

# LEGISLATING IN THE EU

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HOW TEXTS ARE ADOPTED

# THE ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE (OLP)

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Under the Treaty of Lisbon, co-decision officially became the 'Ordinary Legislative Procedure'



It is the general rule for passing legislation at EU level,



covering the vast majority of areas of Union action



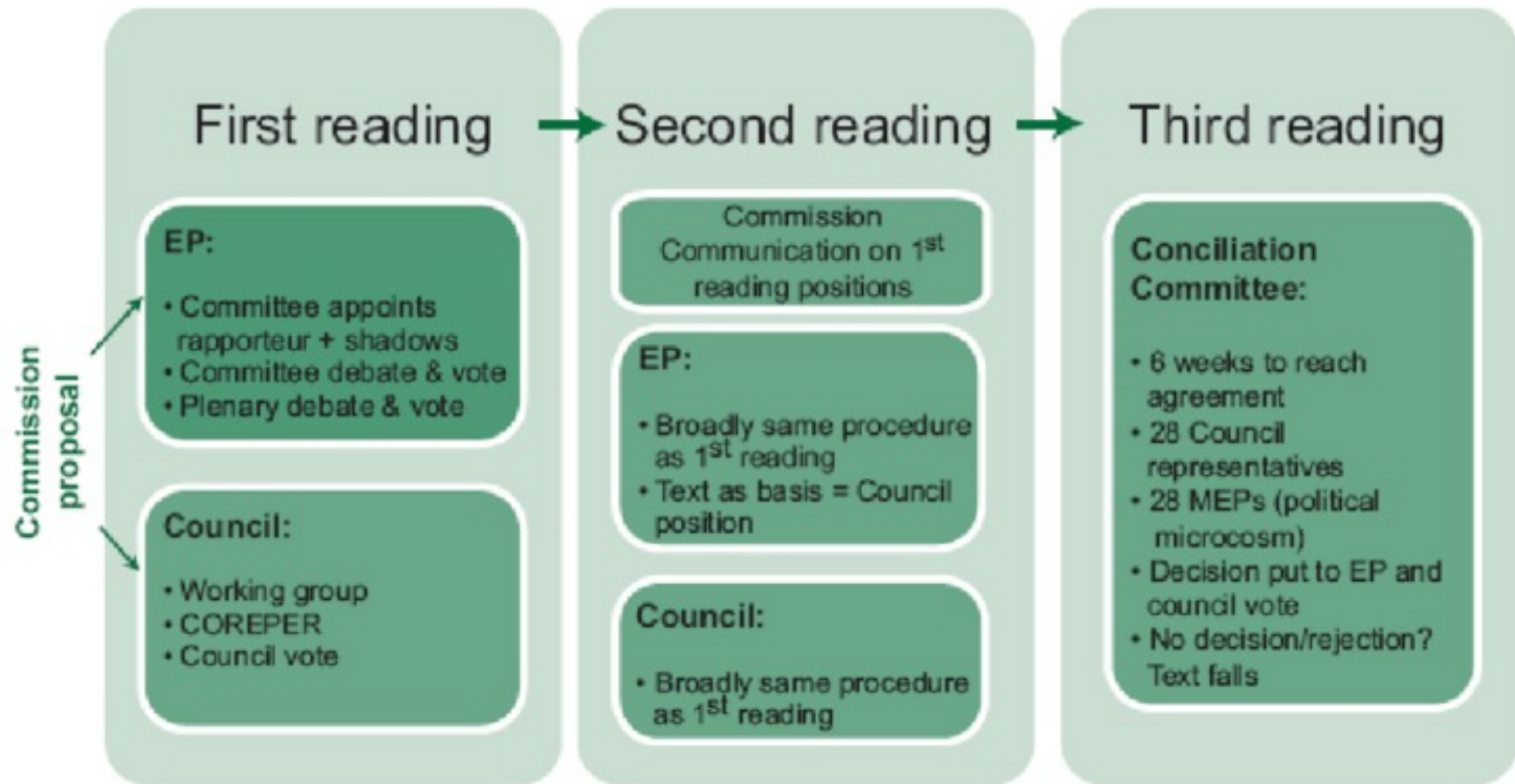
The main characteristic of the OLP is the adoption of legislation jointly and on an equal footing by Parliament and the Council.

# THE PROCESS

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- Starts with a legislative proposal from the Commission (normally for a regulation, directive or decision)
- up to three readings,
- the possibility for the co-legislators to agree on a joint text - and thereby conclude the procedure - at any reading
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# The ordinary legislative procedure



Informal discussions ('trilogues') between the 3 institutions throughout the procedure (usually)

Agreement possible at any stage of the procedure:

# FIRST READING

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**Parliament and Council examine in parallel the Commission's proposal.**



**Parliament that acts first voting by a simple majority usually on the basis of a report prepared by one of its committees**



**in most cases either amends the Commission's proposal or adopts it without amendments.**



**It can also reject the proposal altogether**



**After the Parliament has adopted its position, the Council may decide to accept Parliament's position, → the legislative act is adopted,**

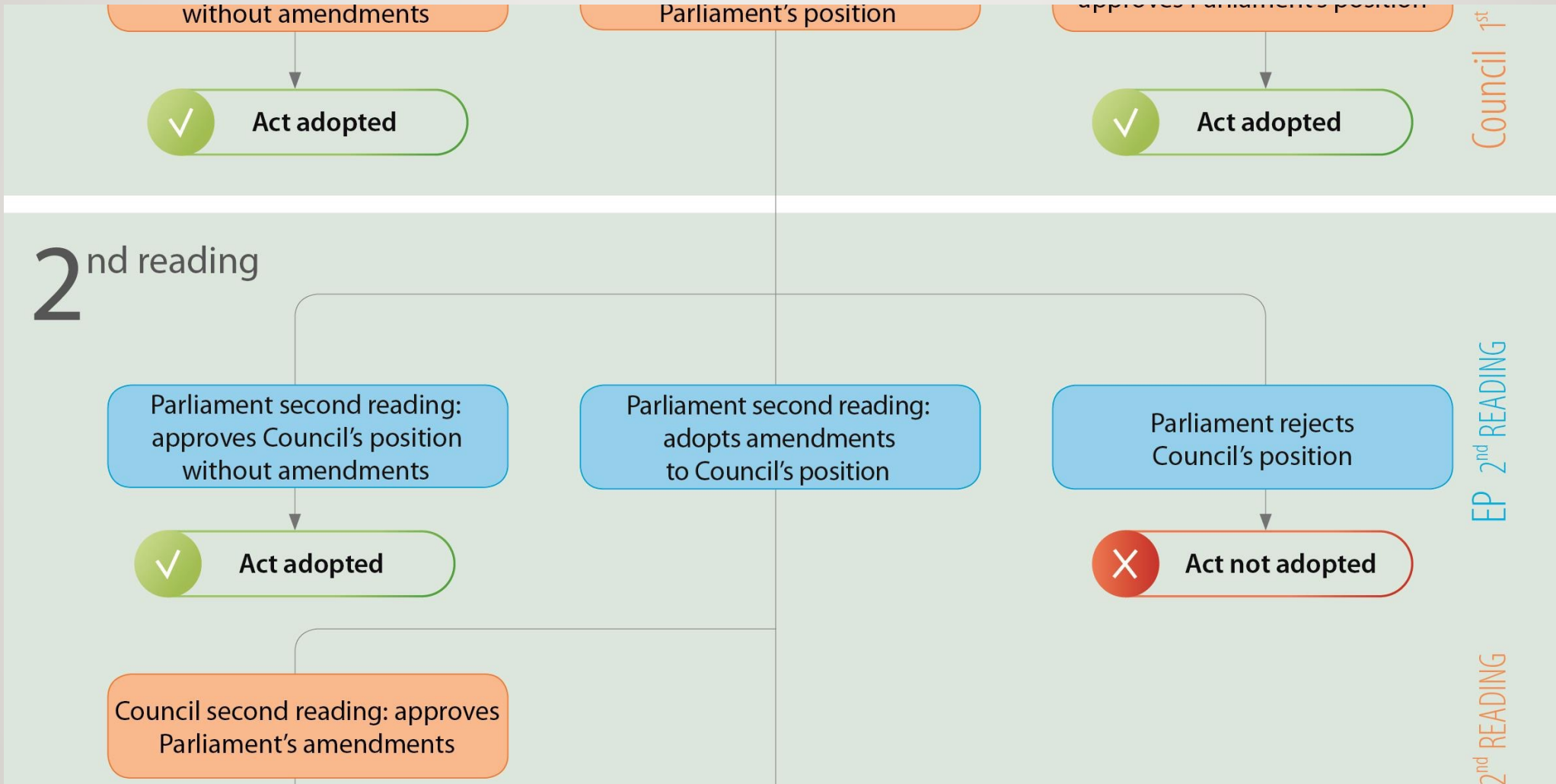


**or it may adopt a different position at first reading and communicate it to Parliament for a second reading. \ no time limits to conclude its first reading.**

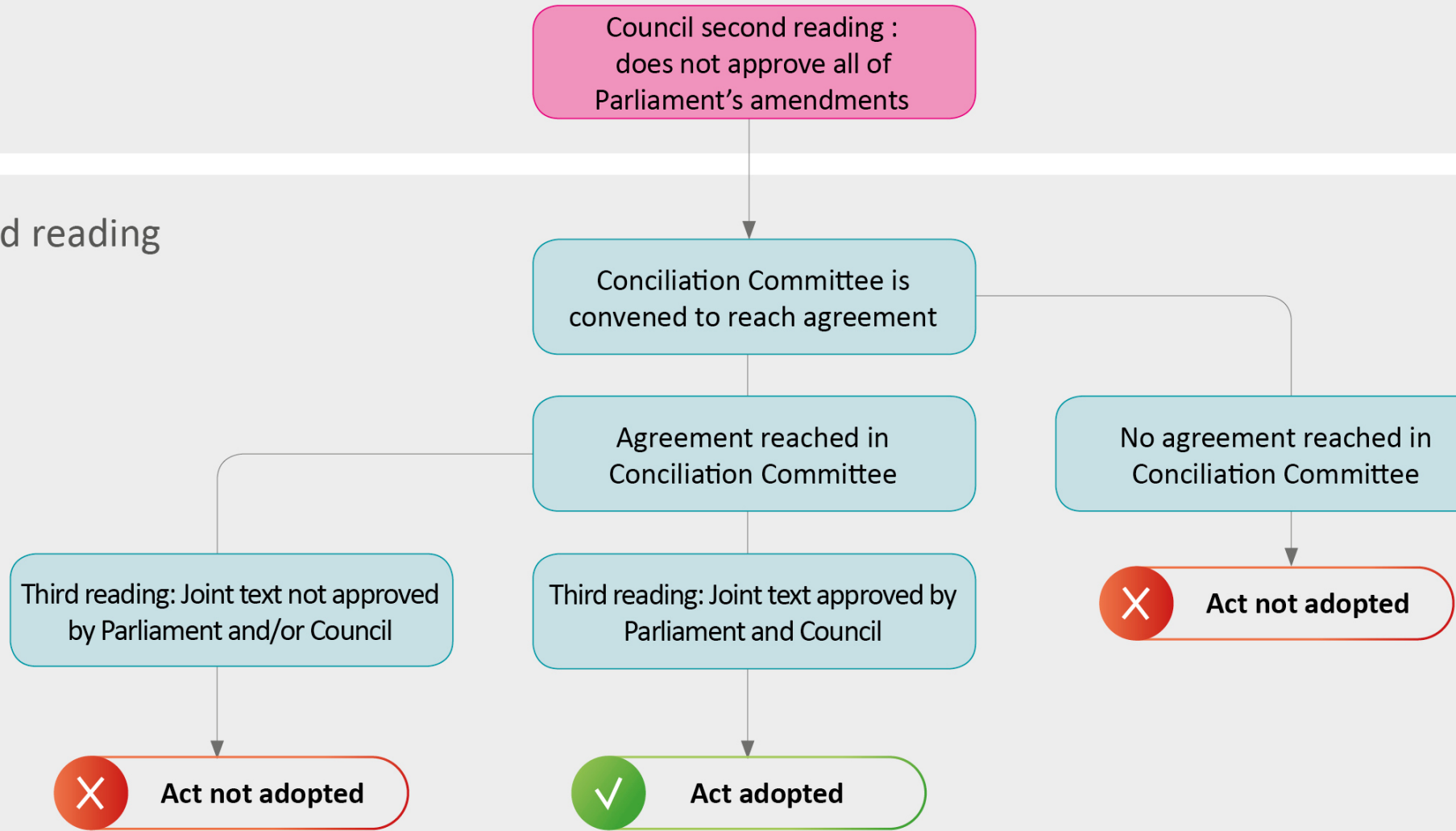
# SECOND READING

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- In general terms, it follows a similar logic and pattern as the first reading
- BUT there are deadlines
- Each of the co-legislators has three months, extendible by one month, to adopt its position
- Parliament rejects or amends the Council's first-reading position by an absolute majority of its Members (currently 353 out of 705 votes)



# 3<sup>rd</sup> reading



EP + Council  
3<sup>rd</sup> READING



# THIRD READING - CONCILIATION

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- It opens if the Council cannot accept all the amendments adopted by Parliament at second reading
- Negotiations between the two co-legislators in the framework of the Conciliation Committee
- the objective of reaching an agreement in the form of a 'joint text' which then has to be confirmed by both Parliament and the Council

### Stage of adoption of OLP acts per legislative term

