Proposal adopted

Once both European Parliament and Council have approved the final text of a legislative proposal, it is adopted by a vote of 376 votes in the plenary of the European Parliament. The act is then published in the Official Journal of the European Union, where it becomes official.

The legislative proposal is adopted

#1 Commission proposal

European Commission submits legislative proposal to the European Parliament

#2 1st reading in the Parliament

During its 1st reading, the European Parliament examines the Commission’s proposal and may adopt or amend it.

The legislative proposal is not adopted

#3 1st reading in Council

During its 1st reading, the Council may decide to accept Parliament’s position or to amend it. If the Council adopts the proposal, it returns it to Parliament for a 2nd reading.

The legislative proposal is adopted

#4 2nd reading in Parliament

Parliament examines Council’s position and approves it, in which case the act is adopted; or it may consider that the act does not achieve the goals set out in the proposal and return the proposal to the Council for a 3rd reading.

The legislative proposal is not adopted

#5 2nd reading in Council

Council examines Parliament’s 2nd reading position and either approves it, in which case the act is adopted; or it may consider that the act does not achieve the goals set out in the proposal and return the proposal to the Conciliation Committee.

The legislative proposal is adopted

#6 Conciliation

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 3rd reading.

The legislative proposal is not adopted

#7a 3rd reading in Parliament

The European Parliament examines the joint text and votes on whether to accept or reject it. If the Parliament adopts the act, it becomes official; if it rejects the act or fails to act on it, the act does not enter into force and the procedure is ended.

The legislative proposal is adopted

#7b 3rd reading in the Council

Council examines the joint text and votes on whether to accept or reject it. If the Council adopts the act, it becomes official; if it rejects the act or fails to act on it, the act does not enter into force and the procedure is ended.

The legislative proposal is not adopted

Proposal not adopted

If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the Parliament and 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.

Proposal adopted

The vast majority of proposals are adopted at this stage.

The legislative proposal is adopted

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European Commission submits legislative proposal to the European Parliament

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