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THE EU:

FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE


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What is the EU ?

- ▶ A federal Republic ?
- ▶ An association of National States ?
- ▶ An intergovernmental Organization ?

- ▶ Unlike anything else....
- ▶ ≠ a government, an association of states, or an international organization
- ▶ = unique economic and political partnership between 28 European countries

EU Accession

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- 1957** ▶ BE, NL, LUX, DE, FR, IT
 - 1973** ▶ UK, IE, DK
 - 1981** ▶ GR
 - 1986** ▶ ES, PT
 - 1995** ▶ AT, FI, SE
 - 2004** ▶ CZ, EE, HU LV, LT PL, SLO, SL, MT, CY
 - 2007** ▶ RO, BG
 - 2013** ▶ CR

A little bit of history...

A vertical blue line with a downward-pointing arrow at the bottom, indicating the progression of time.

1951	European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
1957	European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)
1967	European Community (EC)
1992	Treaty of Maastricht
2009	Treaty of Lisbon

EU Structure

At the centre the decision-making bodies: Commission, EP and Council of the EU

European Council: Political Guidance & Agenda

Court of Justice: EU law across all EU Member States

Court of Auditors: Budgetary accounts of EU institutions

Central Bank: Monetary policy of the Eurozone

Council of the EU

Represents the EU Member States

Partly legislative power and co-responsible for the EU budget

Executive functions in relations to the Common Foreign and Security Policy

National ministers from each Member State according to the policy area concerned

Decisions by qualified majority (~ 70% and majority of MS)

Voting power per MS according to its population size

EU Parliament

Represents the EU citizens

751 Members directly elected by EU citizens every five years on the basis of proportional representation

EP second half of the legislative power and co-responsible for the EU budget.

Control of the executive arm of the EU with Commission requiring the approval by the EP prior to its taking office and having to report to the EP on its activities

EU Commission



EU's executive arm:

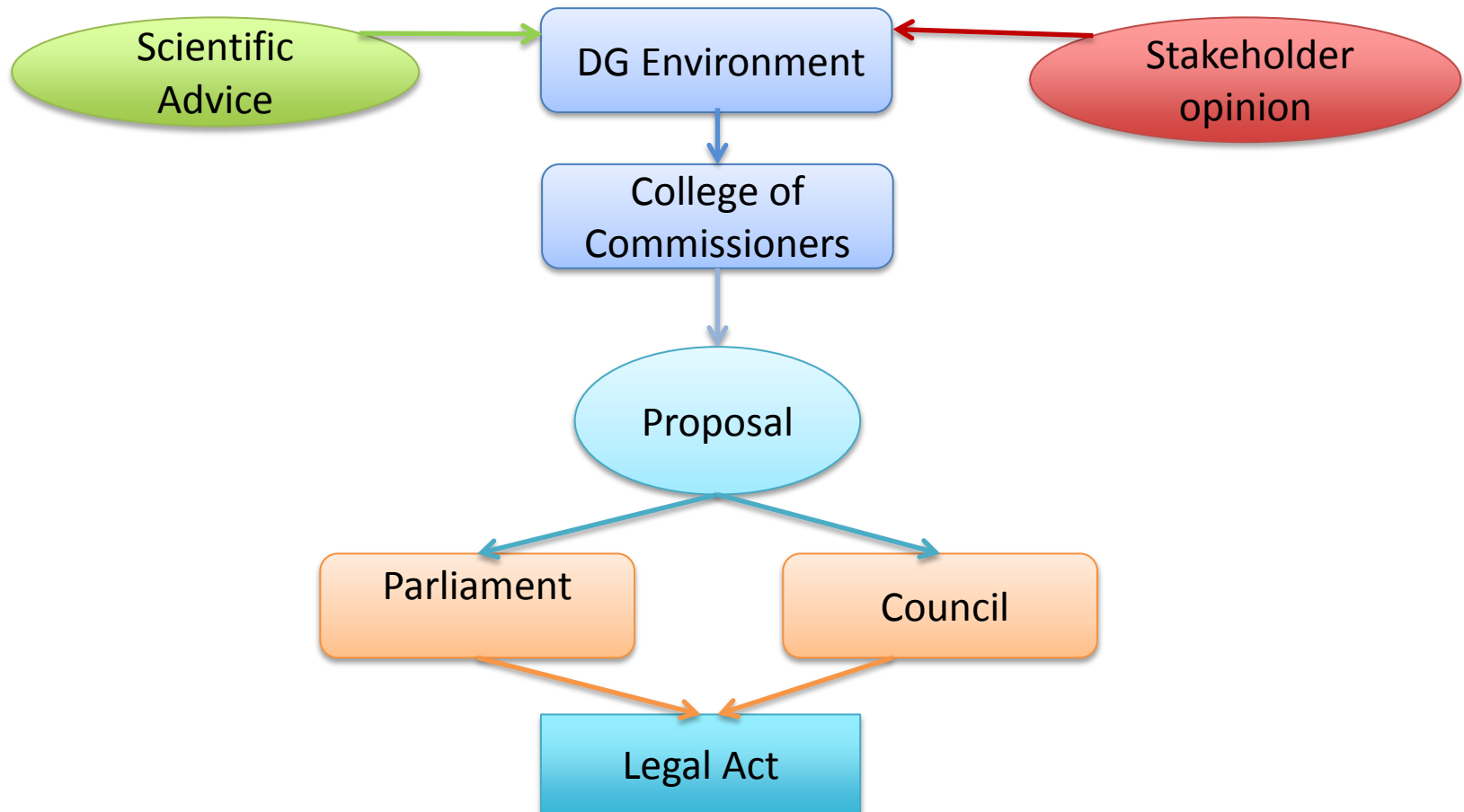
- Right for initiative
- Implementation EU policies and the budget
- Guardian of the Treaty

External Representation

Current Commission term 2014- 2019:

- 1 President
- 7 Vice presidents
- 20 Policy Areas

EU Decision-making



EU Decision making

Standard procedure: **Codecision** by Council & EP

Special legislative procedures: Council or EP alone

Commission non-legislative acts:

Delegated acts scrutinised by EP & Council

Implementing acts scrutinised by EU governments

Reform process of the Common Fisheries Policy

Oct. 2008: Evaluation of 2002 policy

Apr. 2009: Green Paper on the reform

Jul. 2011: Proposals for new CFP

Jun. 2012: Council position

Feb. 2013: EP position

May 2013: Council & EP agree CFP

Dec. 2013: Council & EP adopt CFP

Jan. 2014: CFP entry into force

EU Legislation

Regulations

- ▶ Similar to national law but applicable in all EU countries

Directives

- ▶ General rules to be transferred into national law by each country as they deem appropriate

Decisions

- ▶ Concerning particular issue and specifically mentioned persons or organizations

EU Policy on Pollution

- ▶ DG ENV “chef du file”

- ▶ Regulation via Directives
 - Overall framework (MSFD, WFD)
 - Sector specific (shipping)
 - Pollutant specific (nitrate)
 - Scope specific (bathing water, clean air)

Green Paper

- ▶ Document for consultation (Idea of new policy)

White Paper

- ▶ Document for consultation (Outline of new policy)

Communication

- ▶ Document for information (e.g. Action Plan)

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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