The subsidiarity principle, the Commission has to review the proposal and decide whether to keep, amend or withdraw it and to justify its decision.

Subject that comes within the EU's remit.

Commission White Papers are documents containing proposals for EU action in a specific area. In some cases they follow a Green Paper published to launch a public consultation. The White Paper is a detailed account of a field and is linked to a Green Paper. It will also consider the views of interested parties. In some cases, it may be followed by legislative proposals.

A draft law is amended and voted on at the European Parliament. The Council, with the European Council, can decide to accept the European Parliament's position. If the Council does not accept it, they are referred to the Parliament's conciliation committee.

If a matter referred to Parliament cannot be given to one responsible committee because it is clearly within the competences of several, the respective rapporteurs draw up a single draft report, which is voted on jointly by the committees concerned, under the joint chairmanship of the committee chairs.

Conciliation is the third and final phase of the ordinary legislative procedure. It takes place when Parliament and Council can't reach agreement on a legislative proposal. The conciliation committee, composed of members from both the Council and Parliament, tries to find a consensus. If the committee reaches an agreement, a joint legislative text is adopted by Parliament and Council.

Any EU citizen, resident, or company, organisation or association with its headquarters in the EU, can petition Parliament on any subject falling within the EU’s remit. Petitions with at least 100,000 signatures are referred to the competent committee. The petition is handled by the Petitions Committee, which forwards it to the competent committee. The committee then recommends a reply and this is adopted by Parliament for the petition to be considered for legislation.

The Lisbon Treaty entered into force on 1 December 2009. It comprises the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the functioning of the EU (TFEU). The Lisbon Treaty gave more power to the EP, changed voting procedures in the Council, introduced the citizens' initiative, created a permanent president of the Council, and provided for greater influence for the EP on the selection of the president of the Commission.