

**WHAT HAPPENS
IF A LAW DOES NOT
GET ADOPTED BEFORE
THE END OF A
PARLIAMENTARY
TERM?**



TYPICALLY, FOR A LAW TO GET ADOPTED IN THE EU...



A legislative proposal is put forward by the European Commission, the executive branch of the EU.

1

2

Then the proposal is submitted and referred to relevant committees within the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU. They examine the proposal in detail and put forward amendments. They also vote on to whether to adopt amendments to the legislative text.



What is an amendment?

An amendment is a change or addition made to a proposal. It can alter specific parts of the proposal or add new provisions to typically address issues or improve clarity.



3

Then the legislative proposal is put to vote in Plenary. Members of Parliament (MEPs) debate the proposal and vote on whether to adopt, amend or reject it. A simple majority vote is usually required for adoption.



If the European Parliament and the Council of the EU have different opinions on the proposal, they enter negotiations (e.g. trilogues) mediated by the EU Commission, to reconcile their positions and reach a compromise.

4

5

Finally, once an agreement is reached, the legislative proposal is formally adopted as EU law!





But as you probably know, we are approaching the European Elections, where EU citizens are voting for a new Parliament.



**SO WHAT HAPPENS IF A
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL
HASN'T BEEN ADOPTED BY
THE END OF A PARLIAMENT'S
MANDATE?**



IF THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED IN PLENARY BY THE PREVIOUS PARLIAMENT...

The adopted text remains legally valid for the following mandate. Incoming MEPs continue the legislative process where it left off!



BUT IF IT HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED IN PLENARY

the file has no legally valid Parliamentary position. Parliament's Rules of Procedure state that work done on such files stops, but when the new group of MEPs starts, the leaders of the different political groups in the Parliament can decide to pick up where the previous Parliament left off or start fresh.

MEPs meet to discuss and establish priorities for the new term, and during this time, there is typically a review of legislative proposals that were pending from the previous Parliamentary term.



This involves assessing the progress made on these proposals, considering changes in the political landscape or priorities, and deciding whether to prioritise their reconsideration in the new term.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW THE EU WORKS?

Then let us know in the comments or ask us in the link

tinyurl.com/bdzhepr9

or scan the QR code



Resources



[Ordinary Legislative procedure - Consilium Europa](#)

[What happens to laws that don't pass by the end of the legislature? - European Parliament](#)



This post is part of a new series where we explain how different things related to the EU institutions work!