# *Teachers4Europe: setting an Agora for Democratic Culture*

European Parliament Simulation's Study Guide

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT SIMULATION STUDY GUIDE

HAPSc

Editors:
Dr. Stylianos Tzagkarakis (BA, MA, PhD) & Mr. Dimitris Kritas (BA, MA, PhD-c)

Working Group: Dimitrios Skaftouros (LLB), Maria Arnaoutaki (BA, MSc), Zoi Atsipoulianaki (BA)

**Erasmus+ KA3 Programme "Teachers4Europe: Setting an Agora for Democratic Culture"**

Disclaimer: "The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsi-ble for any use which may be made of the information contained therein."

TeaCheRs 4 eURopE

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

T4E AGORA

Table of Contents

Introduction.....3

Welcome Addresses.....4

A. The main legislative institutions of the European Union.....6

B. Simulating the European Parliament.....9

C. The simulated legislative procedure and the role descriptions.....10

D. How to prepare yourself in order to become a great MEP!.....11

E. The Evolution of the European Citizenship.....12

F. Details on the political groups in the European Parliament and their position towards European citizenship.....14

I) European People's Party group (187 seats).....14

II) Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (147 seats).....15

III) Renew Europe (98 seats).....15

IV) Identity and Democracy (76 seats).....16

V) Greens–European Free Alliance (67 seats).....17

VI) European Conservatives and Reformists (61 seats).....17

VII) European United Left–Nordic Green Left (40 seats).....18

G. Rules of Procedure for the European Parliament.....19

H. The real procedure.....26

I. The Simulation procedure.....29

# Introduction

The project “Teachers4Europe: setting an Agora for Democratic Culture” (T4E) is targeting a lot of challenges in an equal way: using education as the vehicle for the promotion of principles and values comprising the EU democratic culture, which can contribute to better appreciation of the EU as an entity that works at many different levels in favor of all people, irrespective of their identity; the Teachers 4 Europe (T4E) will act as inspiring social and cultural agents that will spread the European values to colleagues, young people and the society. Moreover, they will foster a dialogue with and among relevant stakeholders on a social and policy level and will contribute towards realizing synergies and improving the quality of training and learning through knowledge about Europe and its values, especially in the field of Democratic Culture.

T4E project aims to create a cross-border, sustainable and long-lasting teachers’ network, which will promote social and civic competences of pupils and advocate democratic values, fundamental rights, intercultural understanding and the ownership of them.

As education systems become increasingly complex due to globalization, decentralization and digitalization, “T4E” upgraded network will become a tool for better connectivity between all relevant education and community stakeholders within and between different levels of the system in order to achieve better results, more defined educational goals and greater efficiency and quality.

# Welcome Addresses

## Welcome address of the Academic Coordinator Assoc. Prof. Foteini Asderaki

Assoc. Prof. Foteini Asderaki, Jean Monnet Chair, Academic Coordinator Teachers4Europe, University of Piraeus

The Teachers for Europe (T4E) project was started in Athens in 2011. It was created by the Representation of the European Commission in Athens. Nowadays it is changing and it turns into a truly European program aiming to influence the European educational system for the new generations of the European Citizens.

This project is supported by 9 partners, coordinated by the University of Piraeus. The main objective of the T4E program is to redefine the European values for democracy and the concept of the 'Agora' at European level. Agora, like the ancient one, must become again the place where free dialogue can take place and active participation and decision-making operate on an equal footing. Solidarity and cooperation among European peoples must prevail over competition and conflicts. T4E is a bottom – up program based on co-operation, which starts from the educators and it spreads its message for change to the policy-makers in regional, national and European level. It aims to change EU policy and increase awareness about the EU citizenship, European common values and way of life. Other activities such as simulations of EU institutions and conferences are part of this project. The first simulation is going to be digital, on December 2020. Learn more about the program at: [teachers4europe.eu/en/](teachers4europe.eu/en/)

## Welcome address of HAPSc President, Mr. Symeon Sidiropoulos

Symeon Sidiropoulos, President of Hellenic Association of Political Scientists (HAPSc)

When we first informed about Theachers4Europe project we expressed our willingness to cooperate with the University of Piraeus, associating Prof. Asderaki to her admirable efforts.

The Hellenic Association of Political Scientists (HAPSc) was founded in 2008 by political scientists with the aspiration of creating an alternative channel for additional education beyond academic curricula. It is a Scientific Nonprofit Civil Society Association and it functions according to the principles of democracy, relying on and respecting the Greek Constitution and the Laws of the Greek State and of the European Union. HAPSc is: a) member of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), b) in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN – ECOSOC), c) associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UN – DGC), d) member of the International Political Science Association (IPSA), g) a partner organization in the annual Peace Week conference held in Geneva at the UN facilities (Geneva Peace Week – Palais des Nations).

## Welcome address of Simulation's Project Leader, Mr. Dimitris Kritas

Dimitris Kritas, Vice President of HAPSc – HAPSc's Project Leader of Simulation

The last 8 years we have organized several simulations about EU and Greek state's institutions. In HAPSc we believe that it is both honor and our responsibility to support Prof. Asderaki's vision to create a continuous project which will foster experiential learning for pupils about the EU institutions, EU citizenship and European common way of life.

It is a pleasure seeing EU Institutions to adopt a bottom – up practice as a good practice for EU Teachers and pupils, giving them the opportunity to understand the meaning and the common values through their participation. Through this project pupils will take the advantage of being involved in the functional procedures of European institutions and relevant policies, thus aspiring to be the new European generations' leaders.

## Welcome address of Simulation's Project Manager, Dr. Stylianos Tzagkarakis

Dr. Stylianos Tzagkarakis, Deputy Head of HAPSc Scientific Directorate – HAPSc's Project Manager of Simulation

Through this simulation project we focus on the experiential learning of the EU Institutions. We will use this simulation project as a tool towards democratic values awareness and European citizenship. The simulation aims to teach pupils the way the European Parliament function and thus, deepen the importance of democratic institutions. The consultation and legislative process of the European Parliament will be simulated, through the performance of the main roles from the participants (Members of different groups of the European Parliament, Board members of the European Parliament). Pupils will be able to understand both the functions of the institutional preparatory process and the differences between party groups based on their different ideological backgrounds.

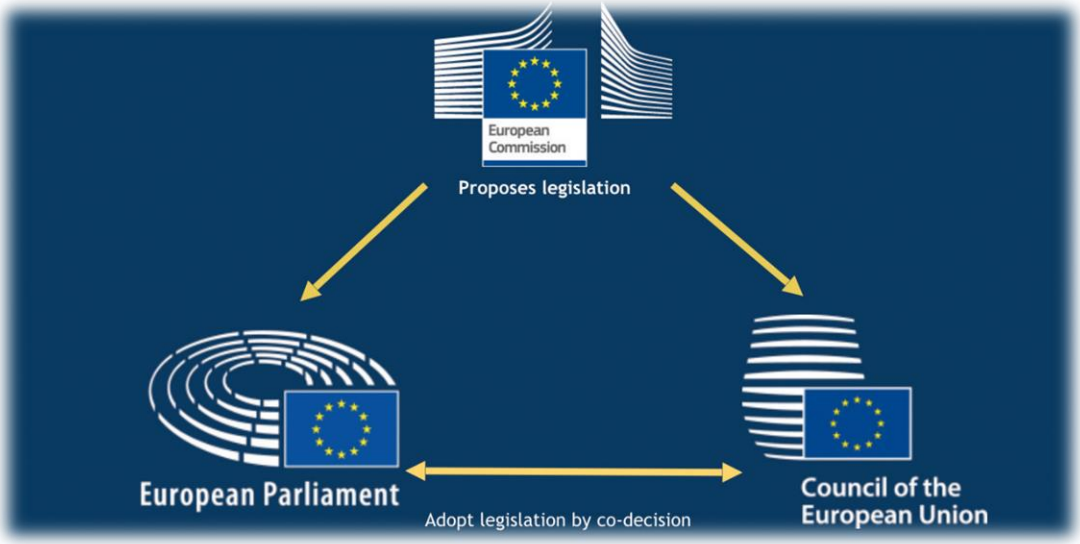
Through this experiential learning we expect to generate democratic awareness to young people as long as they will actively learn how democratic decisions at a higher level are taken. Through this project they will gain the opportunity to participate, act and freely express their opinions towards important contemporary issues and experience the common European way of life and the common frame of values. Therefore, this action will build and increase the sense of belonging for the next European generations.

## A. The main legislative institutions of the European Union

The main EU institutions are: a) The European Commission, b) the European Parliament and c) the Council of the European Union. Although this simulation will only focus on the European Parliament, it is crucial to gain firstly a clear view of the main EU institutions and legislative procedures.

The main role of the European Commission (EC) is to "promote the general interest of the Union and take appropriate initiative to that end" (Article 17(1), Treaty of the European Union). Therefore, EC has a large number of functions and is mainly responsible for preparing legislative proposals, for creating the draft EU budget and executing the final while managing a variety of EU programs. It turns out that EC is the actual agenda setter of the EU by exclusively having the power of legislative initiative. EC also acts as audit of the EU Treaties as well as of the secondary EU legislation, by closely cooperating with the national administrations and other EU institutions and agencies. Furthermore, the EC operates as one of the main EU institutions on international relations as long as it operates delegations in other countries and acts as the main EU negotiator for international trade and cooperation. Lastly, EC is the mediator between EU member states and the European Parliament (EP), facilitating in that way the EU legislative procedures.

The Council of the European Union is one of the main legislative institutions of the EU which exercises legislative and budgetary functions jointly with the European Parliament. It conducts policy-making and coordinating functions. It is composed of 27 representatives of the EU Member States at a ministerial level, who are responsible for specific portfolios in their national governments and who have the power to legally bind it. The presidency of the



Council is exercised by one Member State for a period of six months, in a rotary fashion.

The European Parliament (EP) is the EU institution that the simulation will focus on, mainly because it is the only directly elected EU institution which symbolizes the effort to create a European citizenship by directly elected citizens' representatives (MEPs). The EP adopts EU legislation along with the Council of the EU, in some cases it is consulted by the Council or it gives the assent to the Council in order to adopt an EU act. Furthermore, along with the Council it debates and adopts the EU budget while it exercises parliamentary control over the activity of other EU institutions and over crucial issues about the citizens of the EU. It also asks questions to the EC on issues related to the legislation and policy making. Moreover, the EP is in close collaboration with the Council.

The first direct election for the EP was conducted in 1979 and since then the EU has increased its powers. At the same time, the EP remains the only democratically elected EU institution and thus, the debate concentrated on the demand for the increase of its powers in order to cover the so-called EU "democratic deficit". It should be noted that the EP represents the EU citizens while the EC and the European Council the national governments, and for this reason it is the main tool-mechanism that increases the notion

**National apportionment of MEP seats (total 705)**

| | |
|---|---|
| Germany | 96 (13.62%) |
| France | 79 (11.21%) |
| Italy | 76 (10.78%) |
| Spain | 59 (8.37%) |
| Poland | 52 (7.38%) |
| Romania | 33 (4.68%) |
| Netherlands | 29 (4.11%) |
| Belgium | 21 (2.98%) |
| Czech Republic | 21 (2.98%) |
| Greece | 21 (2.98%) |
| Hungary | 21 (2.98%) |
| Portugal | 21 (2.98%) |
| Sweden | 21 (2.98%) |
| Austria | 19 (2.70%) |
| Bulgaria | 17 (2.41%) |
| Denmark | 14 (1.99%) |
| Finland | 14 (1.99%) |
| Slovakia | 14 (1.99%) |
| Ireland | 13 (1.84%) |
| Croatia | 12 (1.70%) |
| Lithuania | 11 (1.56%) |
| Latvia | 8 (1.13%) |
| Slovenia | 8 (1.13%) |
| Estonia | 7 (0.99%) |
| Cyprus | 6 (0.85%) |
| Luxembourg | 6 (0.85%) |
| Malta | 6 (0.85%) |

of belonging to the EU citizens, thus European citizenship.

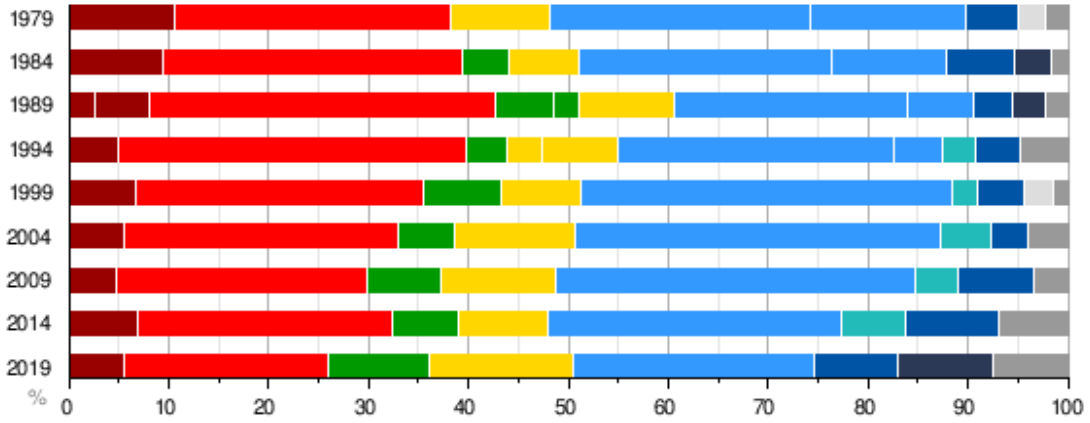
The total seats (Members of the European Parliament-MEPs) of the EP are currently 705. The MEPs are elected for a renewable mandate of 5 years. The distribution of the seats in the EP is based on the size of the population of each member state (27 in total). For instance, Germany currently has 96 seats, France 79 and Italy 76 while Cyprus, Luxemburg and Malta have each 6 seats. The EP is the largest transnational democratically elected assembly/ parliament in the world.

The MEPs are participating in political groupings, in which they are organized by political affiliation but not

by nationality. Currently, there are 8 political groups in the EP. The largest groups are the European People's Party (EPP) and the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats (S&D). The other groups are the Renew Europe (RE), the group Identity and Democracy (ID), The Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA), the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), the European United Left/Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) as well as the "Non-Inscrits", who do not participate in any political group (see the following table).

The last elections for the European Parliament were conducted in May 2019 but the EP has changed composition after the exit of the United Kingdom (Brexit) and the seats were reduced to 705 from 751.

**The composition of the European Parliament after each elections**[1]




From left to right:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Left-wing (current GUE/NGL)** | **Liberals and centrists (current RE)** | **Eurosceptic conservatives (current ECR)** |
| **Social democrats (current S&D)** | **Christian democrats and conservatives (current EPP)** | **Far-right nationalists (current ID)** |
| **Greens and regionalists (current Greens/EFA)** | **Eurosceptics** | **Heterogeneous** |
| | | **Non-Inscrits** |

[1] For further details see: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/in-the-past/previous-elections

**Current Composition of the European Parliament[2]**

| Group | Leader | MEPs |
|---|---|---|
| **European People's Party (EPP)** | Manfred Weber | 187 |
| **Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D)** | Iratxe García | 147 |
| **Renew Europe (RE)** | Dacian Cioloș | 98 |
| **Identity and Democracy (ID)** | Marco Zanni | 76 |
| **Greens/European Free Alliance (Greens/EFA)** | Ska Keller & Philippe Lamberts | 67 |
| **European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)** | Raffaele Fitto & Ryszard Legutko | 61 |
| **European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE-NGL)** | Manon Aubry & Martin Schirdewan | 40 |
| **Non-Inscrits (NI)** | - | 29 |

## B. Simulating the European Parliament

The political groups in our simulation will be the same as in the real EP, proportionally allocated to the participants. The analogy of the repartition of MEPs per member state will be respected and there will be also political groupings' leaders and secretaries. One difference with the real EP composition is that there will not be any non-inscrit members in the simulation, as all MEPs will belong to a specific political group. An MEP's main debating work during the conference will take place in two EP formations: the EP plenary session, which are common to all MEPs, and the party-political groupings meetings, in which MEPs split up into their own respective parties-groupings in which they should discuss the main position of the party in the plenary session.

Unlike the real EP, in this simulation the MEPs will debate in the plenary session, as long as there will not be any parliamentary committees. Therefore, the plenary session will be the only forum for formal debate between the MEPs. It turns out that the plenary session will be very important in terms of debate and making progress, in a way that the voice and opinion that each party grouping will be adequately heard. The main goal is to reach a consensus or at least a majority in the final voting process.

The inter-party (political grouping) negotiations prior the voting process are crucial in order to reach a consensus. The main objective of this simulation and especially of the plenary session, is to foster the notion of political consensus in a very important issue, the European citizenship. Thus, the cultivation of dialogue and consensus aims to lead to the expression of the general position of the EP in this simulation. The plenary session of the EP will be chaired by the

[2] For further details see: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/home

President of the European Parliament and the Vice-President, who shall ensure the smooth and effective running of the debates in the EP. Both the President and the Vice-Presidents will be MEPs, as in reality; however, they will not participate in the debates nor in the votes that will be held in the EP.

Except the plenary session, the party-political groupings meetings will be held prior the former. These will allow MEPs to debate and form their political grouping official position without the presence of members of other factions. Either the political grouping leader or the secretary shall chair these meetings. These sessions will allow MEPs to express themselves more freely regarding their personal position – as opposed to the faction's official position. In practical issues, if consensus cannot be reached and depending on the size of the political grouping, leaders and secretaries might use voting as a way of deciding what the political grouping line will be and they might even decide that the political grouping should not have a common policy on the issue discussed and that it is therefore up to each MEP's discretion to act in accordance with their personal views. However, is should be kept in mind that even though a position can be adopted by a political grouping after discussion in meetings, no MEP can be forced to vote in a particular way. MEPs may even decide to leave their political grouping and become 'Non-Inscrits' if they wish. It is nonetheless important to point out that it is in the interest of the political grouping that MEPs appear as united as possible, in order to foster political consensus. It is recommended to only begin negotiations with other political groups after consensus has been reached within your own political group.

## C. The simulated legislative procedure and the role descriptions

Part of the ordinary legislature procedure (OLP) will be simulated. The procedure will begin with a proposal for the chart of EU citizens' rights, drafted by the EC which will be considered by the EP after debating and amending the proposal in the plenary session. The EP process will include the inter-party/group debate in the faction sessions as well as the debate and voting in the plenary session of the EP.

The roles of this simulation include the members of the EP from which one President and one Vice-President and the Leader and Secretary of every political group-party (In reality the EP comprises one President, fourteen Vice Presidents and five Quaestors, but in the Simulation we

will reduce their number in order to meet the Simulation's needs in terms of simplification issues). The Members of the European Parliament are directly elected to represent the citizens of the 27 EU Member States. Similar to national parliaments, these representatives work together in political groupings at EU level. With support from their respective political groups, MEPs debate and discuss proposals drafted by the EC, reports delivered by other EU institutions and general developments in EU life.

MEPs may leave the political group to which they are member and become independent MEPs (Non-Inscrits) or member of another grouping. However, the possible consensus is recommended.

MEPs shall cooperate with their colleagues in order to reach a common position within their respective political groups and therefore try to create consensus in the plenary session of the EP.

Political groups' leaders and secretaries shall organize and coordinate the work of their political group. Leaders will chair the meetings of their group and organize the drafting of amendments to the legislative proposals with the assistance of secretaries. At the beginning of the debate in the EP plenary session, leaders shall hold a short introductory speech, in which they shall present their group's position on the topic which will be debated.

The EP will be chaired by a President and a Vice-President. They will be responsible for the appropriate running of the debates. Their main responsibilities will be a) to keep order in the Parliament, b) to ensure that the Rules of Procedure are followed and respected, c) to ensure that every single Member of the Parliament has the same right to speak, d) to guarantee that the debates are conducted in an atmosphere of mutual respect and no one's rights are being infringed upon.

Unlike in reality when they are affiliated to a political party, in our simulation the President and Vice President of the EP will remain neutral, thus not stating their political opinion or pushing forward any political agenda. The chairs' responsibility is to facilitate the debates, to guide and help the MEPs to reach an agreement and thus a vital consensus.

## D. How to prepare yourself in order to become a great MEP!

Firstly, in order to prepare yourself properly you should simply start your research by looking at the composition of the EP, its role, the reasons it was founded, its powers, its different political groups and its position towards European citizenship which

will be the topic of discussion and debate.

It is very important to study your political group position towards European citizenship and it is recommended that you research the general positions of your political group. It is crucial that you have an idea of what exactly your political group represents in order to facilitate the discussion firstly at the political group session and secondly at the plenary session.

Please study the way that the legislature procedure is conducted. Furthermore be aware that MEPs have two different aspects of representation to take into consideration, both their assigned country of origin and their political beliefs. It is crucial that MEPs keep both of these aspects in mind at all times, during debates in the Parliament, political group sessions and negotiations with other MEPs.

In order to be properly prepared you should carefully study the topic on the evolution of European citizenship - that will be the topic of the debates and discussion - as well as the position of the political groups towards this issue and the EU in general. You can find all this information in the following chapters.

Prior to the simulation you have to write a position paper, which is a short official statement of a MEP, outlining their position on the topic of discussion. The purpose of a position paper is to allow you to organize your research so as to determine your official position.

You must keep in mind that a key function of position papers is to allow other participants to quickly identify your position, so that they can then maybe find possible alliance points you can agree upon. As a MEP, this will also allow your political group leader to write the group's position paper.

You should bear in mind that position papers should not be more than 600 words in total. The political groups' position papers, should be no more than 1000 words.

One of the important things to remember when writing your position paper is to be concise and accurate. Make sure you have done all the necessary research. The word-limit is very important, because position papers are supposed to be as concise as possible so that they are easily readable by the other delegates.

## E. The Evolution of the European Citizenship

Before the Treaty of Maastricht in 1993 there was no European citizenship but something different that was forged under the pressure of

the European economy.[3] This bond between the European Community and the individuals was based on the characteristic of the ''citizenship of the free market''. Every citizen of a Member State could travel easily to another in order to find better job opportunities and take care of his own economic prosperity. Basic rights like equality were mainly seen in their financial framework. In addition, the people who traveled to another Member State, in order to find job, could secure their family's education and basic needs so as not to be separated. All these privileges were extremely important, but there were basically economic measures for the protection of the Market.[4] These circumstances did not provoke an interest to the individuals for more political involvement or for social critic. The people did not feel like members of the European Union but like financial units who cared only for their country and not for the well-being of the Union as a wholeness. This situation had to change. The challenge was to create a deeper sense of personal attachment between the Union and the citizen and develop meaningful civic bonds beyond the financial sector towards a public sphere based on individual membership with individuals sharing a sense of common purpose. The goal was to establish a societal glue that gives community cohesion.

In 1993, the Treaty of Maastricht established the citizenship of the European Union as a form of supranational citizenship. There are only a few other treaties who have taken so many fundamental decisions concerning the economic, political, social and cultural aspects of our lives. All these innovations about the human rights became available to nationals of all EU Member States. EU citizenship is additional and subsidiary to, and does not replace, national citizenship of a Member State. This assurance had already being given by the Edinburgh European Council (December 1992) that 'every person holding the nationality of a Member State shall be a citizen of the Union', and that furthermore 'citizenship of the Union shall complement and not replace national citizenship'.[5] That's why all Member States are equal ''partners'' in an alliance that effects every national and international decision and try to corroborate the European integration via various constitutional elements. The notion of the European citizenship is to consolidate the importance of the political role of all European citizens.

[3] Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication (2016). Flash Eurobarometer 430 (2015): TNS Political and Social, Available Online at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/2016-flash-eurobarometer-430-citizenship_en.pdf, pp 8-13.

[4] Σαχπεκίδου, Ε. (2013). *Ευρωπαϊκό Δίκαιο* (Β' Έκδοση), Θεσσαλονίκη: Εκδόσεις Σάκκουλα Αθήνα-Θεσσαλονίκη. pp. 126-134,282-288.

[5] Michael, N. (2008). *The Struggle for the European Constitution: A Past and Future History*, Oxon: Routledge. pp. 259-275.

The main characteristic of the EU citizenship is that it is not derivative, meaning that it depends on prior citizenship of one of the Member States, a status that excludes third – country nationals.[6]

## F. Details on the political groups in the European Parliament and their position towards European citizenship

The Members of the European Parliament sit in political groups – they are not organized by nationality, but by political affiliation. There are currently 7 political groups in the European Parliament. 25 Members are needed to form a political group, and at least one-quarter of the Member States must be represented within the group. Members may not belong to more than one political group. Some Members do not belong to any political group and are known as non-attached Members.[7]

Each political group care of its own internal organization by appointing a chair (or two co-chairs in the case of some groups), a bureau and a secretariat. The places assigned to Members in the Chamber are decided by political affiliation, from left to right, by agreement with the group chairmen. Before every vote in plenary the political groups scrutinize the reports drawn up by the parliamentary committees and table amendments to them. The position adopted by the political group is arrived at by discussion within the group. No Member can be forced to vote in a particular way.

### I) European People's Party group (187 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

'The nation-states are the masters of the Treaties. The nation stands for historical and cultural identity. The EU and the nations that form it are not in contradiction; rather, they strengthen and complement each other. We also want to give to our citizens a better knowledge of the way in which our institutions work and benefit them, and we support efforts to enhance the consciousness of a common European citizenship.'[8]

[6] Rainer, Bauböck. (ed.) (2019). *Debating European Citizenship*, IMSCOE: Springer Open. pp. 1-21.

[7] European Parliament, Organisation and Rules, Available Online at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/organisation-and-rules/organisation/political-groups .

[8] European People's Party, Congress Document: 'Europe secures our Future', EPP Congress, Malta, Available Online at: https://www.epp.eu/files/uploads/2017/04/Congress-document-%E2%80%98Europe-secures-our-Future%E2%80%99-1.pdf, pages 4,6,10.

*Main political values:*

It is clear that the European Peoples Party has a pro-European policy concerning its financial, social and cultural programs. The core of its policy is the economic freedom and the free competition inside the frame of a free Market. It is consisted of conservative and liberal-conservative members. The main values of the group are: i) Freedom as a central human right, coupled with responsibility, ii) Respect for traditions and associations, iii) Solidarity to help those in need, who in turn should also make an effort to improve their situation, iv) Ensuring solid public finances, v) preserving a healthy environment, vi) Subsidiarity, vii) Pluralist democracy and a Social Market Economy.

## II) Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (147 seats)

*Main on European Citizenship:*

'European citizenship is not only supported through actions across all EU policy-making, but also through a dedicated program (Europe for Citizens program, which we expect to become the Citizens, Rights and Values program in the financial period 2021-2027). We insist on the need to target active citizenship, both performed by small, especially local associations and organized groups of citizens; to foster remembrance of our difficult past and truly promote a common European dimension of living together and welcoming new comers in our societies; to promote inclusive citizenship, civic and social participation in the democratic life of the Union and citizens' engagement in our society.'[9]

*Main political values:*

The most important aspect of this group's policy is the protection of the Human Rights. All human beings should be protected even if they don't have a Member State citizenship. This parliamentary group takes part in actions that promote i) job creation, ii) democracy, iii) gender equality, iv) environmental and consumer protection, v) peace and security, vi) regulation of immigration, vii) discouragement of racism and viii) fighting organized crime.

## III) Renew Europe (98 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

'The EU's cohesion policy can be an important tool for stimulating sustainable economic growth, reducing regional disparities and bringing the EU closer to the citizens. We stand for a

[9]S&D CULT POLICY PAPER, Our Vision for Culture, Education, Media, Youth and a Solidarity-Based Citizenship, Available Online at: https://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/sites/default/files/2019-04/S%26D%20CULT%20POLICY%20PAPER.pdf .

result-oriented, efficient, thematically focused cohesion policy that follows on the real needs of citizens and that stimulates sustainable economic growth and innovation driven economy in all the EU regions.'[10]

*Main political values:*

This newly formed pro-European parliamentary group is the successor to the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) group which existed during the sixth, seventh and eighth terms from 2004 to 2019. The liberal policy of this parliamentary group is built around a free, democratic, entrepreneurial, prosperous, sustainable and united Europe based on the four freedoms of movement of people, goods, services and capital. This group believes in the importance of self-determination and in the equal and fair opportunities for everyone.

## IV) Identity and Democracy (76 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

The fourth largest political group in the European Parliament does not identify itself as a strong believer of the European Citizenship. The importance for this group lies under the strength of the European Union when it comes to the creation of jobs and growth, the increase of security, the stoppage of illegal immigration and the fight against EU bureaucracy. National identities are put forward and the common European ideology is not of such importance. Even if this political group is criticizing the European Union, there was never any effort to exit the legislative branch of the Union. They promote themselves as ''keepers of the national identity within the Union.[11]

*Main political values:*

This parliamentary group is composed of nationalist, populist and Eurosceptic members. They defend the basis of "Euro-realism", Accountability and Democracy, in a way that puts the sovereignty of the nations first. Each nation's identity and self-determination is above the European vision and all the institutions of the Union should serve their role as complementary. They do not accept the European identity and the Union is frequently envisaged as a legal entity that helps the cooperation between nations and nothing more. In addition, their ideas when it comes to migration often don not agree with the most of the political groups.

[10] Freedom, opportunity, prosperity: the Liberal vision for the future of Europe , Madrid, Spain, 2018, Available Online at: https://www.aldeparty.eu/sites/alde/files/40-Resolutions/2019_freedom_opportunity_prosperity_the_liberal_vision_for_the_future_of_europe_0.pdf , pages 1,3,8.

[11] Adams, David. (2019). 'Identity and Democracy Group: United on the Outside, Divided on the Inside?', La Republique, 28 June, Available Online at:https://www.eu-logos.org/2019/06/28/identity-and-democracy-group-united-on-the-outside-divided-on-the-inside/ .

## V) Greens–European Free Alliance (67 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

'The EU needs a binding and comprehensive mechanism to regularly monitor the state of democracy, the right of opposition forces to be heard, the rule of law, free press and fundamental rights in all EU Member States. It also needs a system of political dialogue and swift intervention and support measures to independent media, civil society and, if necessary, adequate sanctions. Transparency of EU institutions for citizens is indispensable.'[12]

*Main political values:*

This group is characterize by a green vision of Europe and the greening of the Union's economies, which. It pursues social and generational justice and inclusive democracy. It is imperative that all Member States agree on European sovereignty because individual nations are not powerful enough to deal with the challenges of the modern world. The main political ideas of this group are, i) invest in a just Green economy, research and innovation, ii) guarantee decent minimum income in member countries, iii) uphold the rule of law and fundamental rights, increase transparency and fight corruption, iv) defend the right to asylum and establish legal and safe channels for migration, v) protect the health of citizens by fighting air and water pollution and stopping plastic waste, vi) produce local, GMO and pesticide-free food, farming without cruelty to animals waste, vii) fight for a feminist Europe, against gender-based violence and for equal rights for all

## VI) European Conservatives and Reformists (61 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

'Free enterprise, free and fair trade and competition, minimal regulation, lower taxation, and small government as the ultimate catalysts for individual freedom and personal and national prosperity. […] The sovereign integrity of the nation state, opposition to EU federalism and a renewed respect for true subsidiarity.'[13]

*Main political values:*

This is a Eurosceptic and anti-federalist parliamentary group formed on the basis of "Euro-realism" respecting the sovereignty of nations,

[12] Adopted- EGP Priorities for 2019: What European Greens Fight For, Greens–European Free Alliance, Berlin, Germany, 23-25 November 2018, Available Online at: https://europeangreens.eu/sites/europeangreens.eu/files/Adopted%20EGP%20priorities%20for%202019_EN.pdf.

[13] The Prague Declaration, European Conservatives and Reformists Group, 17 December 2013, Available Online at: https://ecrgroup.eu/article/the_prague_declaration .

and focusing on economic recovery, growth and competitiveness. They believe in the important role of the family and the traditional institutions. The main political principles are: i) freedom of the individual, more personal responsibility and greater democratic accountability, ii) the over-riding value of the transatlantic security relationship in a revitalized NATO, and support for young democracies across Europe, iii) Effectively controlled immigration and an end to abuse of asylum procedures, iv) Efficient and modern public services and sensitivity to the needs of both rural and urban communities and v) greater transparency and probity in the EU institutions and use of EU funds.

## VII) European United Left–Nordic Green Left (40 seats)

*Thesis on European Citizenship:*

'The backbone of our job is to hold the EU institutions and governments to account. From demanding transparency, to scrutinizing budget proposals, to defending rights, peace and stability in the ongoing Brexit talks, our MEPs are a voice for accountability and integrity. In the continuing debate about the future direction of the European Union, we put forward alternative visions and challenge dominant neoliberal dogma.'[14]

*Main political values:*

This parliamentary group is composed of left-wing and far left members. They ask for total change of institutions, breaking with neo-liberal policies, and a policy of co-development and equitable cooperation. Despite their main arguments against neo-liberalism the group is committed to the Union's integration. Their ideas are often found between reformism and revolution, but each member has to decide for itself if it wants to seek a different or o reformed European Union.

[14] What we stand for!, European United Left–Nordic Green Left, Available Online at: https://www.guengl.eu/what-we-stand-for/ .

# G. Rules of Procedure for the European Parliament[15]

**Rule 1**

**The President**

1.1. The Parliament shall be chaired jointly by a President and Vice-President. The term 'President in these rules of procedure refers to both President and Vice-President.

1.2. The President shall open, suspend and close sittings, temporarily adjourn meetings, direct the debates of the Parliament, rule on the admissibility of procedural points, motions and amendments, ensure observance of the rules, maintain order, call on speakers, close debates, limit the number of speakers permitted within a certain debate, close the list of speakers, ascertain whether a quorum exists, put questions to the vote, and announce the result of any vote.

1.3. The President must ensure that all Members yield to the rules of procedure at all times. Every Member should respect the decisions of the President.

1.4. If questions arise over the interpretation of these rules of procedure, the President shall decide on the correct interpretation.

1.5. No Member may speak in the plenary unless called upon to do so by the President. If a speaker departs from the subject, the President shall call him or her to order. If a speaker is called to order twice on the same item of business, the President may, on the third occasion, forbid him or her to speak again on that item.

1.6. A speaker may not be interrupted except by the President.

1.7. The President may take immediate measures against Members who disrupts the conduct of a session (see Rule 2).

1.8. The President shall not vote on any matter on the agenda.

**Rule 2**

**Maintenance of order**

2.1. Words or expressions which affront human dignity or which may prejudice orderly debate may not be used.

2.2. The President shall call to order any Member of the Parliament who causes a disturbance during proceedings.

[15] Adapted to the needs of Simulation. Also, for the needs of Simulation the Organizers can adjust the rules of procedure in order to achieve its smooth conduction.

2.3. If the offence is repeated, the President shall again call the Member to order, and this shall be recorded in the report of debate. Should the disturbance continue, or if a further offence is committed, the President may deny the offender the right to speak and/or exclude him/ her from the Parliament for the remainder of the sitting. The President may also resort to the latter measure immediately in cases of exceptional gravity.

2.4. Should disturbances threaten to obstruct the business of the Parliament, the President shall close or suspend the sitting for a specific period of time to restore order. If he/she cannot make himself heard, he/she shall leave the Chair; this shall have the effect of suspending the sitting. The President shall reconvene the sitting at a later time.

2.5. Mobile phones should be turned off during sessions.

**Rule 3**

**Official Language**

3.1. English is both the working and official language for the EP simulation.

**Rule 4**

**Co-decision procedure for the Council and Parliament**

4.1. The Commission proposal will be submitted to the Parliament.[16]

**Rule 5**

**General Course of a Reading in the Parliament**

5.1. A reading consists of introductory statements, general debate on the topic, debate on specific amendments, and voting on amendments.

5.2. After the introductory statements, there will be a general debate on the topic. Every Member who wishes to speak may do so.

5.3. The general debate ends when there are no more speakers on the list of speakers for the general debate or when a motion for a closure of general debate (see Rule 7.4) has been granted.

5.4. The President can limit the number of speakers permitted during a debate beforehand; he or she can also close the list of speakers during the debate.

[16] The Organizers will take over the role of Commissioner.

5.5. When the general debate on a topic has been closed, the President will announce debate on proposed amendments.

5.6. The debate on a specific amendment ends when there are no more speakers on the list of speakers for the debate on this amendment or when a motion for closure of debate has been granted. The Parliament moves to voting procedures on the amendments (see Rule 11).

5.7. Only amendments that have been debated can be voted on during an amendment voting session.

5.8. When voting procedures on the amendments finish, the Parliament moves to a general debate or to voting procedures on the draft proposal in question.

**Rule 6**

**Types of Debate and Right to Speak**

6.1. There are three types of debate: the Speakers List and Informal Discussion.

6.2. Speakers List: a. Each Member who wishes to speak during a debate within a Speakers List must raise his or her placard after the President has made a call for speakers, or pass a note to the President.

b. The President can limit the number of speakers permitted during a certain debate before it begins. He/she may also close the list of speakers at any time.

c. The President will call upon the Members on the Speakers List when their turn comes. The Members will hold their speech from their seat.

d. The speaking time is usually one minute. The chair can announce a change of the time limit for a set of speakers or for individual speakers at his/her discretion. Motions to extend or limit the speaking time are in order.

e. When a speaker has finished his speech, he or she may be asked by the President whether he or she is open to questions (a.k.a. Points of Information). The speaker has the right not to answer any question. Both the President and the speaker can limit the number of questions they want to permit. The time limit for a question is thirty seconds.

f. Members who wish to make a point of information should raise their hands when they are asked to do so. They will be noted by the Presidency and called upon to speak at the appropriate time.

g. Once the Member has made his/her point of information, the President give the original speaker the opportunity to respond. The President can also decide not to give the speaker the opportunity to answer.

h. In exceptional cases, the President can allow the Member who asked the question to comment on the answer of the speaker.

i. If speakers whose names have been duly entered on the list are not able to speak due to lack of time, they have the right to hand in the text of their speech to the President in writing, in a final and legible form, provided that it does not exceed the speaking time they would have been allowed. A 1-minute speech is normally equal to 1/2 page. The President may make a summary of the speeches of those speakers at the close of debate.

6.3 Informal Discussion:

a. An Informal Discussion can be proposed by the President or the Members of the Parliament at any time via a Motion for an Informal Discussion, specifying the time limit of the Informal Discussion. This time limit may not exceed 15 minutes.

b. During an Informal Discussion, Members shall stay in the room.

c. The President does not moderate and the discussion is unofficial.

**Rule 7**

**Procedural Motions**

7.1. A Member shall have a right to speak if he or she raises a procedural motion. Members can raise procedural motions at all times, except for during Informal Discussion, when another Member is speaking, and during voting procedures.

7.2. To raise a procedural motion, a Member shall raise their hand and state the type of the Motion.

7.3. No motion may interrupt a speaker.

7.4. There are the following procedural motions:

a. Motion for an Informal Discussion

A Member may make a Motion for an Informal Discussion so that disputed points can be clarified in an informal setting. The President can either approve the motion or put it to vote immediately. A simple majority is required. The President also has the possibility to declare a temporary adjournment of the session without a motion from a Member.

b. Motion to Close Debate

A Member may make a Motion to Close Debate, which can pertain to the general debate, the debate on the amendments, or the debate on a specific amendment. In case there are objections to this motion, it should be put to a vote. One Member may speak in favour and one Member may speak against the motion. A two-thirds majority is required. Once a motion for closure of debate has passed, the debate will be closed immediately and none of the speakers still on the list of speakers will have the possibility to deliver their remarks verbally.

c. Motion to Extend/Limit Speaking Time

A Member may propose to change the duration of the speaking times. This motion can be raised only when the President asks for points and motions. The President may put this motion to a vote. A simple majority is required.

7.5. There are no abstentions during votes on procedural motions.

7.6. The President is allowed to dismiss dilatory procedural motions

**Rule 8**

**Amendments to a Proposal**

8.1. The amendments will be debated during the amendments debate and immediately following the general debate. They will be debated in the order in which they appear in the text. If two or more contradictory amendments relate to the same paragraph, the amendment which differs most from the text shall have priority over the others and shall be taken first. If it passes, the other amendments thereby fail if it is rejected, the amendment which is next in priority shall be considered, and similarly for each of the remaining amendments. In case of doubt as to the order, the President shall give a ruling.

8.2. Every member can propose amendments to a proposal. Amendments must be handed in to the President in the designated form.

8.3. An amendment which would tend to delete, replace or render inoperative the whole of a draft text is not in order. The President can dismiss dilatory amendments.

8.4. Amendments can be handed in at all times during a reading.

8.5. When a proposed amendment is to be debated, the President calls upon the member who submitted it to present it. Apart from reading out loud the text of the proposed amendment, the member should explain it in a few brief sentences. After that, the President shall open a speakers list regarding the amendment. No speech on amendments may last for more than one minute.

8.6. An amendment can make changes to several paragraphs in the text if these changes are linked with each other and if it would make no sense to split the amendment up into several amendments. The President can dismiss an amendment on the grounds that it changes several paragraphs at a time but could be split up into several amendments.

8.7. The member who proposed an amendment can withdraw that amendment at all times. If he/she does so, the President will ask whether another member is willing to take over the amendment. If no other member immediately takes over the amendment, it is deemed void.

8.8. Sub-amendments (a.k.a. Amendments to the Amendments) shall relate to an amendment previously discussed and may not contradict the sense of the amendment. A sub-amendment may not be further amended.

8.9. Friendly amendment: A member who discovers a spelling, grammatical or stylistic mistake in the proposal or in an amendment being debated may propose a friendly amendment. The friendly amendment should be in a written form and can be delivered to the President at all times. The President decides on the matter. The President also has the possibility to propose a friendly amendment.

**Rule 9**

**Voting on Amendments**

9.1. When the debate on amendments has been closed, the President announces the beginning of the amendment voting procedure. No amendments may be submitted during the voting procedure and no member is allowed to enter or exit the Parliament.

9.2 During voting procedures, note passing is suspended.

9.3. The amendments that have been debated will be voted on following their order of appearance in the text. The President will read out the text of the amendment to be voted on. The members will vote directly afterward, without debate. A simple majority is needed for the amendment to be accepted. Abstentions are allowed in the Parliament.

9.4. All the passed amendments become part of the amended proposal.

**Rule 10**

**Quorum**

10.1. Quorum is the number of Members necessary to be present in order for the Parliament to enter voting procedure. The presence of one-third of the Members is required for a quorum. When a substantive vote is to be taken, the President shall check that there is a quorum.

10.2. If there is no quorum, the vote is void unless it is a vote on a procedural motion.

**Rule 11**

**Voting procedures**

11.1. No Member shall enter or leave the Parliament during voting procedure, nor speak or raise a motion except for points of information concerning the voting procedure.

11.2. No Member may be called to speak during a vote.

11.3. During voting procedures, note passing is suspended.

11.4. There is the possibility to vote in favour, to vote against, or to abstain. When voting on procedural motions, however, there is no possibility to abstain.

11.5. The Parliament shall vote by either a show of hands or the raising of placards. If the President decides that the result is doubtful, a fresh vote shall be taken via a roll-call vote. During the roll-call, the President will call upon the MEPs present to state their voting intent.

11.6. Every Member has one vote. A simple majority of votes of all Members present is needed, if no other provisions are made. 13.8. The President shall declare the voting closed and announce the result, which may not subsequently be modified. The numerical result of a vote on a piece of legislation shall be displayed publicly in the Parliament, if possible.

**Rule 12**

**Majorities**

There are three different kinds of majority:

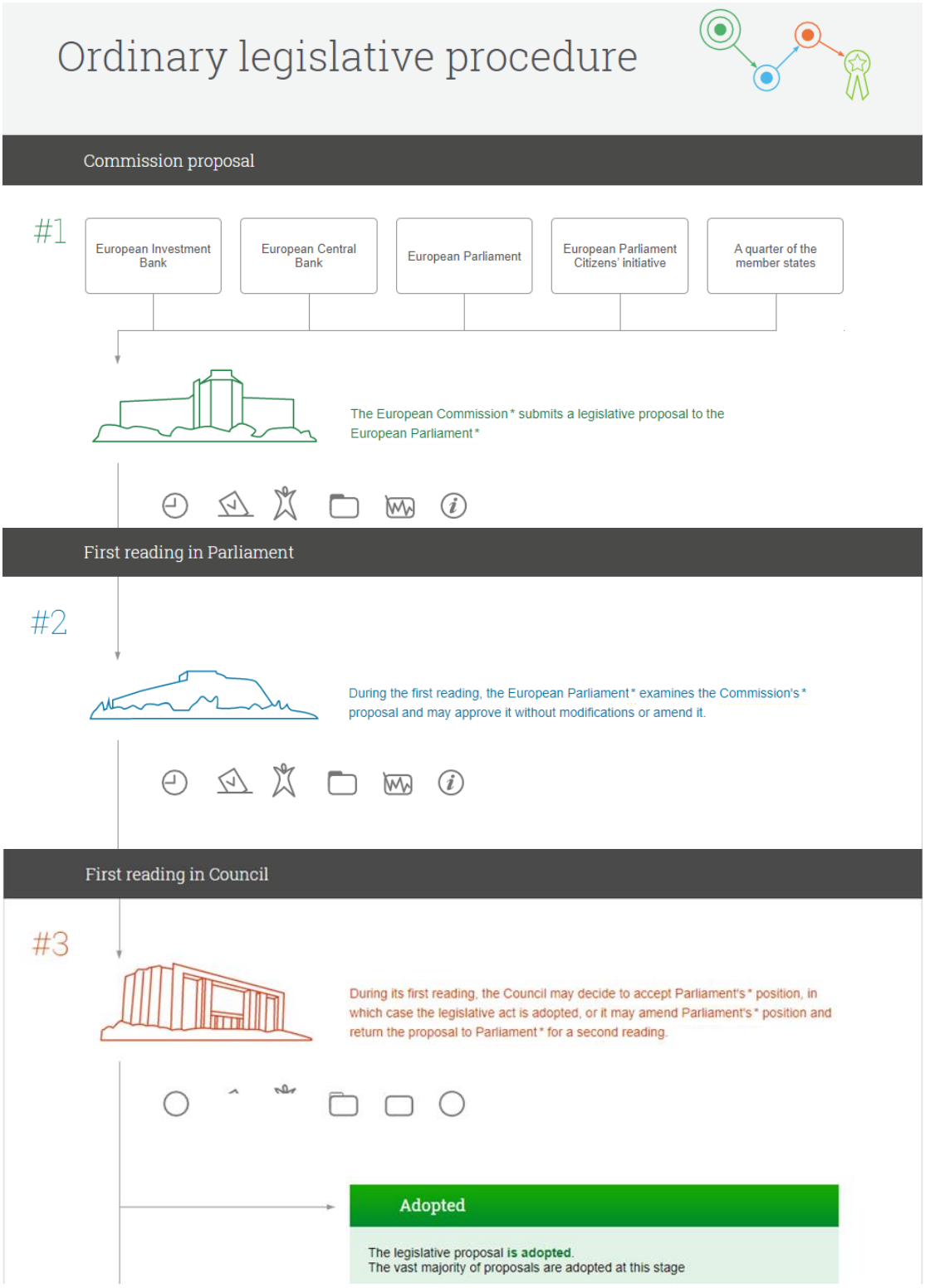
a. A simple majority.

Every Member has one vote. A simple majority of all Members present is needed when voting on procedural matters for most votes in the Parliament.

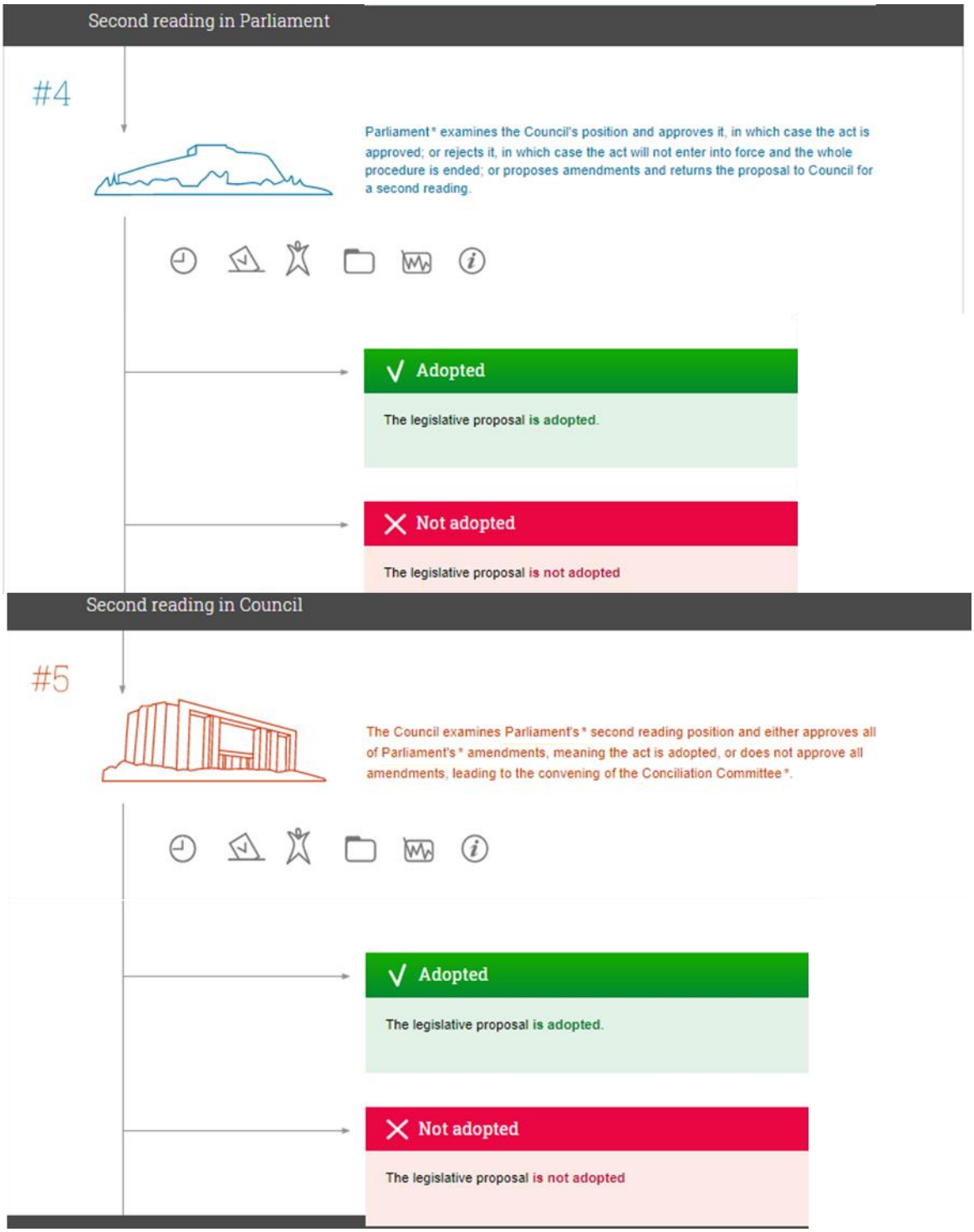
b. A two-thirds majority.

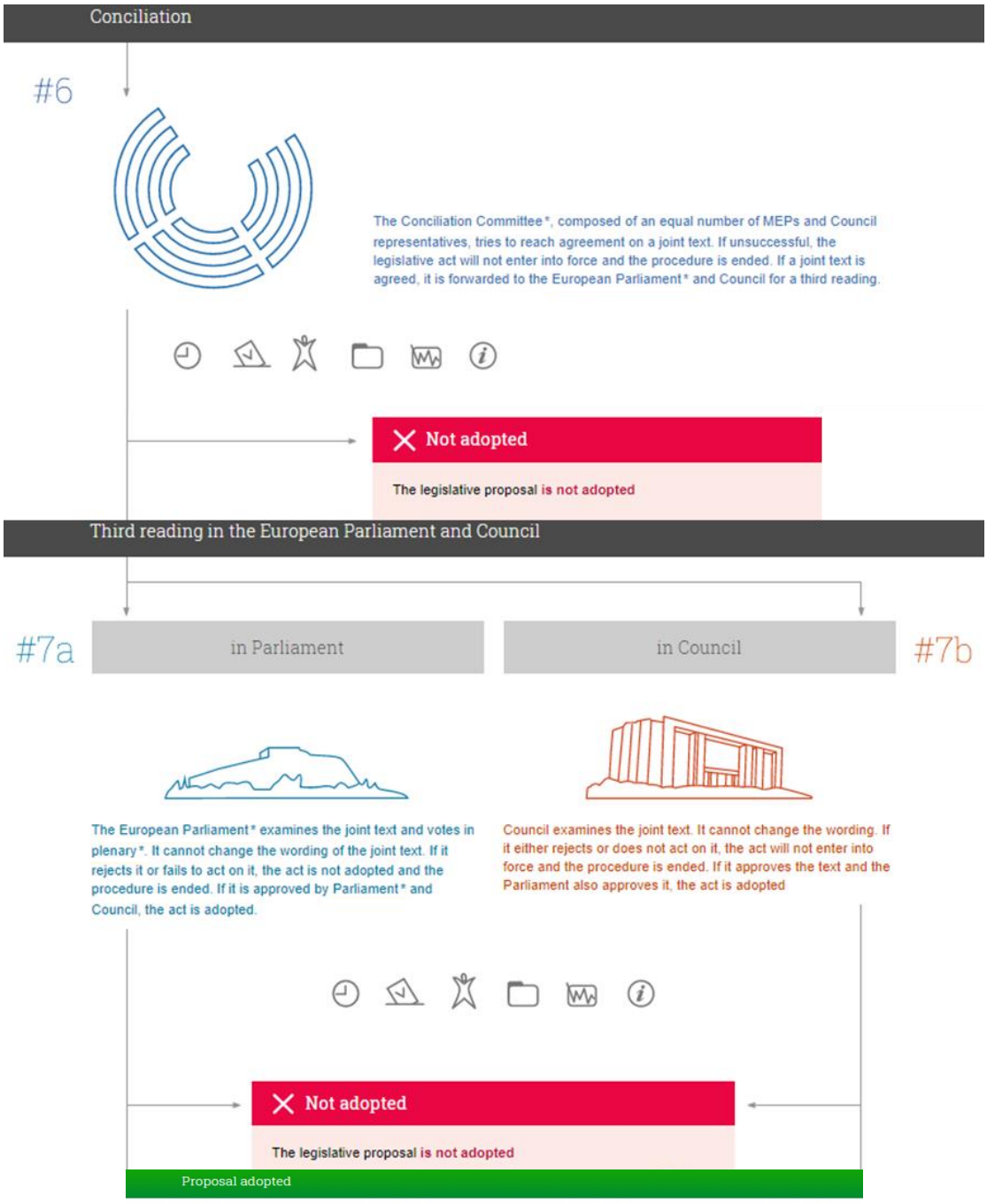
Every Member has one vote. Two-thirds of the votes of all Members present are needed. This majority is only needed for a motion to close debate in the Parliament.

## H. The real procedure[17]




[17] This process is retrieved from the official page of the EP, available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/infographic/legislative-procedure/index_en.html#proposal-adopted


Second reading in Parliament
#4
Parliament* examines the Council's position and approves it, in which case the act is approved; or rejects it, in which case the act will not enter into force and the whole procedure is ended; or proposes amendments and returns the proposal to Council for a second reading.
Adopted
The legislative proposal is adopted.
Not adopted
The legislative proposal is not adopted
Second reading in Council
#5
The Council examines Parliament's* second reading position and either approves all of Parliament's* amendments, meaning the act is adopted, or does not approve all amendments, leading to the convening of the Conciliation Committee*.
Adopted
The legislative proposal is adopted.
Not adopted
The legislative proposal is not adopted


Conciliation
#6
The Conciliation Committee*, composed of an equal number of MEPs and Council representatives, tries to reach agreement on a joint text. If unsuccessful, the legislative act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If a joint text is agreed, it is forwarded to the European Parliament* and Council for a third reading.
Not adopted
The legislative proposal is not adopted
Third reading in the European Parliament and Council
#7a
in Parliament
in Council
#7b
The European Parliament* examines the joint text and votes in plenary*. It cannot change the wording of the joint text. If it rejects it or fails to act on it, the act is not adopted and the procedure is ended. If it is approved by Parliament* and Council, the act is adopted.
Council examines the joint text. It cannot change the wording. If it either rejects or does not act on it, the act will not enter into force and the procedure is ended. If it approves the text and the Parliament also approves it, the act is adopted
Not adopted
The legislative proposal is not adopted
Proposal adopted
The European Parliament* examines the joint text and votes in plenary*. It cannot change the wording of the joint text. If it rejects it or fails to act on it, the act is not adopted and the procedure is ended. If it is approved by Parliament* and Council, the act is adopted.
Regulations* are directly binding throughout the EU as of the date set down in the Official Journal*.
Directives* lay down end results to be achieved in every member state, but leaves it up to national governments to decide how to adapt their laws to achieve these goals. Each directive* specifies the date by which the national laws must be adapted.
Decisions* apply in specific cases, involving particular authorities or individuals and are fully binding.
Proposal not adopted
If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the Parliament and the Council cannot reach a compromise, the proposal is not adopted and the procedure is ended. A new procedure can start only with a new proposal from the Commission.

# I. The Simulation procedure

This Simulation of the European Parliament will include a part of the ordinary legislature procedure (OLP). The procedure will begin with a proposal for changes in the charter of EU citizens' rights, drafted by the European Commission which will be considered by the EP after debating and amending the proposal in the plenary session. The EP process will include the inter-party/group debate in the faction sessions as well as the debate and voting in the plenary session of the EP.

In fact, the first day, the procedure will include the first reading of the ordinary procedure from the European Parliament (see: #2 of the chapter "H. the real procedure" in this study guide) as well as, the second day, the second reading from the European Parliament (see: #4 of the chapter "H. the real procedure" in this study guide). For reasons of procedure easing, proposal, first as well as the second reading from the European Council (#1, #3, #5 respectively) the first and the second day respectively, will be presupposed adopted (see: Section "H: The real procedure" in this Study Guide).