HOW EU DECISIONS ARE MADE?

Short guidebook to EU decision-making process
Decision-making process at the EU level involves various actors

**European Commission**
- Executive body of the EU that proposes laws, policies, agreements and promotes the EU
  Website: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/index_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/index_en)

**European Parliament**
- Directly elected legislative body of the EU.
- Consists of MEPs that are directly elected by EU Citizens to represent their interests

**Council of the EU**
- Decides on the policies and adopting legislation
- Consists of Ministers from the governments of the EU Member States

**European Council**
- Consists of the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States
- Defines political direction and priorities

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The great majority of EU Legislation is adopted using the standard decision-making procedure, known as “Ordinary Legislative Procedure” (OLP). In this procedure the European Parliament and the Council of the EU share legislative power, and have to approve EU legislation together.

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**Types of Legislation:**

1. **Regulation**
   These are legislative acts that apply automatically and uniformly to all EU Member States as soon as they enter into force, without needing to be transposed into national law. They are binding in their entirety in all EU Member States.

2. **Directive**
   It requires from EU Member States to achieve a certain result, but leave them free to choose how to do so. EU Member States must adopt measures to incorporate them into national legislation in order to achieve the objectives set by the directive.

3. **Decisions**
   These are addressed to Members States, groups of people and individuals. They are binding legal acts.

4. **Recommendation and opinion**
EU decision making process in graphics

**Proposal from the Commission**

First reading

First reading by the European Parliament
Parliament adopts amendments

First reading by the Council

Council approves Parliament’s position. **The act is adopted.**

Council and Parliament disagree on amendments. Council adopts position on first reading

Second reading

Second reading by the Parliament. Parliament approves the Council’s position at first reading - **the act is adopted** in “early second reading” - or proposes amendments

Second reading by the Council

Council approves all Parliament’s amendments to the Council’s position at first reading. **The act is adopted.**

Council and Parliament disagree on amendments to the Council’s position at first reading

Conciliation

Conciliation Committee is convened

Parliament and Council agree with the proposal from the Conciliation Committee and **the act is adopted.**

Parliament and Council disagree with the proposal from the Conciliation Committee and **the act is not adopted.**
ABOUT THE PROJECT

Erasmus in Action" project, whose aim is to increase the interest in and feeling of ownership of European-level democratic participation for young people in Europe.

Participating organisations: