





Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



Europe Faculty

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, 3-5 November 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?


Introduction to the 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

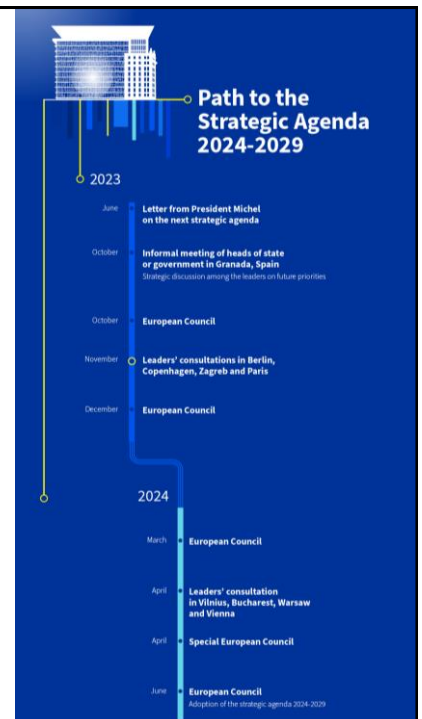
▪ A prosperous and competitive Europe

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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Commission programming



EUROPE'S CHOICE

**POLITICAL GUIDELINES
FOR THE NEXT EUROPEAN COMMISSION
2024–2029**

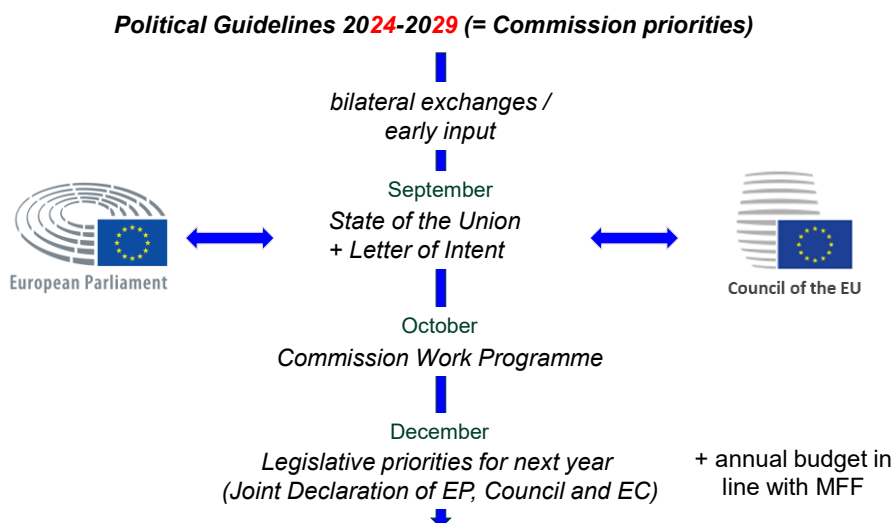
Ursula von der Leyen
Candidate for the European Commission President

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

[President-elect Ursula von der Leyen - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/1000000/attachment/data/2023/06/President-elect%20Ursula%20von%20der%20Leyen%20-%20European%20Commission%20(europa.eu).pdf)

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Annual interinstitutional programming



7

2025 Commission Work Programme - key figures

11 February 2025

51

New Policy initiatives

11 out of 18

Legislative initiatives,
more than half are
packages or initiatives
with simplification
objective or significant
simplification dimension

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Evaluations and Fitness
Checks, kickstarting a
process to stress-test the
stock of EU legislation, to
identify potential to
simplify, to reduce costs

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Proposal for withdrawal

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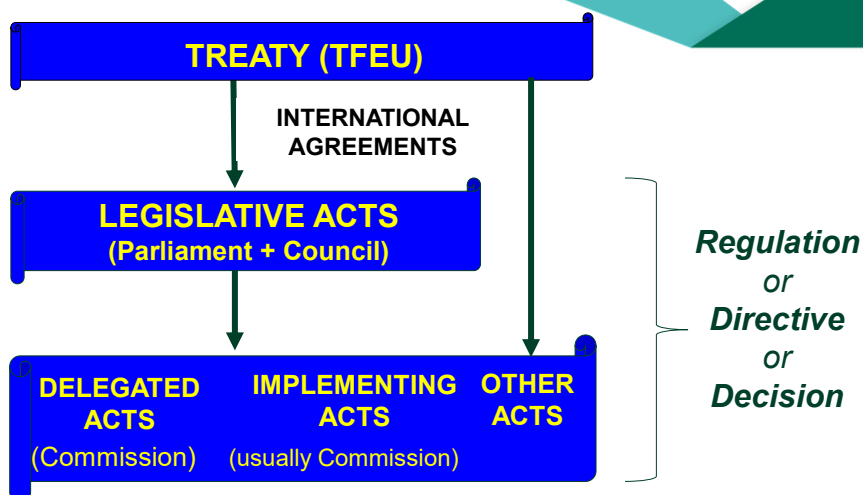
Proposals to repeal

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Pending proposals

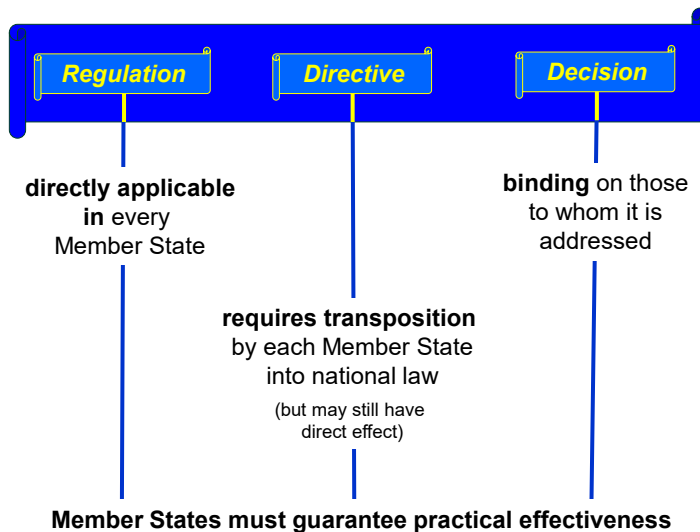
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EU legally binding acts - hierarchy



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EU legally binding acts – instruments



‘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)

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)

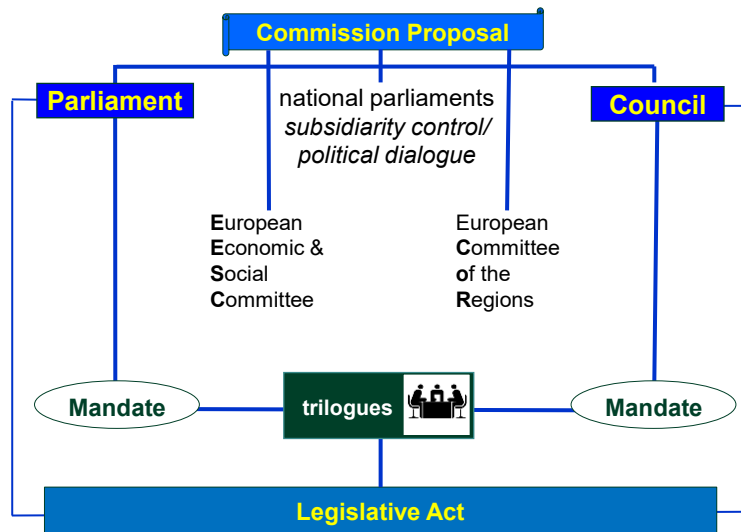
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Ordinary legislative procedure: first readings (1)



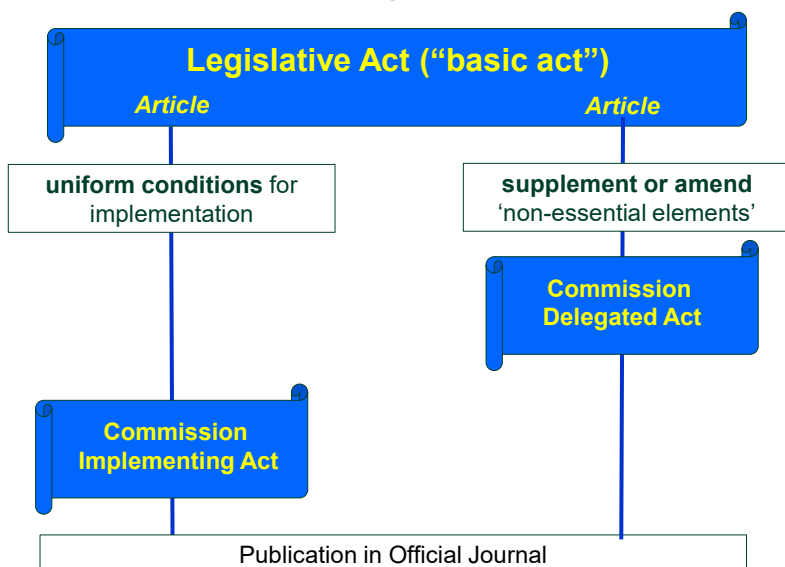
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Ordinary legislative procedure: first readings (2)



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Delegated and implementing acts: basic difference



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Poster exercise



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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

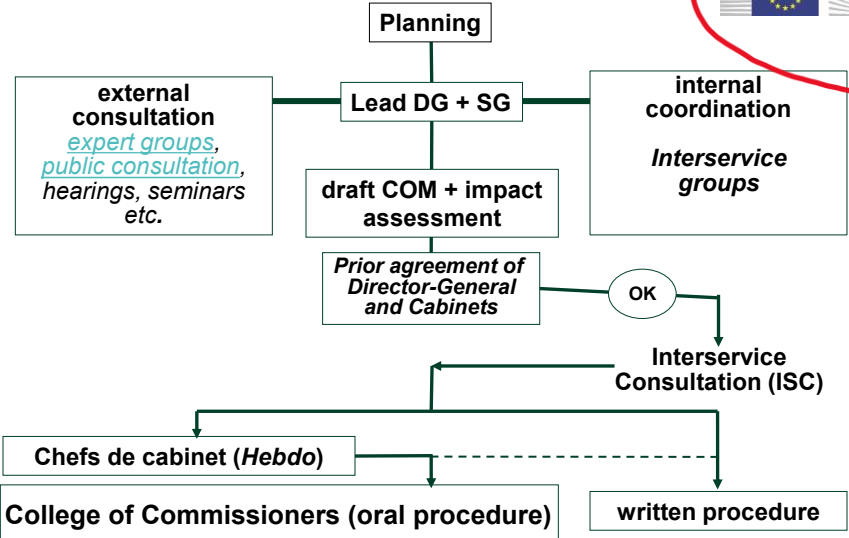


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Elaboration of individual proposals: overview



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



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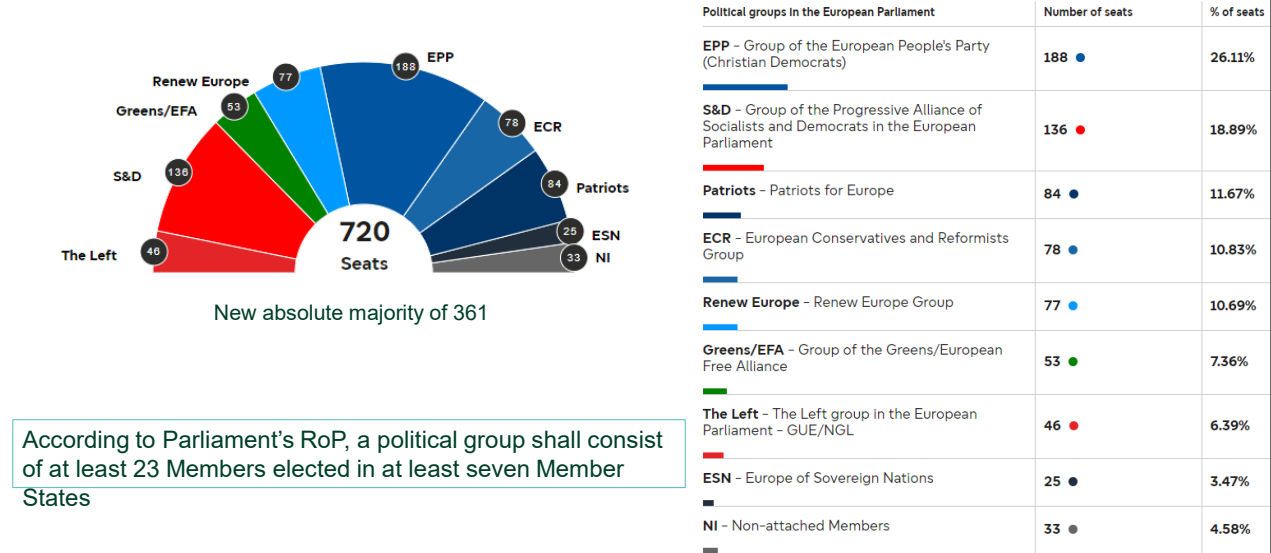
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Composition of European Parliament 2024-2029



| | 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, January 2025

| STANDING COMMITTEES | ABBREVIATION | MEMBERS |
|--|--------------|---------|
| Environment, Public Health and Food Safety | ENVI | 90 |
| Public Health (<i>new standing committee</i>) | SANT | 43 |
| Foreign Affairs | AFET | 79 |
| Sub-committee on Human Rights | DROI | 30 |
| Security and Defence (<i>new standing committee</i>) | SEDE | 43 |
| 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 | 40 |
| Women's Rights and Gender Equality | FEMM | 40 |
| Petitions | PETI | 35 |
| Culture and Education | CULT | 30 |
| Budgetary Control | CONT | 30 |
| Fisheries | PECH | 27 |
| Constitutional Affairs | AFCO | 30 |
| Development | DEVE | 25 |
| Legal Affairs | JURI | 25 |

'The composition of the committees shall, as far as possible, reflect the composition of Parliament.'

EP examination of proposals: procedural steps (1)

One of the 22 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



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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).
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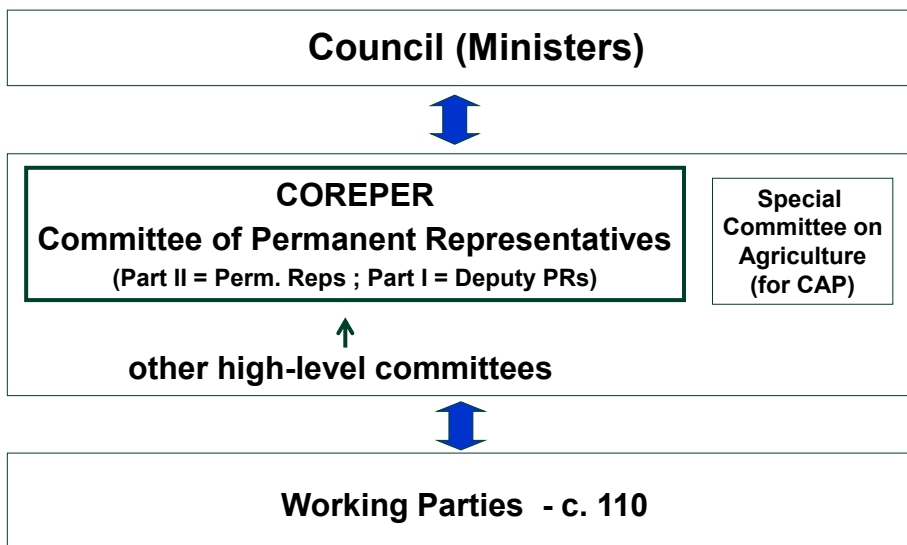
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Council configurations

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



Council bodies



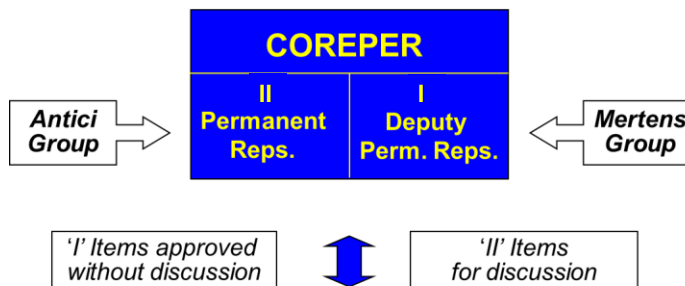
Decision-making in the Council

Council of Ministers

'A' Items approved
without discussion



'B' Items
for discussion



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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.



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| | 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

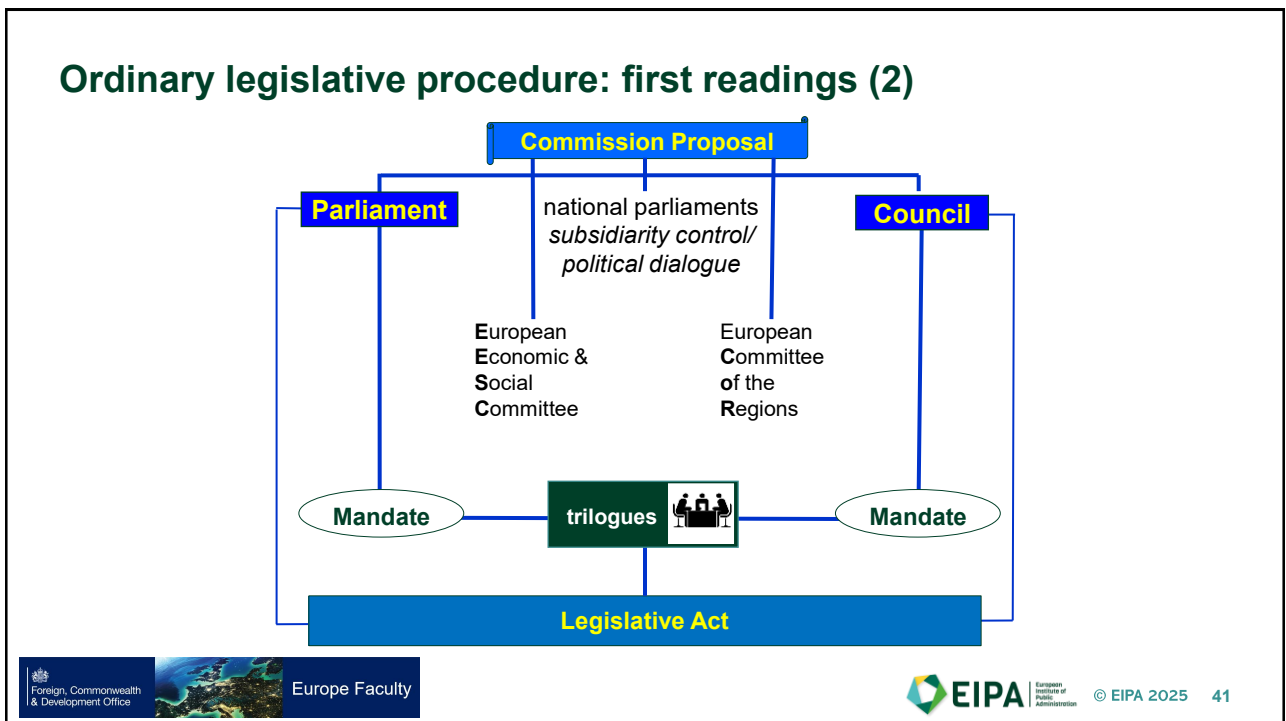
A qualified majority needs
55%* of Member States
 (“at least 15” = 15/27)
AND
65% of population.

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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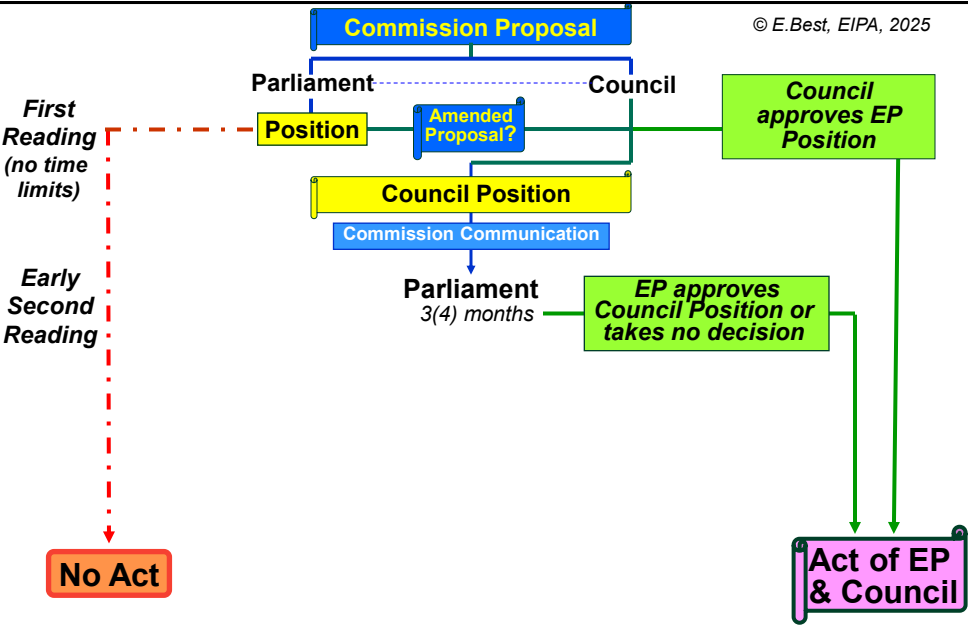
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Trilogues

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

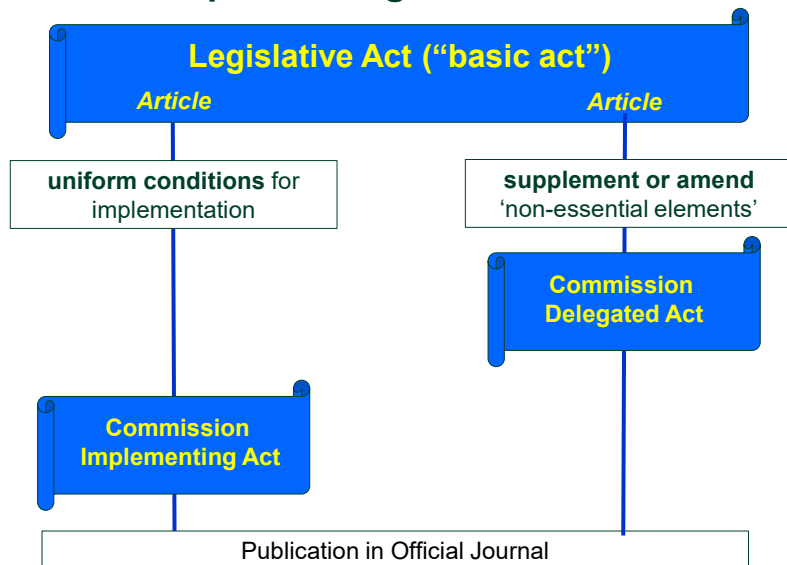


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Delegated and implementing acts: basic difference



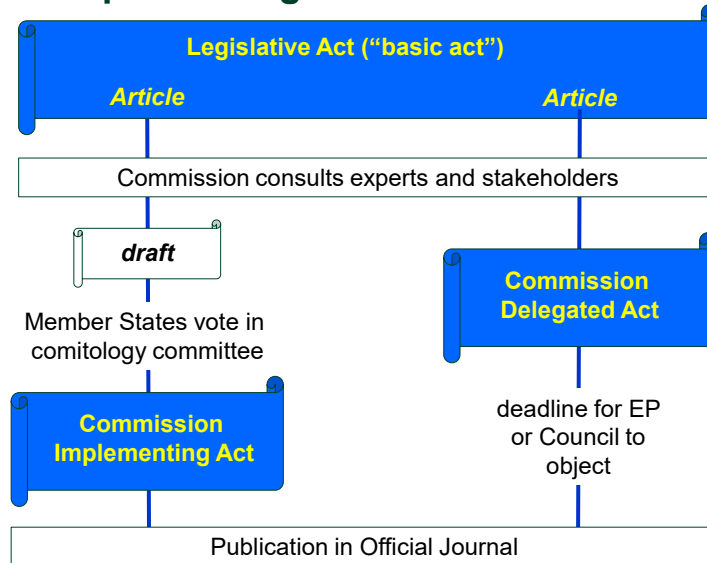
Basic, delegated and implementing acts: example

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



https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/agencies_en#goto_2



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