



Public Affairs Council

European Union Decision-Making: *Understanding the Fundamentals*

October 15, 2024

Inês Reis Basto

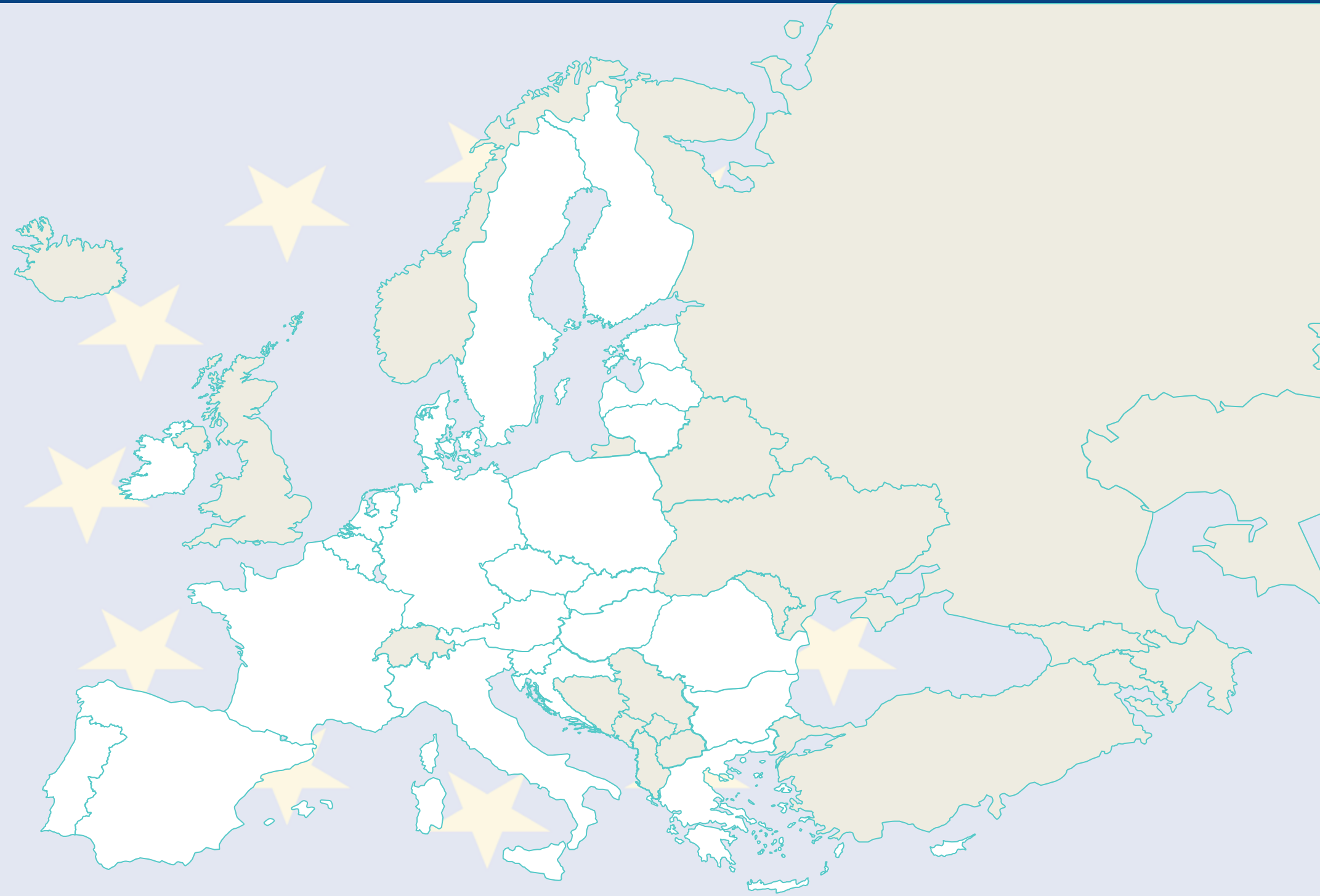
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AGENDA

- 📍 Overview of Europe's International Blocks
- 📍 The Role of the EU in European Society
- 📍 European Parliament, Council and Commission
- 📍 EU Elections: Update, timeline and Impact
- 📍 Tools and resources: how and where to find essential info/intel
- 📍 Q&A

Defining the context – What is “the European level?”



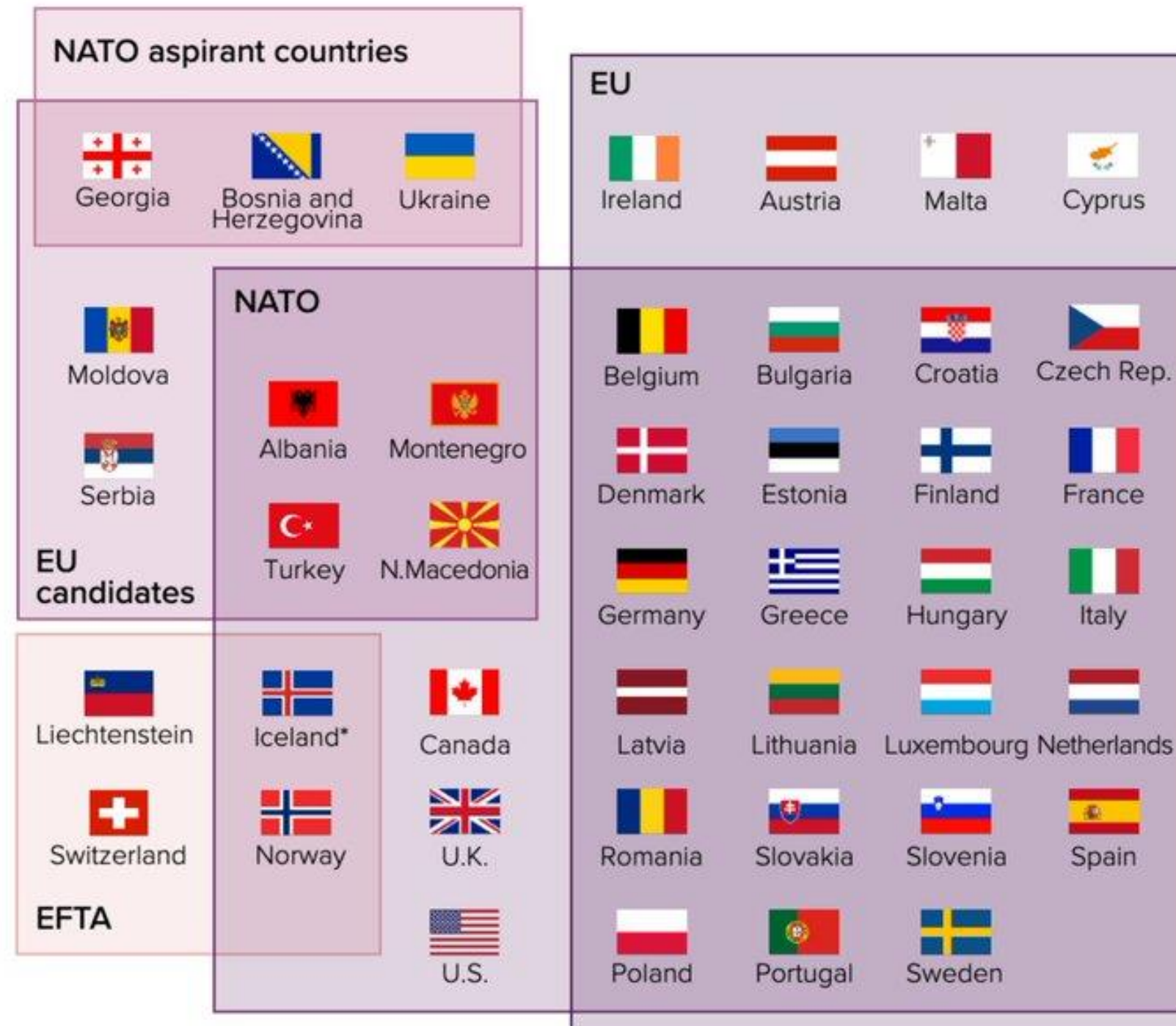
The European Union

- 27 Member States. Population: 450 million
- 24 Official Languages
- € Zone: 20 Member States + 6 non-EU
- Schengen Area: 25 EU Member States + EFTA
(Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland)



SWEDEN JOINS NATO CLUB

Sweden has officially become the Western military alliance's 32nd member. That leaves only four EU member countries now out of the club — Ireland, Malta, Austria and Cyprus.



*Iceland has not officially withdrawn its EU application, but in 2015 its government requested that "Iceland should not be regarded as a candidate country for EU membership."

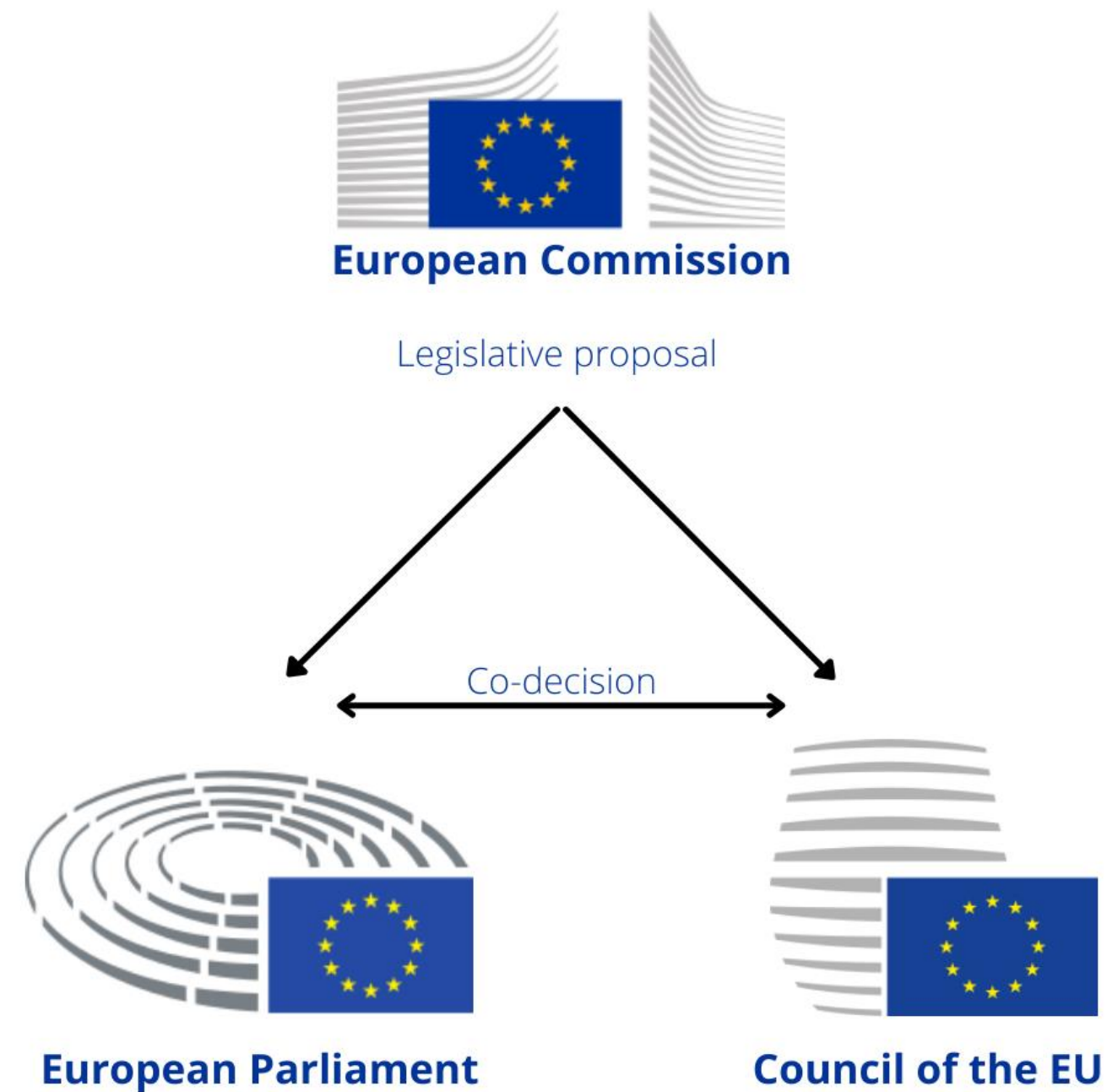
SOURCE: POLITICO research, European Union, NATO, EFTA

By Arnau Busquets Guàrdia and Lucia Mackenzie

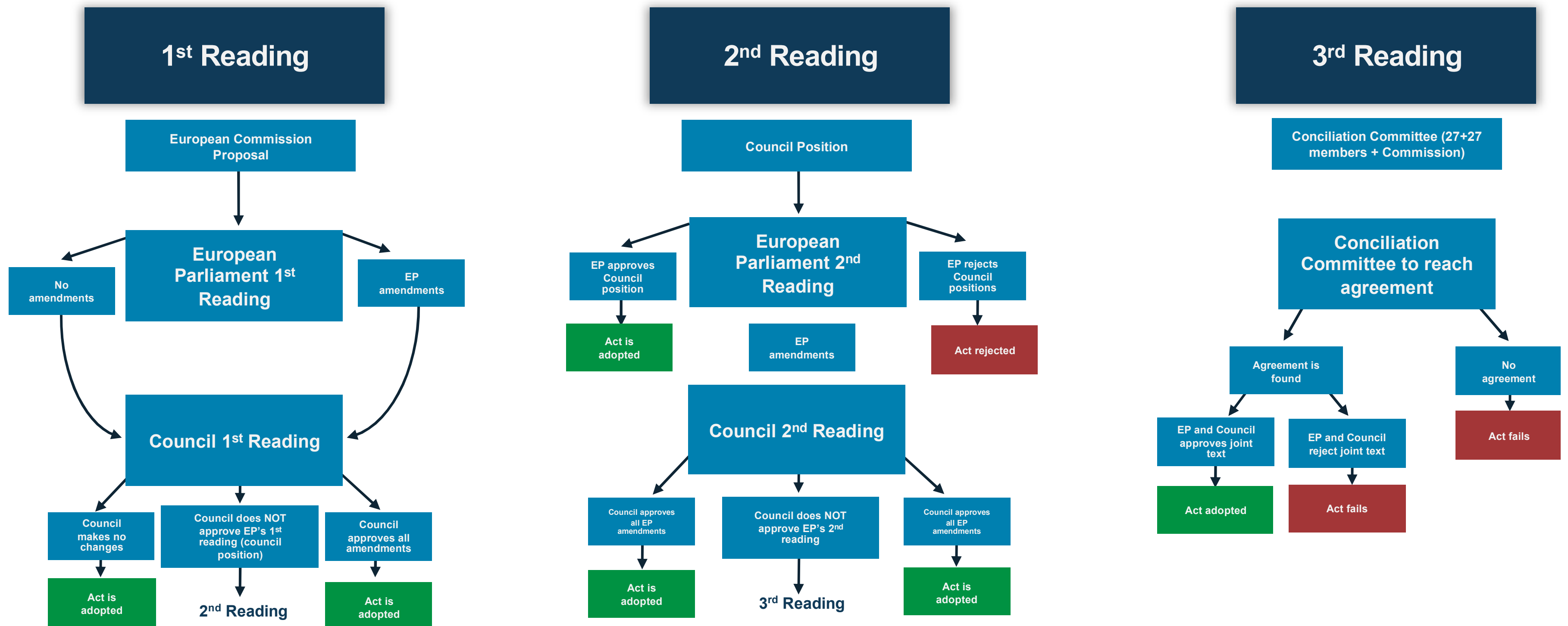
Source: POLITICO, last update March 2024

POLITICO

Decision-making in the EU Institutions



The Ordinary Legislative Procedure. Any questions?



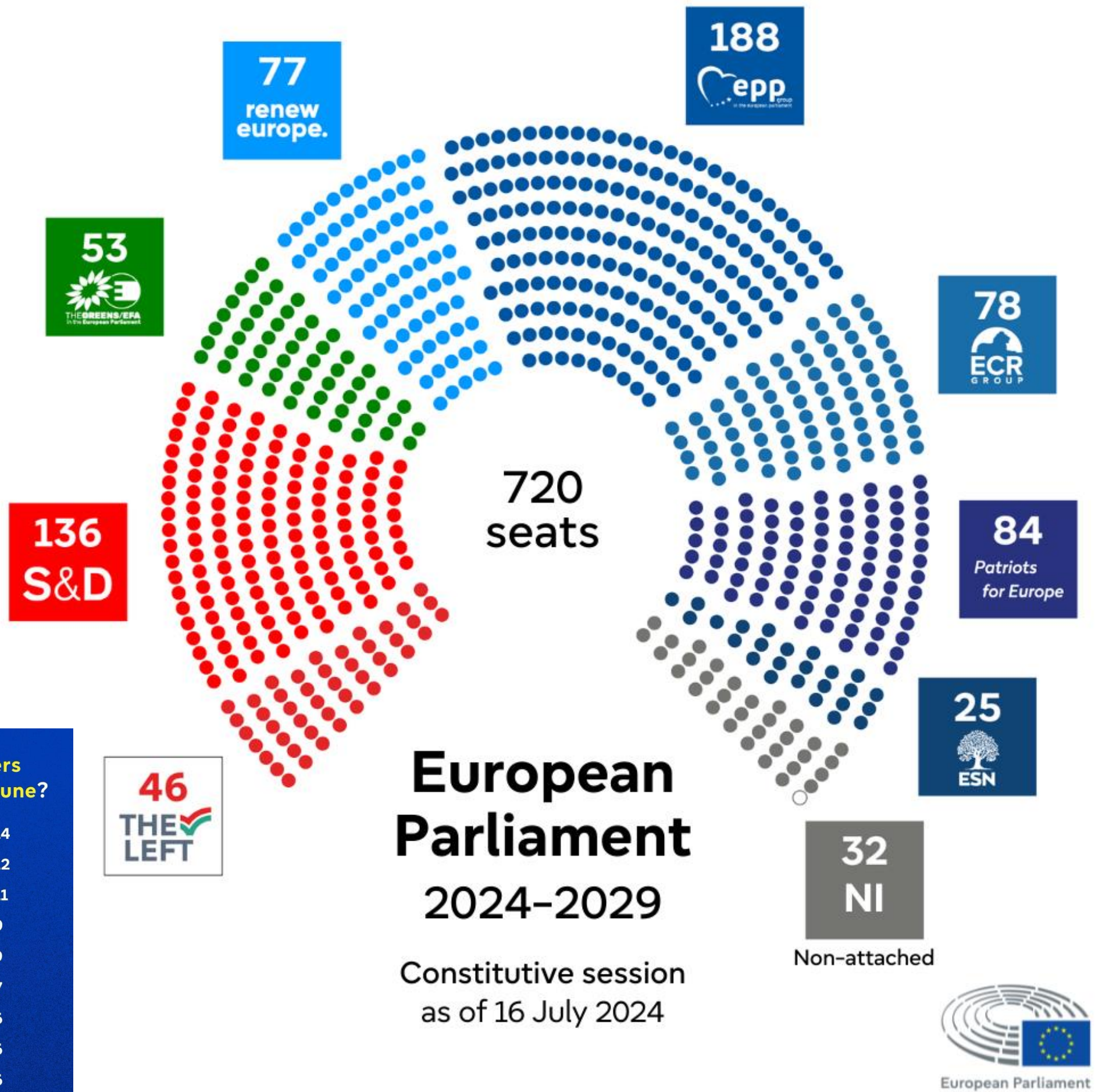
The Competences: What does the EU Regulate?





How many **Parliament members** will each EU country elect **this June**?

DE  96	CZ  21	IE  14
FR  81	SE  21	HR  12
IT  76	PT  21	LT  11
ES  61	HU  21	SI  9
PL  53	AT  20	LV  9
RO  33	BG  17	EE  7
NL  31	DK  15	CY  6
BE  22	FI  15	LU  6
EL  21	SK  15	MT  6



The European Parliament

8 Political Groups
of Members (MEPs) per country = Population
24 Committees
Monthly Plenaries in Brussels / Strasbourg
President elected by MEPs. Currently **Roberta Metsola (EPP)**



Key players				
European Parliament	Committee responsible		Rapporteur	Appointed
	<div>ENVI</div> Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	<div>>></div> RIES Frédérique		07/05/2018
		<div>Shadow rapporteur</div>		
		<div>FLORENZ</div> FLORENZ Karl-Heinz		
		<div>S&D</div> PAOLUCCI Massimo		
		<div>ECR</div> DEMESMAEKER Mark		
		<div>RE</div> BOYLAN Lynn		
		<div>Verts/ALE</div> AUKEN Margrete		
		<div>ITRE</div> PEDICINI Piernicola		
	<div>INT</div> GODDYN Sylvie			
Committee for opinion		Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
	<div>ECON</div> Economic and Monetary Affairs	<div>INT</div> KAPPEL Barbara	20/06/2018	
	<div>ITRE</div> Industry, Research and Energy	<div>INT</div> KAPPEL Barbara	25/06/2018	
	<div>AGRI</div> Agriculture and Rural Development	<div>Verts/ALE</div> ROPÉ Bronis	10/07/2018	
	<div>PECH</div> Fisheries	<div>S&D</div> BRIANO Renata	14/06/2018	
	<div>JURI</div> Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
Council of the European Union				
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner		
	Environment	VELLA Karmenu		
European Economic and Social Committee				

Key events			
28/05/2018	Legislative proposal published	COM(2018)0340	Summary
11/06/2018	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		
10/10/2018	Vote in committee, 1st reading/single reading		
11/10/2018	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A8-0317/2018	Summary
22/10/2018	Debate in Parliament		
24/10/2018	Results of vote in Parliament		
24/10/2018	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0411/2018	Summary
24/10/2018	Matter referred back to the committee responsible		
22/01/2019	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	PE632.990 GEDA/A/(2019)000622	
27/03/2019	Debate in Parliament		
27/03/2019	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading	T8-0305/2019	Summary
21/05/2019	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
05/06/2019	Final act signed		
05/06/2019	End of procedure in Parliament		
12/06/2019	Final act published in Official Journal		

The Council of the EU vs. European Council



Council of the European Union: Highest Political Institution of the Union

Forum for negotiation of 27 Governments

Dozens of thematic Working Groups

Presidency rotates every 6 months . Currently Hungary



European Council : Periodic Official Meeting of the 27 Heads of State +

Parliament + Commission Presidents

President 2.5 Years renewable once. Recently elected **António Costa** (PT)





Filter by topic

☒ Consumer protection

[+ See all topics](#)

Working parties by Council configuration

- ☐ Agriculture and Fisheries Council
- ☐ Competitiveness Council
- ☐ Economic and Financial Affairs Council
- ☐ Education, Youth, Culture and Sports Council
- ☐ Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

[+ See all Council configurations](#)

Council preparatory bodies

- [Ad Hoc Working Party on Genetically Modified Organisms \(GMO\)](#)
- [Coreper I](#)
- [Working Party of Chief Veterinary Officers](#)
- [Working Party of Veterinary Experts](#)
- [Working Party on Agricultural Questions](#)
- [Working Party on Consumer Protection and Information](#)
- [Working Party on Foodstuff Quality](#)
- [Working Party on Foodstuffs](#)
- [Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices](#)
- [Working Party on Technical Harmonisation](#)

COVID-19: This page is constantly updated to reflect the latest changes to the calendar of summits, ministerial meetings and video conferences.

The list of meetings of the Council preparatory bodies is included in the following document:

The Council is supported by the Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union (**Coreper**) and more than **150 highly specialised working parties and committees**, known as the 'Council preparatory bodies'.

The preparatory bodies can be divided into two main categories:

Voting calculator

Council of the EU

Download the voting calculator also for your mobile device.



> [Download from App Store](#)

> [Download from Google Play](#)

Set the votes for each country

Countries participating	Votes	Reset all to Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All countries participating <input type="checkbox"/> Only Eurozone countries participating		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Austria 1.98% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belgium 2.56% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria 1.56% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Croatia 0.91% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cyprus 0.20% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Czech Republic 2.35% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Denmark 1.30% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estonia 0.30% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finland 1.22% of population	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>	

Choose the voting rule

Voting rule

Qualified majority

Voting result



Final result

Approved

[Download results as pdf](#)

27

member states

Minimum "Yes" required for adoption: (55%) 15

27

Yes

0

No

0

Abstain

The European Commission

Executive Body of the EU

1 Commissioner per Member State

Initiates and Fiscalizes EU Legislation

President: Elected by EU Parliament

Currently: **Ursula Von der Leyen**

As an organization: 33 DGs, 6 agencies

> 32.000 employees

(Graph: Commissioners proposed for 2025)





DDG PLANET, PEOPLE & SCIENCE FOR POLICY

DIRECTORATE A

DIRECTORATE B

DIRECTORATE C

DIRECTORATE D

DIRECTORATE E

DIRECTORATE H

ERCEA.A.1
Jose LABASTIDA

ERCEA.A.2
Martin PENNY

ERCEA.B
Angela LIBERATORE

ERCEA.B.1
Raduca IONESCU

ERCEA.B.2
Josefina ENFEDAQUE

EISMEA.E
Stephane QUAIL

EISMEA.E.1
Tina HALLANTIE
Grzegorz AMBROZIEWICZ

EISMEA.E.3
Denisa PERRIN
Grzegorz AMBROZIEWICZ

REA.B
Paul WEBB

CINEA.C
Ivan KOWALCZYK

CINEA.C.1
Stephane HOGAN

HADEA.A.3
Natasza LAI

HADEA.B.3
Natasza LAI

CINEA.A.1
Philipp TROPPMANN

CINEA.A.2
Jean-Christophe GAYARD

CINEA.A.3
Celine VANDRECHT-
TENIERS

EISMEA.C
Natalia STEFANOWICZ

EISMEA.C.1
Alice LANGERVA

EISMEA.C.2
Kyriakos GEORGIOPOULOS

QUESTIONS?

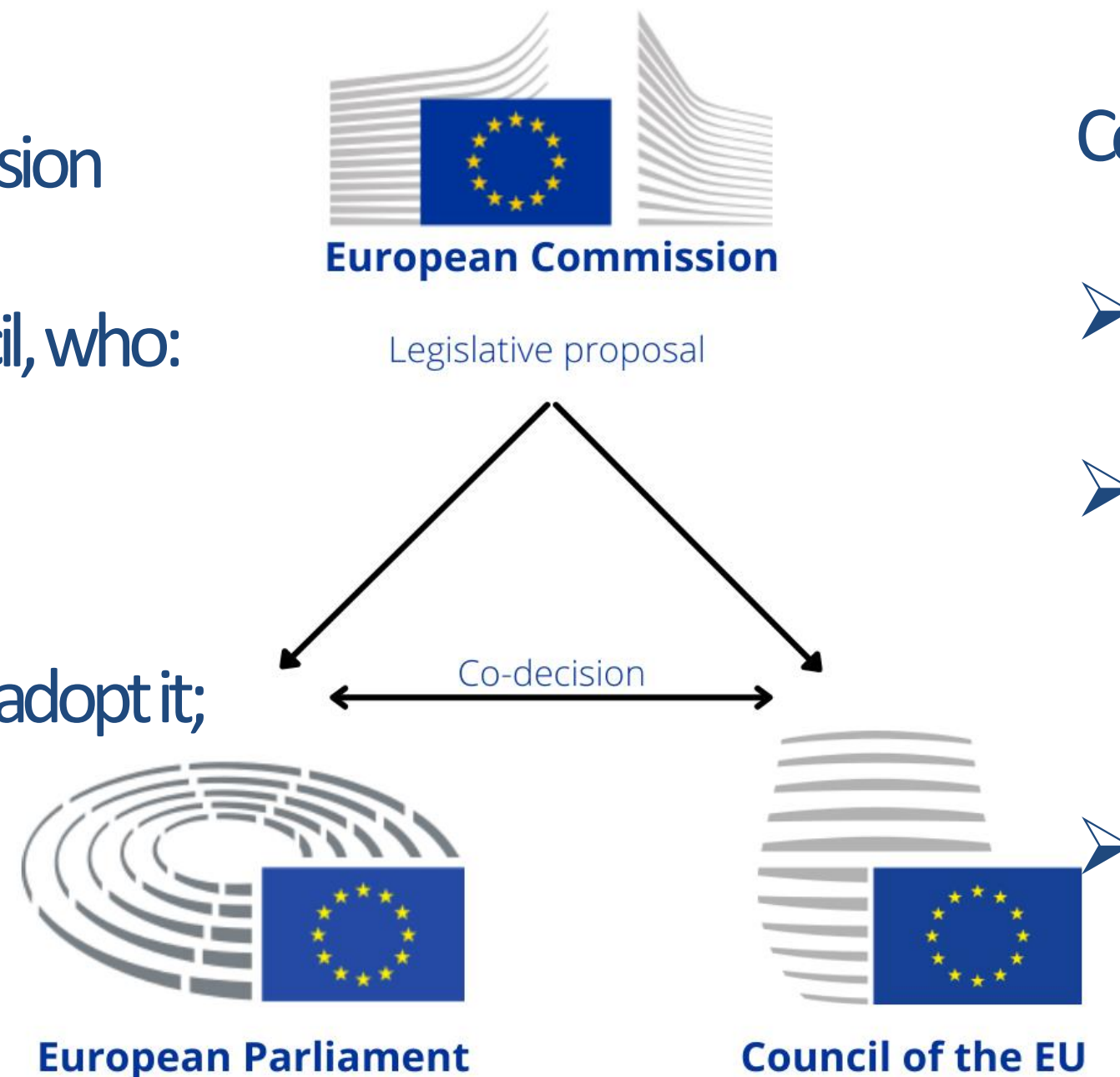


Decision-making in the EU Institutions

Power of initiative by Commission

Sent to Parliament and Council, who:

- Adopt without changes;
- Amend the proposal and adopt it;
- Reject proposal



Council and Parliament may:

- Adopt official recommendations
- Ask the Commission to draft a proposal on a given topic
- Shape the mandate of a new Commission

What Influences the Commission to Initiate Legislation?

TECHNICAL ACTORS

- Input from scientific and advisory committees
- Expert Groups
- EU Agencies

Important: check the relevant institutional stakeholders to your sector!

POLITICAL ACTORS

- European Parliament
- Member States in the Council
- European Citizens' Initiative: 1 million citizens from at least 7 Member States

PUBLIC ACTORS

- Public Consultations
- Stakeholder Consultations
- Member States Engagement
- Media
- "Real Life", Political Events

The Commission Work Program



EN English

Search

Home > Publications > 2021 Commission work programme – key documents

2021 Commission work programme – key documents

Part of collections: Commission work programme
First published on: 19 October 2020
Author: Secretariat-General

Files

2021 Commission work programme
English

Download [↗](#)

Available languages (22) [v](#)

2021 Commission work programme - annexes
English

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Available languages (22) [v](#)

2021 Commission work programme – publication
English (797.2 KB - PDF)

Download [↓](#)

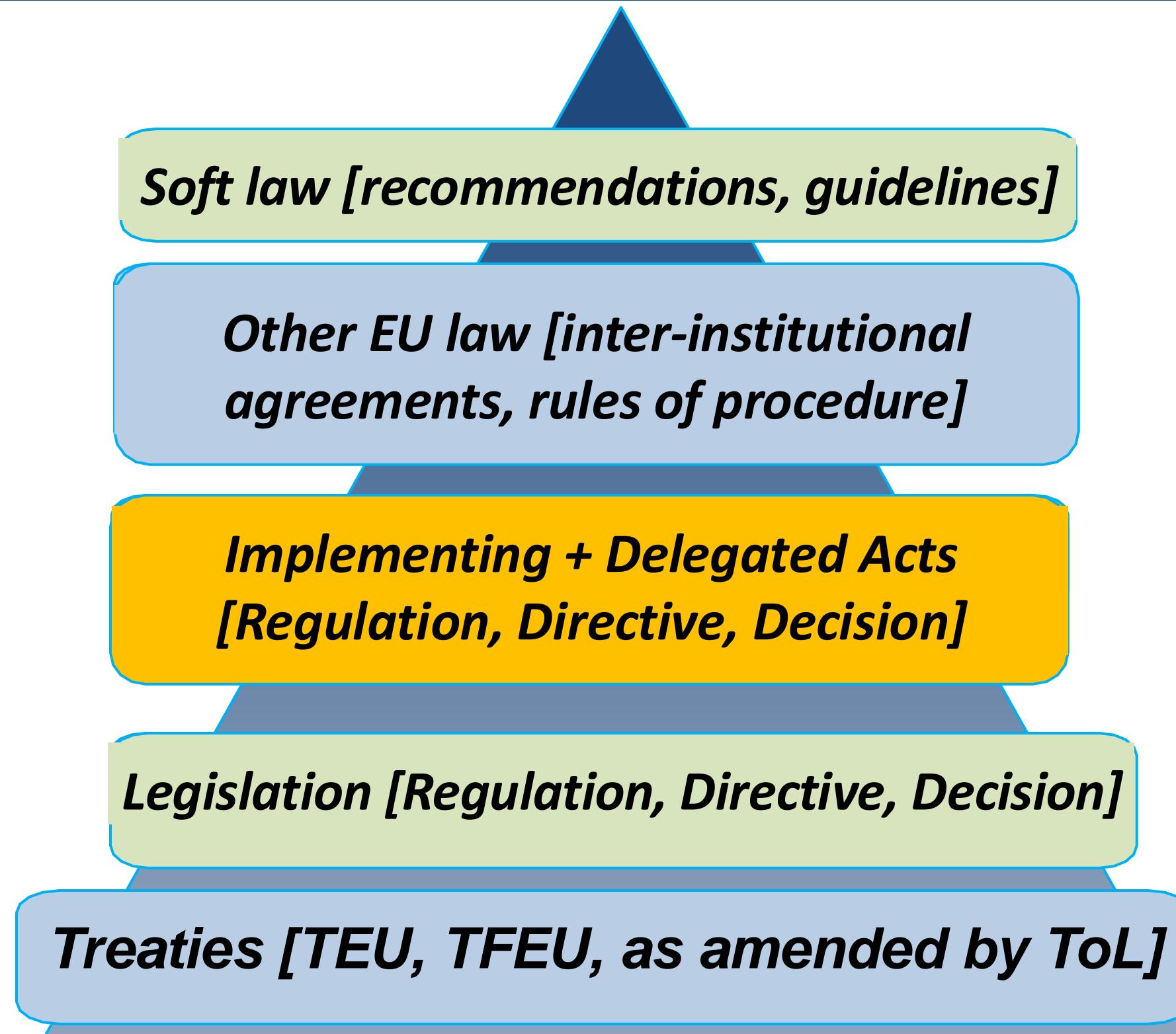
Available languages (22) [v](#)

2021 Commission work programme explained - factsheet
English (158.5 KB - PDF)

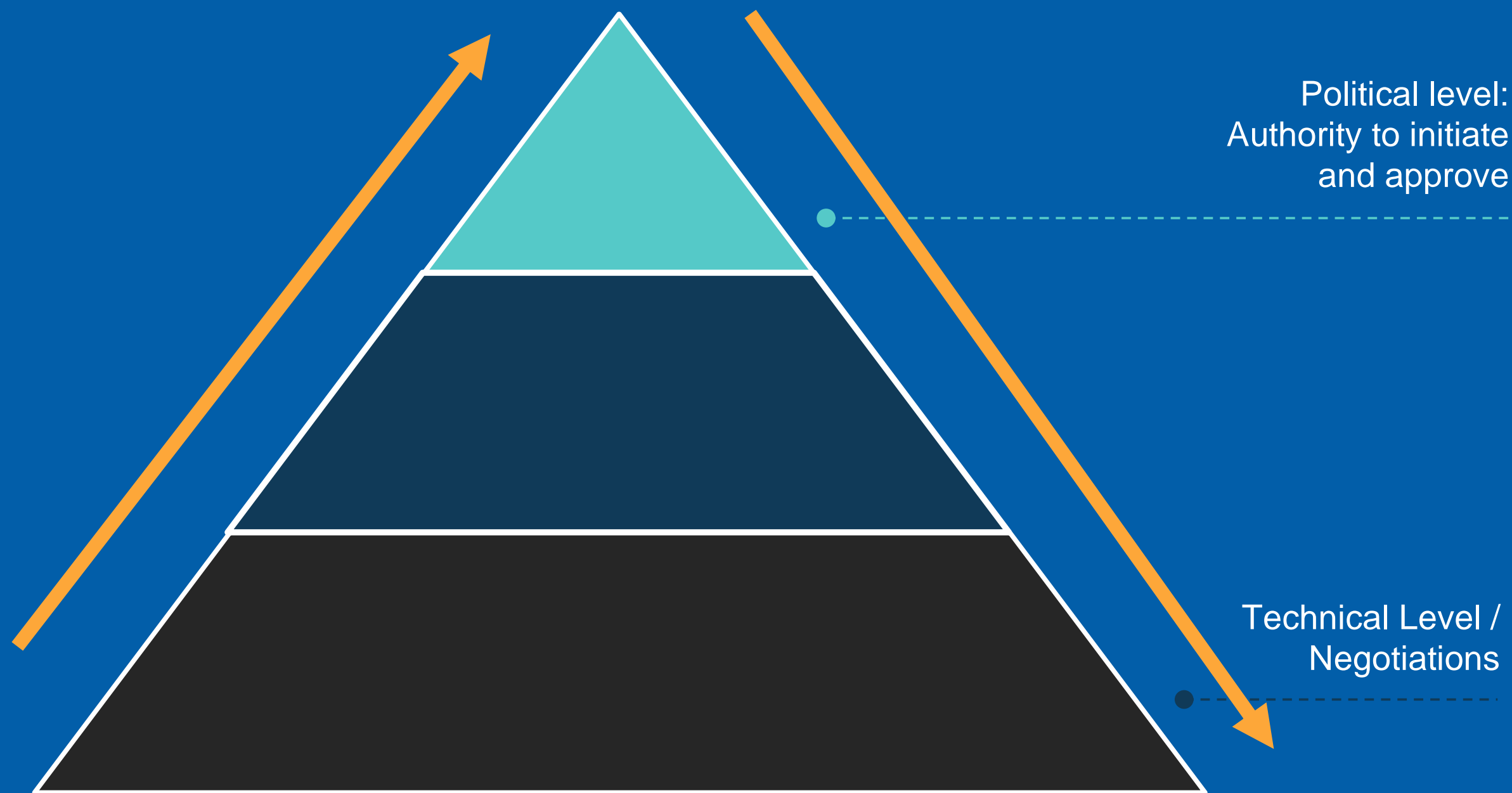
Download [↓](#)

No.	Policy objective	Initiatives
A European Green Deal		
1.	Zero pollution package	a) Revision of Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 114 TFEU, Q2 2022) b) Integrated water management – revised lists of surface and groundwater pollutants (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192 TFEU, Q3 2021) c) Revision of EU ambient air quality legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192 TFEU, Q3 2022)
2.	Climate measures package	a) Review of EU rules on fluorinated greenhouse gases (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192(1) TFEU, Q2 2022) b) EU framework for harmonised measurement of transport and logistics emissions (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 91 and 100(2) TFEU, Q4 2022) c) Review of the CO2 emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192(1) TFEU, Q4 2022) d) Carbon removal certification (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192(1) TFEU, Q4 2022)
3.	Circular economy	Initiative on the right to repair (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2022)
4.	Plastics package	a) Policy framework for bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics (non-legislative, Q2 2022) b) Restriction on microplastics (non-legislative, Q4 2022) c) Measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 114 TFEU, Q4 2022)
5.	Biodiversity and Farm to fork	Sustainable use of pesticides – revision of the EU rules (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Article 192(1) TFEU, Q1 2022)
A Europe Fit for the Digital Age		
6.	Cyber resilience	European cyber resilience act (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2022)
7.	Semi-conductors	European chips act (legislative or non-legislative, Q2 2022)
8.	Security and defence	Roadmap on security and defence technologies (non-legislative, Q1 2022)

Hierarchy of EU Legislation



Policy-Making in the Institutions



Main EU Stakeholders

- Mind the **Transparency Rules!**

- [Transparency Register](#)

- [GDPR and Privacy](#)

- [Code of conduct and appropriate behavior](#)

- [Access to Documents](#)

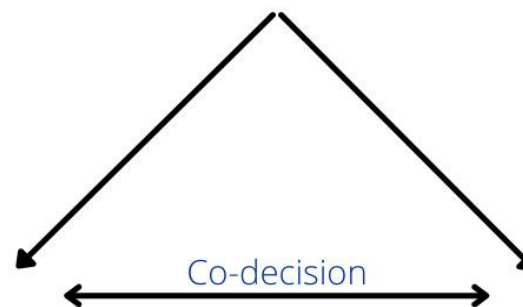
MEPs leading Committees/Groups

Rapporteurs

APAs—Policy Assistants



Legislative proposal



European Parliament



Council of the EU

Commissioners

Heads of Unit/ Sectors /Directors

Policy Officers

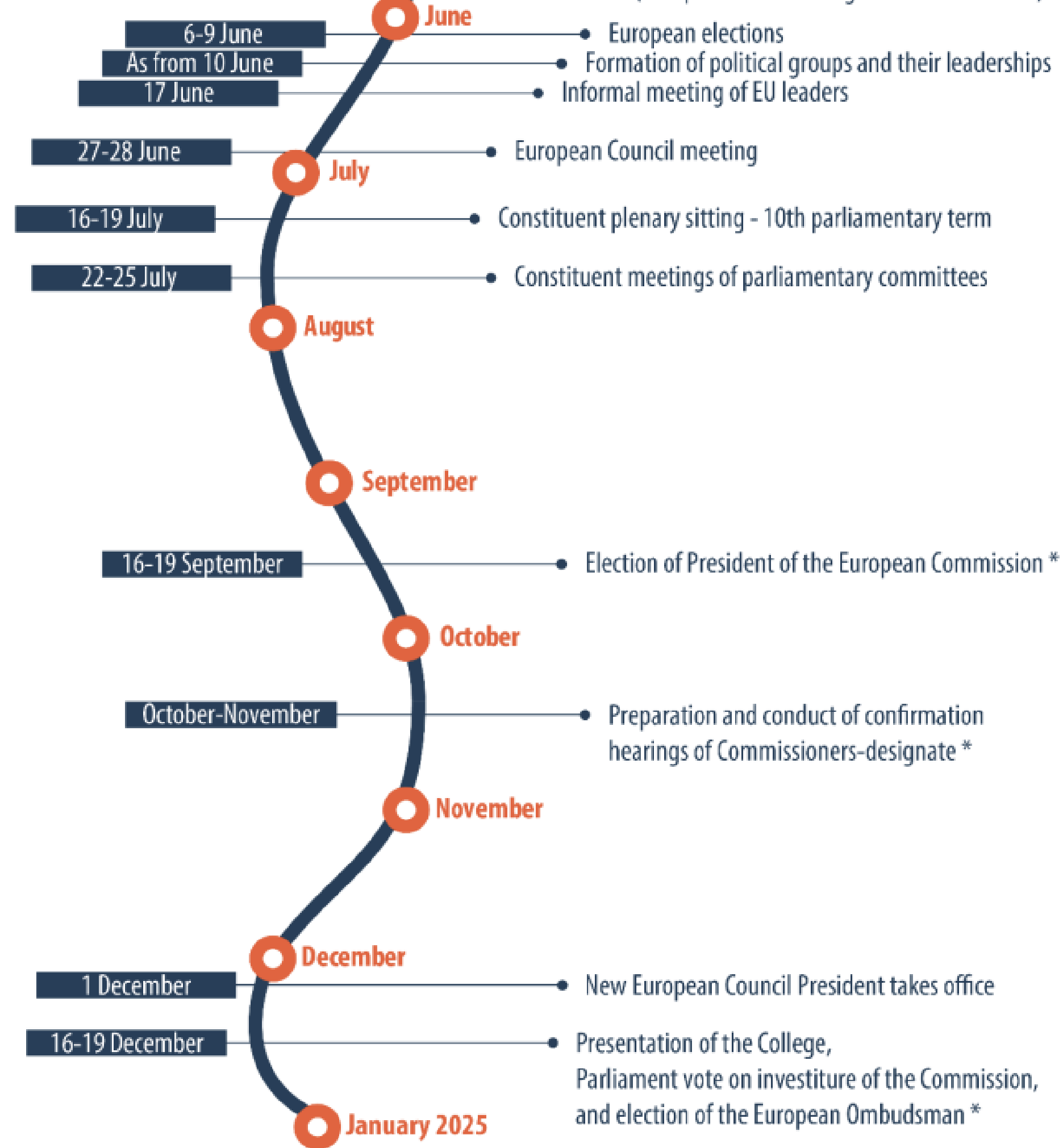
Ministers

Ambassadors

National attachés

The EU Elections:

New Parliament, New Council, New Commission: Timeline since June elections

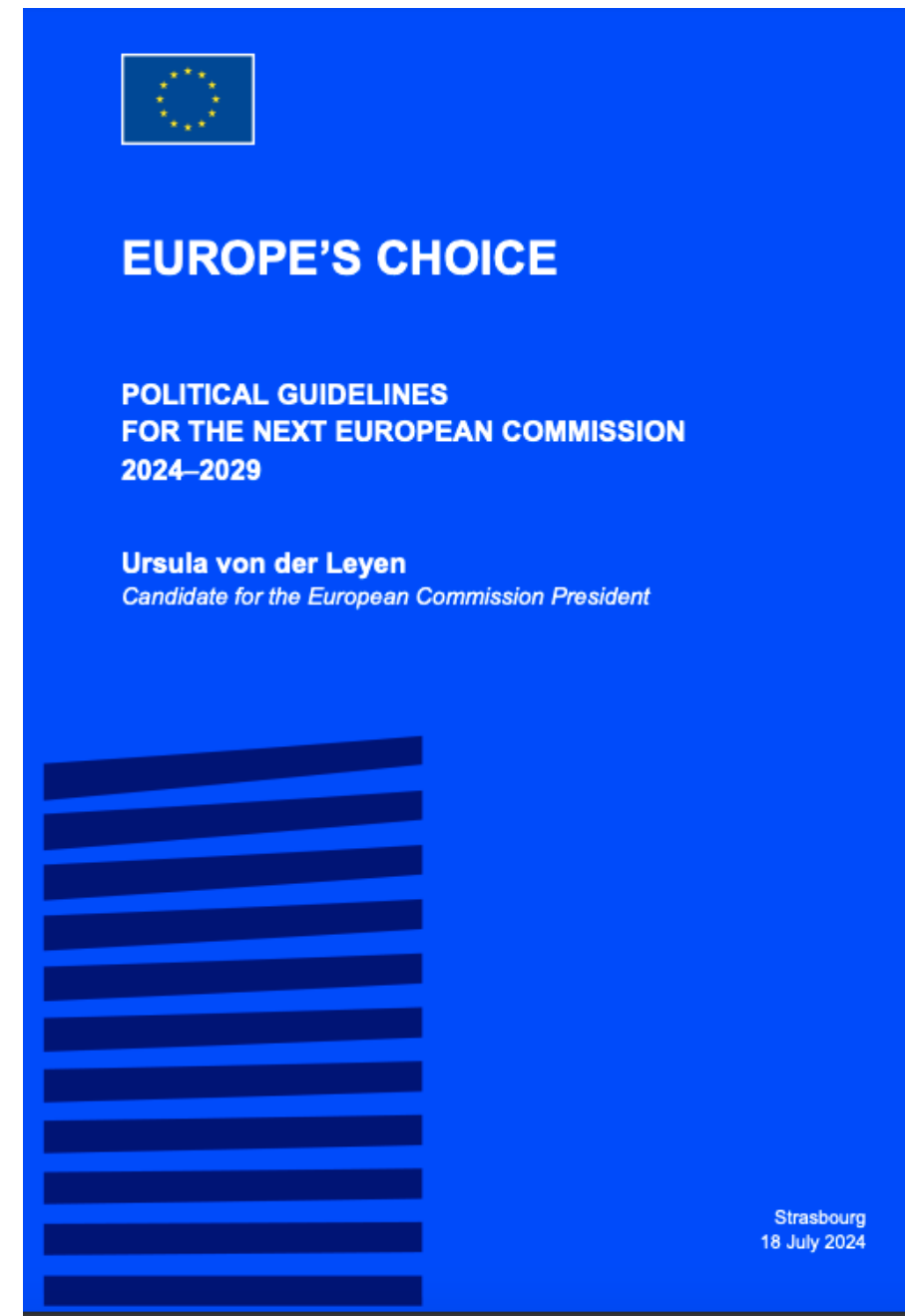


* These dates concerning the installation of the new European Commission represent the scenario currently considered most likely, but a different timetable could unfold, depending on the political situation after the elections. In particular, the timings will depend on decisions of the Conference of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

What's on the Agenda?



[European Council's strategic agenda 2024-2029](#)



[European Commission's political guidelines 2024-2029](#)



[European Commission's Mission letters to Commissioners-designate](#)

What's on the Agenda?



QUESTIONS?



Useful RESOURCES



[European Commission](#)



[Follow the Parliament Hearings](#)



[Voting Calculator of the Council of the EU](#)



[EU Legislative Observatory](#)



[EU Public Register of Documents](#)



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