



BRUSSELS EXPLAINED

EU LAW MAKING IN A NUTSHELL

JANUARY 2023

THE THREE MAIN INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Executive arm of the EU that promotes the interests of the Union as a whole and the only institution that can propose legislation.

Each EU Member State appoints one Commissioner to adopt the decisions of this institution and to lead a staff of around 15'000 civil servants.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Has to approve, together with the Council of Ministers, the proposals by the European Commission. It can propose amendments to these proposals.

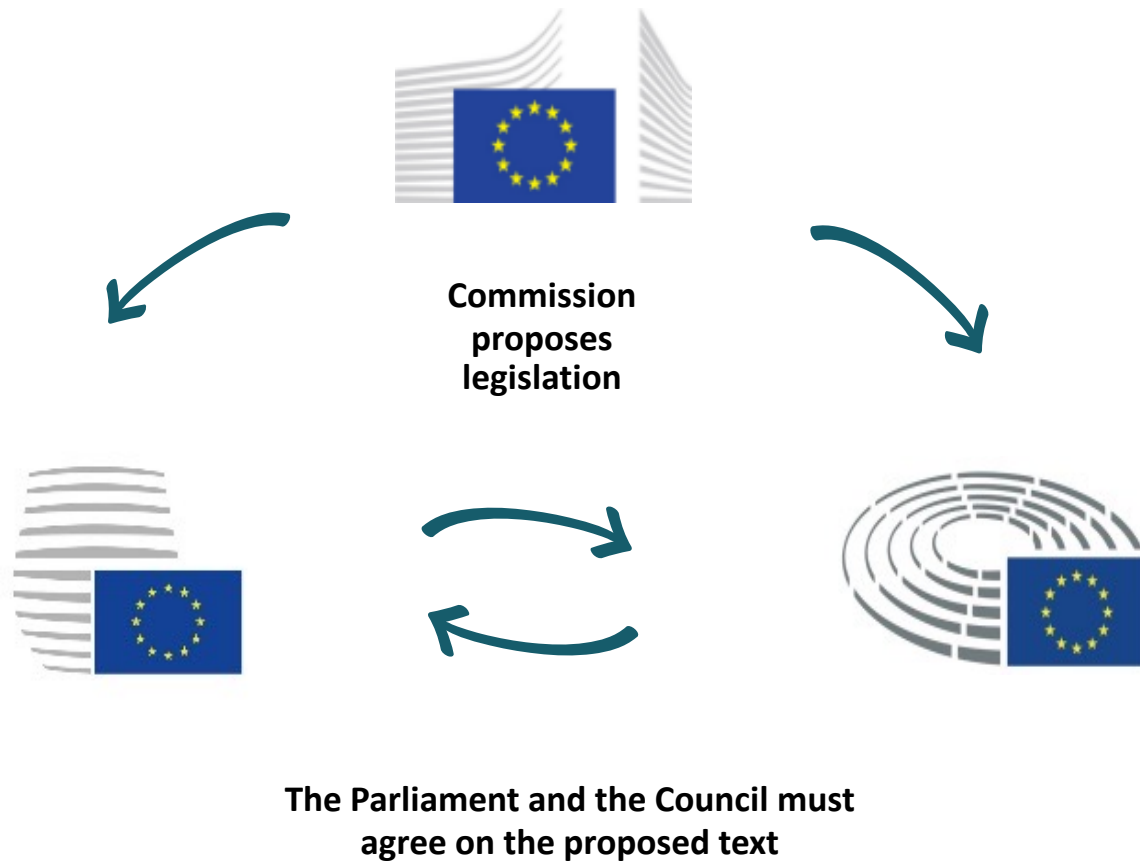
Members of the European Parliament are elected by the citizens of the European Union at elections that occur every 5 years.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Has to approve, together with the European Parliament, the proposals by the European Commission. It can propose amendments to these proposals.

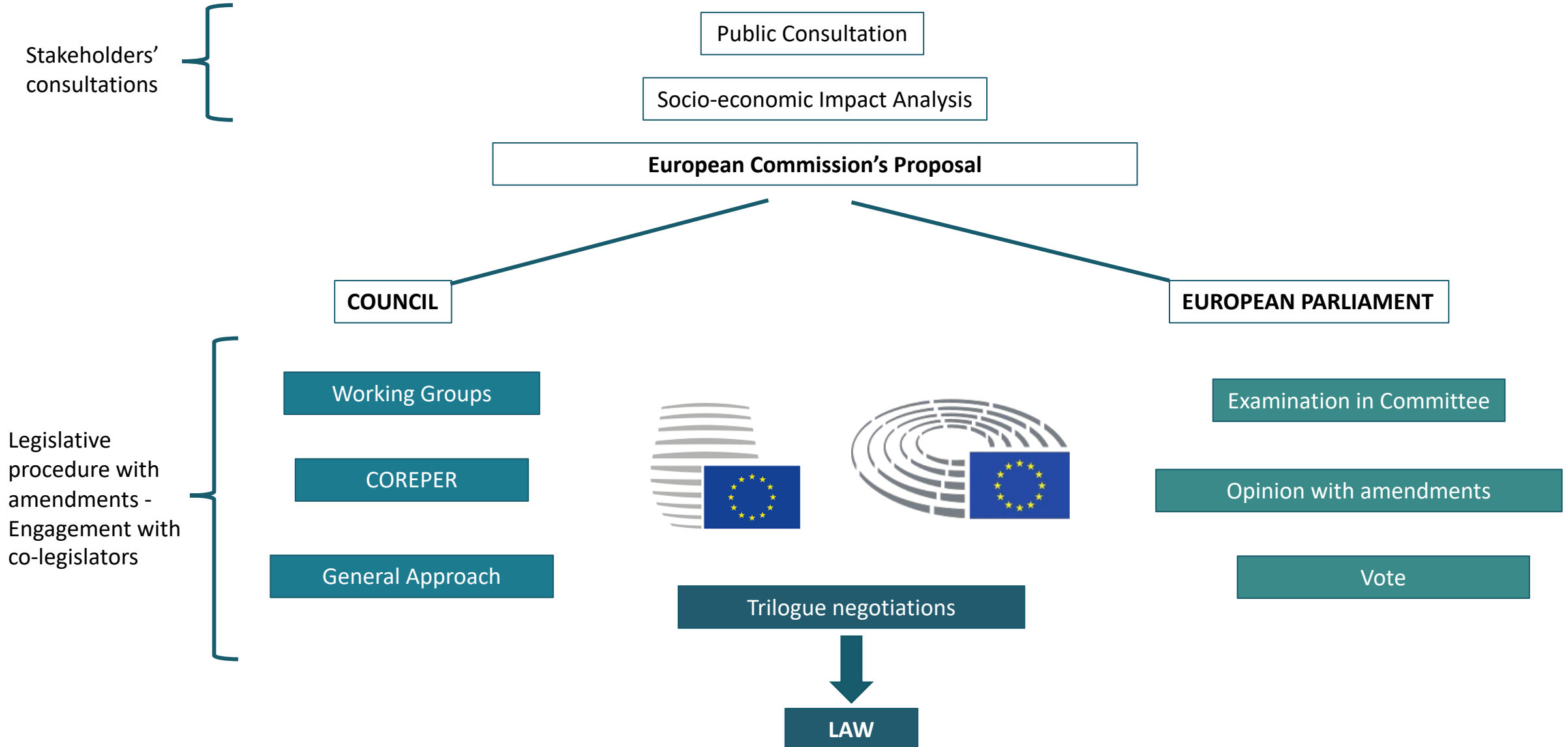
Decisions by the Council of Ministers are made by the Ministers of the Member States who are responsible for the issue (Example: a decision on transport is made by the Ministers of transport).

ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



- Starts with a **legislative proposal from the Commission** (e.g. for a regulation, directive or decision).
 - **Parliament and Council examine in parallel** the Commission's proposal, expressing their position by adopting/amending/rejecting it.
 - **Interinstitutional negotiations** (Trilogues) take place to reach a compromise text agreeable to each of the three institutions.
- The final act needs to be adopted jointly by the co- legislators.

THE FULL PROCESS IN BRIEF



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Rebecca Lentini

rl@ridenspa.com

Director

+32.497.31 88 62

