



#ExploreTheEU



# **The European Commission: the political executive of the EU**

by Stephen Davies

Directorate-General Maritime Affairs & Fisheries, European Commission

with Public Affairs Council, 21 June 2024



A blue stage curtain with gold tassels, partially open, revealing a dark background.

**BUT FIRST.....**

**How well do you  
know the EU?**



# How many stars on the European flag?

**A. 27**

**B. 4**

**C. 12**

**D. 15**





# How many stars on the European flag?

**C. 12**



For the story of the EU Flag, see [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en).





**How many people in the  
27 countries of the EU?**  
[On 1 January 2024, to nearest millions]

- a. 336 million
- b. 449 million
- c. 84 million
- d. 1442 million





**For the years 2013 to 2023 inclusive,  
what was the approx. Total Number of basic  
legislative acts (Regulations, Directives, Decisions)  
adopted by Ordinary Legislative Procedure?**

**A. 55**

**C. 550**

**B. 5 500**

**D. 5**

**Exact number was 554: on average 55 per year, ranging from 26 – 108.**

**More info.: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/statistics/2022/legislative-acts-statistics.html>**



# Who is *currently* the European Commission President?

A.



B.



C.



D.



E.





# *Current* EU institution Presidents

**A.**



**European Council:  
Charles Michel (BE)**

**B.**



**European Parliament:  
Roberta Metsola (MT, EPP)**

**C.**



**European Central Bank:  
Christine Lagarde (FR)**

**E.**



**High Representative of the Union  
for Foreign Affairs and Security  
Policy: Josep Borrell (ES)**

**D.**



**European Commission:  
Ursula von der Leyen (DE)**



# In this presentation...

## 1. European Commission

- a. Responsibilities and Competences
- b. Four main roles

## 2. The von der Leyen Commission 2019 - 2024

- a. Six headline ambitions plus NextGenerationEU
- b. Engagement by EU Citizens, stakeholders, etc.
- c. Transparency Register

## 3. European Parliament elections 2024

## 4. Further information



# 1. The European Commission



European  
Commission



## a. The European Commission – Responsibilities and Competences

1

is the  
political  
executive

2

acts as a  
college

3

promotes  
the general  
interest of  
the Union

**More info.** <https://europa.eu/!tCbGth>



# Division of competences

## COMPETENCES

### EXCLUSIVE



- Trade
- Competition



### SHARED



- Agriculture
- Environment
- Research



### SUPPORTING



- Tourism
- Education





## b. The four roles of the Commission

1. RIGHT OF INITIATIVE

2. BUDGET FOR POLICY

3. GUARDIAN OF THE TREATIES

4. INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION



# 1. Right of Initiative – Legal basis

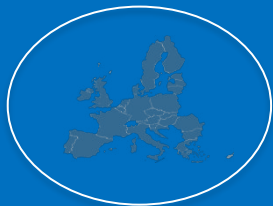
## Primary Legislation

## Treaties

### Secondary Legislation

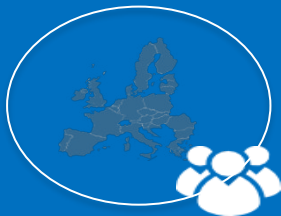
#### Binding

##### REGULATIONS



e.g. Roaming

##### DIRECTIVES



e.g. Consumer rights

##### DECISIONS



e.g. Microsoft

#### Non-binding

##### RECOMMENDATION



e.g. Economic governance

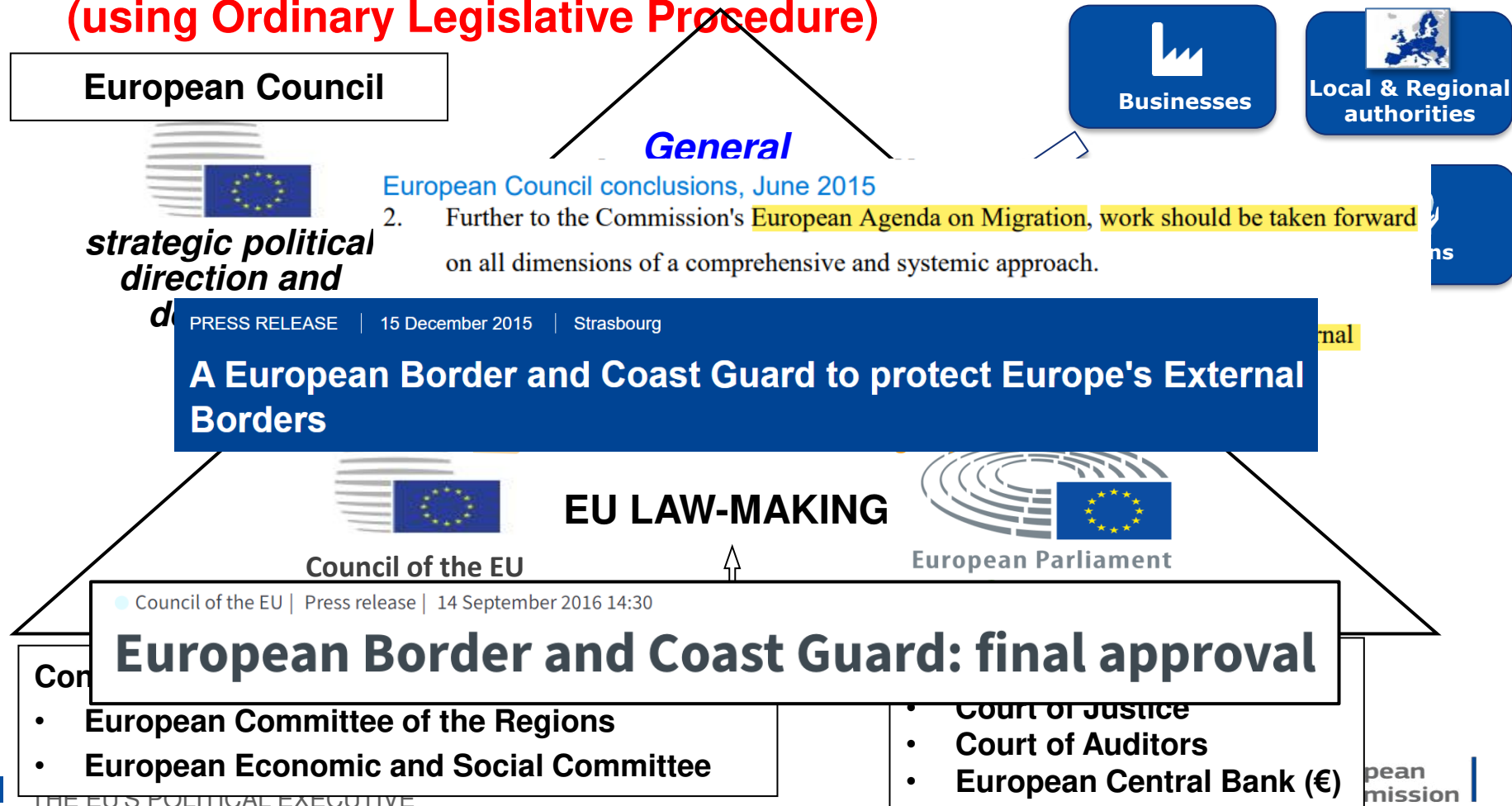
**Underpinned by Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU**



European  
Commission



# 1. Right of Initiative - Initiating laws and policies and next steps (using Ordinary Legislative Procedure)





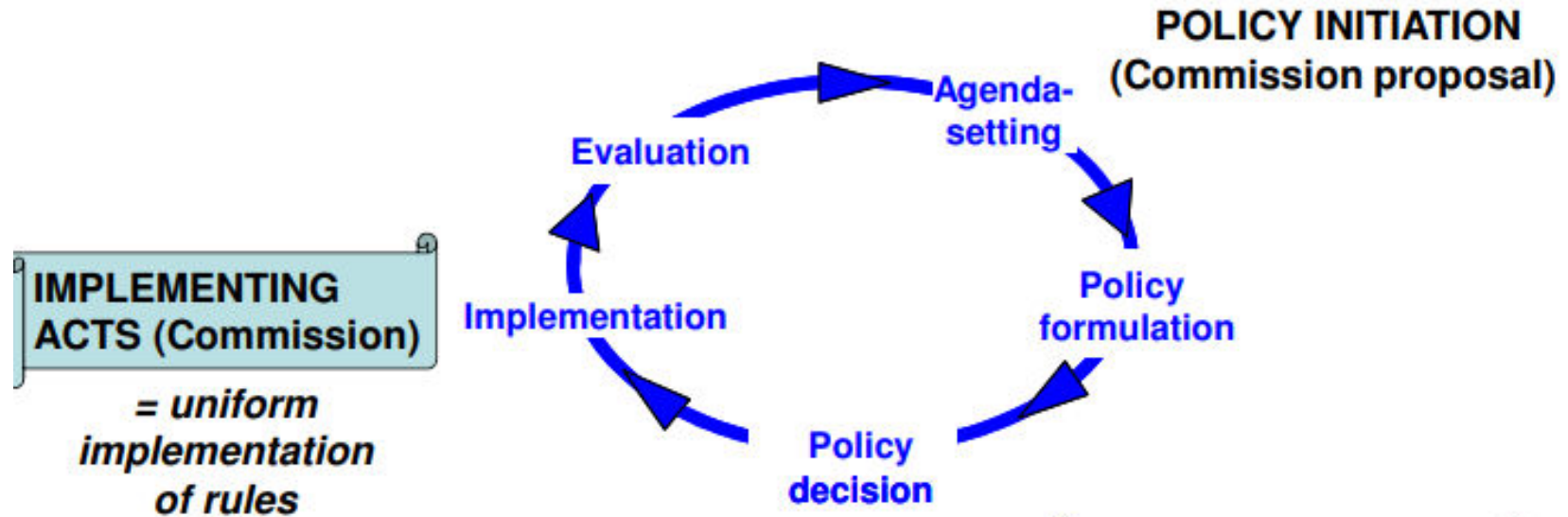
The background of the slide is decorated with several clusters of teal squares of varying sizes. In the top left, there is a horizontal row of seven squares, with a second row of seven squares starting from the second square of the first row. In the top right, there is a small cluster of seven squares arranged in a cross-like pattern. In the middle right, there is a cluster of four squares arranged in a 2x2 grid. In the bottom left, there is a small cluster of four squares arranged in a 2x2 grid. In the bottom center, there is a single teal square.

For more on EU Legislative Procedures, see <https://europa.eu/!T7WwHd>.

And if you want to (virtually) be an MEP negotiating and voting on key legislation in the EU, as a Group try: <https://virtual-role-play-game.digital-journey.europarl.europa.eu/>



# Delegated and Implementing Acts



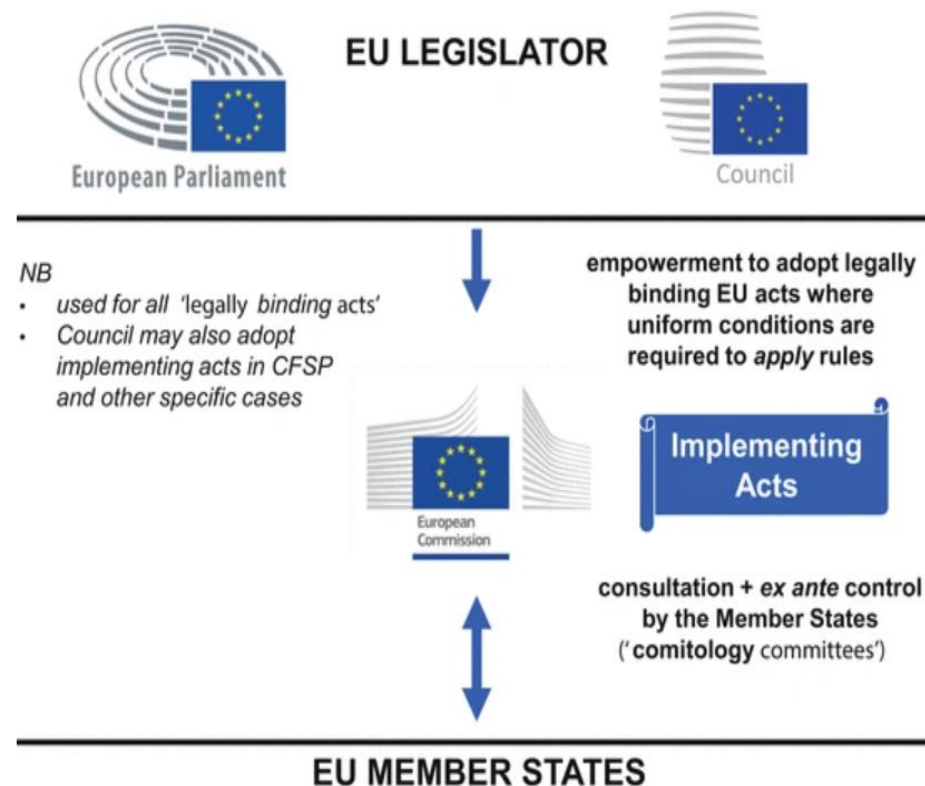
**Comitology** refers to the “set of procedures through which the European Commission exercises the implementing powers conferred on it by the European Union (EU) legislator, with the assistance of committees of representatives from EU Member States” as laid down in Regulation (EU) No 182/2011.



# Delegated Acts



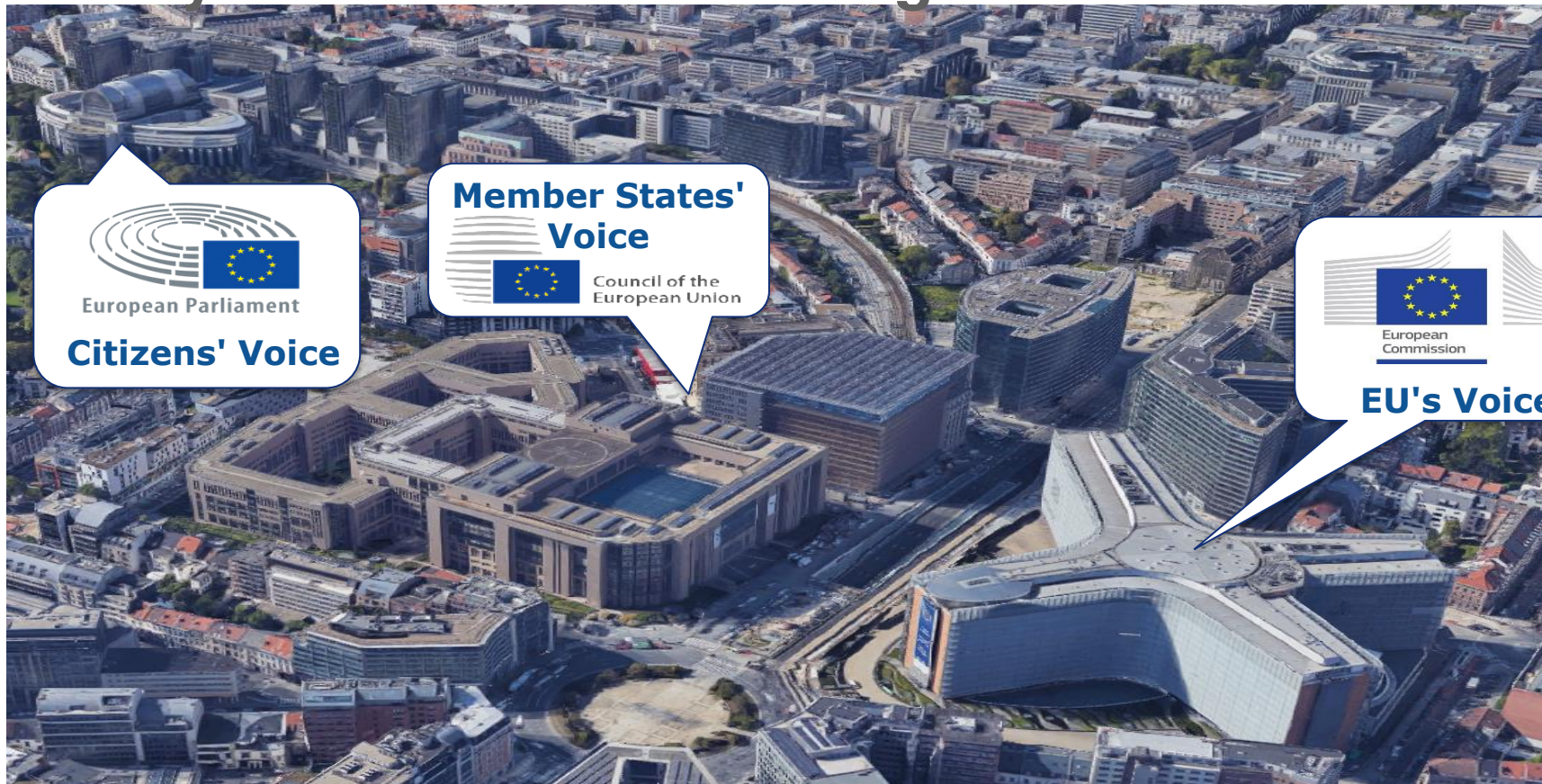
# Implementing Acts with Comitology



**Source:** *Understanding EU Decision-Making* by Edward Best, EIPA,  
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-22374-2>



# Primary institutions for EU legislation










Source: Google Maps



## 2. Long-term budget 2021-2027 & Next Generation EU

*Rebuilding Europe with largest package ever financed through the EU budget, of EUR 2 trillion\**

	MFF**:	Next Generation EU Post-COVID recovery instrument	TOTAL
 I. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	€149.5	€11.5	€161.0
 II. Cohesion, Resilience and Values	€426.7	€776.5	€1203.2
 III. Natural Resources and Environment	€401.0	€18.9	€419.9
 IV. Migration and Border Management	€25.7	-	€25.7
 V. Security and Defence	€14.9	-	€14.9
 VI. Neighbourhood and the World	€110.6	-	€110.6
 VII. European Public Administration	€82.5	-	€82.5
<b>Total MFF</b>	<b>€1 210.9</b>	<b>€806.9</b>	<b>€2.018</b>

\* (current prices, EUR billion)

\*\* MFF: EU long-term budget, also known as MFF (Multiannual Financial Framework)

Source: [The EU's 2021-2027 long-term budget & NextGenerationEU: Facts and Figures](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget_en)

**More info.: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/eu-budget_en)**



### 3. Guardian of the Treaties – example Competition

PRESS RELEASE | 4 March 2024

#### Commission fines Apple over €1.8 billion over abusive App store rules for music streaming providers

The European Commission has fined Apple over €1.8 billion for abusing its dominant position on the market for the distribution of music streaming apps to iPhone and iPad users ('iOS users') through its App Store.

PRESS RELEASE | 18 June 2024

#### Commission carries out further unannounced antitrust inspections in tyres sector cartel investigation

The European Commission is carrying out unannounced inspections at the premises of a consultancy firm in two Member States.









## 2. Current von der Leyen Commission (2019-2024)



#vdLCommission



A New Push for European Democracy



## ?? Commission (2024 - 2029)





A portrait of Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, looking upwards and to the right. She has short, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a red patterned jacket over a white collared shirt. The background is a solid blue color.

“Europe must lead the  
transition to a  
**healthy planet** and a  
new **digital world**.  
But it can only do so by  
**bringing people  
together** and upgrading  
our unique **social  
market economy** to fit  
today’s new ambitions.”

*in Political Guidelines for the next  
European Commission 2019-2024*



# a. Six Headline Ambitions plus Recovery Plan for Europe

## 1. A EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

*Striving to be the first climate-neutral continent*

## 2. AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR THE PEOPLE

*Working for social fairness and prosperity*

## 3. A EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

*Grasping the opportunities from the digital age within safe and ethical boundaries*

## 4. PROMOTING OUR EUROPEAN WAY OF LIFE

*Building a Union of equality and diversity, standing up for justice and values*

## 5. A STRONGER EUROPE IN THE WORLD

*Strengthening our unique brand of responsible global leadership*

## 6. A NEW PUSH FOR EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY

*Nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy*



More info.: [https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024_en)

and **General report on the activities of the European Union 2023** (<https://europa.eu/!PNFtvG>)



# A new push for European democracy

Nurturing, protecting and strengthening our democracy

**More info.: <https://europa.eu/!FM7NNn>**



## European citizens' panels

European citizens participating in transnational panels to make recommendations to the EU on key issues



## Conference on the Future of Europe

Empowering citizens to share ideas and help shape our common future



## Equality and inclusion

Building a Union of Equality, free of discrimination based on gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation



## The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child

Ensuring the protection of rights of all children



## Protecting democracy

Promoting free and fair elections, strengthening media freedom and countering disinformation



## Rule of Law Mechanism

Promoting the rule of law, and preventing and mitigating emerging challenges



## European Media Freedom Act

Protecting media pluralism and independence in the EU




## Long-term vision for rural areas

Developing stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas and communities




## b. Engagement by EU Citizens, stakeholders, etc.

**European Citizens' Panels**  
A new phase of citizen engagement



**Citizens' Engagement Platform**  
Your space to participate in EU policymaking

[Get involved >](#)





### Comment on EU policy and law

How to share your views on the EU policy and law making process and suggest ways of improving EU law.

### Petition the EU

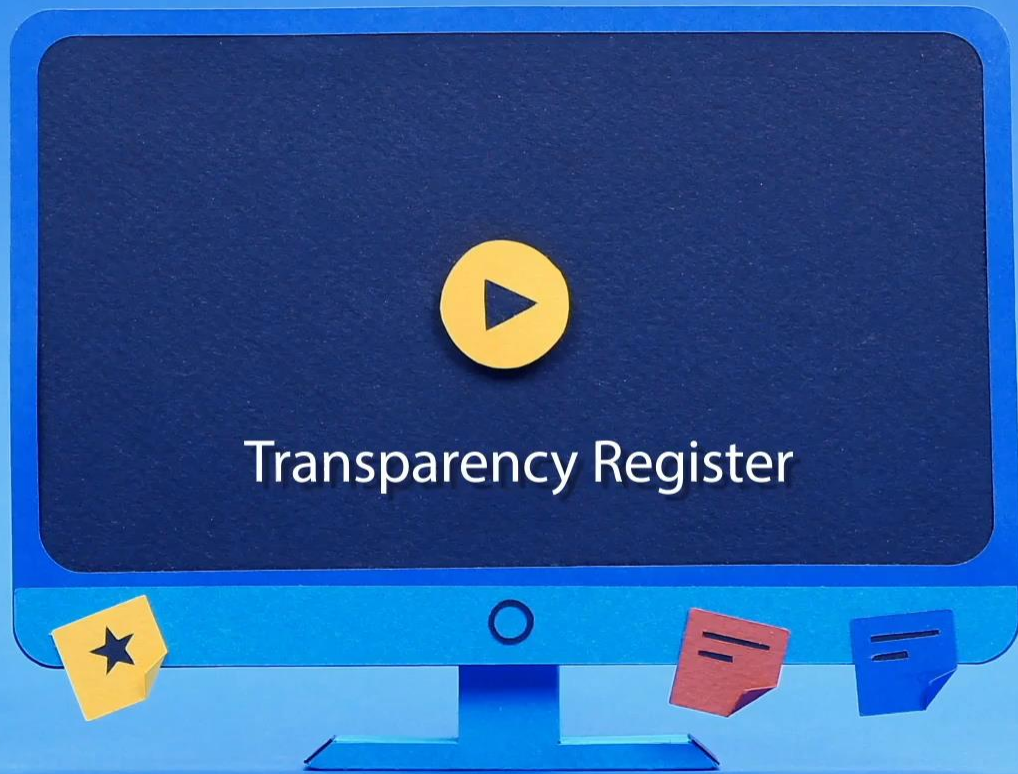
Any individual or organisation based in the EU can submit a petition to the EU on an issue related to EU policy or law. Find out how to create and submit one.

More info.: [https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/get-involved\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/about-european-commission/get-involved_en)

Also via European Parliament: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/> plus its "Join Together" initiative, <https://together.europarl.europa.eu/> and **European Citizens' Prize**, <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/be-heard/prizes>



## c. Transparency Register





# Transparency Register



European  
Parliament



Council of  
the European  
Union



European  
Commission

- A **database listing 'interest representatives'** (organisations, associations, groups, etc.) who do **activities to influence EU policy and decision-making**.
- The **rules and principles** are in an **interinstitutional agreement** between Parliament, Council and Commission.
- Applicants **must follow certain ethical and behavioural principles** in their interest representation work with the EU institutions.
- These principles are set out in a **code of conduct** annexed to the interinstitutional agreement, e.g. identify themselves, declare interests, etc.
- Similarly, **Commissioners and Commission staff** must follow **principles and rules** that govern their conduct with regard to ethics and integrity (**role of European Ombudsman** to investigate).

More info.: <https://transparency-register.europa.eu>



# 3. European Parliament elections:

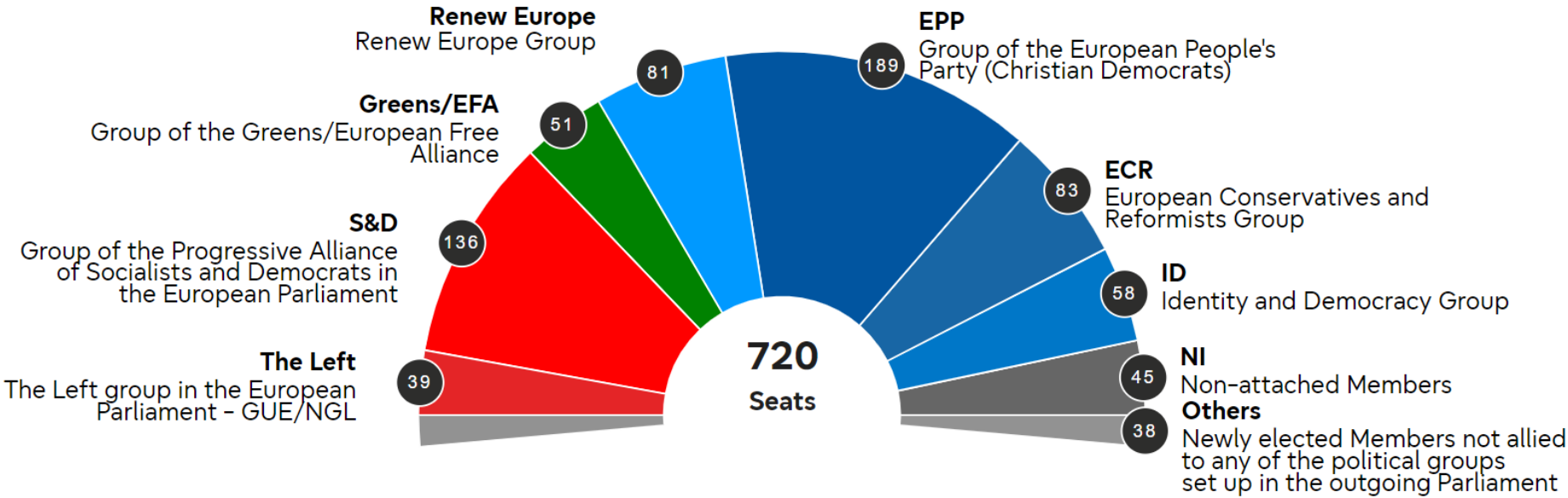
6-9 June 2024





# European Parliament 2024 - 2029

Provisional results



**More info.** <https://results.elections.europa.eu/>



## 4. Let's stay in touch...



ec.europa.eu/



eutube



@EU\_Commission



@europeancommission



European Commission



European-Commission



EU Spotify



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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



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- in any official EU language
- from anywhere in the EU

[europe.direct.europa.eu](https://europe.direct.europa.eu)

Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help.



All EU publications you are looking for.

<https://op.europa.eu/en/web/general-publications/publications>



[www.europa.eu/youreurope](https://www.europa.eu/youreurope)

Help and advice for EU nationals and their family online.



European  
Commission

Thank You for your attention!

#ExploreTheEU



# Some facts about the European Commission

The background of the slide features a blue European Union flag with yellow stars on the left, and a modern glass and steel building, likely the European Parliament, on the right. Four light blue text boxes are overlaid on the image, providing facts about the European Commission.

+ 60 buildings  
in Brussels

+ 30,000  
employees

established  
in 1958

-34 Directorates-General  
-16 service departments  
-6 executive agencies



# Next Generation EU – Europe's Recovery Plan

For a post-COVID-19 EU that is greener, more digital, more resilient and better fit for the current and forthcoming challenges.

## RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE FACILITY

EUR 723.8 billion

338.0 in grants

385.8 in loans



### POWER UP

Clean technologies and renewables



### RENOVATE

Energy efficiency of buildings



### RECHARGE AND REFUEL

Sustainable transport and charging stations



### CONNECT

Roll-out of rapid broadband services



### MODERNISE

Digitalisation of public administration



### SCALE UP

Data cloud and sustainable processors



### RESKILL AND UPSKILL

Education and training to support digital skills

NextGenerationEU  
**€806.9**  
billion

## NEXTGENERATIONEU CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER PROGRAMMES

EUR 83.1 billion

REACT-EU  
50.6

JUST TRANSITION FUND  
10.9

RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
8.1

INVESTEU  
6.1

HORIZON EUROPE  
5.4

RESCEU  
2.0

More info.:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/recovery-plan-europe_en)





## b. EU Solidarity with Ukraine

The EU stands united with Ukraine

More info.: <https://eu-solidarity-ukraine.ec.europa.eu/>



### EU actions



#### EU assistance to Ukraine

Learn about the EU's political, humanitarian and financial support for Ukraine



#### Ukraine's path towards EU accession

Supporting Ukraine in its efforts towards further EU integration



#### Reconstruction of Ukraine

How the EU is supporting the country's recovery efforts



#### EU sanctions against Russia

An overview of EU sanctions targeting sectors, entities and complicit actors



#### Holding Russia accountable

Ensuring Russia is punished for its war crimes and pays for the damage done

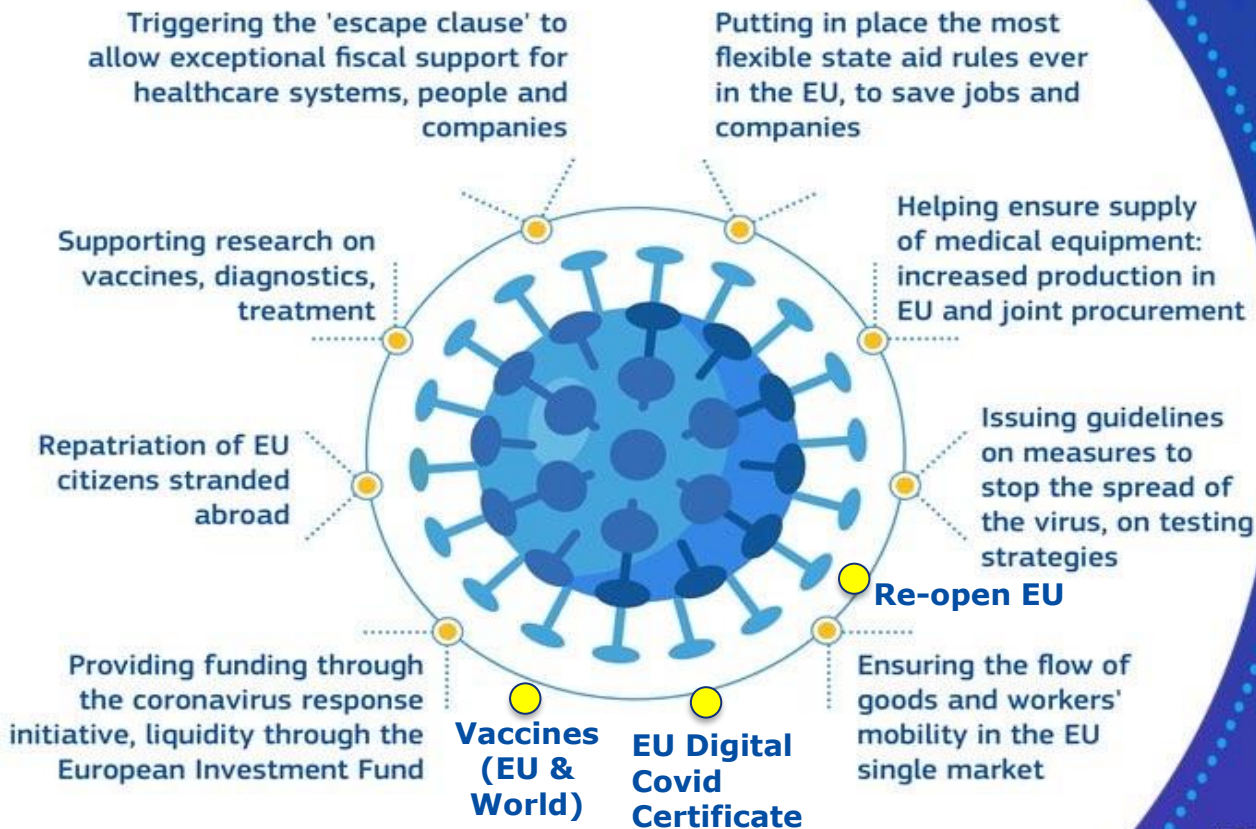


#### EU countries welcoming those fleeing Ukraine

How the EU is supporting Member States to meet the needs of those fleeing Ukraine



## b. Tackling Covid-19 pandemic



### EU CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

**More info.:**

[https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/coronavirus-response\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/coronavirus-response_en)

#CORONAVIRUS

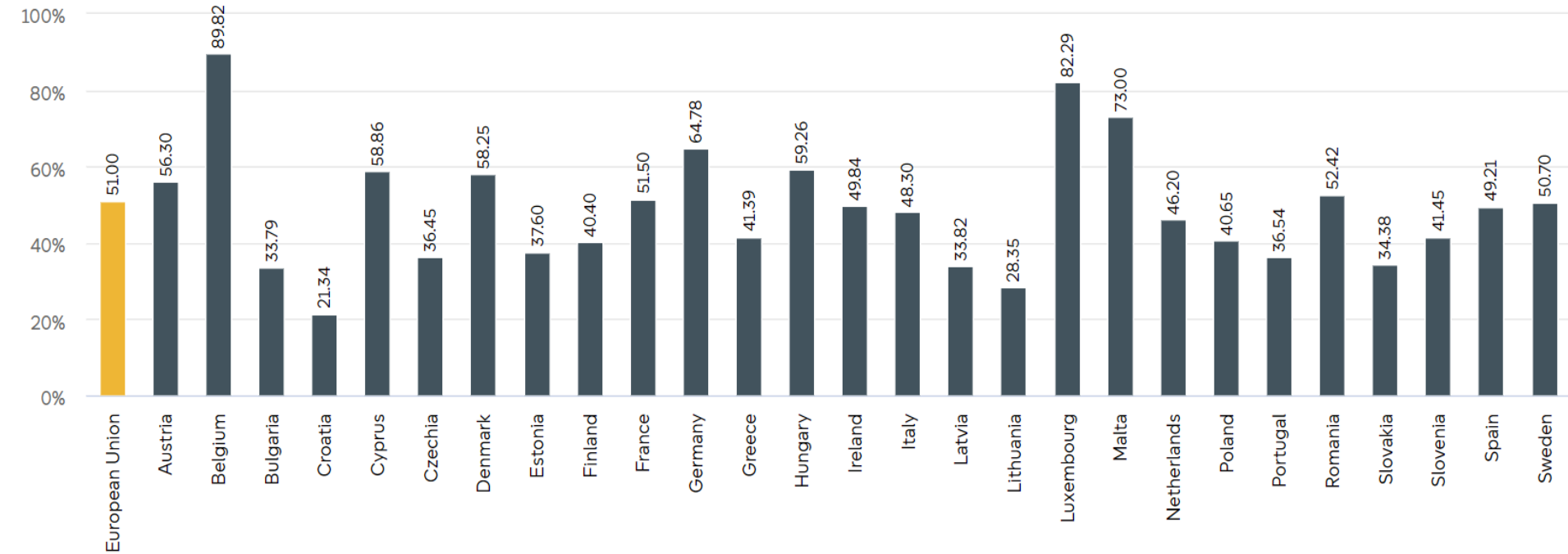


European  
Commission



# Turnout by country (%)

Provisional results



More info. <https://results.elections.europa.eu/>