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EU Launches New Online Register to Track Delegated Acts

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Report Highlights:

On December 13, 2017, the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament launched a joint online register of "delegated acts". Delegated acts are used to supplement or amend existing EU framework legislation and are often technical in nature but can also be politically sensitive. The register allows stakeholders and interested parties to subscribe and receive notifications about the development of specific delegated acts. This report explains how delegated acts are adopted.

EU Launches New Online Register to Track Delegated Acts

On December 13, 2017, the European Commission, the Council and the European Parliament launched a [joint online register of “delegated acts”](#). Delegated acts are used to supplement or amend existing EU framework legislation mainly in the areas of agriculture, economy, environment, public health, the single market and trade. They are often technical in nature but can also be politically sensitive. The new register offers a complete overview of the lifecycle of the adoption process, from the planning stage in the European Commission up until the final publication in the EU’s Official Journal. The register allows stakeholders and interested parties to subscribe and receive notifications about the development of specific delegated acts.

How Are Delegated Acts Adopted?

In each basic legal act (framework legislation), the Council and the European Parliament may decide to empower the European Commission to adopt delegated acts. They are used to supplement or amend “non-essential” elements of the basic act, for example to update definitions, technical requirements and annexes. The Commission drafts a delegated act and submits it to the Council and Parliament. Both institutions are able to reject it in which case the delegated act cannot enter into force.

Example: When the Council and Parliament adopted the EU’s Food Information to Consumers regulation 1169/2011, they empowered the Commission to adopt a delegated act to adjust and adapt the definition of engineered nanomaterials to technical and scientific progress. The delegated act that the Commission drafted in December 2013 was rejected by the European Parliament in March 2014 because it felt the updated definition would lead to existing nanomaterials not being labeled.

Example: Under the EU’s Food for Specific Groups regulation 609/2013, the Commission is empowered to adopt delegated acts setting out compositional and labeling requirements. The Commission’s delegated act on specific compositional and information requirements for processed cereal-based food and baby food was rejected by the European Parliament in January 2016 because it did not agree with the allowed sugar levels.

Background

In March 2016, the Commission, Council and Parliament agreed on an Inter-Institutional Agreement (IIA) on Better Law-Making. In order to enhance transparency in EU decision-making, the three institutions committed to set up, by the end of 2017, a joint operational register providing information on the different steps in the preparation of delegated acts.

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- [How the European Union Works – 2017 Guide to EU Decision-Making](#)