

The European Council and the Council of the European Union

#VisitEUCouncil



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat



It is not permitted to record this
session

Why the European Union?



27

member
states



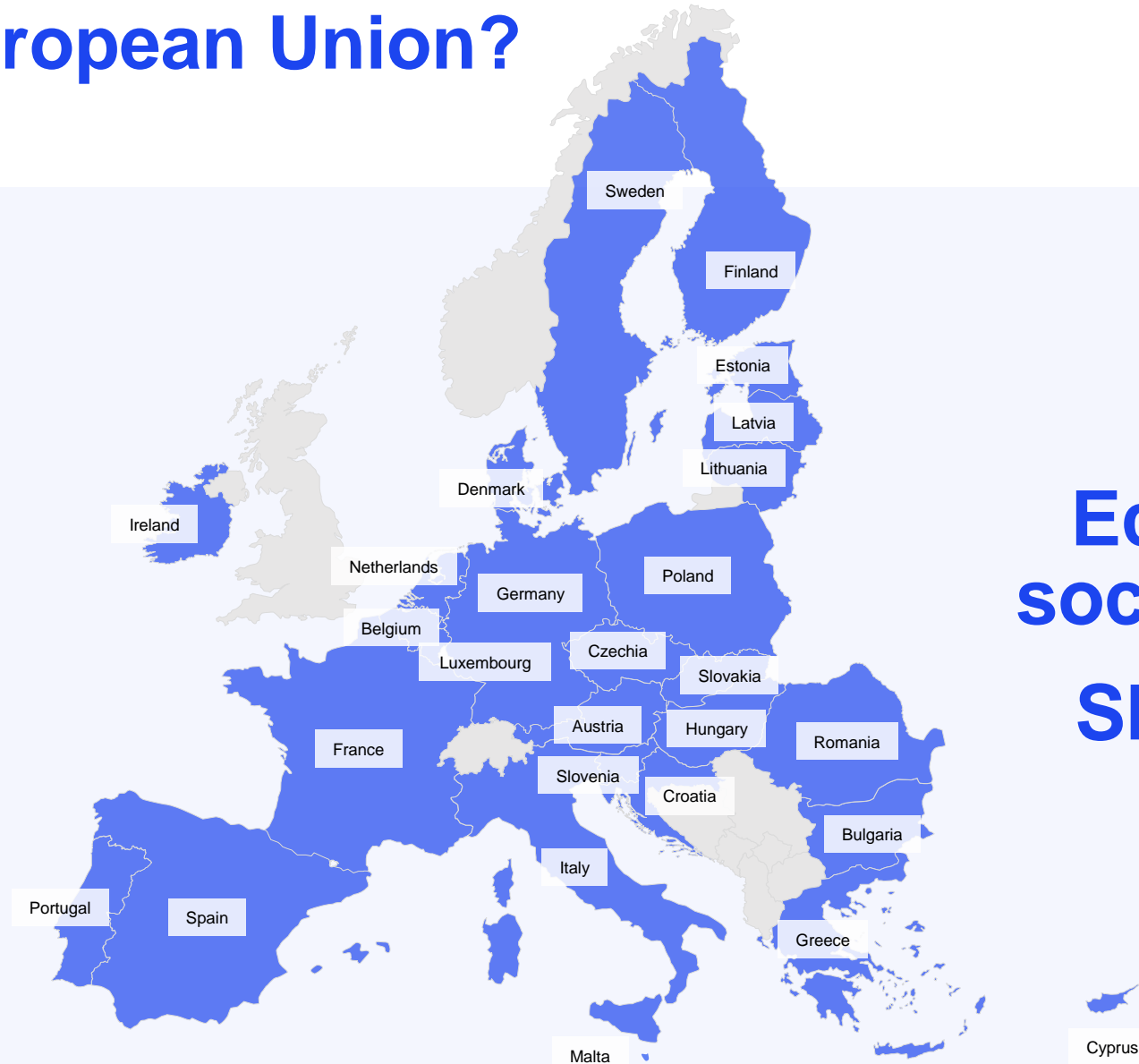
446

million
citizens



24

official
languages



**Peace
Security
Economic and
social solidarity
Shared values**



Main points

**Institutional
framework**

**The European
Council**

**The Council of
the European
Union**

**The General
Secretariat
of the Council**

Institutions of the European Union

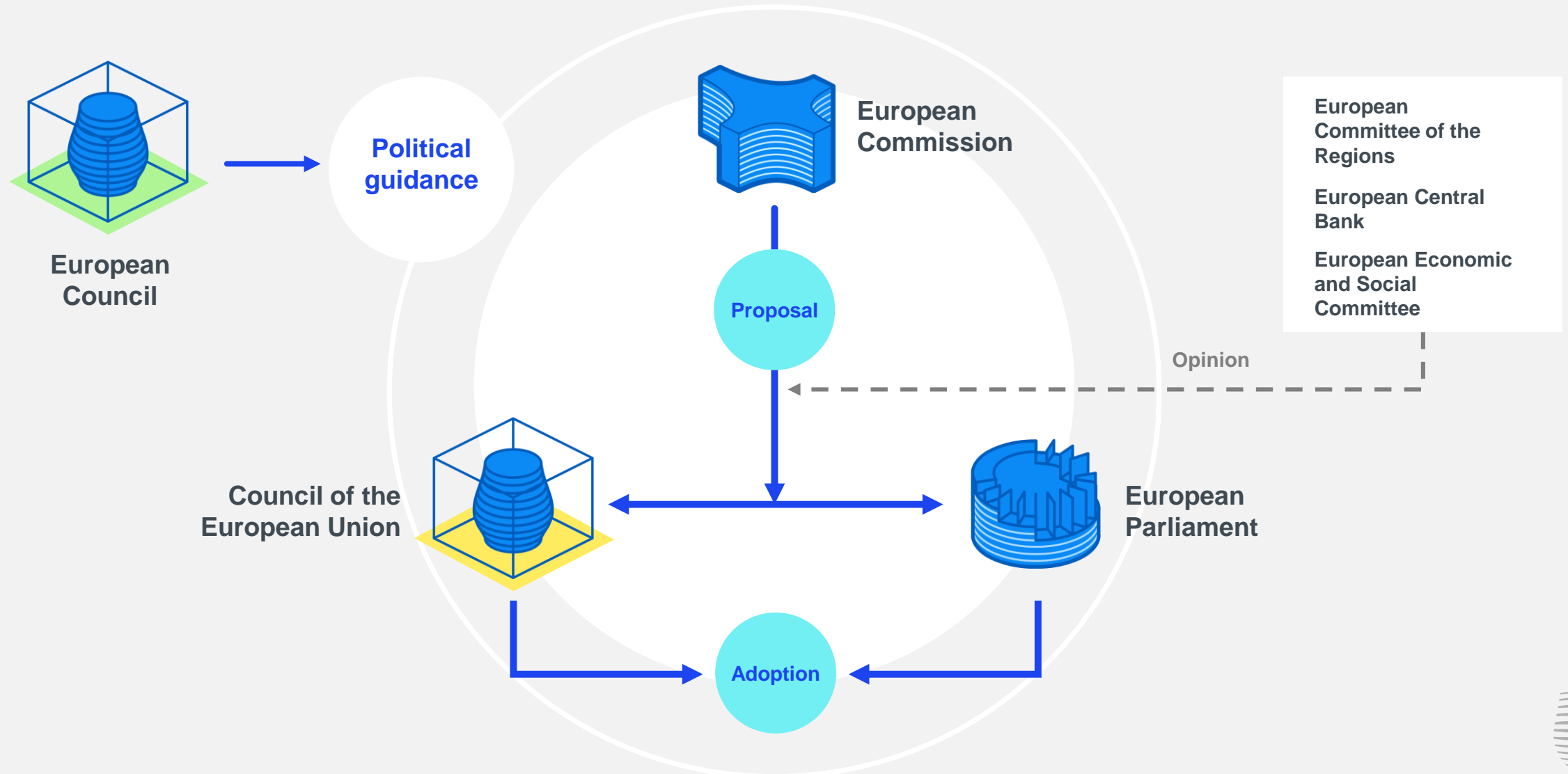
7 institutions



2 advisory bodies



Institutions of the European Union





The house of the member states

The views that are being expressed are those of the speaker and not of the Council of the EU



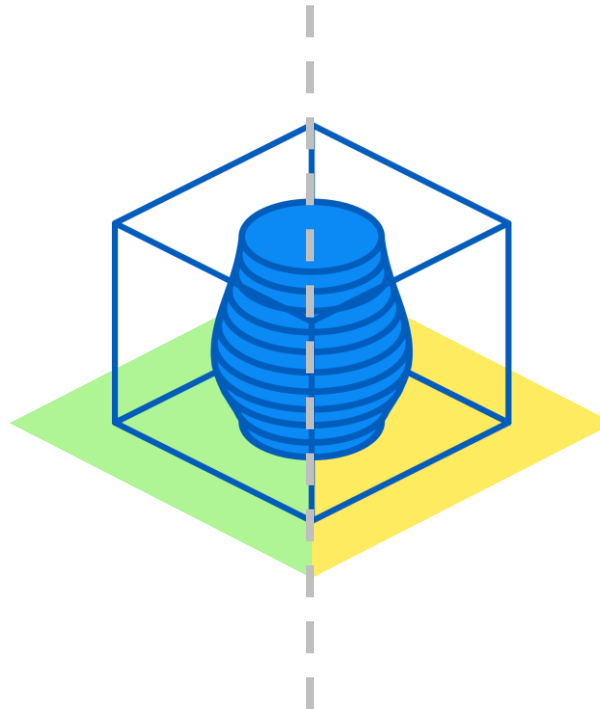
The European Council and the Council

Two EU institutions under the same roof



European Council

Sets the EU's
political agenda



Council of the EU

Negotiates and
votes on legislation

What is the difference between the **European Council** and the **Council of Europe**?



47 member states,
including all 27 EU
countries

All members signed
up to the European
Convention on Human
Rights

Based in
Strasbourg,
France





The European Council



The Heads of State or Government meet as the European Council



The views that are being expressed are those of the speaker and not of the Council of the EU



The European Council sets the EU's overall political direction

27 Heads of State
or Government

+

The President
of the European Council

+

The President
of the European Commission

Meeting twice every 6 months
and whenever required
(Special European Councils)



Defines overall **political direction**
and **priorities**



Mostly decides by consensus,
but by qualified majority for a limited
number of decisions e.g. in:

- Electing its President
- Appointing the High Representative
- Establishing the list of Council configurations



Exercises **no legislative functions**

The European Council adopted the EU Strategic Agenda 2019-2024

What is in it for me?

- protecting citizens and freedoms
- developing a strong and vibrant economic base
- building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe
- promoting European interests and values on the global stage



[illegible]

○

-



The Council of the European Union



The Council of the EU is made up of ministers



The views that are being expressed are those of the speaker and not of the Council of the EU





Role of the Council of the EU

Negotiate and adopt EU laws,
in most cases with the European Parliament

Adopt the EU budget, *with the European Parliament*

Coordinate member states' policies

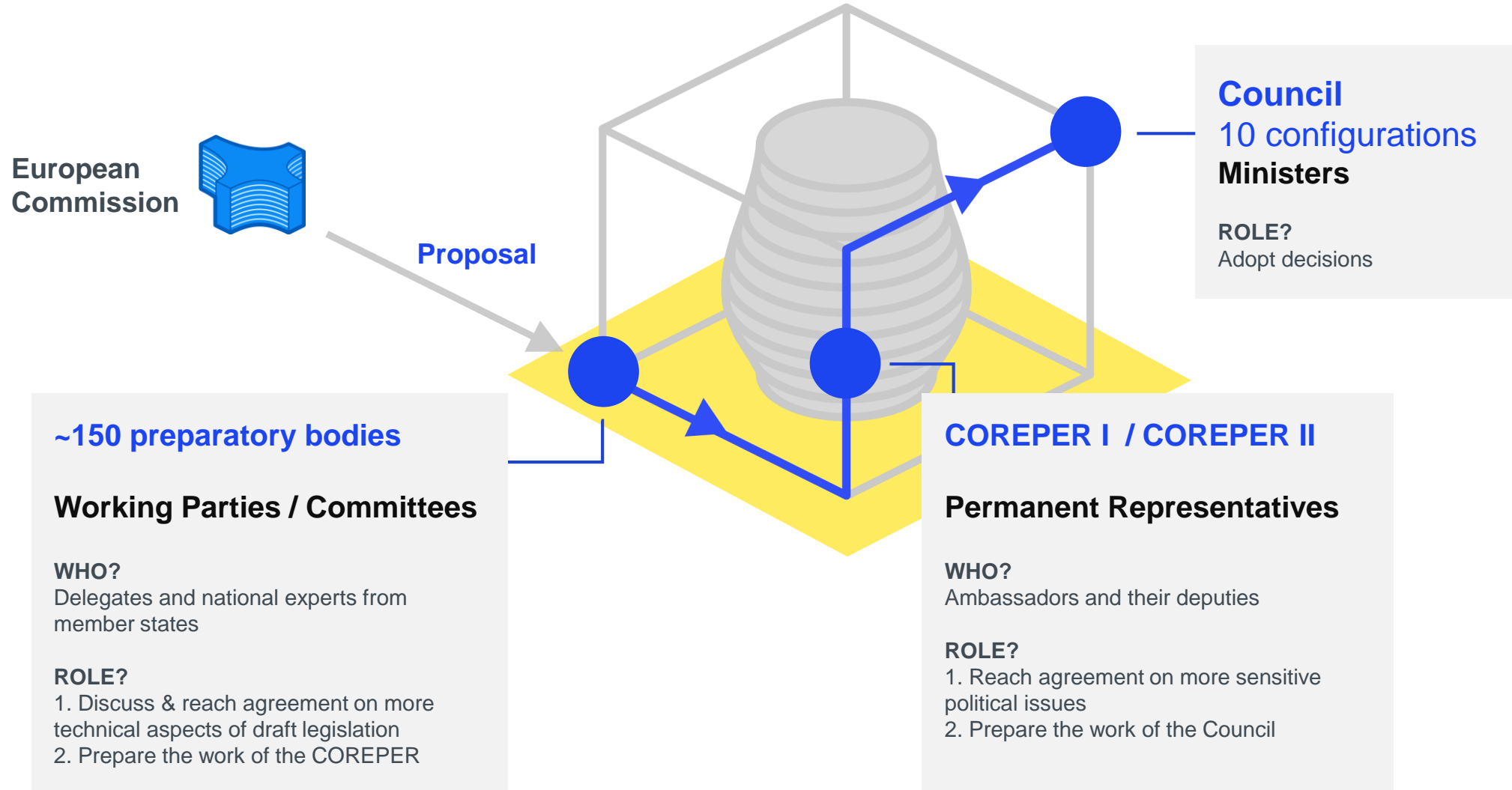
- economic and fiscal policies
- education, culture, youth and sport
- employment policy

Develop the EU's common foreign and security policy

Guidelines set by the European Council

Conclude international agreements

Structure of the Council



One Council – Ten configurations



**The Council
of the European
Union**



General Affairs



Foreign Affairs



**Transport,
Telecommunications
and Energy**



**Economic and
Financial Affairs**



Competitiveness



Environment



**Employment, Social
Policy, Health and
Consumer Affairs**



Justice and Home Affairs



**Education, Youth,
Culture and Sport**



Agriculture and Fisheries

What does the agenda look like?

Coreper

Agenda divided into two parts

Council

Agenda mentioning “Adoption of A items”
+ list of other items

‘I’ items

‘A’ items

An ‘A’ item can be adopted by any Council configuration
Divided into: “Legislative deliberations” and “Non-legislative activities”

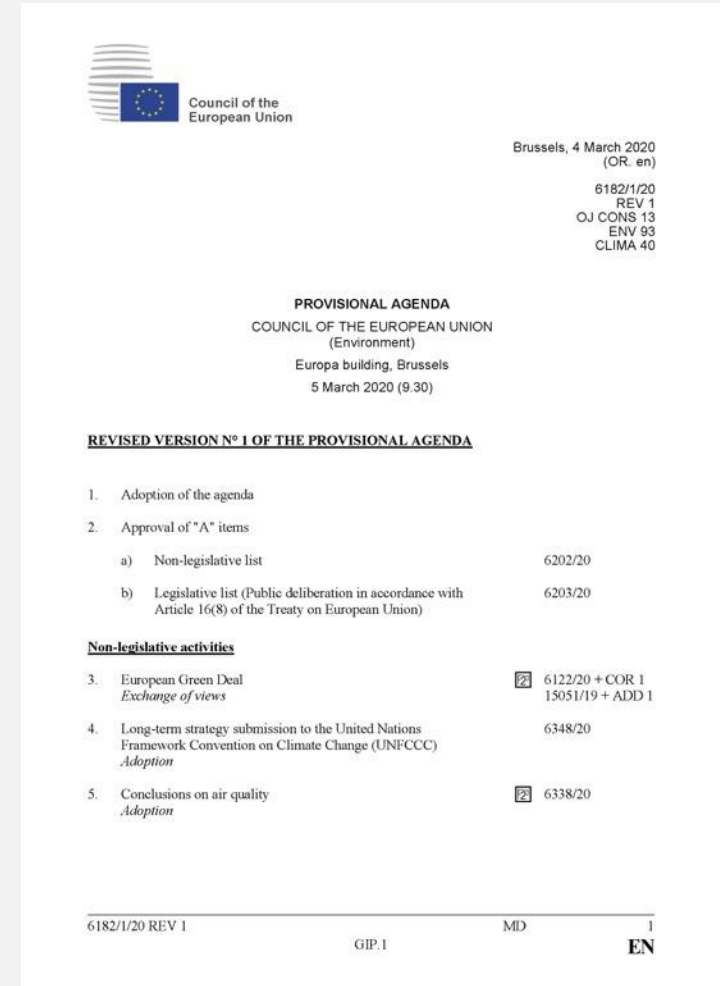
Items which **do not** require discussion

‘II’ items

‘B’ items

Divided into: “Legislative deliberations” and “Non-legislative activities”

Items which imply **discussion**



National experts meet in the Council working parties

150+ working parties, for example:



Atomic Questions



Law of the Sea



Transatlantic Relations



Financial Services



Terrorism



Agricultural Products



Company Law



Research



Aviation

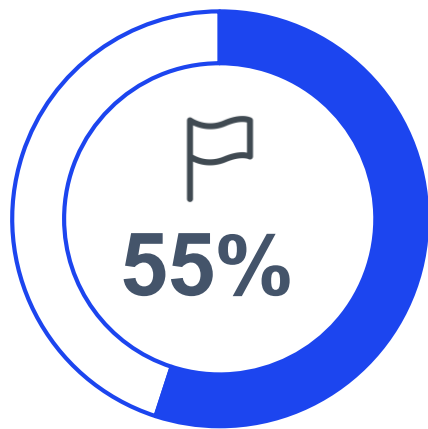


Environment

The voting system in the Council

Qualified majority

the default voting rule -
system of double majority



of member
states



of EU
population

Unanimity, some examples:

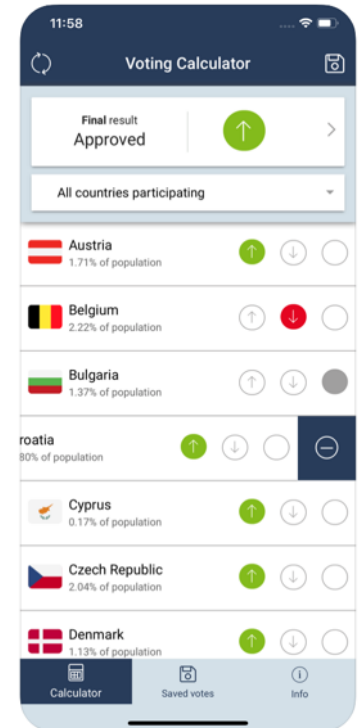
- Enlargement of the EU
- Common foreign and security policy
- Taxation
- Multiannual financial framework

Simple majority

mostly for procedural decisions



*Council Voting
Calculator App*



The rotating presidency of the Council

Each member state in turn every 6 months

18-month rolling programme of **three** successive presidencies

currently: **FR, CZ, SE** until 30 June 2023
followed by **ES, BE, HU**



ROLE OF THE ROTATING PRESIDENCY

Three core functions:

- Organises, prioritises and plans
- Negotiates
- Communicates

Chairs:

- Council configurations except Foreign Affairs
- Coreper I and II
- Committees and working groups, with some exceptions

Framed by plans, rules and previous actions

Permanent chair of the Foreign Affairs Council

The High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

ROLE

- Chairs the Foreign Affairs Council
- Head of the European External Action Service
- Vice-President of the European Commission



JOSEP BORRELL FONTELLES
Current High Representative

The General Secretariat of the Council makes the machine work

<https://youtu.be/kDYsctJ8GjI>

Assistance to

- **European Council**
members and President
- **Council of the EU**
members and Presidency

Over **4,000 meetings**
organised every year

11 EU Summits in 2019

4 third-country summits

1 multilateral summit

2900 employees





The European Green Deal

EU Green Deal Macro Objectives

The EU will:



Become
climate-neutral
by 2050



Protect human life,
animals and plants,
by cutting pollution



Help companies
become world leaders
in clean products and
technologies



Help ensure a
just and inclusive
transition

EU green transition targets

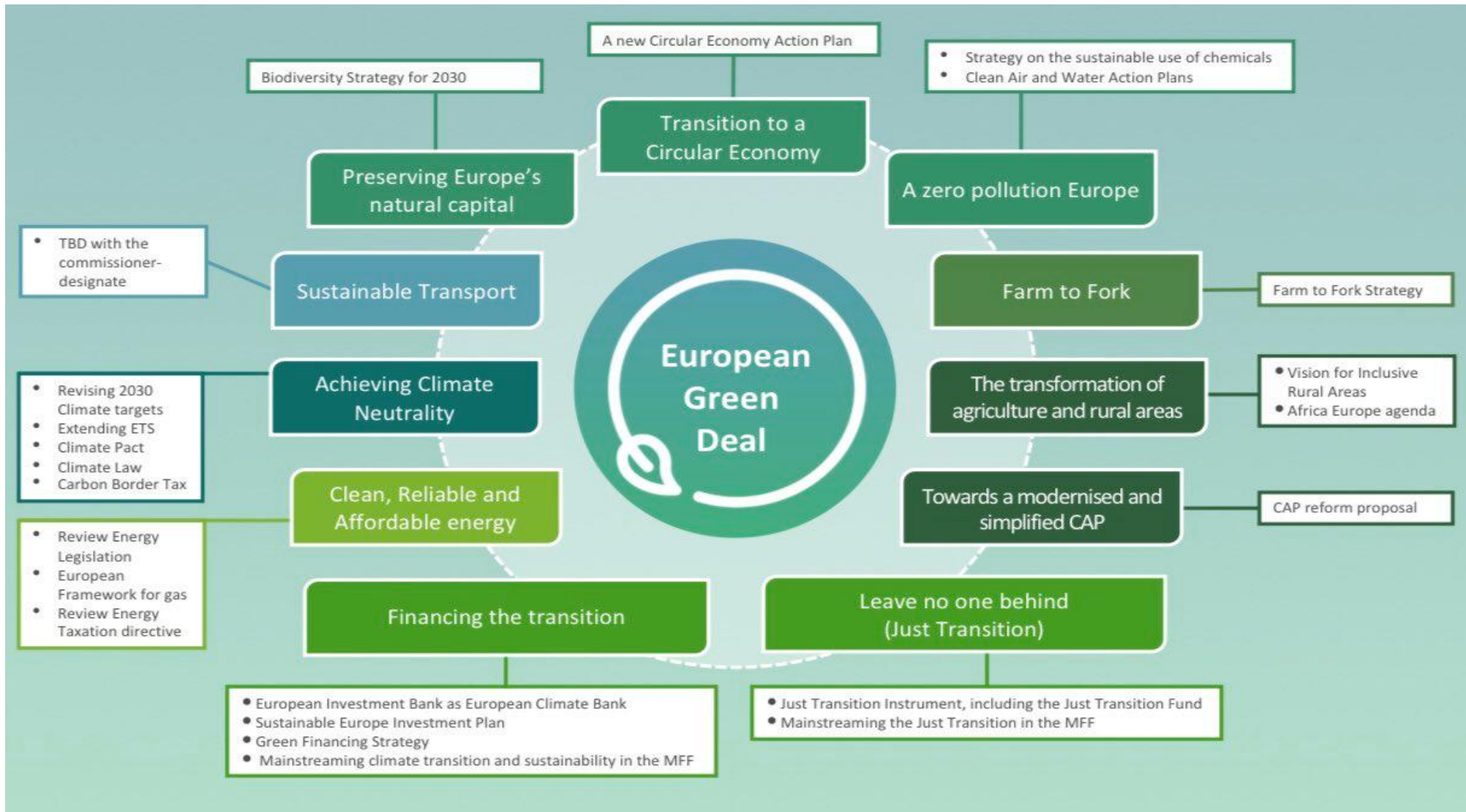


EU green transition priorities



Figure 1: The European Green Deal

EU green transition- concrete actions



How to finance the EU green transition

The European Green Deal Investment Plan is based on 3 dimensions:



FINANCING

Mobilising at least €1 trillion of sustainable investments by 2030.



ENABLING

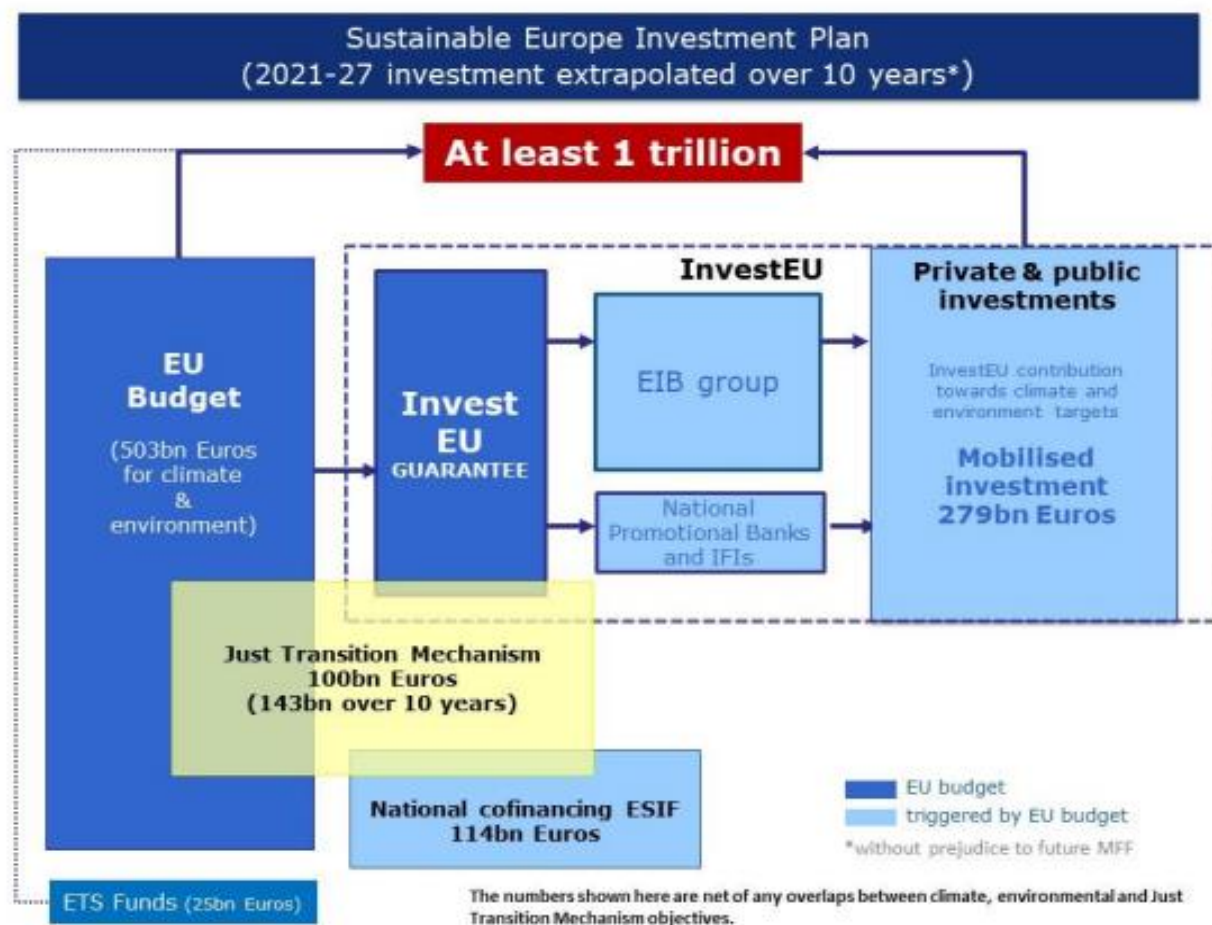
Providing incentives to unlock and redirect public and private investment.



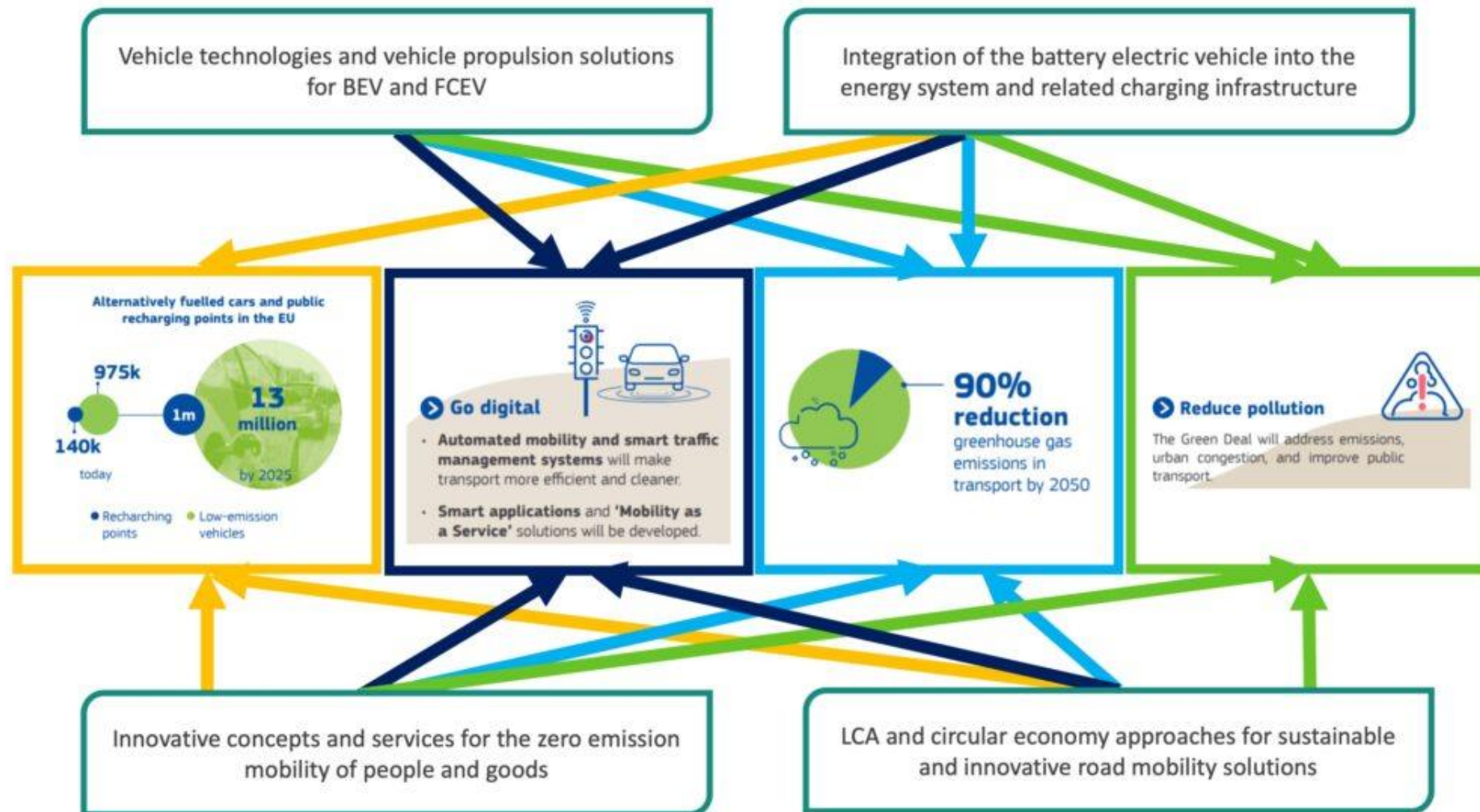
PRACTICAL SUPPORT

The Commission will provide support to public authorities and project promoters in planning, designing and executing sustainable projects

How to finance the EU green transition



EU green transition- concrete example transport



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THE PULSE



Your news from the EU Council

Issue #13

Wednesday, 7 July 2021

EDITORIAL //

Summer comes with a fresh look for The Pulse, as well as an updated privacy statement below. It also brings with it the start of the Slovenian Presidency on 1 July and therefore a new beginning at the EU Council. We all look forward to discovering new places and cultures, and to meeting friends, whilst keeping safe and taking care of the environment, and we share some tips with you on how to do so!



Thank you!

Want to stay in touch?



Our Visitors' Centre
is on TripAdvisor

