On every bill/issue examined by the Parliament a «dossier» is composed by the documentation services

The dossier:

- presents an impartial analysis of the content of the bill
- investigates the connections with the provisions already in force and possible effects of the new ones
- warns about incongruities and conflicts with the Constitution, international treaties or European rules that might occur in the bill
FULL COVERAGE OF PARLIAMENTARY AGENDA

BUT

• Methodology mainly based on legislative analysis
• Strict connection with the agenda of parliamentary bodies
• Research & Study Dpt (Unit on International Affairs and Security) → Standing Committees on Foreign Affairs and on Defence

• Office for EU Affairs
TOWARDS A BROADER APPROACH
FROM WITHIN THE PARLIAMENT

• Increasing importance of the supranational dimension in many public policies (human rights, environment, energy, immigration, finance, tlc);
• Parallel increase of the interest of parliamentary bodies other than Foreign Affairs and Defence Committees in international affairs;
• Expansion of parliamentary diplomacy and increasing participation of individual MPs in international events;

Need for an ever closer cooperation between Parliament and Ministry of Foreign Affairs
A NEW PARADIGM IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

• Actors other than states: multinational corporations, transnational social, political or religious movements (Hanreider, Kohane, Nye)

• Growing importance of economic issues in international affairs (the rise of OPEC, the abandonment of the Bretton Woods agreements, etc.)

• The theoretical model of «complex interdependence»

Need for a widening of the cultural approach to the documentation on international affairs
THINK TANKS IN THE US

- The term was introduced during World War II
- By the ‘70s it was applied to institutions focusing not only on foreign policy and defence strategies
T. T. IN ITALY: A NEW PHENOMENON?

- After World War II up to the crisis of 1992: centrality of political parties
- By the end of ‘90s: growing importance of new institutions acting as a bridge between academic and policymaking communities
- Presently: just under 100 (nearly half were set up after 2004)
THE MAIN REASONS FOR THEIR SUCCESS
(M. DILETTI, 2011)

- the emergence of new models of governance, which has increased the access of experts to decision-making process
- the breaking-up of parties organization, which has allowed the creation of «personal» think tanks
- the strategic use of think tanks by interest groups, even in the Italian case
- the fragmentation of some important policy areas, which opens up new opportunities for those who are able to offer expertise to policy communities

2008-2009
THE FOREIGN POLICY OBSERVATORY

• December 2008 – Art. 01, par. 4, LD No 209 / 2008

• July 2009 – Signing of the Formal Agreement
(SG of Ministry of FA, Senate and Chamber of Deputies)
A gap between the world of ideas and the world of policy

- Organizational cultures
- Time constraints
- Incentive systems
• Neutrality vs the added value of a «partial» point of view
• Centrality of Parliament vs an external perspective
• Analysis vs ability to synthesize
METHODOLOGY

• Close cooperation between parliamentary staff, ministerial experts and think tanks in:
  • planning the research activity of the Observatory
  • devising and developing any individual research
  • planning and organizing “side events”
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Reports: 4
- In-depth Studies: 39
- Papers: 19
- Focus: 24

Total: 86
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<tr>
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### The Activity of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs (III)

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APPRAISAL

• A typology
  • Informative research (A)
  • Analysis, interpretation, scenario (B)
  • Geopolitical interpretation (C)

• Differentiated criteria

• Common criteria
DIFFERENTIATED CRITERIA

• Type A
  • Main Criterion: Completeness and updating of information

• Type B
  • Main Criterion: clarity in the exposition of the scenario

• Type C
  • Main Criterion: Richness of the overall view; completeness of historical, economic, socio-cultural elements considered
COMMON CRITERIA

• Policy suggestions
• Originality of the content
• Quality and completeness of information sources
• Adequacy of the presentation in relation to users (MPs)
THANK YOU

ENRICO SETA

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