During the last ten years, the European Union has built experience in using impact assessment to appraise policy proposals. Most of the research and debates on this policy instrument have focused on whether the officers at the European Commission have learned how to use impact assessment tools like problem definition, alternatives to traditional legislation, economic analysis, and techniques of valuation. Less is known about what the EU as complex organization has learned because of impact assessment. Who has learned what, how, and for what purposed by using impact assessment? The conference will explore different dimensions of this question, and air options for the future development of regulatory reform in the EU. It is jointly sponsored by Ceps (Centre for European Policy Studies) and the project Analysis of Learning in Regulatory Governance (ALREG), funded by the European Research Council and carried out by the University of Exeter.

9.30 Registration and coffee

9.45 Introductory remarks, Andrea Renda, CEPS and Claudio Radaelli, University of Exeter

10.00 The European Commission’s impact assessment: an overview of the past ten years, Andrea Renda CEPS Senior Research Fellow and Lorna Schrefler, CEPS Research Fellow

10.30 What have we learned about impact assessment? Conventional wisdom meets research findings

Claudio Radaelli and Claire Dunlop, University of Exeter, Alreg project

11.00 Panel 1: regulatory reform and impact assessment

Chair: Claudio Radaelli, University of Exeter

Mark Thatcher, London School of Economics
Colin Provost, University College London
Christina Boswell, University of Edinburgh
Christiane Arndt, OECD

12.30 Lunch and book exhibition

13.45 Panel 2: impact assessment and policy-making

Chair: Jacques Pelkmans, Senior Research Fellow, CEPS

Riccardo Maggi, Secretariat General, European Commission
Robert Hahn, University of Oxford
Marta Tavares de Almeida, New University of Lisbon
AlbertoAlemanno, HECParis &Georgetown Law School
Sajjad Karim, MEP (TBC)

15.15 Concluding remarks

15.30 End of conference