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Working with Europe and the EU ***– A New Context***

Practitioner Training for UK Civil Servants

organised by the European Institute of Public Administration
(EIPA), Maastricht on behalf of
the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

FCDO, 28-30 January 2025



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Working with Europe and the EU – A New Context


Day 1

2. Who does what in the EU policy cycle?


Debriefing of group exercise



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Strategic Priorities

European Council

Political priorities
Strategic Agenda 2019-2024 /
2024-2029

Commission Priorities

Long-term budget
Multiannual Financial Framework
2021-2027
 (Commission Proposal
 Council with consent of EP)

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European Council meeting on 27-28 June 2024: **Strategic Agenda**

▪ A free and democratic Europe

Upholding European values within the Union; Living up to our values at global level

▪ A strong and secure Europe

Ensuring coherent and influential external action; Strengthening our security and defence and protecting our citizens; Preparing for a bigger and stronger Union; Pursuing a comprehensive approach to migration and border management

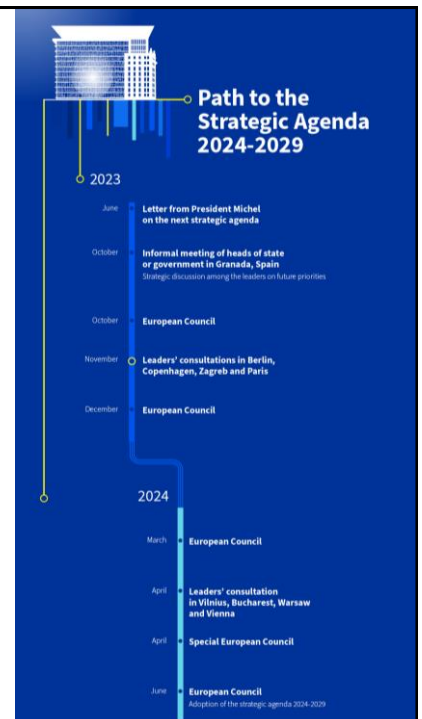
▪ A prosperous and competitive Europe

Bolstering our competitiveness; Making a success of the green and digital transitions; Promoting an innovation- and business-friendly environment; Advancing together



↓ Roadmap for internal EU reform ↓
 Marks the beginning of the EU institutional cycle

Available: [2024_557_new-strategic-agenda.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)



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European Council meeting on 27-28 June 2024: next institutional cycle

High-Level Appointments:

Objective: Reach political agreement on key EU positions:

- Nomination of European Commission President
- Nomination of HR/VP
- Election of European Council President

Process of electing EuCo president:

- According to Article 238(3)b TFEU, the candidate would need the support of at least 72 % of the Member States, representing 65 % of the EU population
- Consensus-based decisions

Appointments:



- Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission President)
- António Costa (European Council President)
- Kaja Kallas (HR/VP)



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Commission programming



EUROPE'S CHOICE

POLITICAL GUIDELINES
FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION
2024-2029

Ursula von der Leyen
Candidate for the European Commission President

1. A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness
2. A new era for European Defence and Security
3. Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model
4. Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature
5. Protecting our democracy, upholding our Values
6. A global Europe: Leveraging our power and partnerships
7. Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

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European Commission (2024-2029)



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College of Commissioners - European Commission

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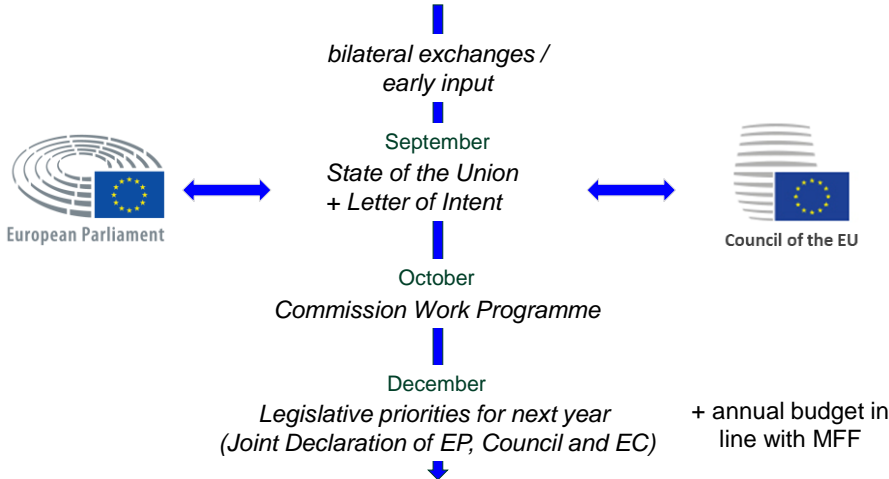
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Annual interinstitutional programming

Political Guidelines 2024-2029 (= Commission priorities)



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19 October 2022

Annex I: New initiatives¹

Initiative directly or indirectly following up on a proposal of the Conference on the Future of Europe

No.	Policy objective	Initiatives
A European Green Deal		
1.	Electricity market	Revision of EU's internal electricity market rules (legislative, incl. impact assesment, Article 194 TFEU, Q1 2023)
2.	Renewable hydrogen	EU Hydrogen Bank (legislative or non-legislative, Q3 2023)
3.	Waste reduction	Revision of food waste and textiles aspects of the EU waste framework Directive (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 191 and 192 TFEU, Q2 2023)
4.	New genomic techniques	Legislation for plants produced by certain new genomic techniques (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q2 2023, responds to Article 241 TFEU Council decision (EU) 2019/1904 "requesting the Commission to submit a study regarding the status of novel genomic techniques under Union law, and a proposal, if appropriate in view of the outcomes of the study")
5.	Animal welfare	Animal welfare – revision of EU legislation (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Articles 43 and 114 TFEU, Q3 2023)
6.	Sustainable food systems	Legislative framework for sustainable food systems (legislative, incl. impact assessment, Q3 2023)

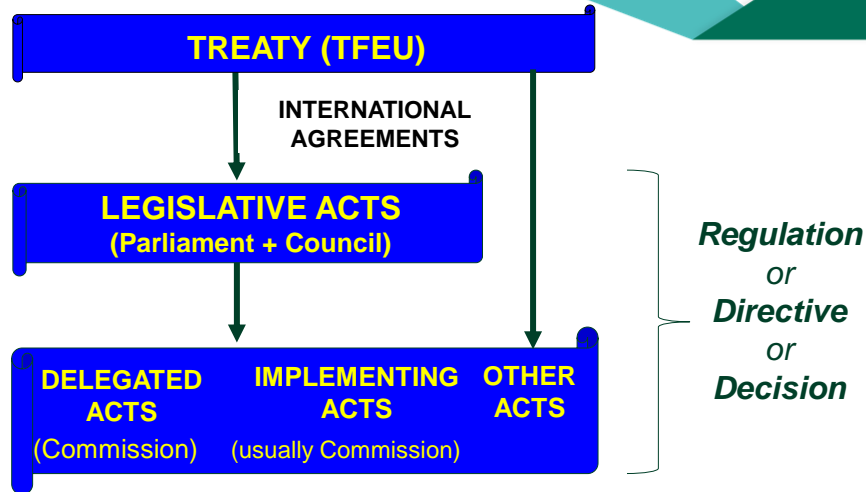


2024 Commission Work Programme - key figures

17 October 2023

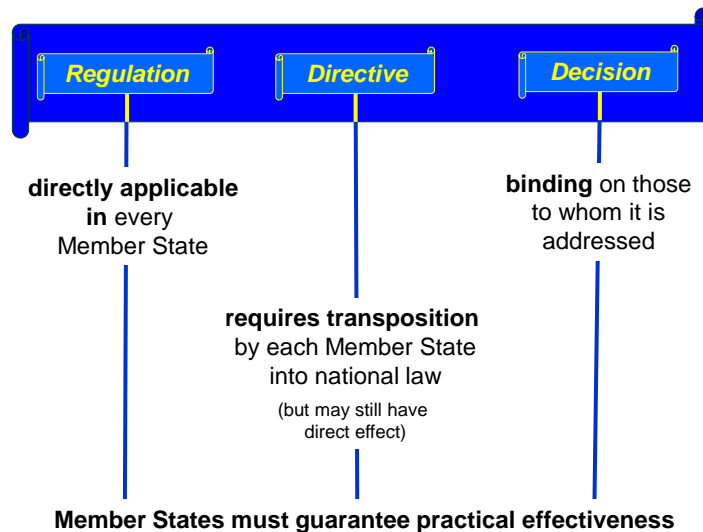


EU legally binding acts - hierarchy



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EU legally binding acts – instruments



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‘Legislative acts’ and ‘legislative procedures’

Basic rules to achieve treaty objectives

- based directly on treaty article(s)
- almost always requires a Commission proposal
- national parliaments check subsidiarity
- Council meets in public to deliberate and vote
- three main procedures with different powers for the EP

NB: We will conclude with non-legislative acts (delegated and implementing acts)



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Legislative procedures

- **‘Ordinary Legislative Procedure’** - **COD**
 - EP and Council have to agree
 - Council acts by qualified majority

Acts of the European Parliament and of the Council
- **consultation (= a ‘special legislative procedure’)** - **CNS**
 - EP gives a non-binding opinion to the Council
- **consent (= a ‘special legislative procedure’)** - **APP**
 - EP has to give its agreement to the Council

Council Acts (mainly by unanimity)



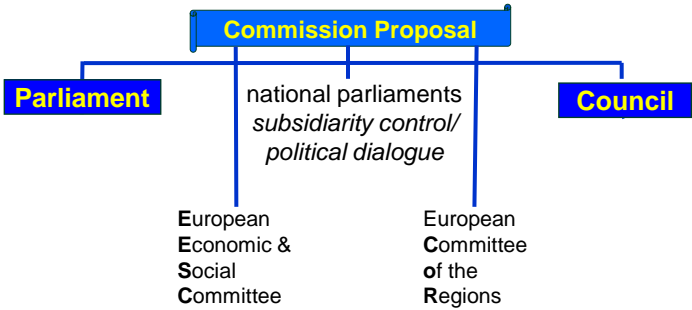
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The ordinary legislative procedure

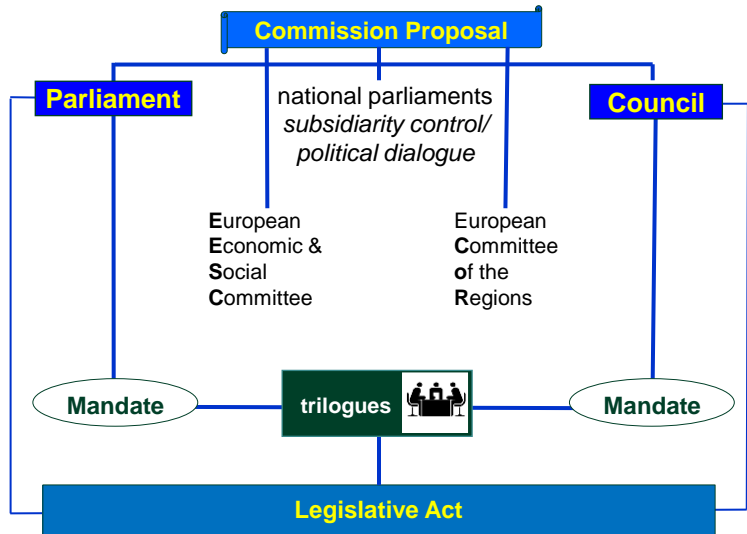
- Council acts by qualified majority
- Parliament and Council must agree

	2014-2019 /	2019-24
	Number	Av. length
(months)		
– first reading	356 / 357 (86%)	18 /24
– early (EP) second reading	41 / 58 (14%)	39 /39
– (Council) second reading	4	40
– conciliation and third reading	0	
Total OLP acts adopted	401 / 415	

Ordinary legislative procedure: first readings (1)

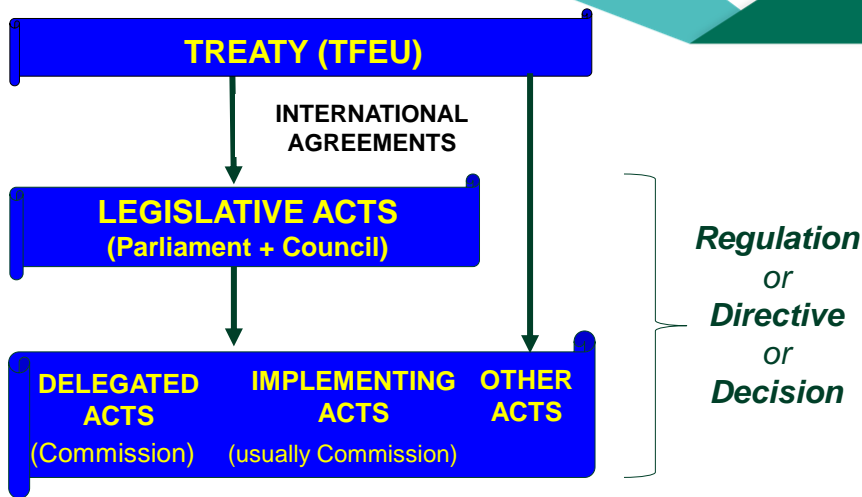


Ordinary legislative procedure: first readings (2)



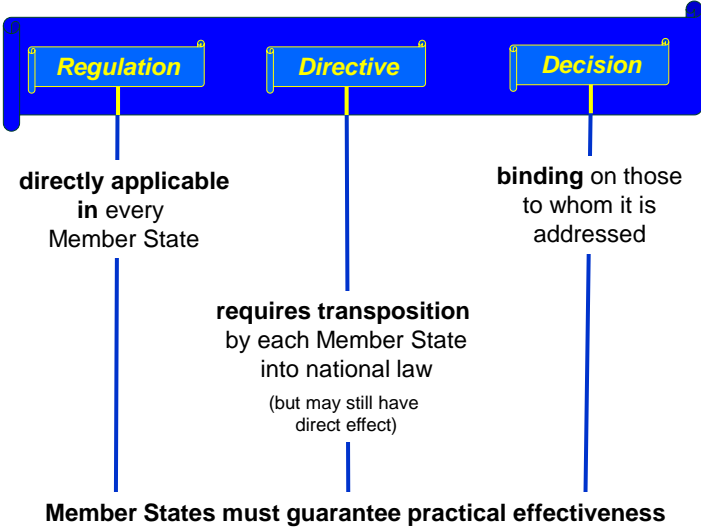
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EU legally binding acts - hierarchy

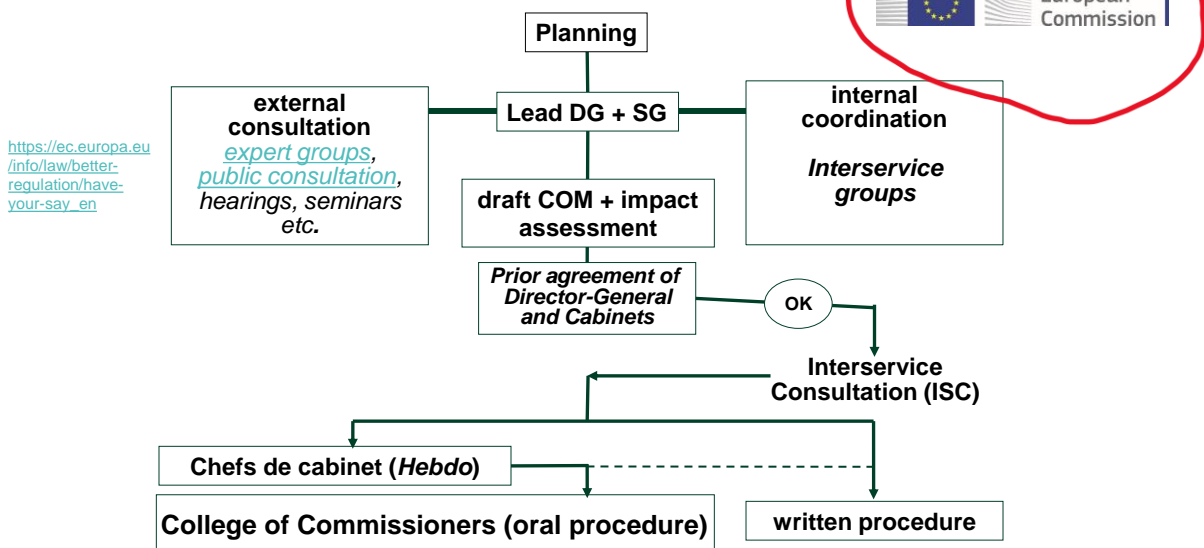


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EU legally binding acts – instruments



Elaboration of individual proposals: overview



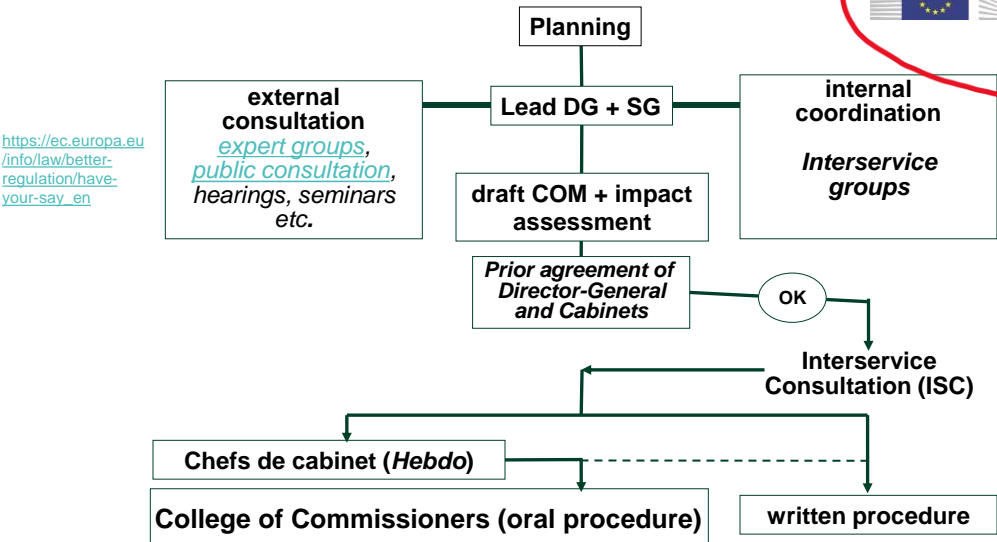
https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say_en



European Commission (2024-2029)



Elaboration of individual proposals: overview



National parliaments and EU legislative procedures

‘Draft legislative acts’ must be sent to national parliaments

8 weeks for ‘**reasoned opinions**’ on **subsidiarity** (Lisbon Protocol)
Member States have 2 votes each (may be 1 per chamber)

if 1/3 of votes are against, the draft must be reviewed
(1/4 for Police Cooperation / Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters)



3 cases so far

if a simple majority is opposed, draft must be reviewed;
if Commission maintains proposal, Council or Parliament may halt
procedure at first reading (55% of Council or majority of votes in EP)
– no cases so far



NB – also ‘opinions’ under ‘political dialogue’

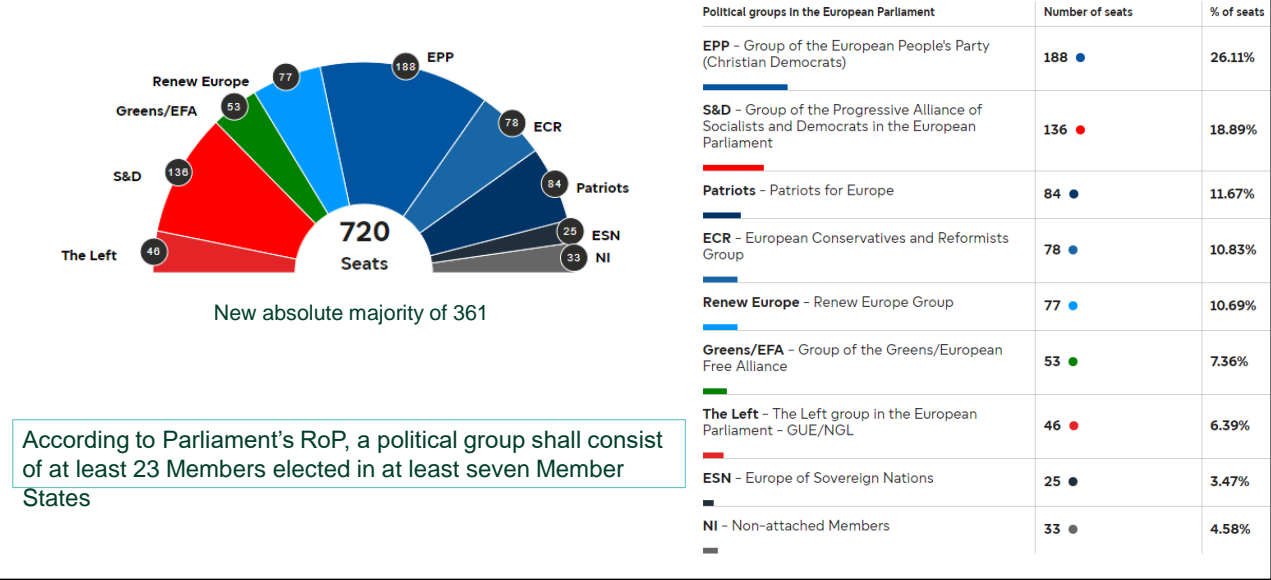


Composition of European Parliament 2024-2029

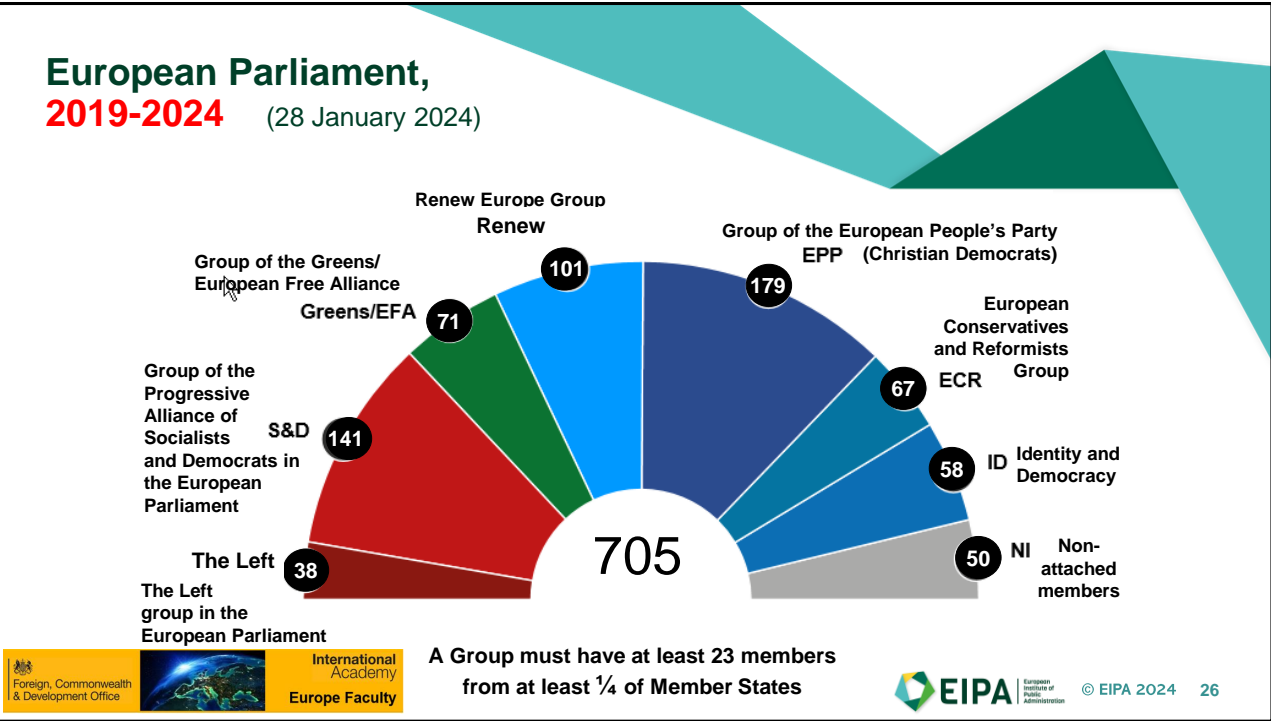


	2021	2024	Difference
Germany	96	96	=
France	79	81	+ 2
Italy	76	76	=
Spain	59	61	+ 2
Poland	52	53	+ 1
Romania	33	33	=
Netherlands	29	31	+ 2
Belgium	21	22	+ 1
Greece	21	21	=
Portugal	21	21	=
Czech Rep.	21	21	=
Hungary	21	21	=
Sweden	21	21	=
Austria	19	20	+ 1
Bulgaria	17	17	=
Denmark	14	15	+ 1
Finland	14	15	+ 1
Slovakia	13	14	+ 1
Ireland	13	13	=
Croatia	12	11	=
Lithuania	11	11	=
Slovenia	8	9	+ 1
Latvia	8	9	+ 1
Estonia	7	6	=
Cyprus	6	6	=
Luxembourg	6	6	=
Malta	6	6	=
Total	705	720	=

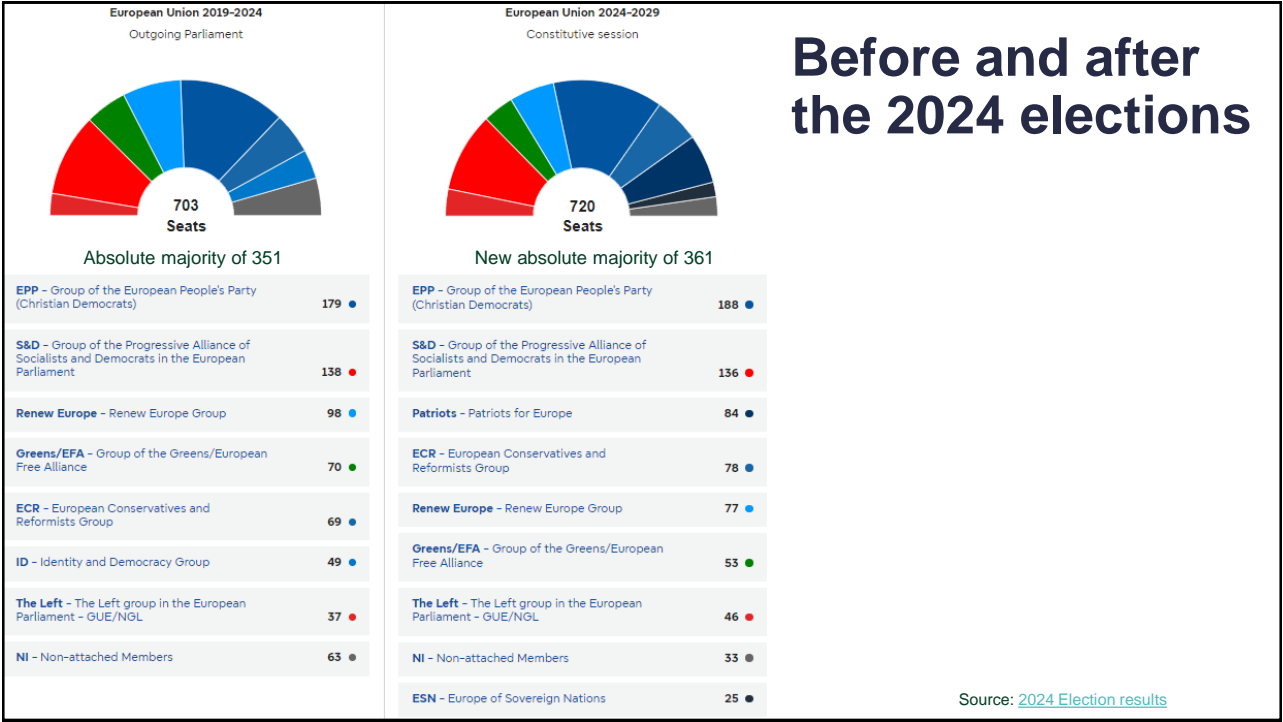
Political Groups in the EP: constitutive session



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European Parliament Committees, July 2024

STANDING COMMITTEES	ABBREVIATION	MEMBERS
Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	ENVI	90
Sub-committee on Public Health	SANT	30
Foreign Affairs	AFET	79
Sub-committee on Human Rights	DROI	30
Sub-committee on Security and Defence	SEDE	30
Industry, Research and Energy	ITRE	90
Civil Liberties, Justice and Internal Affairs	LIBE	75
Economic and Monetary Affairs	ECON	60
Sub-committee on Tax Matters	FISC	30
Employment and Social Affairs	EMPL	60
Transport and Tourism	TRAN	46
Agriculture and Rural Development	AGRI	49
Internal Market and Consumer Protection	IMCO	52
Regional Development	REGI	43
International Trade	INTA	43
Budgets	BUDG (COBU)	40
Women's Rights and Gender Equality	FEMM	40
Petitions	PETI	35
Culture and Education	CULT	30
Budgetary Control	CONT (COCOBU)	30
Fisheries	PECH	27
Constitutional Affairs	AFCO	30
Development	DEVE	25-1
Legal Affairs	JURI	25

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EP examination of proposals: procedural steps (1)

One of the 20 standing Committees is the **Committee Responsible**.

Others may be invited to give an **Opinion** (Rule 57),
or **Joint** Meetings/Votes are possible (Rule 59).

A Political Group is given the file by agreement among the
Group **Coordinators**.

EP examination of proposals: procedural steps (2)

That Political Group nominates
the **Rapporteur** for the file.

Other Groups nominate
Shadow Rapporteurs.

**e.g. auctions
in ENVI**

2. Establishing a framework for setting ecodesign requirements for sustainable products and repealing Directive 2009/125/EC

ENVI/9/08744

***I 2022/0095(COD) COM(2022)0142 – C9-0132/2022

Responsible:

ENVI

Opinions:

ITRE

IMCO

Decision taken: S&D (3 points)

3. Substances that deplete the ozone layer and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1005/2009

ENVI/9/08798

***I 2022/0100(COD) COM(2022)0151 – C9-0143/2022

Responsible:

ENVI

Opinions:

JURI

Decision taken: EPP group (1 point)

ENVI Co-ordinators
meeting 28 April 2022

Appointing the Rapporteur and Shadows

Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
 Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	 BONAFÈ Simona – Shadow rapporteur   POLFJÄRD Jessica  SØGAARD-LIDELL Linea  MATTHIEU Sara  SARDONE Silvia  VONDRA Alexandr  BJÖRK Malin	16/05/2022

[https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0095\(COD\)&l=en](https://oeil.secure.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2022/0095(COD)&l=en)

EP examination of proposals: procedural steps (3)

Committee work

- Commission presentation of the proposal
- may be hearings...
- Draft Report by Rapporteur, deadline for other members to propose additional draft amendments
- vote on **Report** (= draft amendments to the Commission proposal)



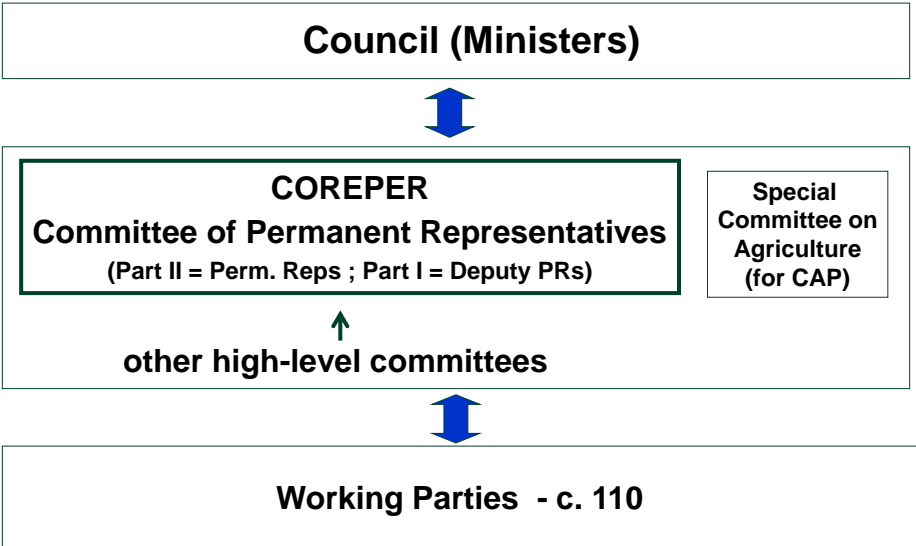
Vote in committee: show of hands (left) and roll call vote (right).
© European Union 2014 - European Parliament

Council configurations

The Council is a single institution,
but Ministers meet in 10 configurations.

General Affairs (GAC)	} Pt. II	Coreper*
Foreign Affairs (FAC)		
Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN)		
Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)		
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs	} Pt. I	
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research and Space)		
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy		
Agriculture and Fisheries		
Environment		
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport		

Council bodies



Decision-making in the Council

Council of Ministers

'A' Items approved
without discussion



'B' Items
for discussion

COREPER

Antici
Group

II
Permanent
Reps.

I
Deputy
Perm. Reps.

Mertens
Group

'I' Items approved
without discussion



'II' Items
for discussion

Working Parties



Examination of proposals in the Council (OLP)

The Council can adopt a proposal by qualified majority.

The Commission may alter its proposal "as long as the Council has not acted" (Art.293 TFEU).

The Council acts by unanimity if the Commission cannot accept an amendment to its proposal.



	Weighting (%)
Germany	18.49
France	15.17
Italy	13.23
Spain	10.78
Poland	8.33
Romania	4.23
Netherlands	4.01
Belgium	2.62
Czechia	2.42
Portugal	2.36
Sweden	2.34
Greece	2.31
Hungary	2.13
Austria	2.02
Bulgaria	1.43
Denmark	1.32
Finland	1.25
Slovakia	1.21
Ireland	1.19
Croatia	0.86
Lithuania	0.64
Slovenia	0.47
Latvia	0.42
Estonia	0.30
Cyprus	0.21
Luxembourg	0.15
Malta	0.12

Qualified-Majority Voting, 2025

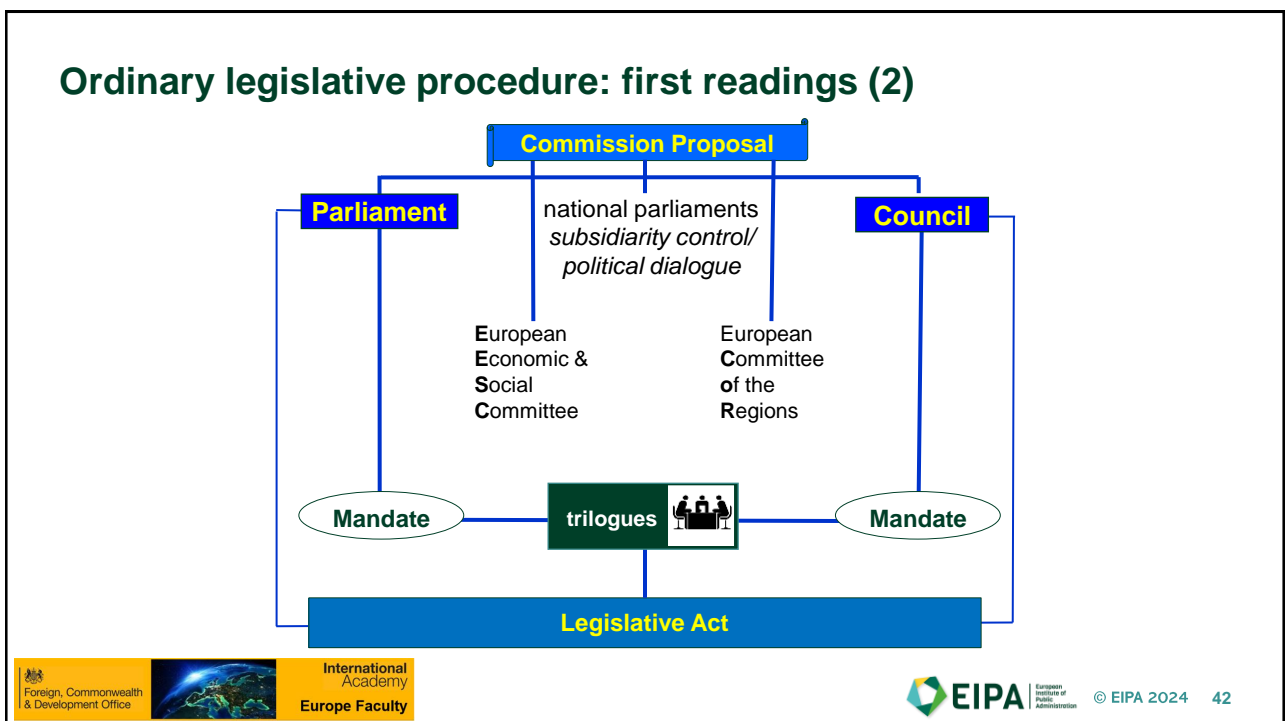
A qualified majority needs
55%* of Member States
 ("at least 15" = 15/27)
AND
65% of population.

A blocking minority needs
45% of Member States
OR
35% of population
(≥ 4 Member States)

* 72% if not on proposal by Commission or High Representative (=20/27)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/voting-system/voting-calculator/>

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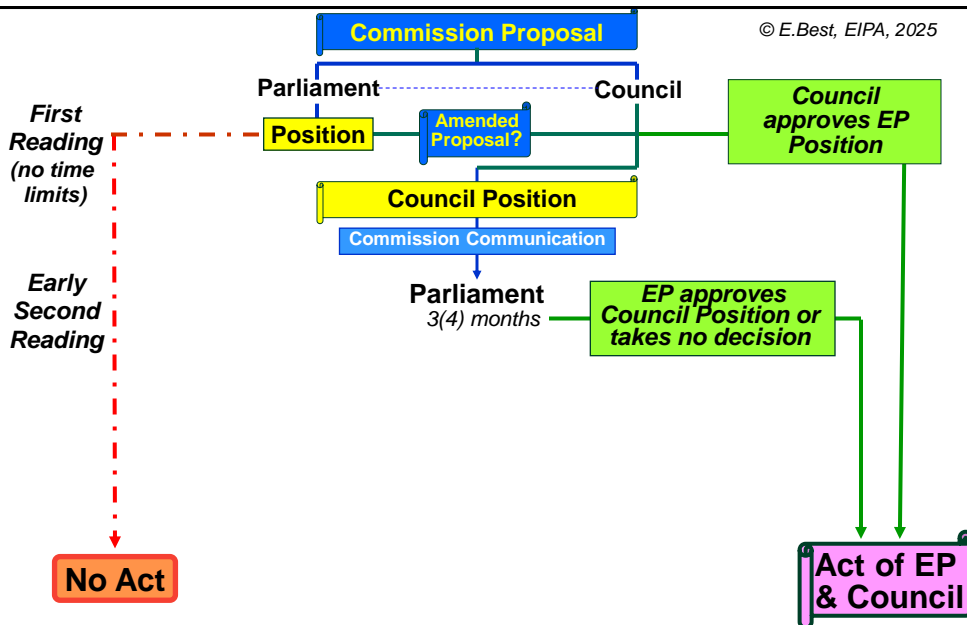
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Trilogues

Parliament	Rapporteur, Chair or Vice-Chair, shadow rapporteurs report back to Committee
Council	Presidency reports back to Coreper
Commission	Line DG/Commissioner, Secretariat-General

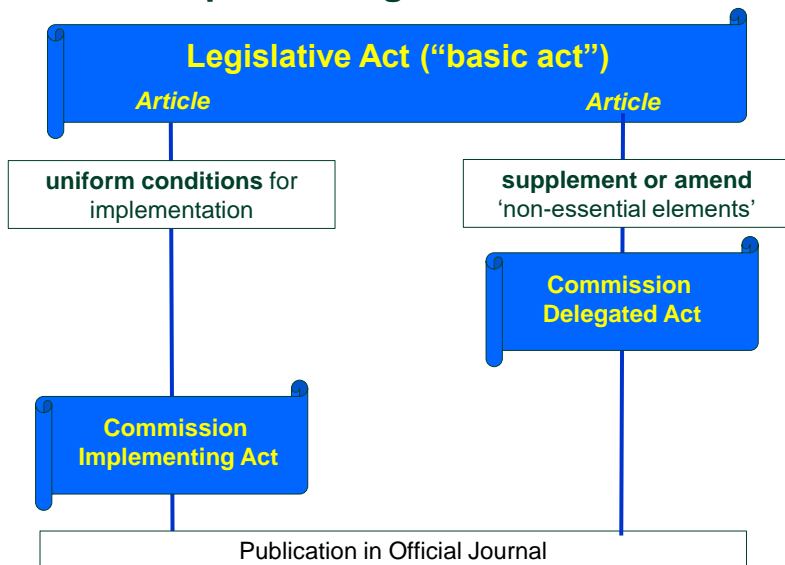


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Delegated and implementing acts: basic difference



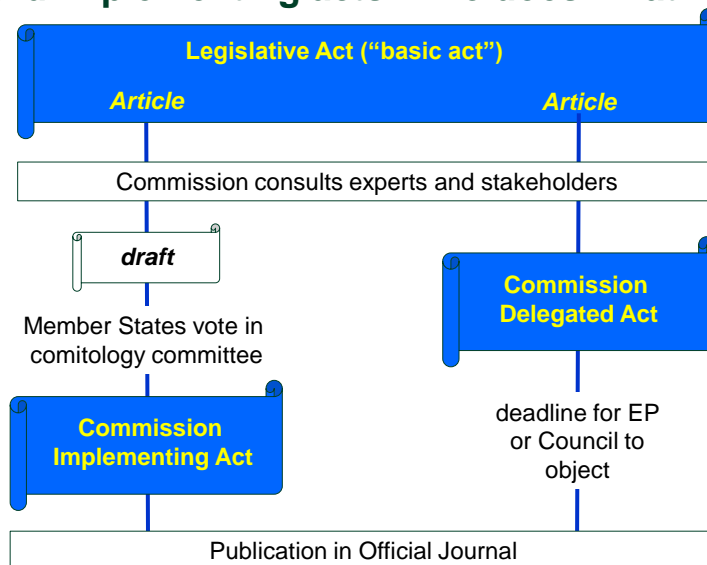
Basic, delegated and implementing acts: example

Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of 11 December 2018 on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2020/1044 of 8 May 2020 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 with regard to values for global warming potentials and the inventory guidelines and with regard to the Union inventory system

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1208 of 7 August 2020 on structure, format, submission processes and review of information reported by Member States pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1999

Delegated and implementing acts: who does what



Other institutional actors shaping EU policies

- EU Advisory Bodies
 - European Economic and Social Committee
 - European Committee of the Regions
- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- European Social Partners

EU Agencies

various roles:

- information-gathering, networking
- operational activities
- inspection reports, technical expertise
- binding decisions

