDOB, Elisabets, 12, 08001 Barcelona

Organised by: Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and the Centre for Contemporary Studies (CETC) with the support of the Government of Catalonia and the collaboration of the European Commission Representation in Barcelona

In 2019, Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, tasked vice-president Maroš Šefčovič with incorporating strategic foresight into the European Union's public policymaking process. A year later, the first strategic foresight report was published and, by 2023, strategic foresight had been included in the Better Regulation Toolbox, the kit of principles, concepts and instruments that aim to improve policies and regulation in the European Union.

Meanwhile, some governments, both national and regional, have also started to acquire strategic foresight capabilities, while others have begun to reorder already existing processes and initiatives. The Government of Catalonia, through its Analysis and Foresight Division, Analysis and Economic Foresight Division, and other bodies, has also adopted this long-term perspective. The Centre for Contemporary Studies (CETC), under the auspices of the Ministry for Foreign Action and European Union of the Government of Catalonia, now includes among its mandated functions that of promoting strategic foresight as a tool for guiding and defining the decisions and policies of the Generalitat in matters of foreign affairs.

CETC and CIDOB are organising a *First International Seminar on Governmental Foresight*. The aim of this first seminar is to reflect upon the conditions, requirements, and challenges of incorporating strategic foresight into political decision-making and the orientation and definition of public policies.

Attending the seminar will be policy makers and technical experts from various European countries, who will offer guidance regarding the structural, procedural, and cultural needs for establishing and consolidating strategic foresight in the public sector. The seminar programme is divided into three panels. The first will discuss the reasons why governmental strategic foresight is needed and what for. The second will consider the requirements, conditioning factors, and challenges of including foresight in the orientation and definition of public policies. Finally, the third panel will highlight strategic foresight practices in Europe.

The panels will be unified by means of an opening session with a thirty-minute keynote speech, followed by a panel discussion where speakers will make an initial presentation (fifteen minutes) before opening the discussion to the rest of the participants (forty-five minutes). The working language will be English.

In collaboration with:



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Europea**

Friday, 10 May 2024

- 8.30 a.m. **Welcome coffee and registration**
- 9.00 a.m. **Welcome**
PoI Morillas, Director, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
Pau Mas, Director, CETC (Centre for Contemporary Studies), Government of Catalonia
Manuel Szapiro, Director, Representation of the European Commission in Barcelona
- 9.15 a.m. **Governmental strategic foresight: the reasons why and what for?**
Keynote speech:
Frederik Matthys, Head of Policies and Networks, OECD
Panel discussion:
Anne-Katrin Bock, Head of the Competence Centre on Foresight, Joint Research Center
Francesc Claret, Head of the Delegation of the Government of Catalonia to the United Kingdom and Ireland
Susanne Giesecke, Senior Researcher, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology
Moderator:
Pau Mas, Director, Centre for Contemporary Studies (CETC), Government of Catalonia
- 11.15 a.m. **Coffee break**
- 11.45 a.m. **How to incorporate foresight into the orientation and definition of public policies? Requirements, conditioning factors, and challenges**
Keynote speech:
Diego Rubio, Secretary-General of Public Policy, European Affairs and Strategic Foresight, President's Office, Government of Spain
Panel discussion:
Philine Warnke, Team Leader Foresight for Policy and Administration, Competence Center Foresight, Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research ISI
Grzegorz Drozd, Deputy Head of Unit for Foresight & Strategic Communication, European Commission
Henning Riecke, Director, Strategic Foresight, Bundesakademie für Sicherheitspolitik-BAKS
Moderator:
Víctor Burguete, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs)
- 1.45 p.m. **Lunch**
- 2.45 p.m. **Strategic foresight practices**
Keynote speech:
Timo-Topias Totti Könnölä, CEO, Insight Foresight Institute; Professor, University of Alcalá
Panel discussion:
Peter De Smedt, Director, Strategic Insights and Analyses, Flanders Chancellery and Foreign Office
Marc Rotllan, Head of the prospective, planning and energy regulation programme, Catalan Energy Institute
Jordi Torrent, Head of Strategy, Port of Barcelona
Moderator:
Jordi Serra del Pino, Deputy Director, Center for Postnormal Policy & Futures Studies (CPPFS); Senior Lecturer, Blanquerna – Ramon Llull University (URL)
- 4.45 p.m. **Closing remarks**
Meritxell Serret, Minister for Foreign Affairs and the European Union, Government of Catalonia