



The European Commission

What it does and how it works from the inside

Intro : what does the EU ?

**Exclusive
competences**

***Member States can only act if
authorised by the Union***

Shared competences

***Member States can legislate so long as
Union powers are not exercised***

**Coordination of
economic, employment
& some social policies**

***Member States conduct their policies in
the context of EU guidelines***

**Common Foreign &
Security Policy**

***Member States support EU policy 'in a
spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity'***

**Supporting, coordinating
or supplementary action**

***harmonization of Member States' laws
or regulations is excluded***

Intro : who is the EU ?



Content

- **Role of the Commission in the EU**
- How it works in practice
- The Juncker Commission and its agenda

The Commission : the "European" institution



**‘The Commission shall promote the general interest of the Union...
...shall be completely independent...**

**the members of the Commission shall neither seek nor take instructions from
any Government or other institution, body, office or entity.’**

The 4 missions of the Commission

- 1 Proposes new legislation
- 2 Executive organ
- 3 Guardian of the treaties
- 4 Represents the EU on the international stage



Institution and political body

COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS
(one from each Member State)

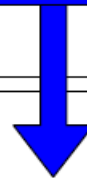
*Political
level*

President

8 Vice-Presidents and 18 Members

each with a Cabinet (Private Office)

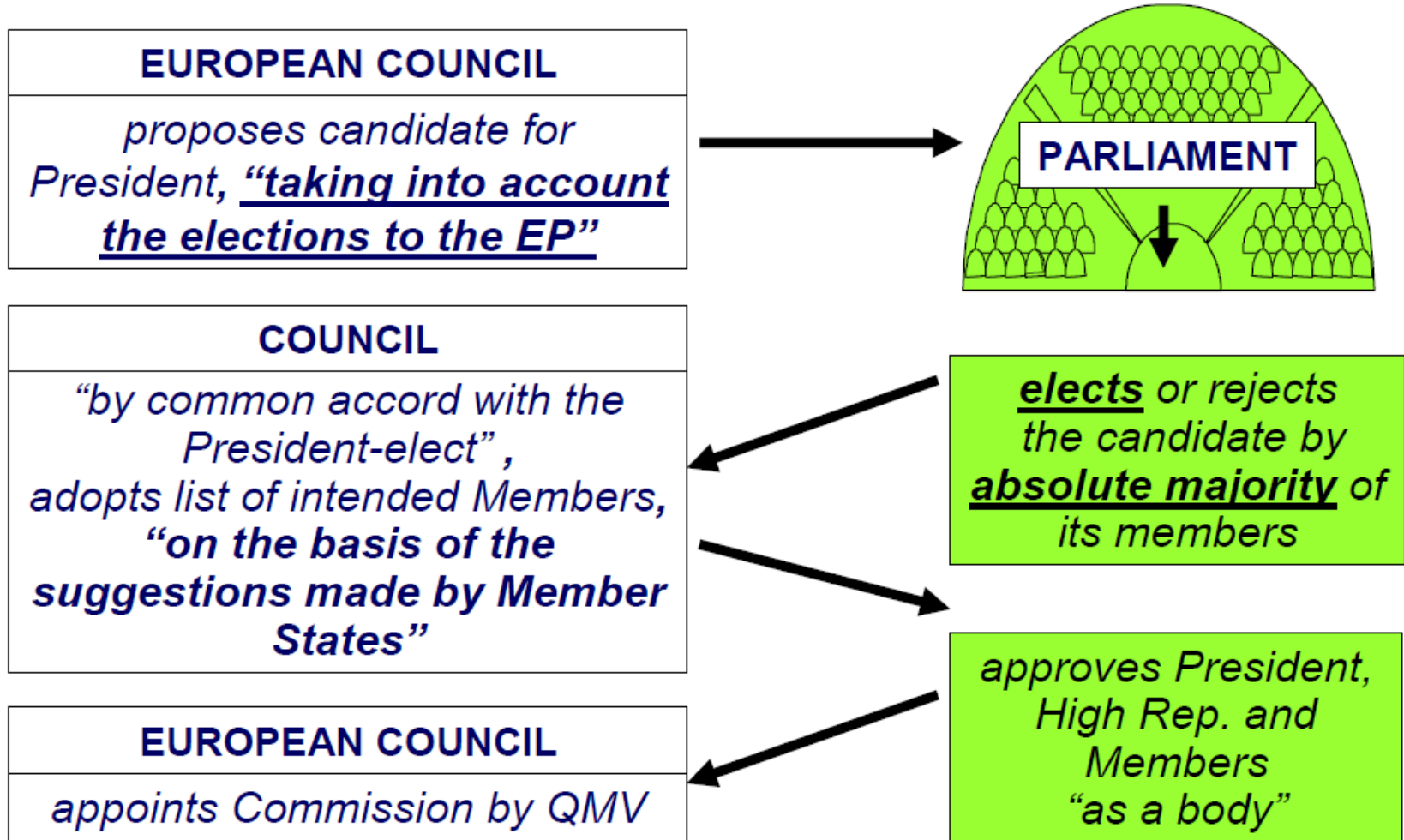
**portfolios and political responsibility
within the College for the respective**



*Administrative
level*

DIRECTORATES-GENERAL
SERVICES

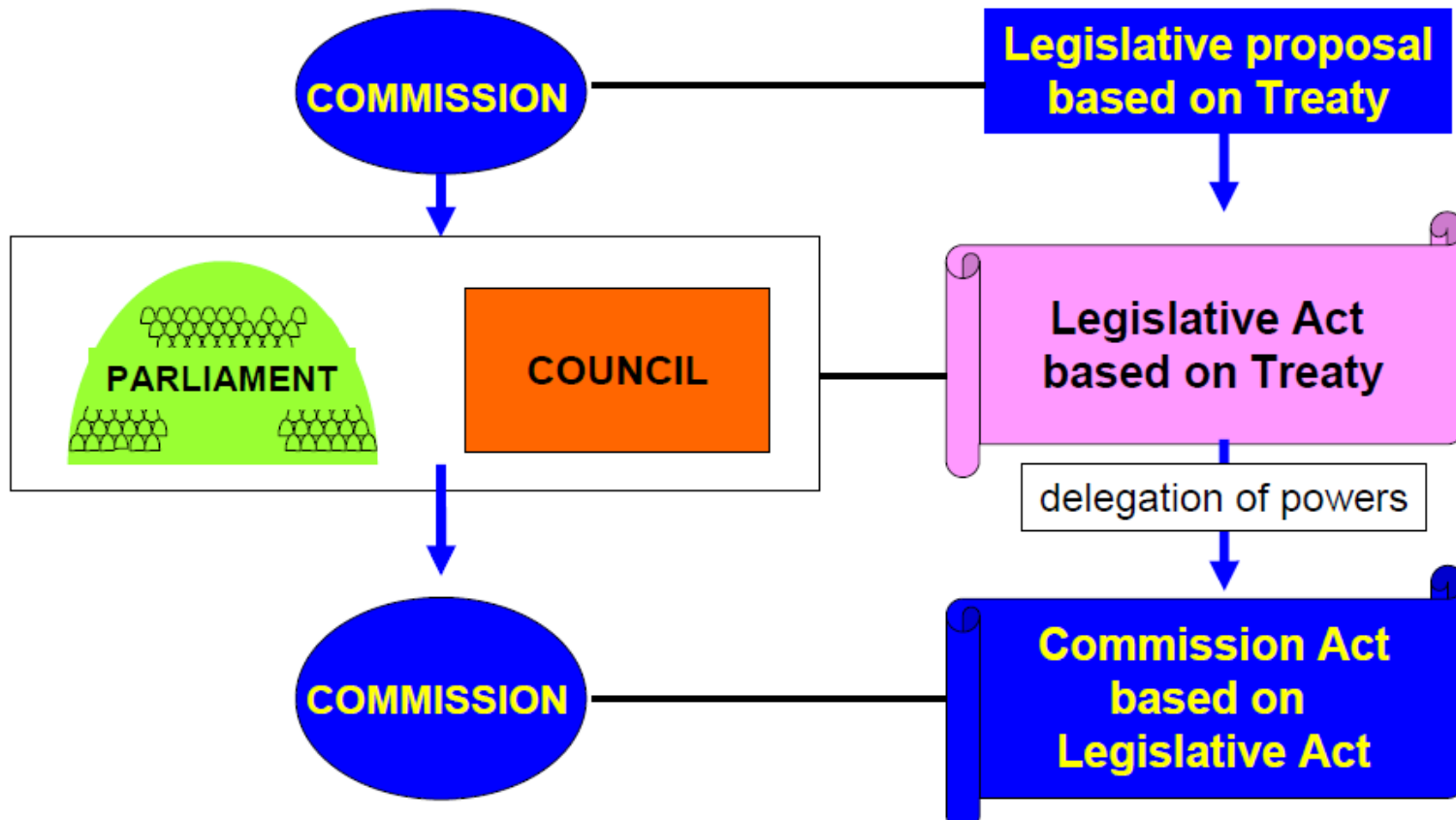
Commission appointment after Lisbon



1

Role of Commission in legislation : the right of initiative

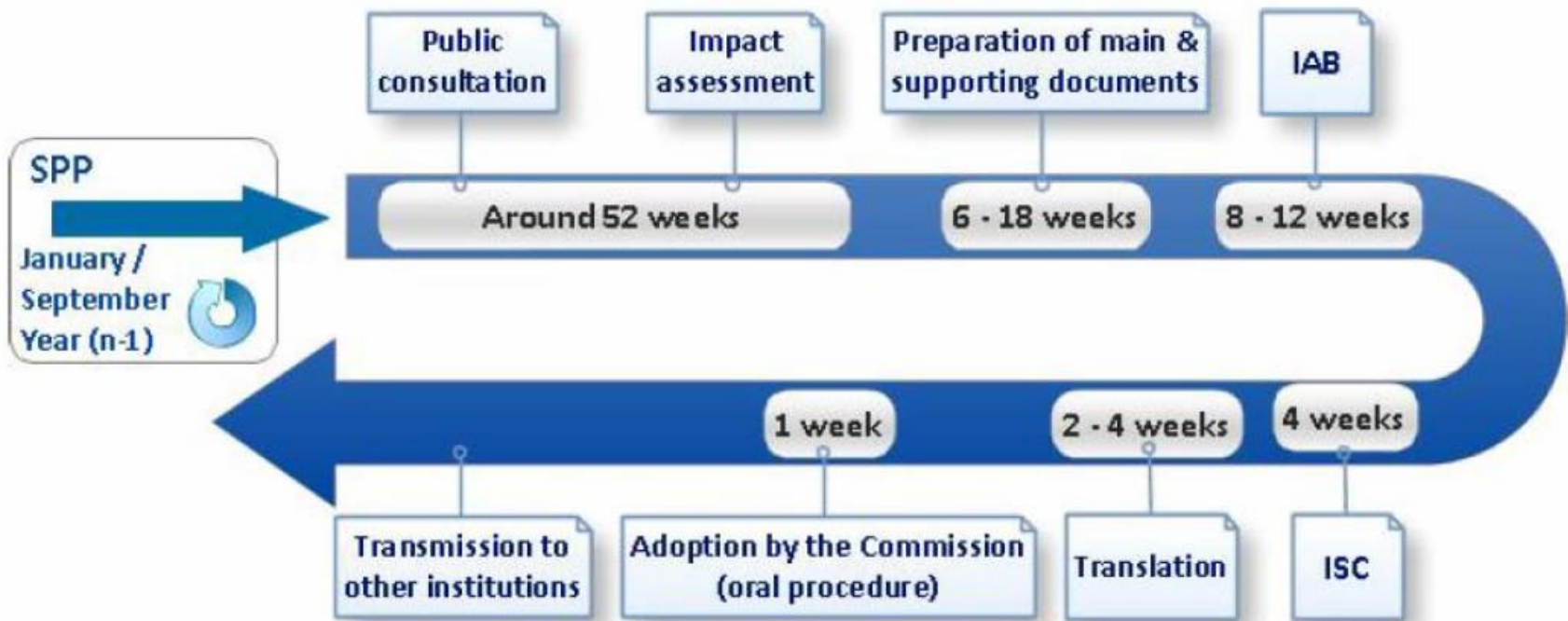
The evolution of EU law: **comitology** (pre-Lisbon)



1

Process for issuing a draft legislation

- Typical countdown for preparing an initiative for adoption by the Commission



2

The executive role: implementing legislation

Delegated Acts

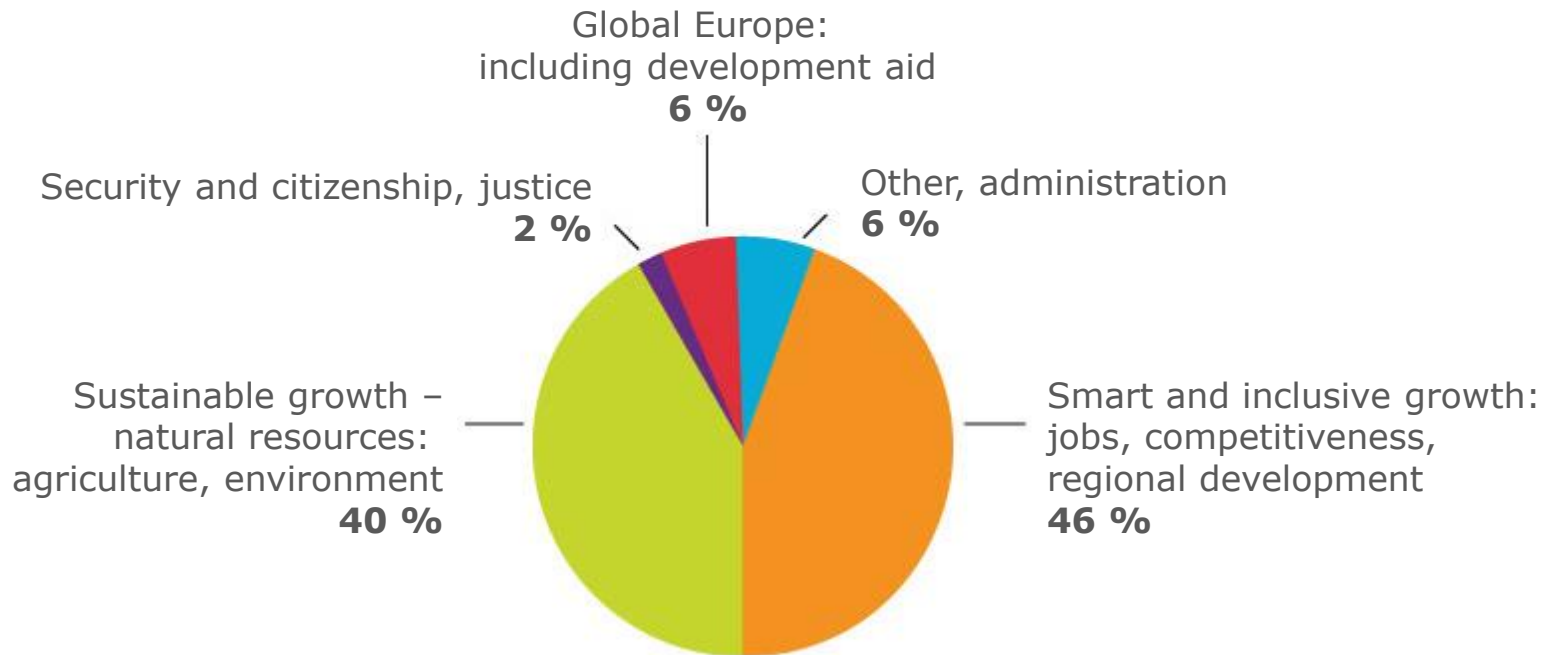
- for “quasi-legislative” acts affecting the basic act itself (supplementing or amending)
- Commission is accountable to the legislator *ex post*
- no comitology committee

Implementing Acts

- for measures applying the provisions of the basic act
- Commission is under the control of the Member States *ex ante*
- Commission must consult a comitology committee

2 The executive role: spending the money

*2015 EU budget: € 145.3 billion
= 1.02 % of gross national income*

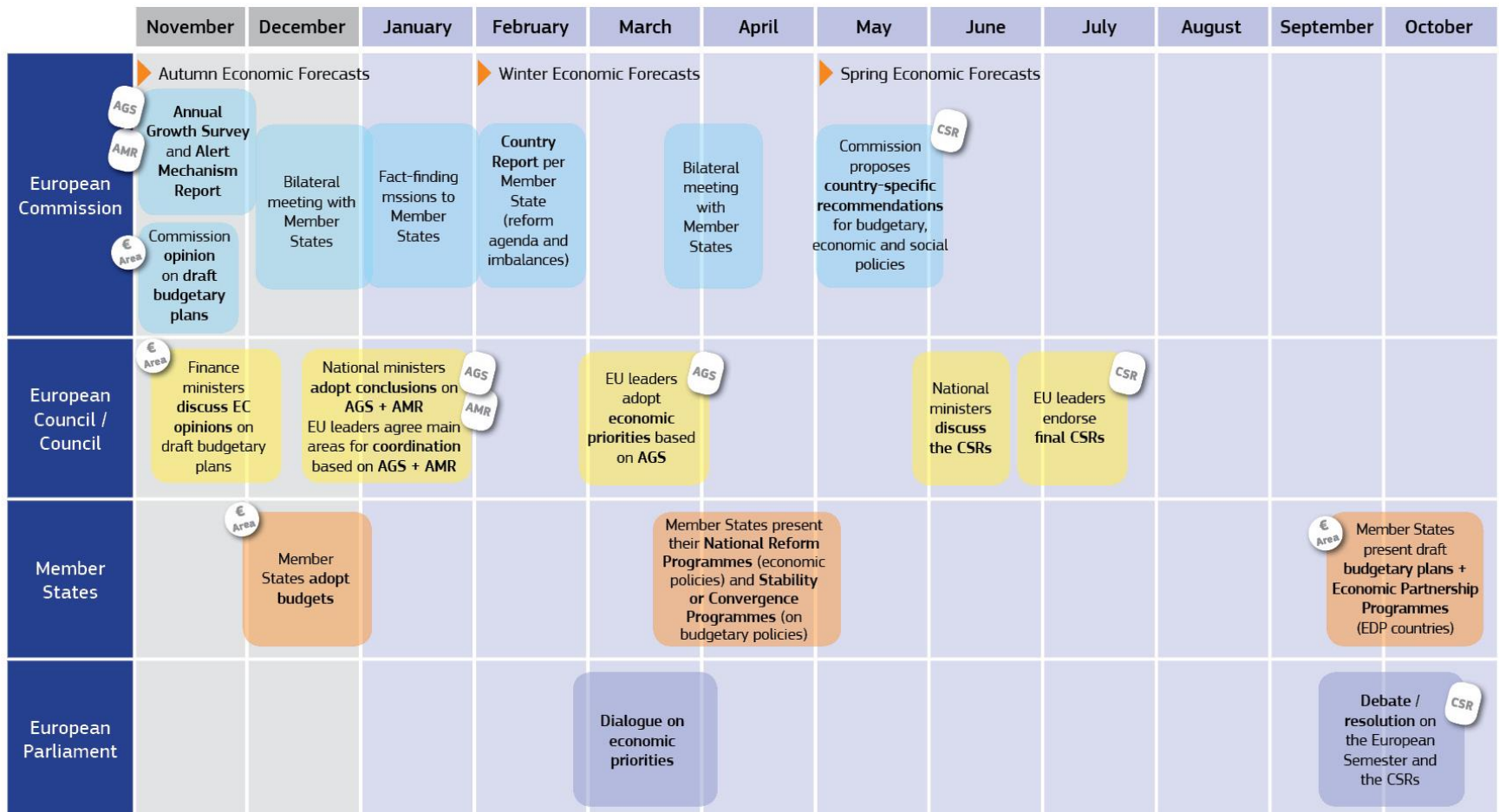




European
Commission

2

The executive role: coordinating EU policies: European semester example



3

Guardian of the Treaty : the infringement procedure

- Possible infringement of EU law, direct dialogue with Member State to solve it (**EU Pilot**).
- If not successful, launch of a **formal procedure**
 - Letter of formal notice
 - Reasoned opinion
 - Referral to Court of Justice
 - Judgement by Court of Justice

4

The external representation of the EU

High Representative

HR shall 'conduct the Union's common foreign and security policy' and shall contribute by proposals to the development of that policy. (Art. 18(2))'

Ensure the consistency of the Union's external action (Art. 18(4))

Conduct political dialogue with third parties and express the Union's position at international conferences (Art. 27(2))

Assisted by the EEAS and responsible for Union delegations (Art. 27(3))

Coordinate civil military aspects of CSDP (Art. 43(3))

Coordinate action in international organisations and international conferences (incl. UN Security Council) (Art. 34(1))

Present joint proposals with Commission for economic sanctions (Art. 215(1))

Commission: decision-making procedures, 2011

▪ Oral Procedures	239
▪ submitted to College	
▪ Written Procedure	2,584
▪ circulated on paper (usually 5 working days)	
▪ previous agreement at service level	
▪ Empowerment	2,472
▪ authorization by the College for one or more Commissioners to take certain actions	
▪ Delegation	4,540
▪ to a Director-General for administrative actions	
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>9,835</i>

Content

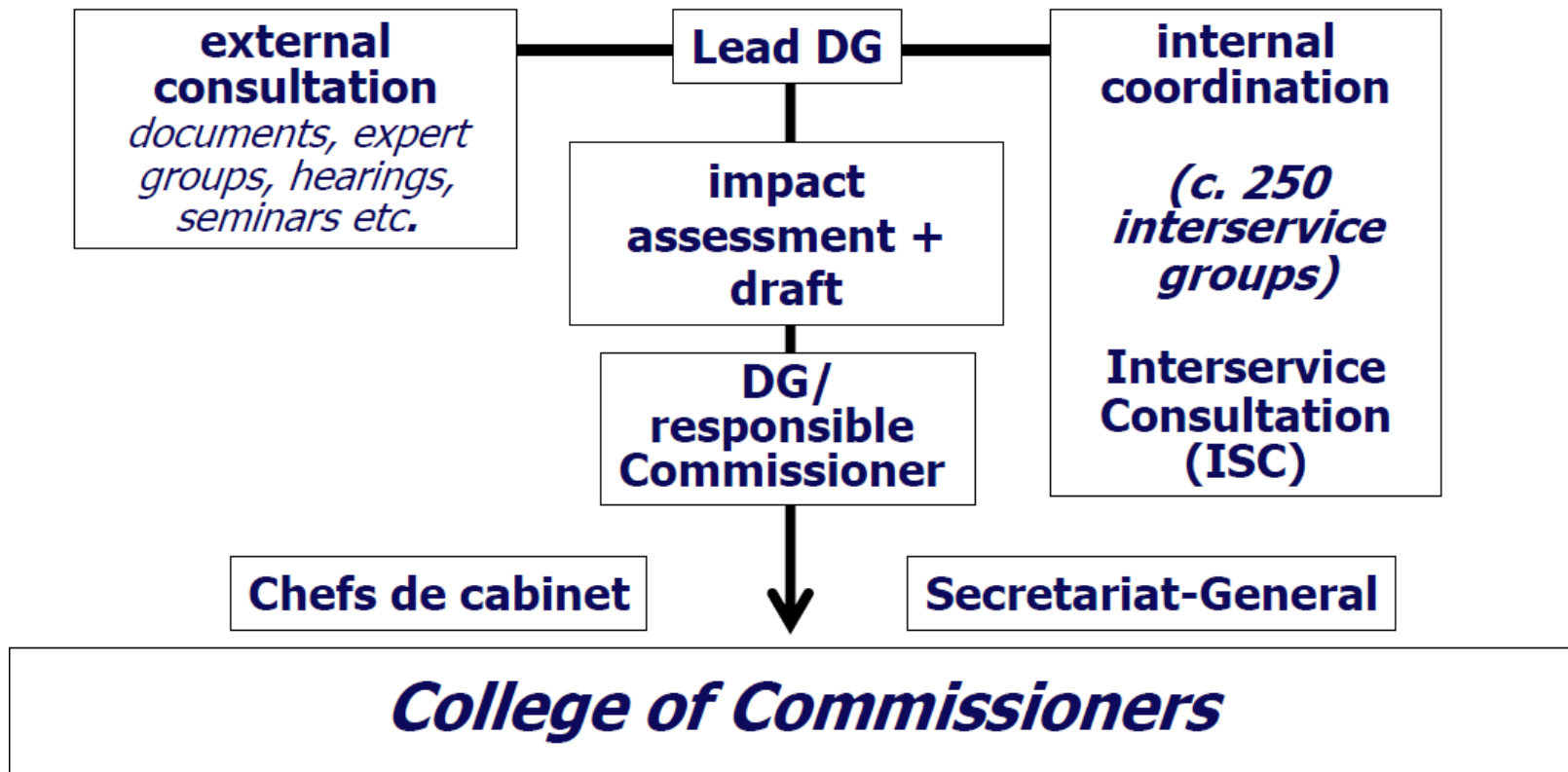
- Role of the Commission in the EU

- **How it works in practice**

- The Juncker Commission and its agenda

How does the Commission come up with a legislative proposal

Elaboration of proposals: overview



Who does what ?

- Directorate-generals
- Secretariat-general
- Cabinets of Commissioners
- College of Commissioners

Who are the EU "bureaucrats"?

The Commission employs about 23 000 permanent civil servants and 11 000 temporary or contract workers

Other EU institutions employ about 10 000 staff

- Permanent civil servants
- Selected by open competitions
- Come from all EU countries
- Salaries decided by law
- EU administration costs €15 per EU citizen per year
- EU staff will be reduced by 5% between 2013 and 2017

Content

- Role of the Commission in the EU
- How it works in practice

- **The Juncker Commission and its agenda**



European
Commission

PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

First Vice-President

Frans Timmermans

*Better Regulation,
Interinstitutional Relations,
Rule of Law & Charter of
Fundamental Rights*

High Representative

Federica Mogherini
*High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Policy & Security
Policy/Vice-President*

Vice-President

Kristalina Georgieva

Budget & Human Resources

Vice-President

Andrus Ansip

Digital Single Market

Vice-President

Maroš Šefčovič

Energy Union

Vice-President

Jyrki Katainen

*Jobs, Growth, Investment
& Competitiveness*

Vice-President

Valdis Dombrovskis

*The Euro
& Social Dialogue*

Commissioner

Věra Jourová

*Justice, Consumers
& Gender Equality*

Commissioner

Günther Oettinger

Digital Economy & Society

Commissioner

Pierre Moscovici

*Economic & Financial Affairs,
Taxation & Customs*

Commissioner

Marianne Thyssen

*Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills & Labour Mobility*

Commissioner

Corina Crețu

Regional Policy

Commissioner

Johannes Hahn

*European Neighbourhood Policy
& Enlargement Negotiations**

Commissioner

Dimitris Avramopoulos

*Migration, Home Affairs
& Citizenship*

Commissioner

Vytienis Andriukaitis

Health & Food Safety

Commissioner

Jonathan Hill

*Financial Stability,
Financial Services &
Capital Markets Union*

Commissioner

Elżbieta Bieńkowska

*Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship & SMEs*

Commissioner

Miguel Arias Cañete

Climate Action & Energy

Commissioner

Neven Mimica

*International Cooperation
& Development*

Commissioner

Margrethe Vestager

Competition

Commissioner

Violeta Bulc

Transport

Commissioner

Cecilia Malmström

Trade

Commissioner

Karmenu Vella

*Environment, Maritime Affairs
& Fisheries*

Commissioner

Tibor Navracsics

*Education, Culture,
Youth & Sport*

Commissioner

Carlos Moedas

*Research, Science
& Innovation*

Commissioner

Phil Hogan

*Agriculture
& Rural Development*

Commissioner

Christos Stylianides

*Humanitarian Aid
& Crisis Management*

**The HRVP may ask this
Commissioner (and other
Commissioners) to deputise
for her in areas related to
Commission competence.*

What makes the Juncker Commission different?

- The "**last resort**" Commission (*Commission de la "dernière chance"*)
- A **political** Commission
- **Big on big things and small on small things** : REFIT programme
- New **working methods**

What does the Juncker Commission wants to achieve ? The 10 priorities

1. A new boost for jobs, growth and investment
2. A connected digital single market
3. A resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy
4. A deeper and fairer internal market with stronger industries
5. A deeper and fairer economic and monetary union
6. A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States
7. An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust
8. A new policy on migration
9. Europe as a stronger global actor
10. A European Union of democratic change



Priorities in practice : the investment plan

