



Public Affairs Council

EU Decision-Making: *Procedures and Engagement*

October 7, 2025

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www.pac.org/europe



Overview of Europe's International Blocks

European Commission, Council, Parliament

Mapping the main stakeholders

The Ordinary Legislative Procedure

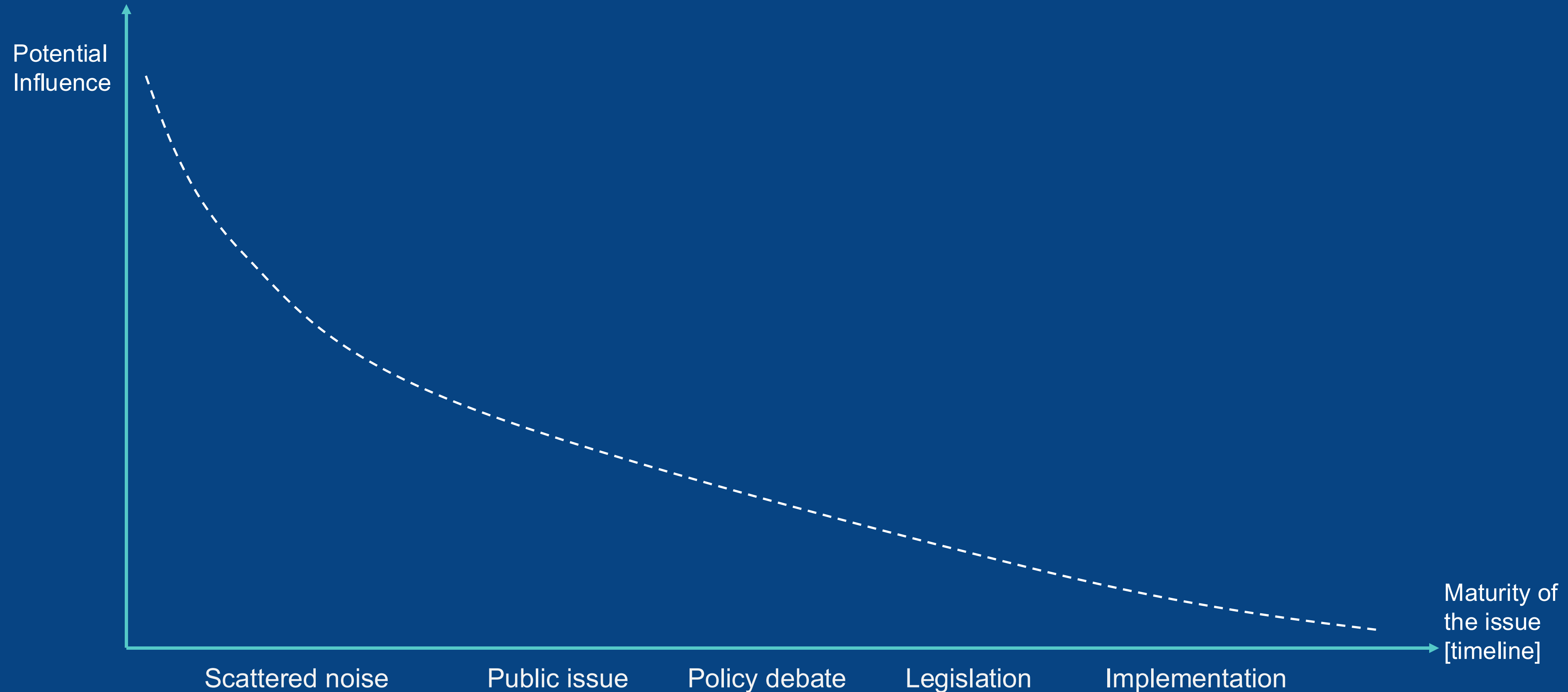
Tools and resources: how and where to find

essential info/intel

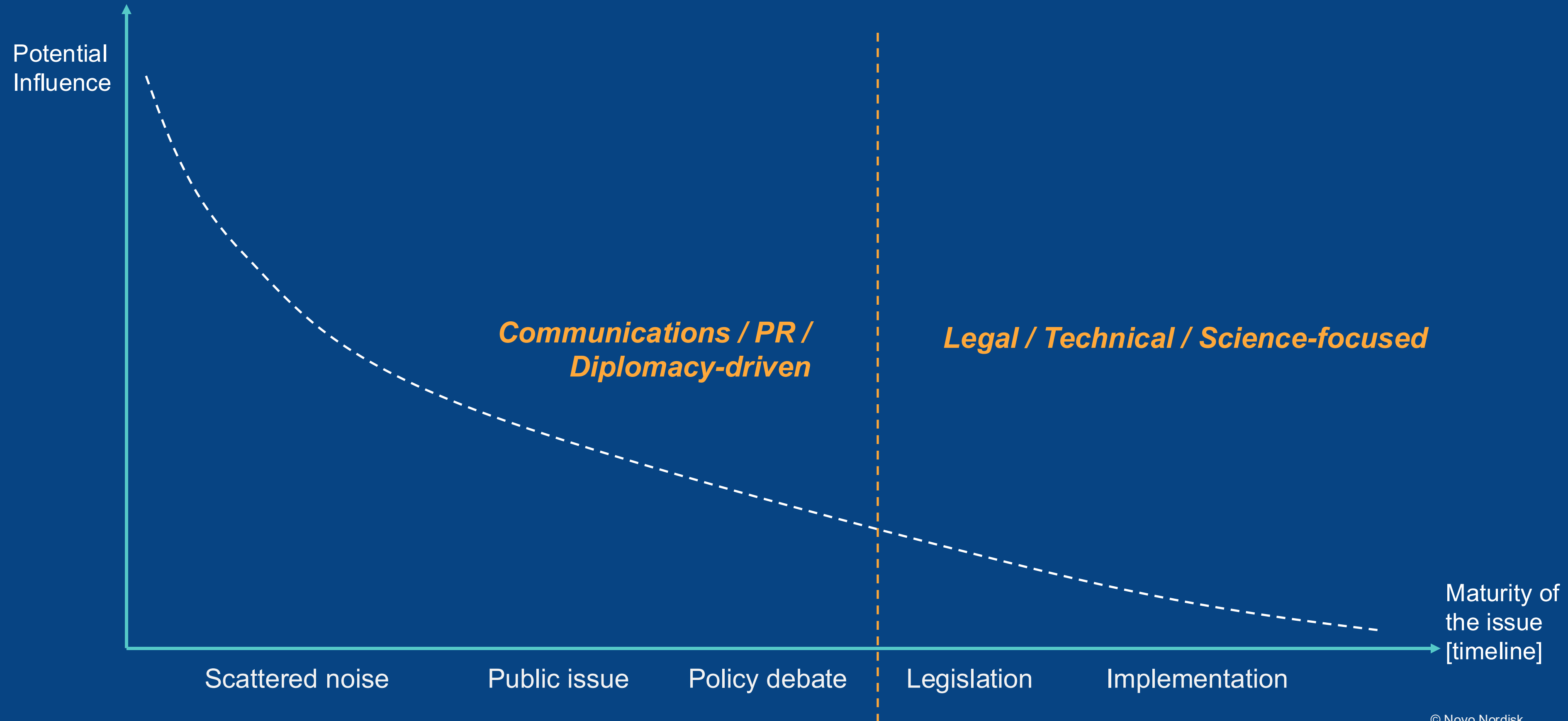
Q&A

TODAY'S AGENDA

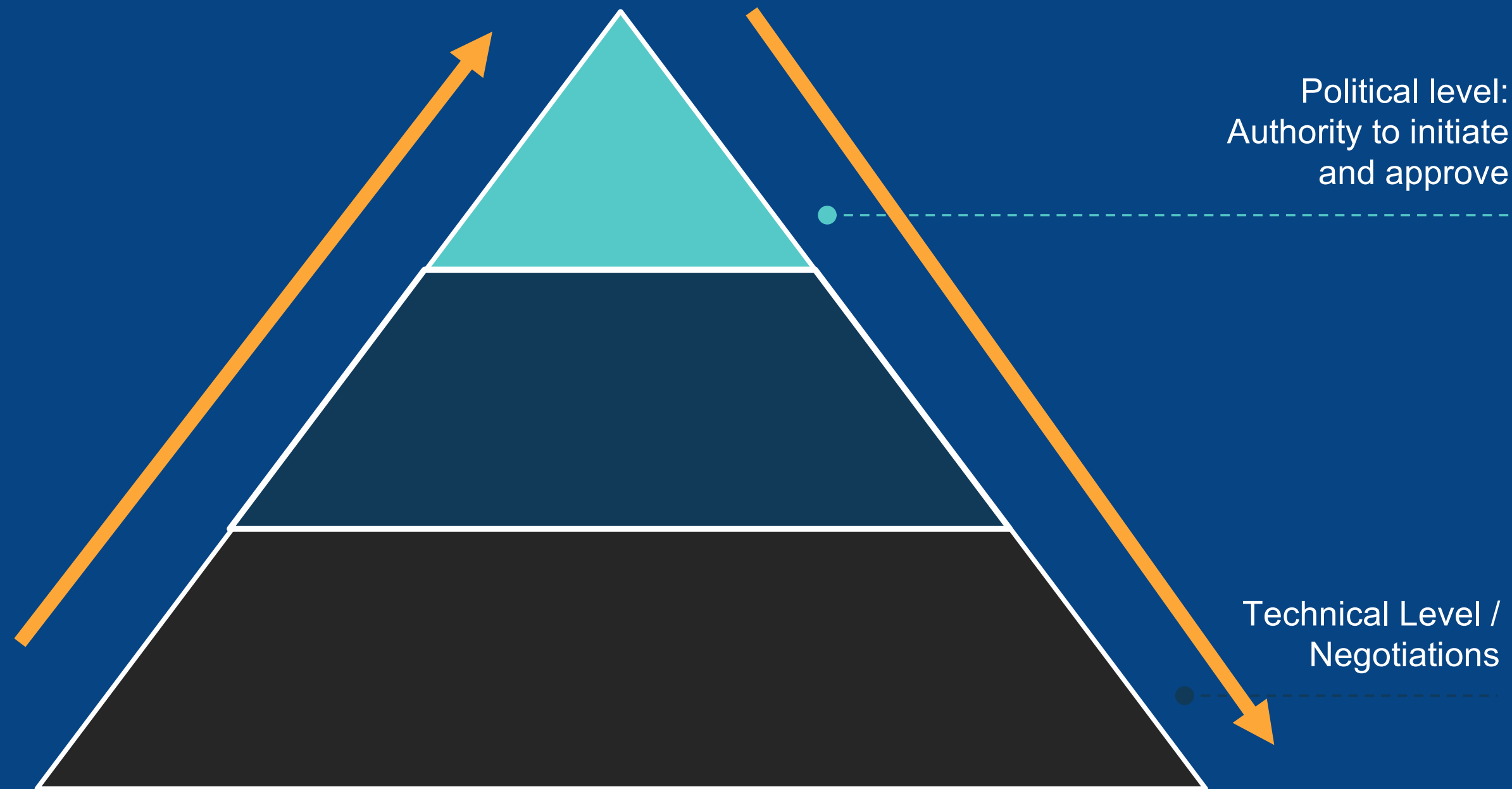
What Can You Achieve... And When



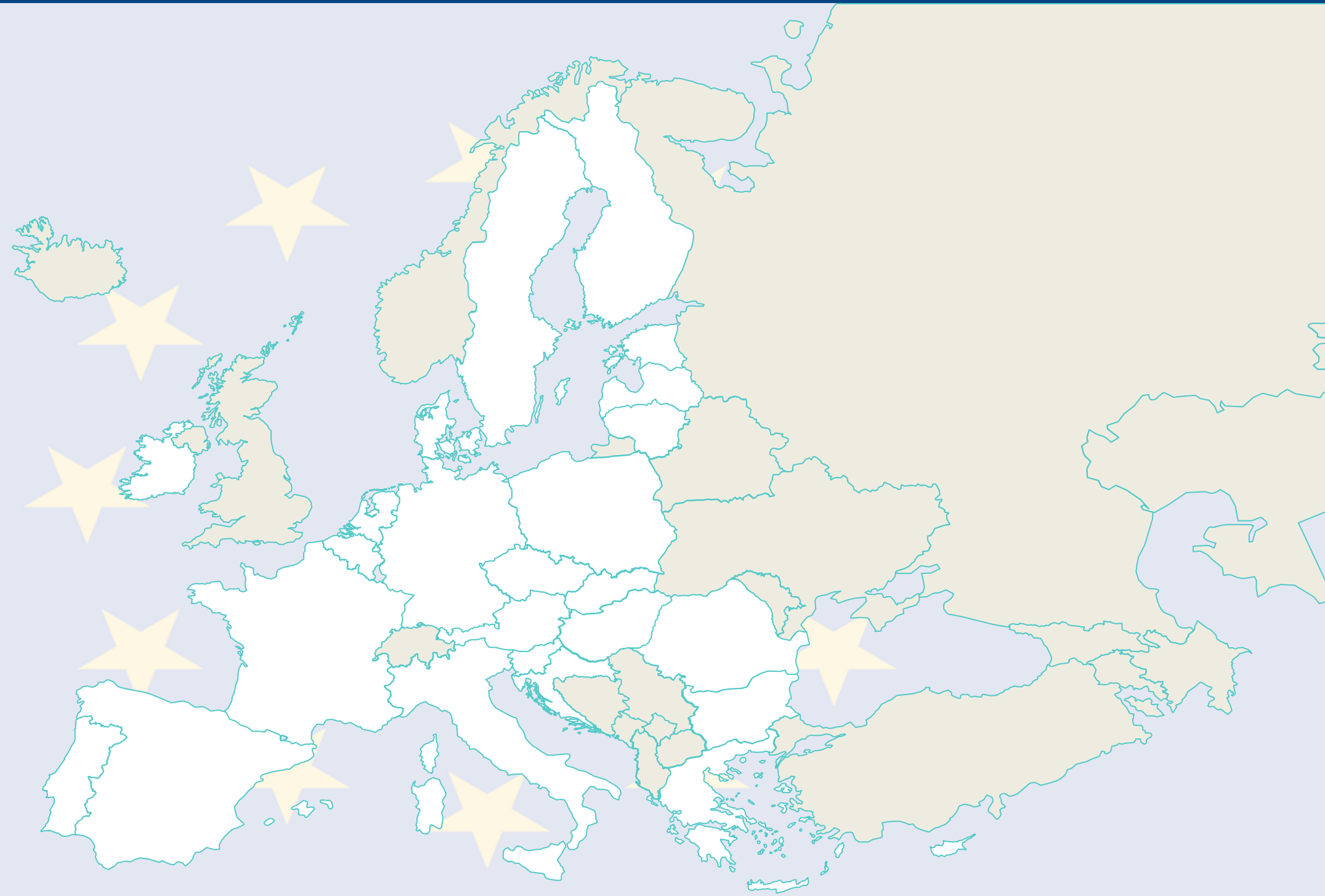
What Can You Achieve... And When



Policy-Making in the Institutions



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



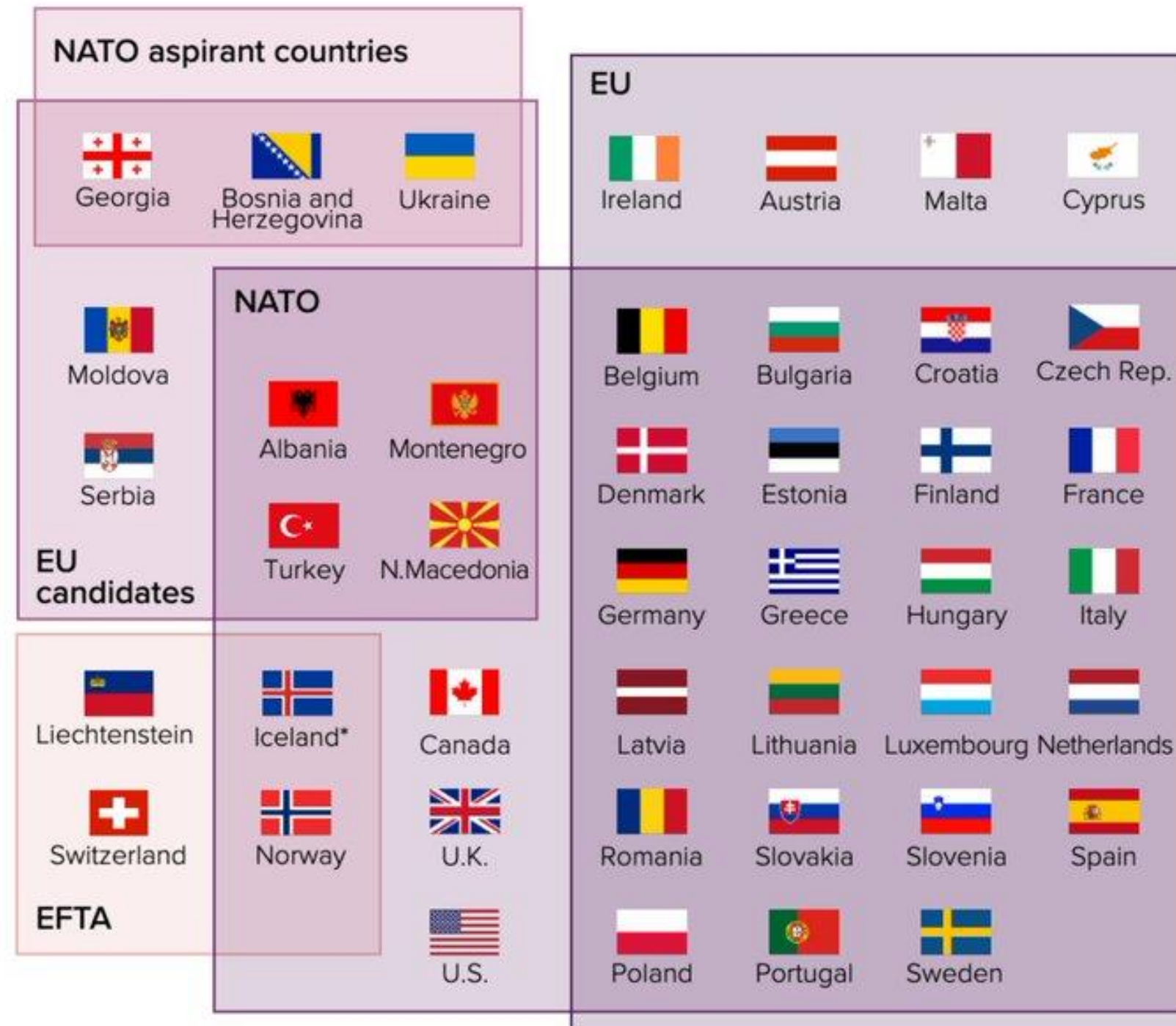
The European Union

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*Iceland has not officially withdrawn its EU application, but in 2015 its government requested that "Iceland should not be regarded as a candidate country for EU membership."

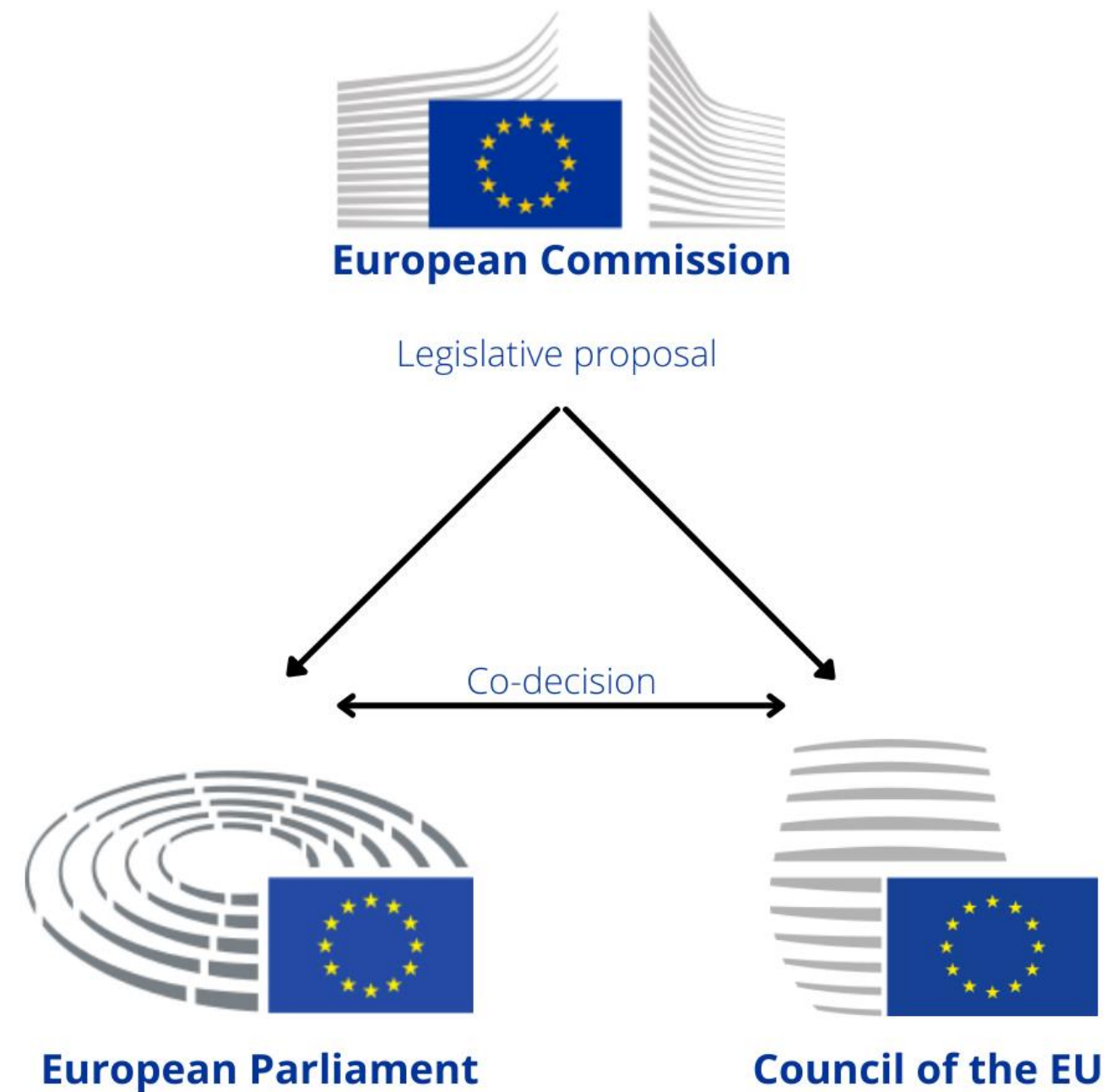
SOURCE: POLITICO research, European Union, NATO, EFTA

By Arnau Busquets Guàrdia and Lucia Mackenzie

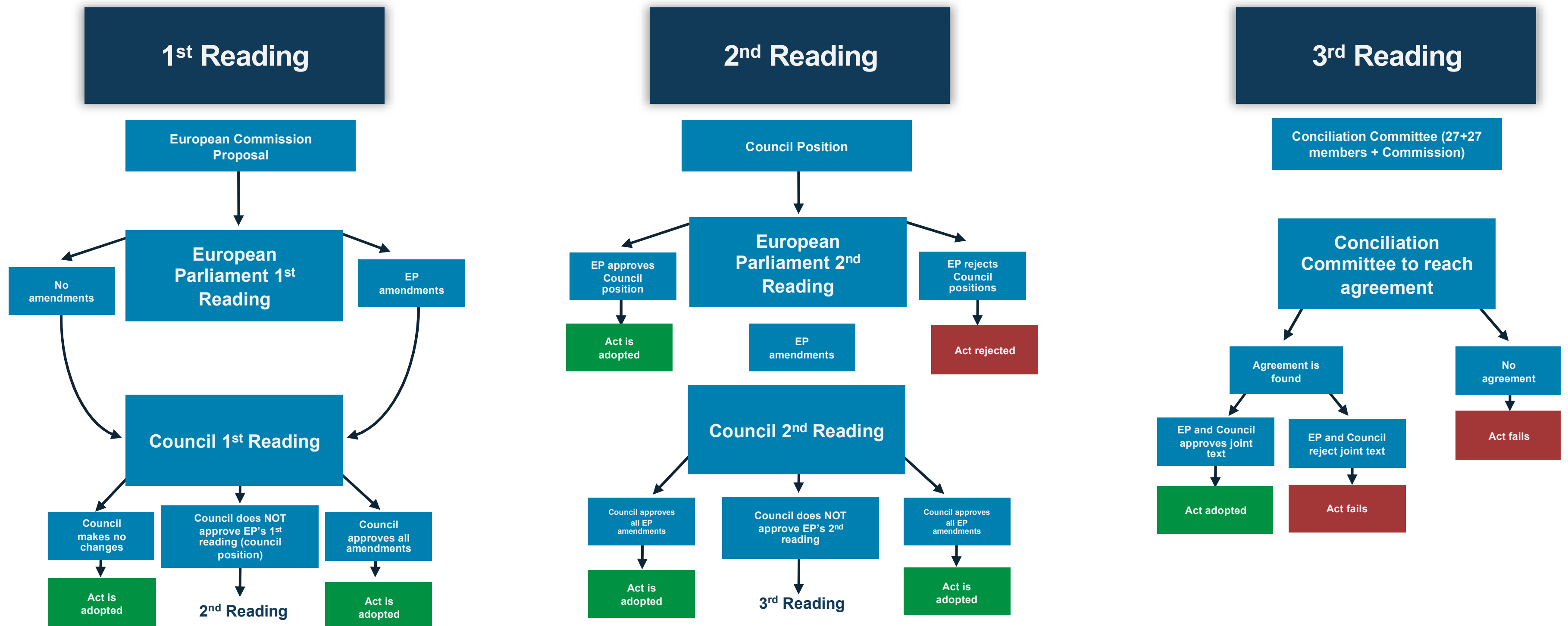
Source: POLITICO, last update March 2024

POLITICO

Decision-making in the EU Institutions



The Ordinary Legislative Procedure. Any Questions?



The Competences: What does the EU Regulate?



Exclusive EU ([Art. 3 TFEU](#))

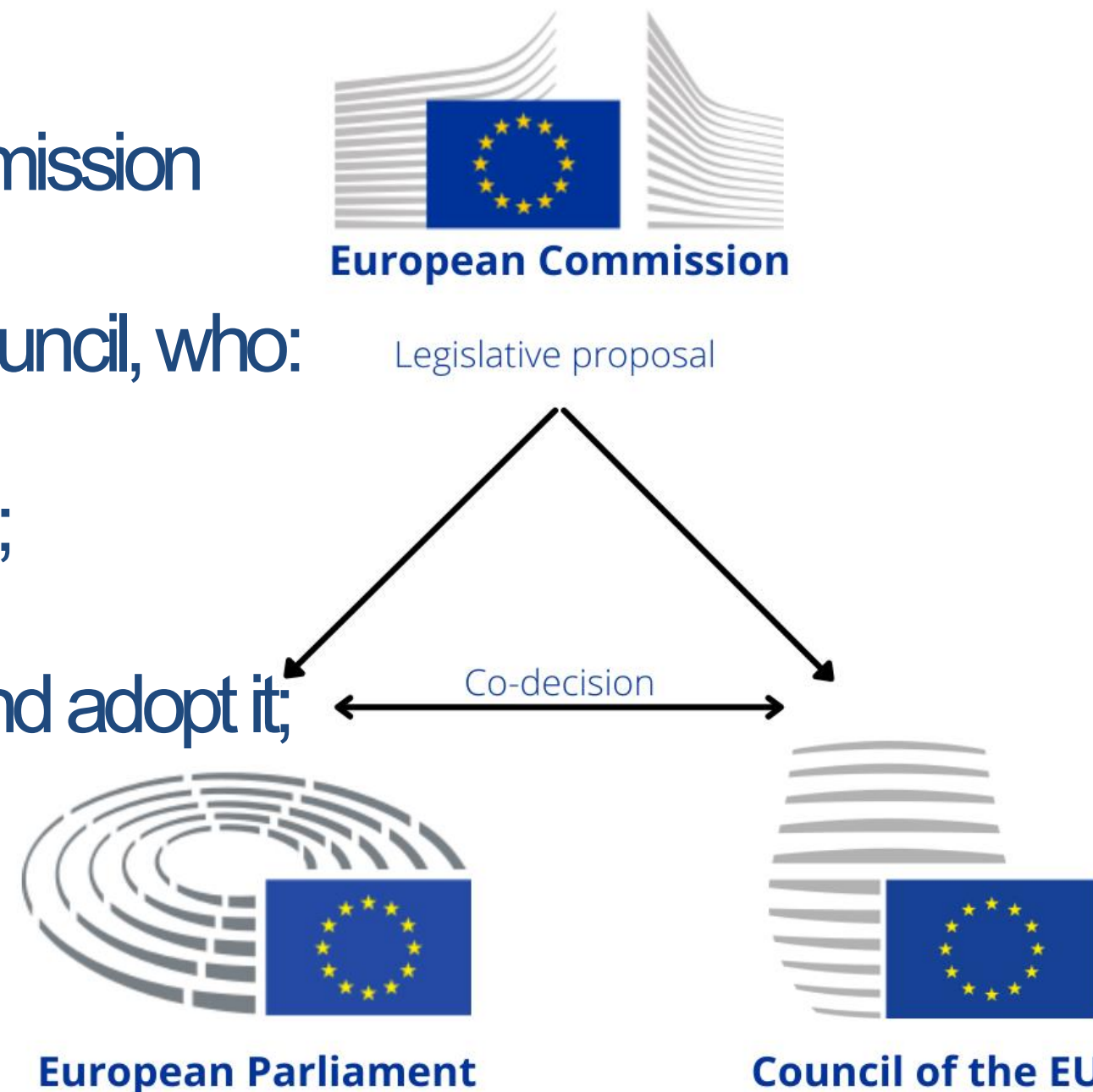
- Trade Policy: Management of trade, tariff and investment relationships, signing agreements w/ non-EU:
 - Trade in goods and services; commercial aspects of intellectual property, such as patents; public procurement; foreign direct investment
- Competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market
- Conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy

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 for a proposal on a given topic
- Shape the mandate of a new Commission

The European Commission

Executive Body of the EU

1 Commissioner per Member State

Initiates and Fiscalizes EU Legislation

President:

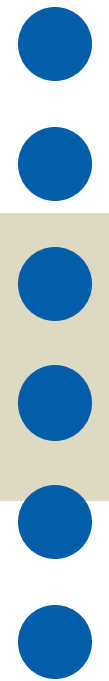
Elected by EU Parliament

Currently: **Ursula Von der Leyen** (DE)

As an organization: 33 DGs, 6 agencies

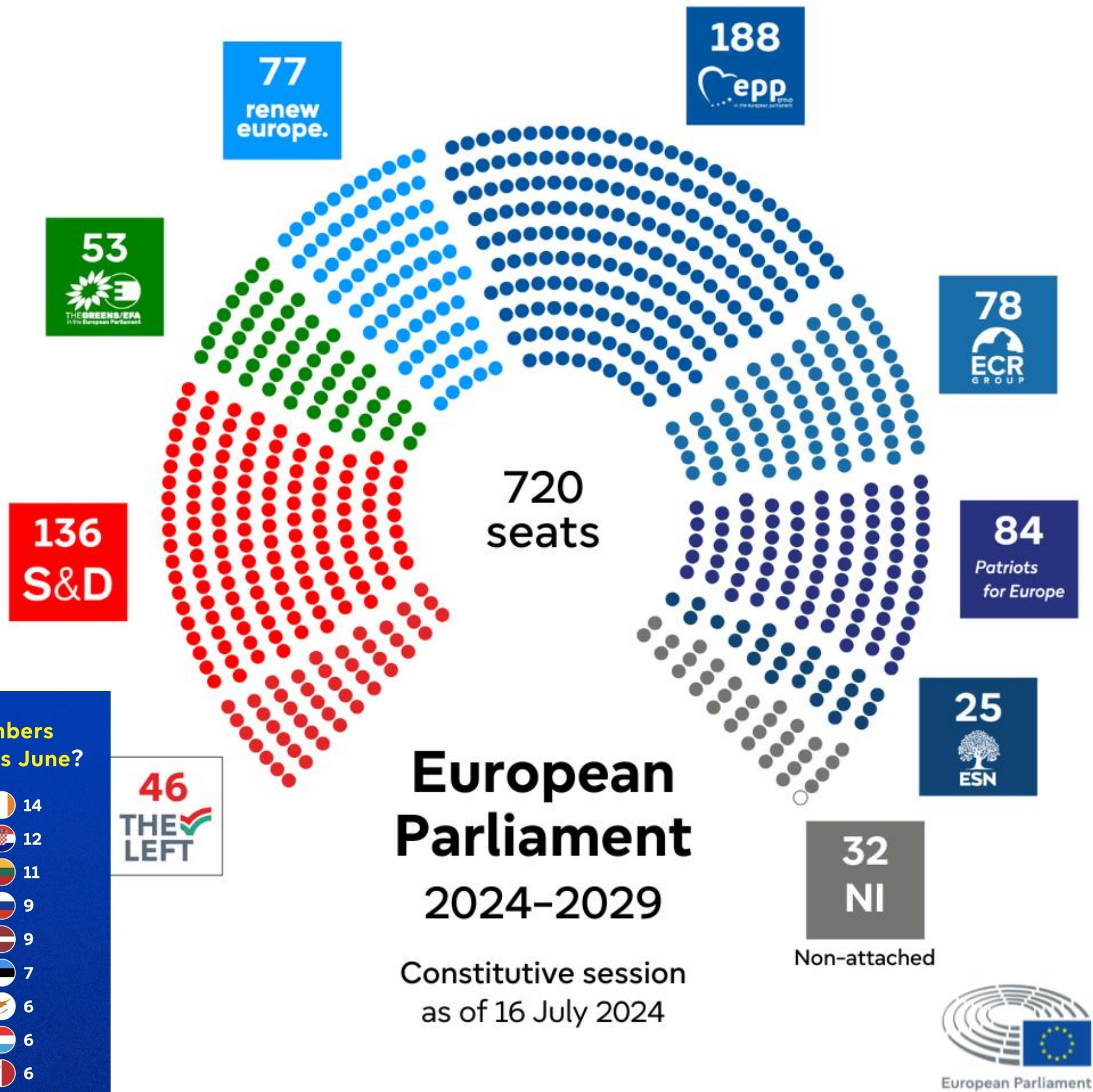
> 32.000 employees





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** (MT, EPP)



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 Denmark



European Council : Periodic Official Meeting of the
27 Heads of State + Parliament & Commission Presidents

President 2.5 Years renewable once.

Currently **António Costa** (PT)



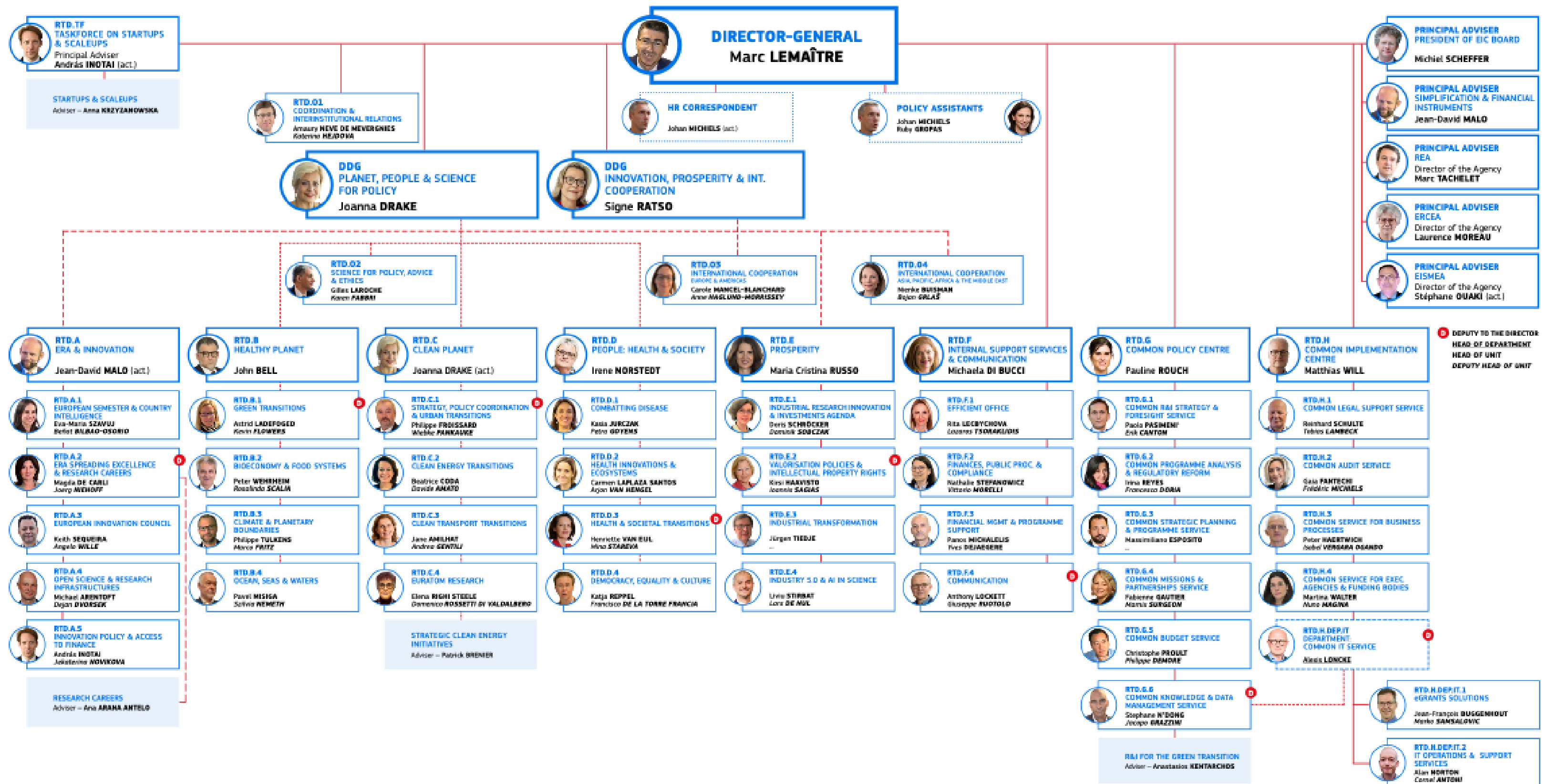
Questions?







16/06/2025



DDG PLANET, PEOPLE & SCIENCE FOR POLICY					DIRECTORATE A			DIRECTORATE B		DIRECTORATE C		DIRECTORATE D		DIRECTORATE E		DIRECTORATE H				
ERCEA.A.1 Alban KELLERBAUER	ERCEA.A.2 Martin PENNY	ERCEA.B Angela LIBERATORE	ERCEA.B.1 Raluca IONESCU	ERCEA.B.2 Joanna INFEDAQUE	EISMEA.E Stéphane QUAKI	EISHEA.E.1 Timo HALLANTTE Gergorz AMBRZEWICZ	EISHEA.E.3 Dennis PERRIN Andrei LUTU	REA.B Paul WEBB	CINEA.C Matthias LANGEMEYER	CINEA.C.1 Ivan KONAKTCHIEV	HADEA.A.3 Stephane HOGAN	HADEA.B.3 Natalia LAI	CINEA.A.1 Philippe TROPPMANN	CINEA.A.2 Jean-Christophe GAYRAUD	CINEA.A.3 Celine VANDERBOM- TIGNERS	EISHEA.C Marisa ATENZA MORALES	EISMEA.C.1 Alice LANGEROMA	EISHEA.C.2 Kyriakos GEORGIOPOULOS		
ERCEA.B.3 Philippe CUPERS	ERCEA.B.4 —	ERCEA.B.5 Lina PAULA	ERCEA.C Mila BAS-SANCHEZ	ERCEA.C.1 Niki ATZOULATOU	EISMEA.I.1 —	REA.C Minna WILKIN	REA.C.3 Alex PIALA	REA.B.3 Arnoldas MILUNAS Aster BERCEK	CINEA.C.2 Peter PETROV	CINEA.C.3 Pablo PEREZ-ILLAM	REA.C.1 Kristian VAN GOY Bart VAN CAEMBEER	REA.B.1 Sebastiano FUMERO Julie ANSOP ARNALDO	ERCEA.C.4 Nikola CAR	ERCEA.D Pascale CIO	ERCEA.D.1 Philippe VUIGEN	ERCEA.D.2 Carole MICHAELER	HADEA.C.1 Alexandros LITROU Katerina STROJANAK	REA.A.5 Michel VANDEVELT Thierry BÉREYROT		

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 Programme



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)



2021 Commission work programme - annexes
English

Download

Available languages (22)



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

Download

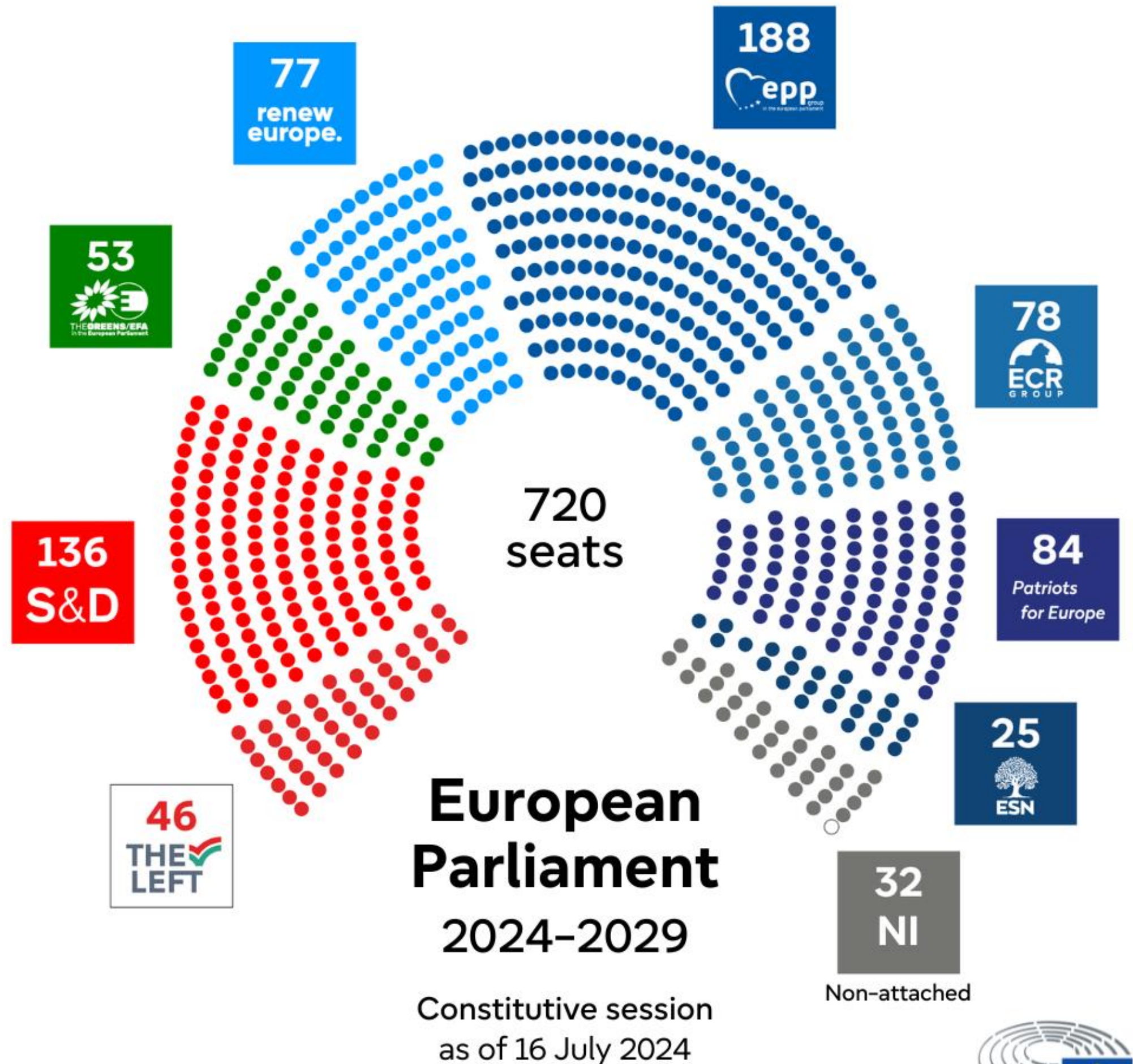
Available languages (22)



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)



European Parliament

WHO's WHO

COMMITTEE CHAIRS



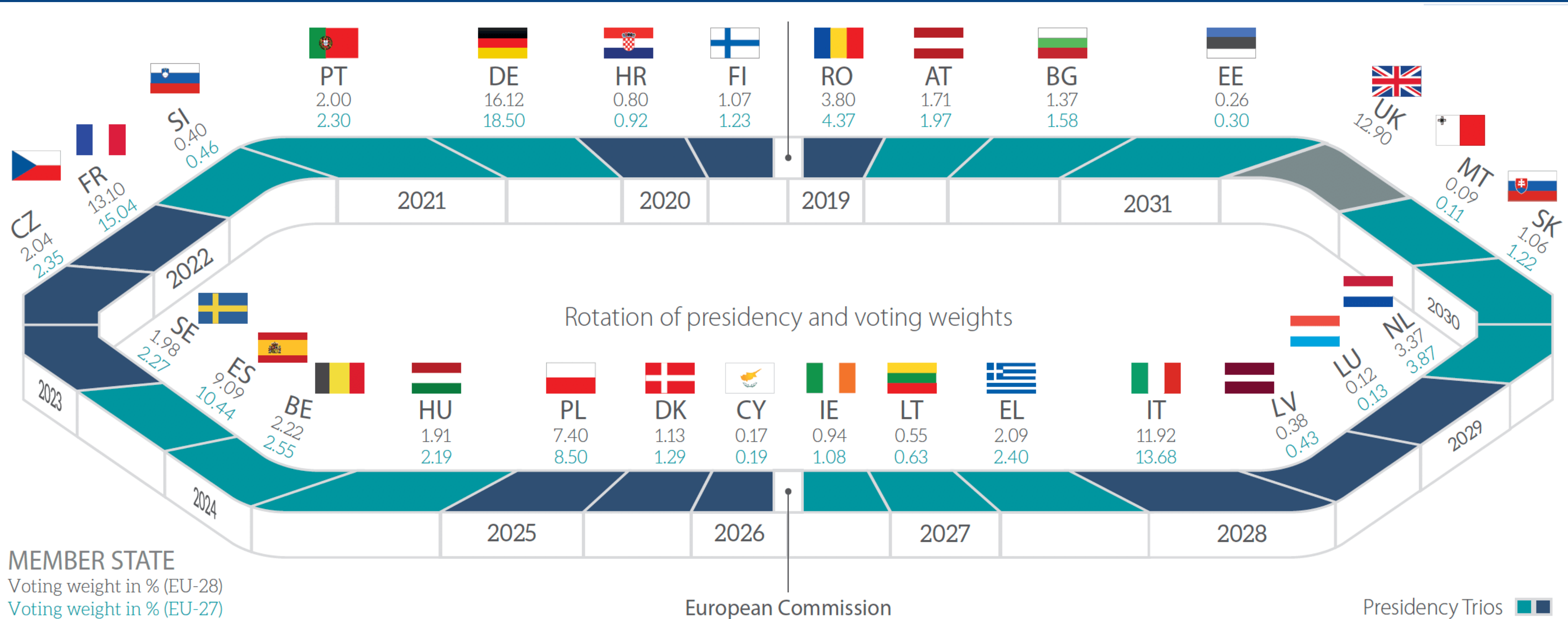
Committees

AFET  FOREIGN AFFAIRS ELMAR BROK (EPP)	IMCO  INTERNAL MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION VICKY FORD (ECR)	TRAN  TRANSPORT AND TOURISM MICHAEL CRAMER (GREENS/EFA)	REGI  REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ISKRA MIHAYLOVA (ALDE)	DEVE  DEVELOPMENT LINDA McAVAN (S&D)
AGRI  AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT CZESŁAW ADAM SIEKIERSKI (EPP)	INTA  INTERNATIONAL TRADE BERND LANGE (S&D)	PECH  FISHERIES ALAIN CADEC (EPP)	BUDG  BUDGET JEAN ARTHUIS (ALDE)	CULT  CULTURE AND EDUCATION SILVIA COSTA (S&D)
CONT  BUDGETARY CONTROL INGEBORG GRÄßLE (EPP)	JURI  LEGAL AFFAIRS PAVEL SVOBODA (EPP)	ECON  ECONOMIC AND MONETARY AFFAIRS ROBERTO GUALTIERI (S&D)	LIBE  CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE, AND HOME AFFAIRS CLAUDE MORAES (S&D)	EMPL  EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS THOMAS HÄNDEL (GUE/NGL)
AFCO  CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS DANUTA HÜBNER (EPP)	ENVI  ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY GIOVANNI LA VIA (EPP)	FEMM  WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY IRATXE GARCÍA PÉREZ (S&D)	ITRE  INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND ENERGY JERZY BUZEK (EPP)	PETI  PETITIONS CECILIA WIKSTRÖM (ALDE)

Subcommittees

DROI  HUMAN RIGHTS ELENA VALENCIANO (S&D)	SEDE  SECURITY AND DEFENCE ANNA FOTYGA (ECR)
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The Council of the European Union





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:

[Home](#) > [The Council of the EU](#) > [Voting system](#)

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
☒ All countries participating ☐ Only Eurozone countries participating		
☒ Austria 1.98% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Belgium 2.56% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Bulgaria 1.56% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Croatia 0.91% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Cyprus 0.20% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Czech Republic 2.35% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Denmark 1.30% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Estonia 0.30% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	
☒ Finland 1.33% of population	☒ ☐ ☐	

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

Main EU Stakeholders

● Mind the **Transparency Rules!**

● Transparency Register

● GDPR and Privacy

● Code of conduct and appropriate behavior

● Access to Documents

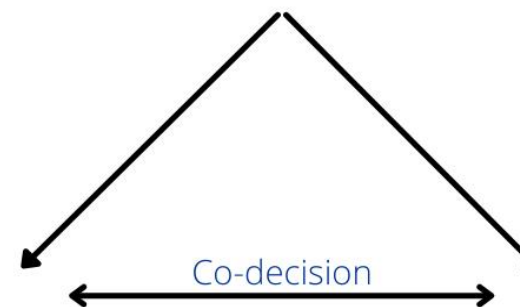
● **MEPs leading Committees/Groups**

● Rapporteurs

● *APAs – Policy Assistants*



Legislative proposal



European Parliament



Council of the EU

Commissioners

Heads of Unit/ Sector /Directors

Policy Officers

Ministers

Ambassadors

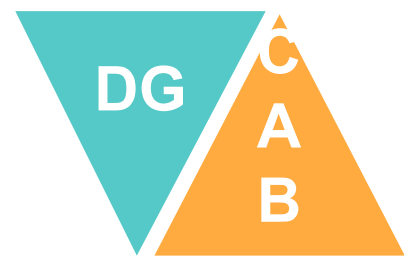
National attachés

Questions?

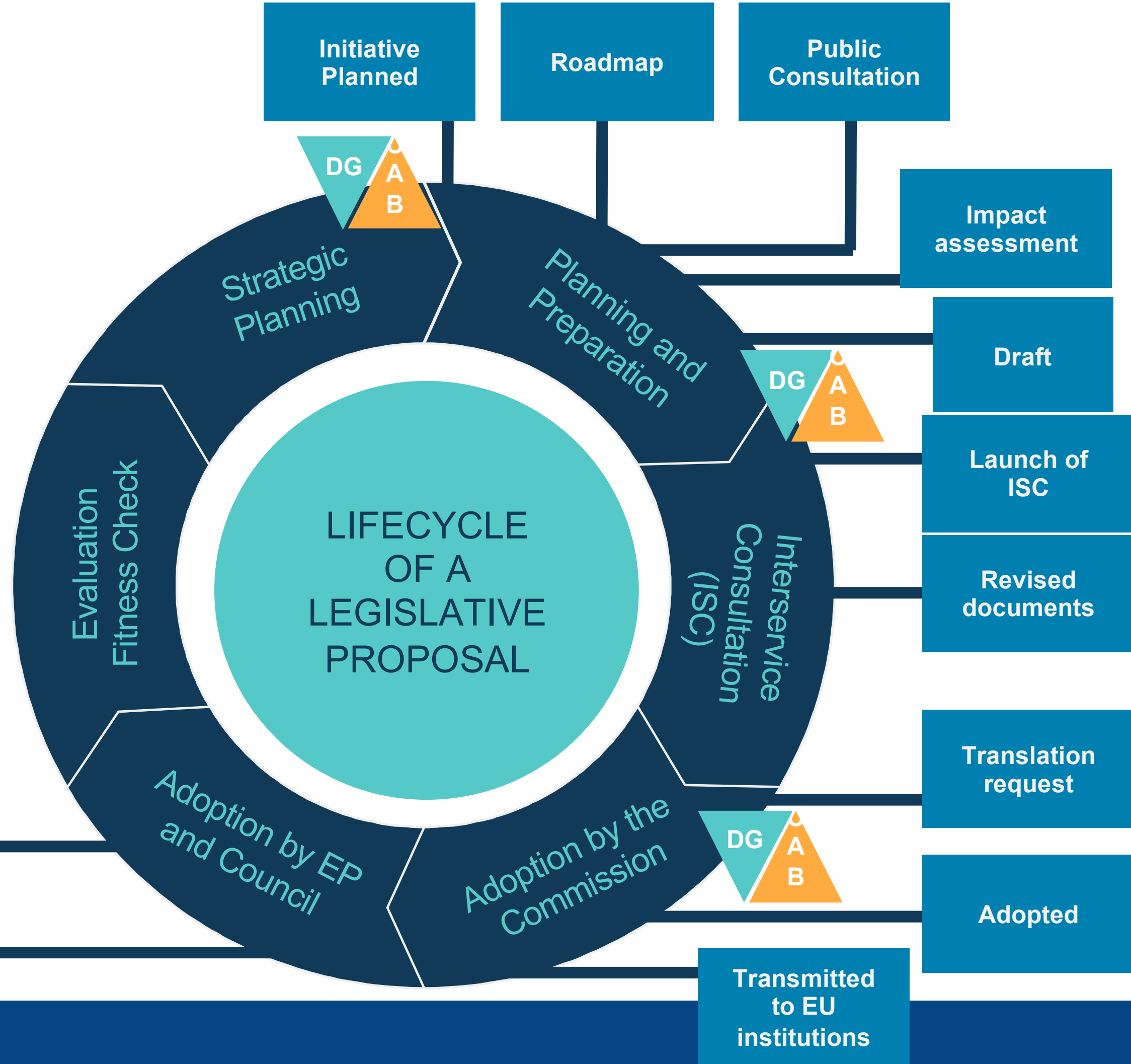
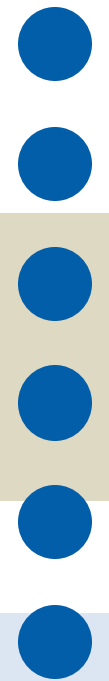


Hierarchy of EU Law

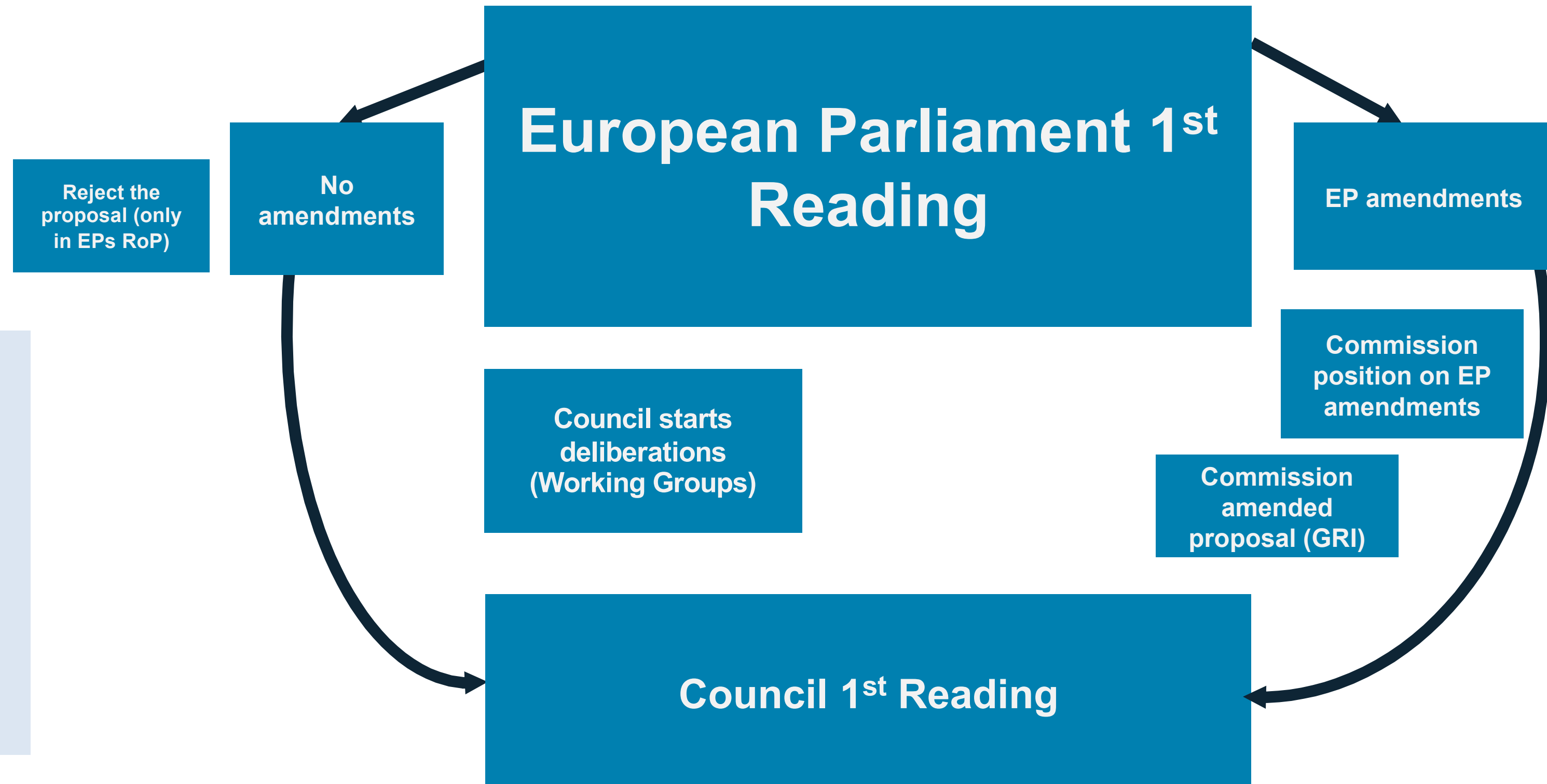
- 
- . Soft law [recommendations, guidelines]
 - . Other EU law [inter-institutional agreements, rules of procedure]
 - . Implementing + Delegated Acts [Regulation, Directive, Decision]
 - . Legislation [Regulation, Directive, Decision]
 - . Treaties [TEU, TFEU, as amended by ToL]



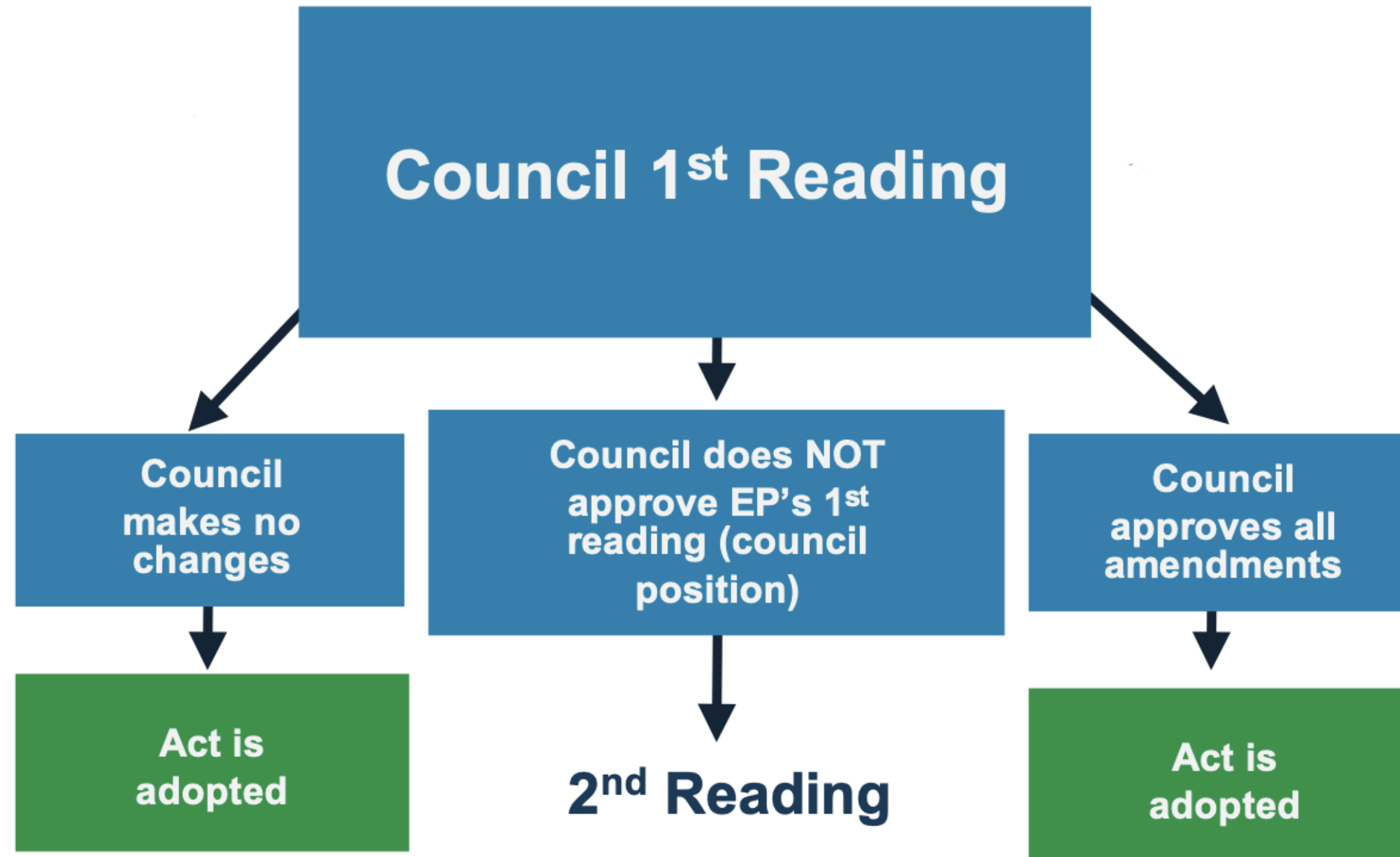
Prior agreement by the
responsible Director-General
& Cabinet(s)



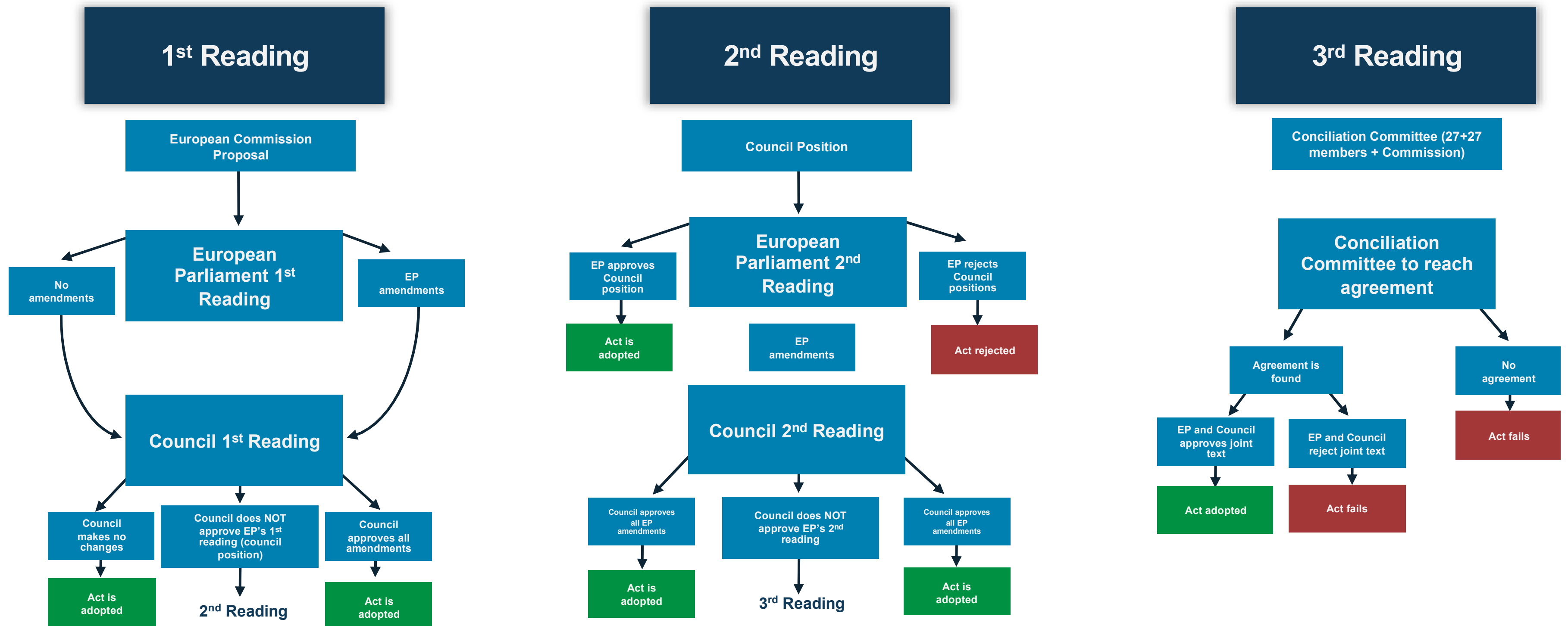
The Ordinary Legislative Procedure



The Ordinary Legislative Procedure



The Ordinary Legislative Procedure



Questions?





TODAY'S RESOURCES

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

[EU Legislative Observatory](#)

[European Agencies and other EU bodies](#)

[European Register of delegated & implementing acts](#)

[EU Public Register of Documents](#)

[Register of European Commission Documents](#)

[EU Transparency Page](#)

[EU Who is Who](#)

www.pac.org/europe

Current Highlights on EU Regulatory Agenda

Green Transition & Sustainability

- Fit for 55 package (climate neutrality by 2050)
- Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)
- Nature Restoration Law and biodiversity targets

Digital Package

- Simplification
- Enforcement of the Digital Services Act (DSA) and Digital Markets Act (DMA)
- Ongoing discussions around the AI Act and data governance
- Cybersecurity and digital resilience initiatives

3. Economic & Industrial Strategy

- Strategic autonomy and competitiveness in key sectors (e.g. semiconductors, critical raw materials)
- Reform of economic governance framework
- Capital Markets Union and Banking Union developments

Enlargement & Geopolitical Strategy

- EU enlargement discussions (Ukraine, Moldova, Western Balkans)
- Strategic partnerships and trade agreements
- Defence and security cooperation, including EU-NATO alignment

LET'S CONNECT!

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