



Ethics in science and new technologies at the European Commission and beyond

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Ethics in the SG

I started a blog last week, I wonder if I could add a section on European affairs there.

Is it a good idea to accept an invitation to lunch during a mission?

I give evening classes at the university, is that compatible with my job?

I never dared to open up a discussion on this, but I'd be so curious to know what colleagues think about ...

... please feel free to share the queries and dilemmas related to professional ethics that you would like to see discussed in the exploratory lunch planned for September by e-mail to SG-ETHICS@ec.europa.eu or via the anonymous e-form on [SGnet](#).

In all confidentiality, you can always contact:
Claudia Radu, Ethics Correspondent for the Secretariat-General.





ETHICS ALL THE WAY!

- You plan to publish an article or a speech on EU matters?
- Your spouse is in gainful employment?
- You plan to engage in an activity outside working hours?
- You may be in (unplanned) conflict of interest situation
- You would like to engage in political campaign for future elections
- You leave the Commission and intend to take a new job?

QUESTIONS

COMMENTS

If you are concerned by any of the above situations, be aware of the Staff Regulations!

INFOS

If any doubt, please consult:

- the intracomm ethics page
- the ethics correspondent in your DG/Service
- the HR ethics team: HR-B1-ETHIQUE@ec.europa.eu



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OPINION NO. 28 OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP ON
ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Ethics of Security and Surveillance Technologies

Brussels, 20 May 2014



OPINION NO. 29 OF THE EUROPEAN GROUP ON
ETHICS IN SCIENCE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

The ethical
implications of new
health technologies
and citizen **participation**

Brussels, 13 October 2015



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What is the EGE?

COMMISSION DECISION (EU) 2016/835
of 25 May 2016
on the renewal of the mandate of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies

- Independent high level group appointed by the President
- Provides advice on all aspects of EU policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies
- 15 members, inter-disciplinary (science, philosophy, law...)
- Produces Opinions and recommendations at the request of the President

*** New Group to be announced Thursday 30th March 2017 ***





EGE

European Group
on Ethics in Science
and New Technologies

#EthicsGroup_EU





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The European project is about values.
The European Union is a union of values.





Lisbon Treaty

&

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

The Lisbon Treaty lays out a set of European Values, such as human dignity, freedom, democracy, human rights protection, pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and gender equality. These values are set out in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.





State of the Union address 2013

Strasbourg, 11 September 2013

It is only natural that, over the last few years, our efforts to overcome the economic crisis have overshadowed everything else. But our idea of Europe needs to go far beyond the economy.

The European ideal touches the very foundations of European society. It is about values, and I underline this word: values. It is based on a firm belief in political, social and economic standards, grounded in our social market economy.

In today's world, the EU level is indispensable to protect these values and standards and promote citizens' rights: from consumer protection to labour rights, from women's rights to respect for minorities, from environmental standards to data protection and privacy.

Whether defending our interests in international trade, securing our energy provision, or restoring people's sense of fairness by fighting tax fraud and tax evasion: only by acting as a Union do we pull our weight at the world stage.

Whether seeking impact for the development and humanitarian aid we give to developing countries, managing our common external borders or seeking to develop in Europe a strong security and defense policy: only by integrating more can we really reach our objectives.





Political Guidelines for the next European Commission

Strasbourg, 15 July 2014

7. An Area of Justice and Fundamental Rights Based on Mutual Trust

Our European Union is more than a big common market. It is also a Union of shared values, which are spelled out in the Treaties and in the Charter of Fundamental Rights. Citizens expect their governments to provide justice, protection and fairness with full respect for fundamental rights and the rule of law. This also requires joint European action, based on our shared values.

I intend to make use of the prerogatives of the Commission to uphold, within our field of competence, our shared values and fundamental rights, while taking due account of the diversity of constitutional and cultural traditions of the 28 Member States. I intend to entrust a Commissioner with specific responsibility for the Charter of Fundamental Rights.





Political Guidelines for the next European Commission

Strasbourg, 15 July 2014

8. Towards a New Policy on Migration

The recent terrible events in the Mediterranean have shown us that Europe needs to manage migration better, in all aspects. This is first of all a humanitarian imperative. I am convinced that we must work closely together in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that situations such as the one in Lampedusa never arise again.

On the basis of our shared values, we need to protect those in need through a strong common asylum policy.





Political Guidelines for the next European Commission

Strasbourg, 15 July 2014

10. A Union of Democratic Change

- Review of legislation for the authorisation of GMOs
- Inter-institutional agreement on a mandatory transparency register
- Inter-institutional agreement on better law-making
- Relationship with national Parliaments
- Relationship with the Parliament





State of the Union address 2015

Strasbourg, 9 September 2015

We need more Europe in our Union.

We need more Union in our Union.

All my life, I have believed in Europe. I have my reasons, many of which I know and am relieved are not relatable to generations today. Upon taking office, I said I want to rebuild bridges that had started to crumble. Where solidarity had started to fray at the seams. Where old daemons sought to resurface.

We still have a long way to go.

But when, generations from now, people read about this moment in Europe's history books, let it read that we stood together in demonstrating compassion and opened our homes to those in need of our protection.

That we joined forces in addressing global challenges, protecting our values and resolving conflicts.

That we made sure taxpayers never again have to pay for the greed of financial speculators.
That hand in hand we secured growth and prosperity for our economies, for our businesses, and above all for our children.

Let it read that we forged a Union stronger than ever before.

Let it read that together we made European history. A story our grandchildren will tell with pride.





WHITE PAPER ON THE
FUTURE OF EUROPE

*Reflections and scenarios
for the EU27 by 2025*



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Ethics in an EU Context

www.bbc.com/news/live/uk-politics-parliaments-39130449



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Juncker presents options for EU future

© 1 Mar 2017

A guide to how the plenary sessions work is also available [here](#).

Summary

■ MEPs debate EU Commission

Live Reporting

By Paul Seddon

Ethics in an EU Context

➤ Lisbon Treaty, Article 2:

"The European Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights... These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between men and women prevail"

➤ EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: codifies principles of Article 2 TEU into a bill of rights for every individual

➤ EU as a community of values: translation of legal and normative framework into EU policymaking (e.g. the White Paper and President Juncker's political guidelines)





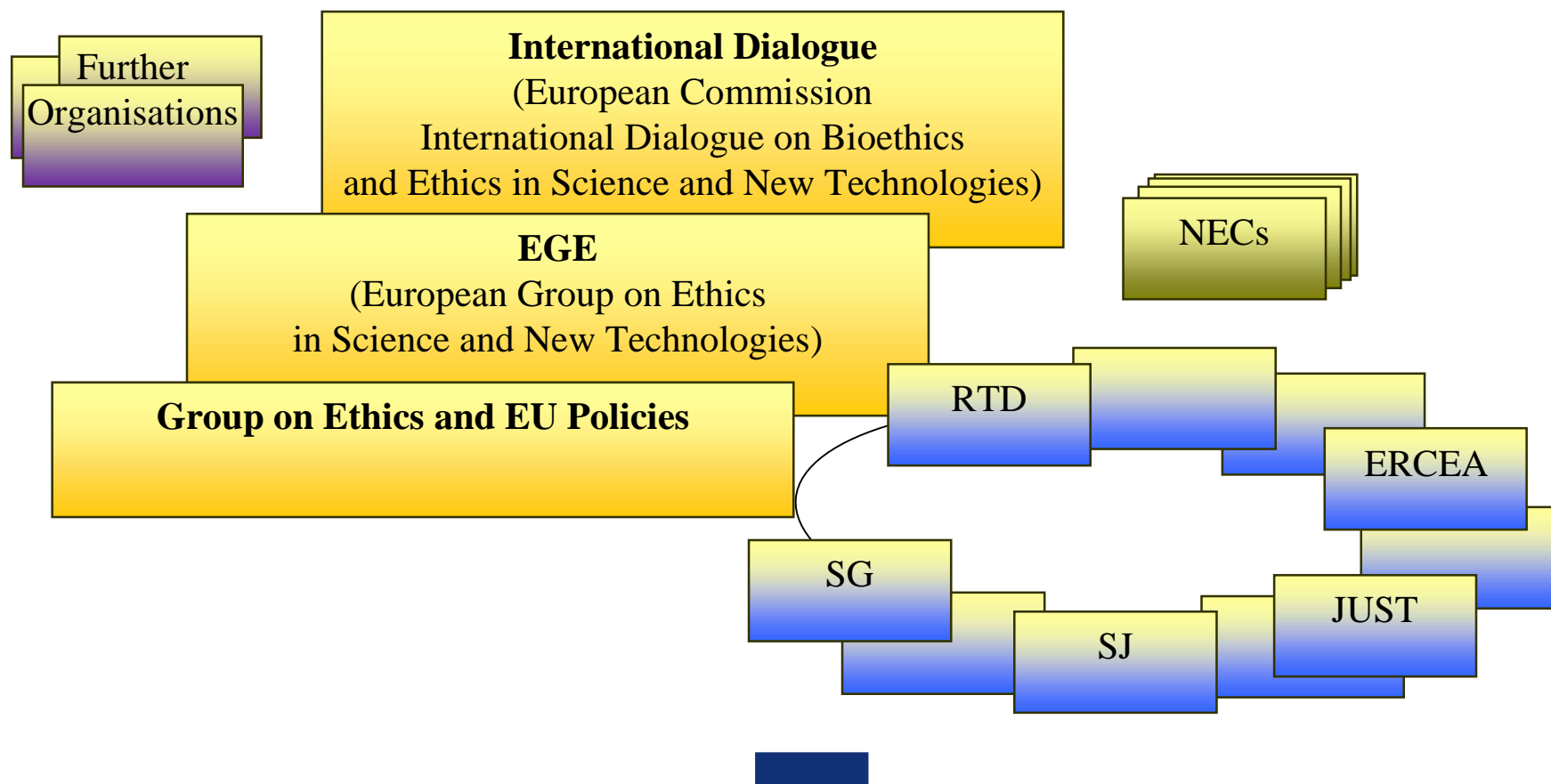
President Juncker's political guidelines, 2014:

"Our European Union is more than a big common market. It is also a Union of shared values... I intend to make use of the prerogatives of the Commission to uphold, within our field of competence, our shared values, the rule of law and fundamental rights, while taking due account of the diversity of constitutional and cultural traditions of the Member States."





Ethics: a reticulated institutional landscape





Origins and evolution of the EGE

- Established in 1991 as the Group of Advisers on the Ethical Implications of Biotechnology (GAIEB)
- Succeeded by the EGE in 1997 and mandate extended to cover all areas of science and technology
- Role and responsibilities have evolved in line with changing policy needs:
 - Rapid advances in science and technology bring profound ethical and societal implications spanning diverse policy domains
 - Broadening beyond classic science and technology issues
 - Rise to prominence over past 20 years of 'values' within the European project – need for bodies such as the EGE to act as mediators, channelling and unpacking ethics in the European policy conversation





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European Group on
Ethics in Science and
New Technologies

The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)

- Independent multidisciplinary group at the highest level, appointed by the President. Full-fledged institutional role, only the EC President can request specific Opinions.
- Provides advice on all aspects of EU policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies.



Ethics as a Global Endeavour

- EC International Dialogue on Bioethics
- Bi-Regional Dialogues
 - EU-US
 - EU-Latin America
 - EU-African Union
- Participation within the international ethics framework (Council of Europe, OECD, UN)





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Surveillance?





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Security?





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Trade-offs?





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The role of Ethics





Ethical reflexivity & Instrumentalisation ?





Cosmopolitical question

Ecology of practices

Modes of existence





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Embeddedness





ec.europa.eu/research/ege

Thank you

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