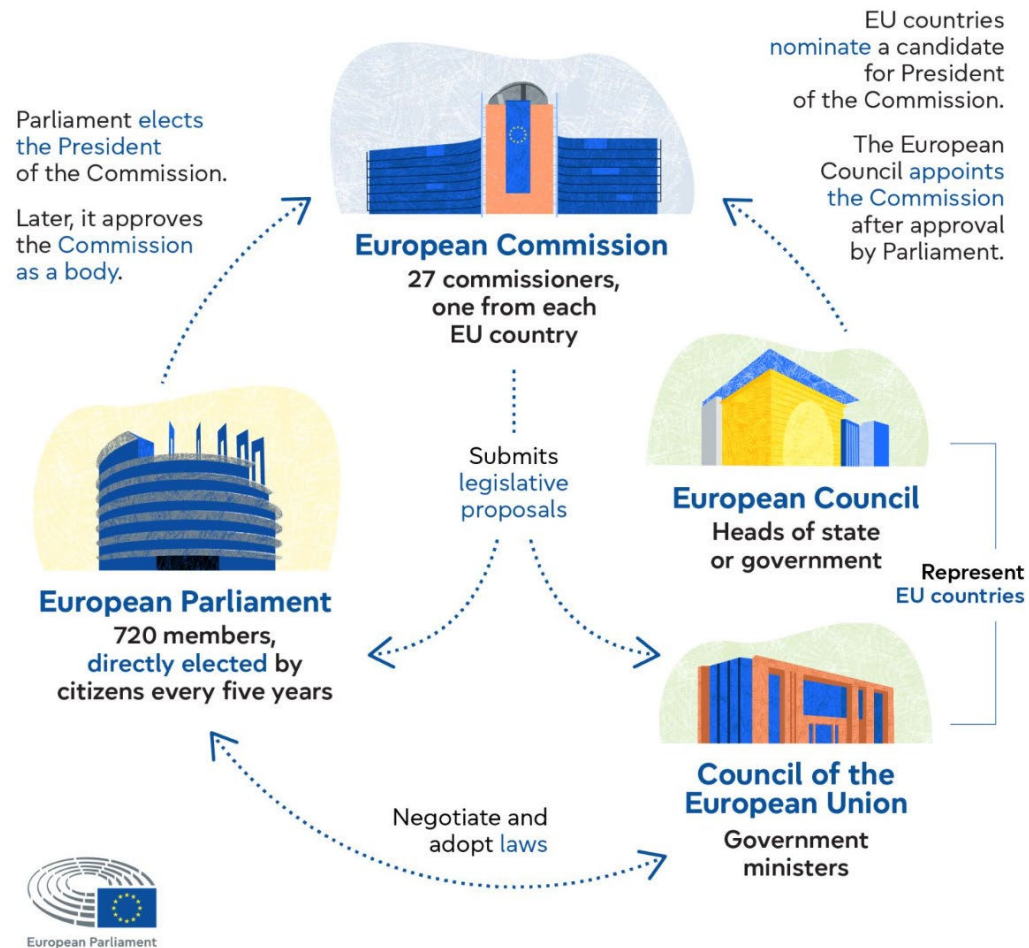


# THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

A SHORT GUIDE ON ITS POWERS  
AND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY AND  
ETHICALLY ENGAGE WITH  
EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS

# THE EU GALAXY IN A NUTSHELL

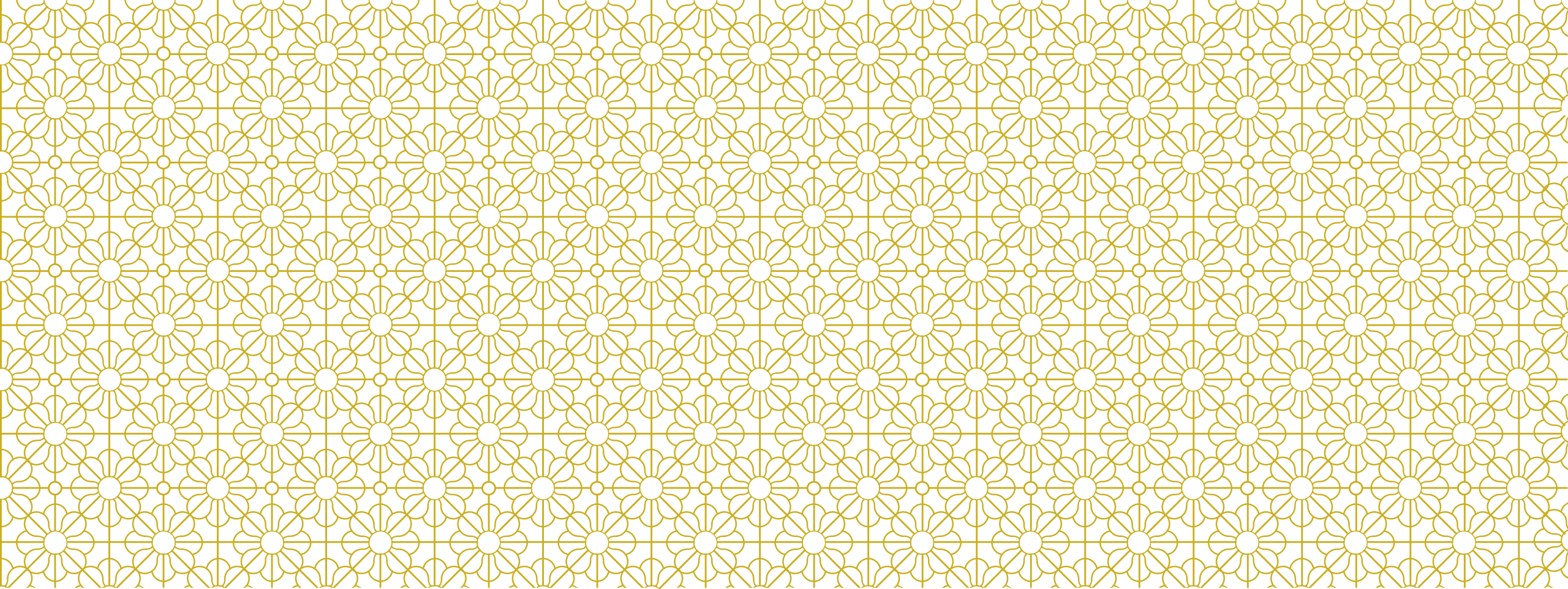


# THE EP POWERS

Legislative

Budgetary

Supervisory



# ORGANISATION AND OPERATION

PLENARY, PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEES AND WHO IS  
WHO

# POLITICAL GROUPS WITHIN THE EP

## What is a Political Group?

- ❖ 23 MEPs coming from at least one quarter of all EU Members States (currently seven);
- ❖ common political affinity + objectives;
- ❖ normally to be established one week before the constitutional sitting of the EP in July (agreed deadline but possible to establish one at anytime);
- ❖ membership to political groups is not automatic, depends on internal rules per Group;
- ❖ regular meetings during week before part-session and in part-session weeks.

# EP STRUCTURE: POLITICAL BODIES

- ❖ The Conference of Presidents
- ❖ The Bureau
- ❖ The College of Quaestors
- ❖ The Conference of Committee Chairs
- ❖ The Conference of Delegation Chairs

# EP WORK: PLENARY AND COMMITTEES

## Parliamentary Committees:

- ❖ In Brussels
- ❖ Two weeks per month.

## Plenary:

- ❖ 12 times/year in Strasbourg (part-sessions) - Monday to Thursday
- ❖ 6 times/year in Brussels for two days (Wed.-Thu.)
- ❖ Agenda of plenary: adoption of reports prepared by its committees, questions to the Commission and the Council of the European Union, topical and urgent debates, statements by the Presidency.

Committee meetings and plenary sittings are held in public and are web streamed.



# HOW AND WHERE DOES AN MEP WORK?

- ❖ Depending on the week: Brussels, Strasbourg or home constituency
- ❖ When in Brussels: Committee meetings (discussions, votes), Shadows, trilogues, Group meetings, stakeholders, national and EU press
- ❖ When in Strasbourg: Plenary session, plenary speaking time, voting time, Shadows, trilogues, stakeholders, national and EU press
- ❖ Home constituency: stakeholders, national party, national press

2023



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# COMMITTEE WORK DEEP DIVE

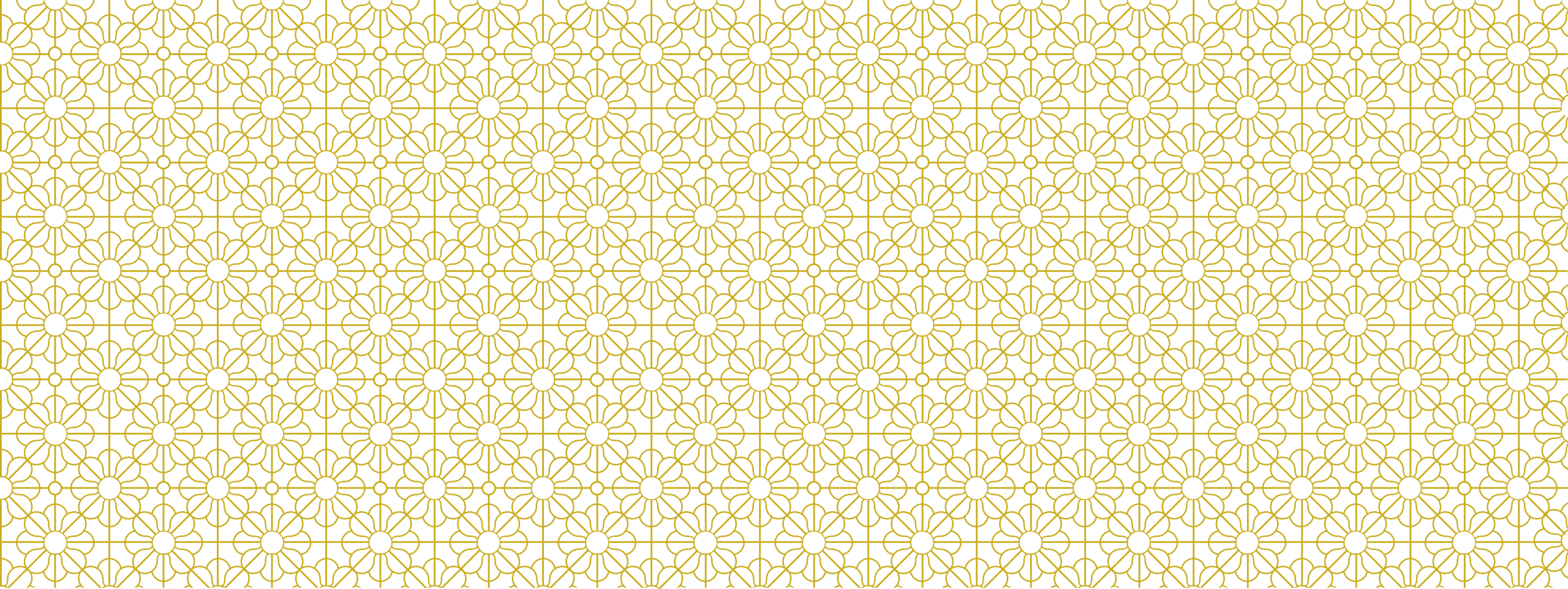
- ❖ Preparatory work for Parliament's plenary sittings: **Draw up, amend and adopt legislative proposals and own-initiative reports**; appoint a negotiation team to conduct negotiations with the Council on EU legislation (trilogues); organise hearings with experts and scrutinise the other EU bodies and institutions.
- ❖ 20 standing EP committees [+ possibility for sub-committees and special temporary committees + formal committees of inquiry to investigate allegations of maladministration of EU law]
- ❖ Annex VI Rules of Procedure
- ❖ Chair, bureau and secretariat
- ❖ Political makeup reflects that of the plenary

# COMMITTEE: KEY PLAYERS

- ❖ Chair and Vice-Chairs
- ❖ Coordinators
- ❖ What is a Rapporteur? What is a Shadow?
- ❖ Role of APAs
- ❖ Role of Groups' Political Advisors
- ❖ The EP administration (secretariat)



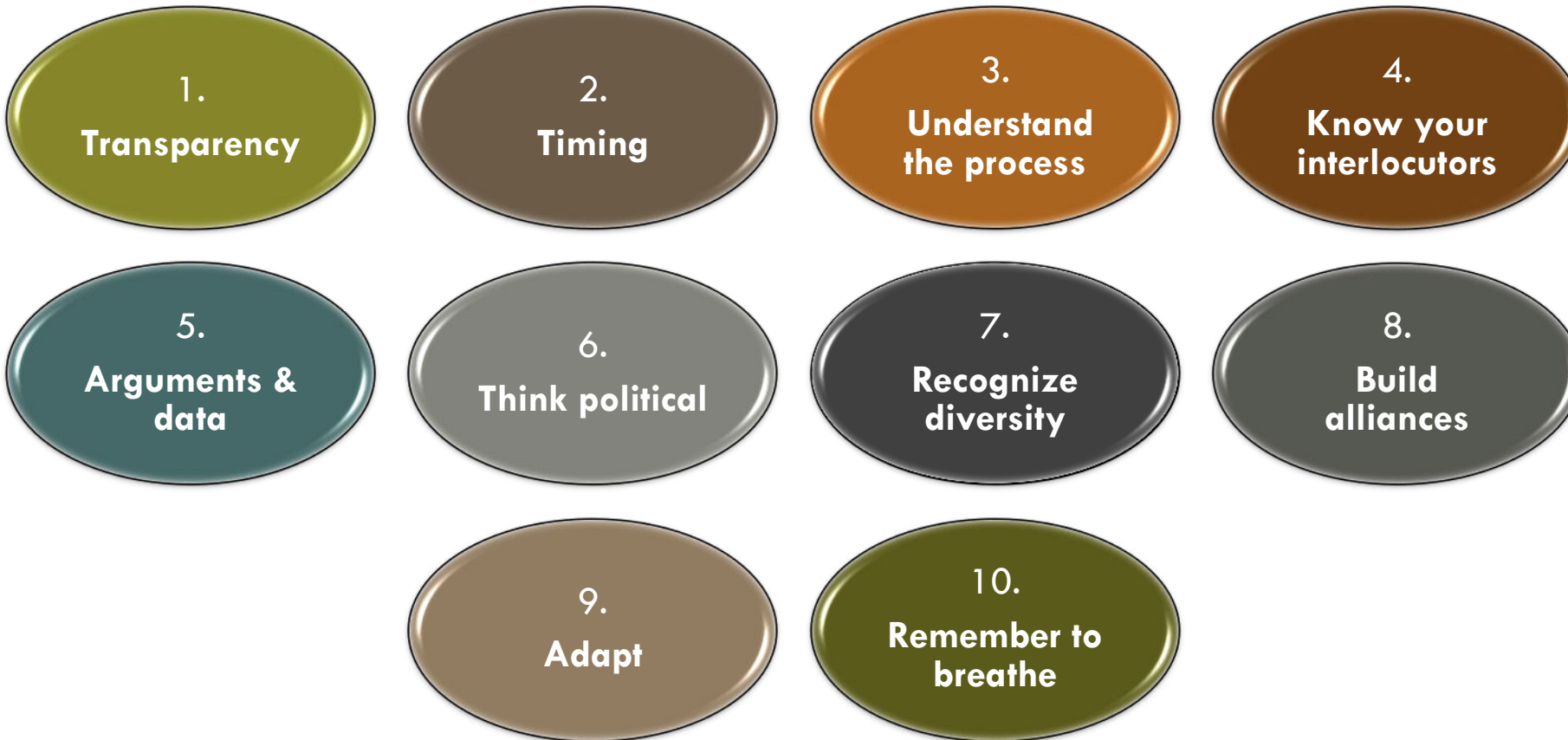
**EP COMMITTEES:  
WHO IS WHO**



# ENGAGEMENT WITH EUROPEAN LAWMAKERS

ELEMENTS FOR ETHICAL AND  
EFFECTIVE PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
STRATEGIES

# ELEMENTS FOR EFFECTIVE AND ETHICAL ENGAGEMENT



# LET'S TALK ETHICS

“The institutions shall, by appropriate means, give citizens and representative associations the opportunity to make known and publicly exchange their views in all areas of Union action; in addition, the institutions shall maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representative associations and civil society”.

Article 11 of the Treaty on European Union

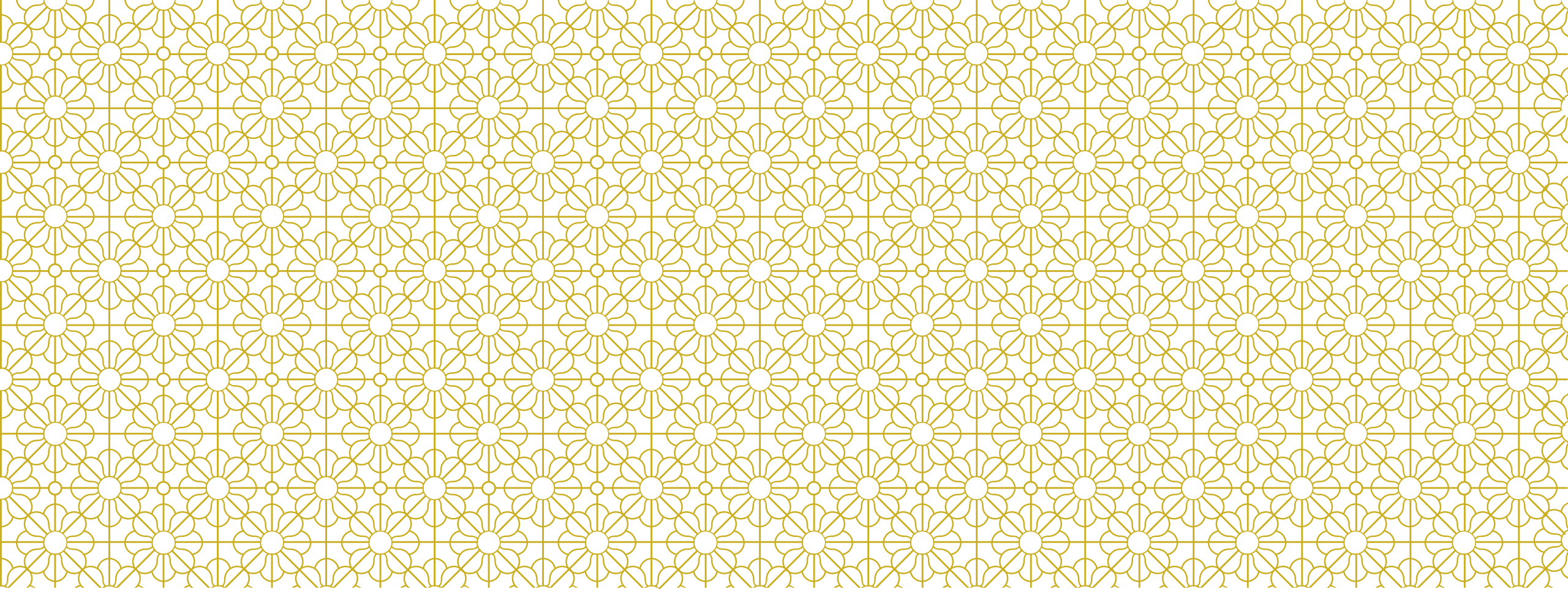
“The Union’s institutions, bodies, offices and agencies conduct their work as openly as possible in order to ensure the participation of civil society and thus promote good governance”.

Article 15 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union



# ENGAGING WITH LAWMAKERS ETHICALLY

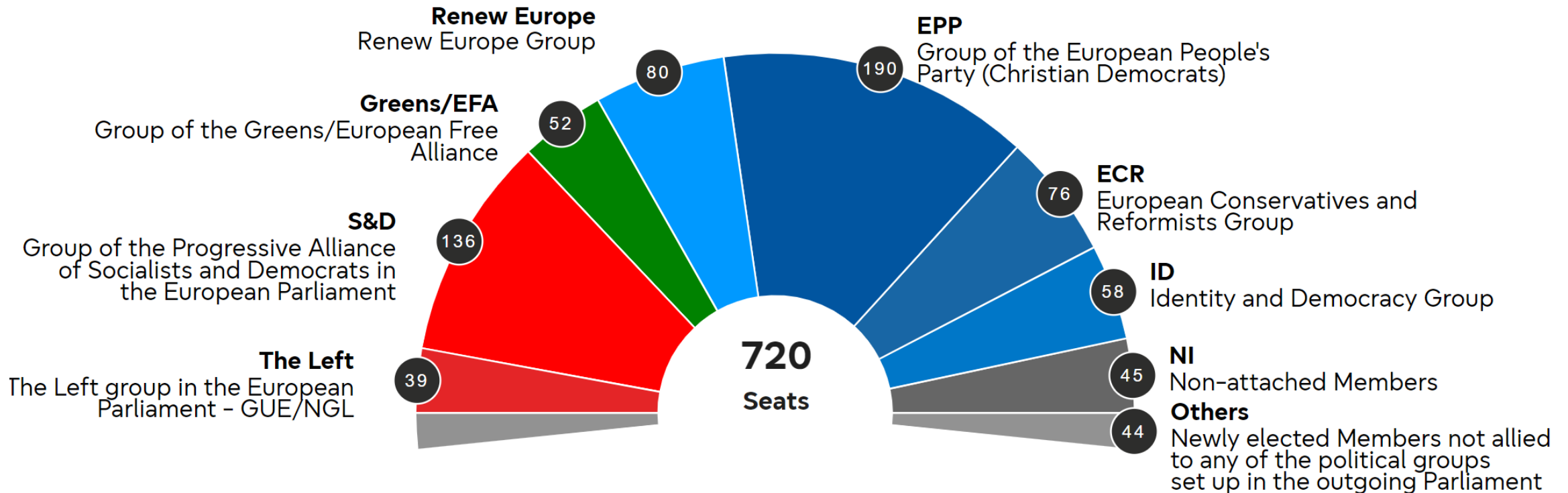
- ❖ The **Transparency Register**: only registered interest representatives may be invited as speakers to public hearings of committees and support and participate in the activities of MEPs' intergroups and unofficial groupings
- ❖ **The Code of Conduct**: Declaration of Private Interests
- ❖ **Implementing Measures for the Code of Conduct**: All Members must also disclose:
  - all scheduled meetings relating to parliamentary business with interest representatives in the TR; or representatives of public authorities of third countries; also applies to meetings attended by APAs;
  - attendance at events organised by a third party in cases where travel, accommodation or subsistence expenses are paid or reimbursed by a third party;
  - any gifts they receive when representing Parliament in an official capacity, with an approximate value of more than EUR 150;
  - assets and liabilities in a declaration of assets, by the end of the first part-session after elections to the European Parliament and at the end of term
  - awareness of conflicts of interest, for office holders and for Members proposed as rapporteur, shadow-rapporteur, or as participant in an official delegation or in interinstitutional negotiations
- ❖ Rapporteurs and rapporteurs for opinion are required to list the entities or persons from whom they received input on matters pertaining to the subject in question in an annex to their reports or opinions.



# THE 10<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE 2024-2029

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
ELECTIONS 2024 AND THE DAY  
AFTER

# EP COMPOSITION 2024-2029



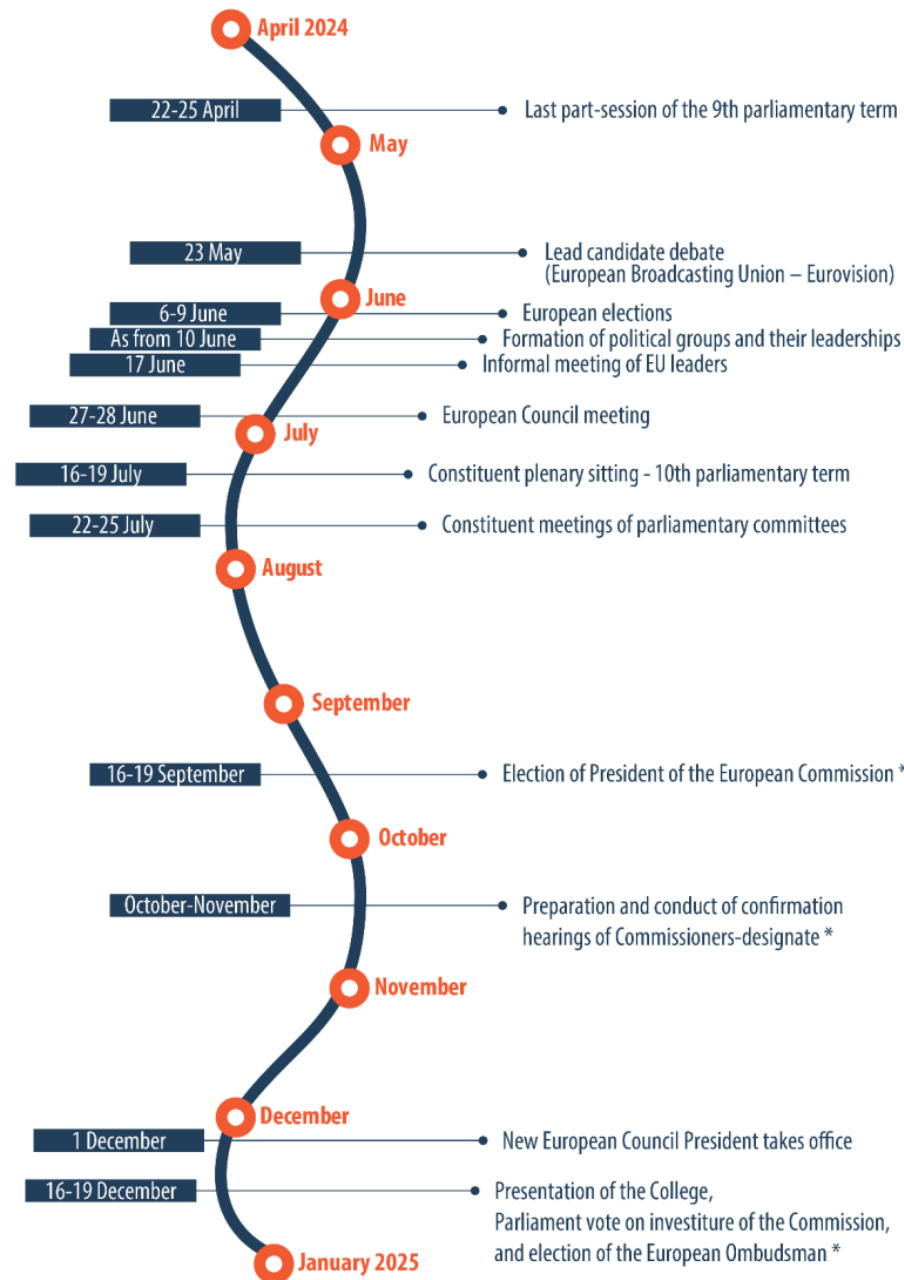
\* Provisional results – last update: 14/06/2024

\* <https://results.elections.europa.eu/>

# WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- ❖ **The day/first weeks after the 9<sup>th</sup> of June:** Group meetings to decide on their composition before the first new plenary which starts on 16 July.
- ❖ **New legislature** will officially start on Tuesday **16 July 2024**.
- ❖ **Constituent Plenary Sitting- 16-19 July 2024** : Election of EP President, 14 vice-presidents and 5 quaestors; vote on number of MEPs in each parliamentary committee (numerical composition); announcement of MEP names in each committee (nominal composition).
- ❖ After the constitutive plenary, the committees will then hold their first meetings to elect their respective chairs and vice-chairs.
- ❖ EP votes on new President of the European Commission, nominated by the leaders of EU countries - absolute majority using a secret ballot. If no majority, the EU leaders will need to propose a new candidate within a month and Parliament votes on the new candidate.
- ❖ The newly appointed Commission President and EU countries will subsequently propose candidates for new Commissioners. Parliament will organise hearings of the Commissioner-designate so that MEPs from the relevant parliament committees can assess the suitability of candidates for their proposed portfolios
- ❖ The process in Parliament will finish with a plenary vote, expected in the autumn, where MEPs will have to decide whether to approve the composition of the Commission as a whole.

# TIMELINE



\* Source: EPRS; April 2024

\* These dates concerning the installation of the new European Commission represent the scenario currently considered most likely, but a different timetable could unfold, depending on the political situation after the elections. In particular, the timings will depend on decisions of the Conference of Presidents in the new Parliament.



**THANK YOU!**