

CONFERENCE

Tuesday, 5 November 2013

ALTIERO SPINELLI BUILDING - Brussels

9.00-14.00 ROOM: **ASP 5G3**

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONCILIATION
GIANNI PITTELLA, ALEJO VIDAL-QUADRAS AND GEORGIOS PAPASTAMKOS

20 YEARS OF CODECISION

IPOL/15196 EN

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Vice-Presidents for Conciliation

CONFERENCE

on

20 YEARS OF CODECISION

5 November 2013

European Parliament, Brussels, Altiero Spinelli Building

Room ASP 5G3

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PROGRAMME

9.00 – Opening remarks: Gianni Pittella, Vice-President for Conciliation

9.30 - 10.45 – First session: The beginning of the codecision procedure

Chair: Nicole Fontaine, former President of the European Parliament and former Vice-President for Conciliation

- Elmar Brok, Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee and EP representative at the Intergovernmental Conferences and Constitutional Convention
- Jean-Paul Jacqué, former Director Council Legal Service
- Sir Kenneth Collins, former Chair of Environment Committee and Conference of Committee Chairs
- Ingo Friedrich, former Vice-President for Conciliation

10.45 - 12.00 – Second session: EP codecision powers under the Treaty of Lisbon

Chair: MEP Dagmar Roth-Behrendt, former Vice-President for Conciliation

- Prof. Adrienne Héritier, European University Institute – Florence
- MEP Brian Simpson, Chair of the Committee on Transport
- MEP Carmen Fraga Estévez, Member of the Committee on Fisheries
- MEP Bas Eickhout, Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

12.00 - 12.30 – Lunch Buffet (venue in front of ASP 5G3)

12.30 - 13.45 – Third session: The future of the codecision procedure

Chair: MEP Sir Graham Watson, former Chair ALDE group and Civil liberties Committee

- Ambassador Tom Hanney, Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU
- Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-president and Commissioner for inter-institutional relations and administration
- MEP Pervenche Berès, Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs

13.45 - 14.00 – Closing remarks - Alejo Vidal-Quadras, Vice-President for Conciliation

Interpretation will be provided in ES-DE-EN-FR-IT





CHAIR AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Opening remarks

	<p>MEP Gianni Pittella <i>Vice-President for Conciliation (S&D)</i></p> <p>Mr Gianni Pittella has been an Italian Member of the European Parliament with the S&D political group since 1999. In 2009 he was elected Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible, inter alia, for conciliation. In this context, he co-presided the conciliation negotiations on the revision of a highly controversial Novel Foods Regulation. He has also been sitting on the Committee on Budgets, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection and the Committee on Culture and Education.</p>
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First session: The beginning of the codecision procedure

	<p>Nicole Fontaine <i>former President of the European Parliament and former Vice-President for Conciliation (EPP)</i></p> <p>Mrs Nicole Fontaine was a French Member of the European Parliament with the EPP political group from 1984 until 2009 with a two-year break (2002-2004). From 1999 to 2001 she was the President of the European Parliament. Prior to taking up this position, she served twice as Vice-President of the European Parliament, firstly from 1989 to 1994 and then from 1994 to 1999. During her second tenure, she was responsible, inter alia, for conciliation. In this capacity, she co-presided conciliation negotiations on almost thirty legislative proposals, e.g. two EU programmes for youth (The Socrates and The Youth for Europe Programmes). Furthermore, she carried out work primarily as a member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights, the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education and the Media and the Committee on Women's Rights. In 2009 she was appointed Jean Monnet and Personal Chair at University of Nice Sophia Antipolis.</p>
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	<p>MEP Elmar Brok <i>Chair of Foreign Affairs Committee and EP representative at the Intergovernmental Conferences and Constitutional Convention (EPP)</i></p> <p>Mr Elmar Brok has been a German Member of the European Parliament with the EPP political group since 1980. He has been twice a Chairman of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee (from 1997 until 2007 and from 2012 until now). In the past, he served as European Parliament's representative at the Intergovernmental Conferences on the Amsterdam Treaty (1996-1997), the Nice Treaty (2000), the EU Constitution (2003-2004) and the Lisbon Treaty (2007), as well as in the Council's Reflection Group for Maastricht II (1994/1995). Mr Brok was one of the three MEPs representing the European Parliament as an observer of the inter-governmental negotiations on a treaty to enforce fiscal discipline (2011-2012). Most recently, he has been chairing the EP delegation to the trilogues with the Commission and the Council on the package of EU external financing instruments for the 2014-2020 period.</p>
	<p>Jean-Paul Jacqué <i>former Director of the Council Legal Service and Professor of Law</i></p> <p>From 1992 until 2008 Prof. Jean-Paul Jacqué was Director of the Legal Service of the Council of the European Union and now he is the Honorary Director General and Special Counsellor in the Council. Furthermore, he has been Professor at the University of Strasbourg since 1978 and at the College of Europe since 1988. He has been also Visiting Professor at other universities, including universities of Barcelona, Louvain, Lisbon, Madrid and Santiago du Chili. In 2010 he became a Secretary General of The Trans European Policy Studies Association (TEPSA). Prof. Jacqué is an author of books and articles on European Law, Constitutional and Administrative Law as well as International Law and Human Rights. He has published widely on the evolution of EU inter-institutional relations resulting from successive treaty revisions and the everyday institutional practice.</p>

	<p>Sir Kenneth Collins <i>former Chair of Environment Committee and former Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (S&D)</i></p> <p>Mr Kenneth Collins was a British Member of the European Parliament, elected in the first direct elections in 1979 with the S&D political group. He remained an MEP until 1999, serving twice as Chairman of the Environment Committee, firstly from 1979 until 1984 and then from 1989 until 1999. In this capacity, he participated in the works of the Conciliation Committee and acquired considerable experience in the codecision procedure since the Environment Committee was one of a few committees dealing with a relatively high number of codecision dossiers immediately after its introduction under the Maastricht Treaty. He was also Chair of the Conference of Committee Chairs (1993-1999) and he served as Rapporteur on important legislative proposals. In 1999 Mr Collins was appointed Chairman of the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, holding the post until 2007.</p>
	<p>Ingo Friedrich <i>former Vice-President for Conciliation (EPP)</i></p> <p>Mr Ingo Friedrich was a German Member of the European Parliament with the EPP political group, elected in the first direct elections in 1979. He remained an MEP until 2009. Between 1999 and 2007, Mr Friedrich served as Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible, inter alia, for conciliation. In total, he co-chaired the conciliation negotiations on fourteen legislative proposals, e.g. the directive on removing obstacles to women in employment by implementing the principle of equal treatment. Furthermore, he was sitting on the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Human Rights, Common Security and Defence Policy and its Committee on Constitutional Affairs. Since 2009 he has been the President of the European Economic Senate. In 2013, he has become Honorary Member of SME Europe, the pro-business organisation within the EPP's.</p>


Second session: EP codecision powers under the Treaty of Lisbon

	<p>MEP Dagmar Roth-Behrendt <i>former Vice-President for Conciliation (S&D)</i></p> <p>Mrs Dagmar Roth-Behrendt has been a German Member of the European Parliament with the S&D political group since 1989. She has been sitting on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee on Legal Affairs. She served twice, from 2004 until 2007 and from 2009 until 2012, as Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible, inter alia, for conciliation. Mrs Roth-Behrendt was also a Rapporteur on important legislative proposals, including revisions of the directive on animal testing for cosmetics and the regulation on medical devices. Most recently, she was Rapporteur on the reform of the Staff Regulations. Moreover, between 2007 and 2009 Mrs Roth-Behrendt was the Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Working Party on Parliamentary Reform which prepared three packages of reforms designed to update the institution's internal procedures, including new rules for negotiations in the context of the codecision procedure.</p>
	<p>Adrienne Héritier <i>Professor of Comparative and European Public Policy</i></p> <p>Adrienne Héritier holds a joint chair of political science in the Department of Political and Social Science and the Robert-Schuman-Center for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute in Florence. Her research and publications extend to theories of institutional change, institutional change in the European Union, comparative public policy, European policy making, Europeanization, regulation and new modes of governance. Recent relevant publications include: "Explaining institutional change in Europe", Oxford University Press 2007; with H.Farrell "Contested Competences in Europe: Incomplete Contracts and Interstitial Institutional Change", West European Politics 2007; with Catherine Moury "Contested Delegation: The Impact of Codecision on Comitology", West European Politics 2011.</p>
	<p>MEP Brian Simpson <i>Chair of the Committee on Transport and Tourism (S&D)</i></p> <p>Mr Brian Simpson has been a British Member of the European Parliament since 1989 with the S&D political group. He is presently the Chairman of the Committee on Transport and Tourism. Mr Simpson also served as Rapporteur and Shadow Rapporteur on important legislative proposals, e.g. on the full accomplishment of the internal market of postal services or on the development of the railways in the EU. He is also one of the senior members of the Transport and Tourism Committee dealing with Civil Aviation matters. Furthermore, he has been sitting on the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, Committee on Budgetary Control and Committee on Petitions.</p>

	<p>MEP Carmen Fraga Estévez <i>Member of the Committee on Fisheries (EPP)</i></p> <p>Mrs Carmen Fraga Estévez is a Spanish Member of the European Parliament with the EPP political group (from 1994 until 2002 and from 2004 until now). She served twice as Chairwoman of the Committee on Fisheries, firstly from 1997 until 1999 and then from 2009 until 2012. In this position, she participated in trilogue negotiations with the European Commission and the Council as fisheries has been one of the areas to which the ordinary legislative procedure has been extended under the Lisbon Treaty. She is presently sitting on the Committee on Fisheries. Between 2002 and 2004 she was a Secretary-General for Maritime Fisheries in the Spanish government.</p>
	<p>MEP Bas Eickhout <i>Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (Greens/EFA)</i></p> <p>Mr Bas Eickhout has been a Dutch Member of the European Parliament with the Greens/EFA political group since 2009. He is a member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. He served as Rapporteur on several legislative proposals concerning EU policy on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Before being elected to the European Parliament he worked as a researcher at the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency and was involved in several projects which had to do with international environmental problems, such as climate change, agriculture, land-use and biofuels.</p>

Third session: The future of the codecision procedure

	<p>MEP Sir Graham Watson <i>Former Chair of the ALDE group and Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs</i></p> <p>Mr Graham Watson has been a British Member of the European Parliament with the ALDE political group since 1994. He presently sits on the Foreign Affairs Committee. Previously, between 2002 and 2009 he was elected as leader of the ALDE group at the European Parliament. From 1999 until 2002 he served as Chairman of the Committee on Citizens' Freedoms and Rights, Justice and Home Affairs. He was also a member of the Committee on Economic & Monetary Affairs and Industrial Policy and the Budgets Committee.</p>
	<p>Ambassador Tom Hanney <i>Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union</i></p> <p>Ambassador Tom Hanney has been a Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union since 2011. He represents Ireland at the Committee of the Deputy Permanent Representatives (COREPER I). During the Irish Presidency of the Council in the first half of 2013, Ambassador Hanney chaired meetings of COREPER I. He has first-hand experience of agreeing negotiating mandates in the Council and of negotiating in trilogues. Prior to joining the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the EU, he was an Ambassador of Ireland to the Kingdom of Belgium and Head of Ireland's Liaison Office to the Partnership for Peace at NATO (2010-2011). In the past, he has held various positions both in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Irish diplomatic missions around the world.</p>
	<p>Maroš Šefčovič <i>Vice-president and Commissioner for inter-institutional relations and administration</i></p> <p>Mr Maroš Šefčovič has been the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration since 2010. In this capacity, he negotiated on behalf of the European Commission the Framework Agreement on relations between the European Parliament and the European Commission. Although Mr Šefčovič's portfolio does not include a large number of legislative files, he has, over the course of this legislative term, been involved in several relatively high-profile codecision dossiers, inter alia, the European Citizens' Initiative, the reform of the Staff Regulations and the Commission's proposal on the statute and funding of European political parties and European political foundations. Prior to joining the European Commission, Mr Šefčovič served as Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the European Union from 2004 until 2009. His professional experience includes various positions both in Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Slovak diplomatic missions around the world.</p>

	<p>MEP Pervenche Berès <i>Chair of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (S&D)</i></p> <p>Mrs Pervenche Berès has been a French Member of the European Parliament with the S&D political group since 1994. Since 2009 she is the Chairwoman of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee and from 2004 until 2009 she was a Chairwoman of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee. She also served as Rapporteur on important legislative proposals. Therefore, she has acquired considerable experience in the codecision procedure. Between 2009 and 2011 she was also a Rapporteur of the temporary committee on the financial, economic and social crisis. Mrs Berès was also Vice-president of the European Parliament delegation to the Convention in charge of elaborating an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights from (1999-2000).</p>
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Closing remarks

	<p>MEP Alejo Vidal-Quadras <i>Vice-President for Conciliation (EPP)</i></p> <p>Mr Alejo Vidal-Quadras has been a Spanish Member of the European Parliament with the EPP political group since 1999, and has been since then Vice-President of the European Parliament responsible, inter alia, for communications, buildings' policy, budget and conciliation. Mr Vidal-Quadras co-chaired the most recent conciliation negotiations concerning EU macro-financial assistance to Georgia (2013) and EU external financial instruments (2011). Furthermore, he has been an active Member since 1999 on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and served as Rapporteur on several legislative files, such as the regulation on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity, the regulation for security of gas supply and the latest biofuels' directive.</p>
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FROM MAASTRICHT TO THE PRESENT DAY 20 YEARS OF CODECISION

BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

1. From codecision to the ordinary legislative procedure: key milestones

November 1993

Entry into force of the Treaty of Maastricht and introduction of the codecision procedure (Article 189 B of the EC Treaty). The latter covered a limited number of legislative acts, principally those previously subject to the cooperation procedure (i.e. mostly internal market), as well as in new EU policy areas, such as trans-European transport networks and education, culture and health. The procedure was similar to the cooperation procedure with, crucially, the addition of a third phase, known as conciliation. The first formal trilogue, to examine compromise texts before the Conciliation Committee meeting, took place in December 1994 on the 'Socrates' and 'Youth for Europe' programmes (rapporteurs Mrs Pack and Mrs Fontaine).

May 1999

Entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, which simplified the codecision procedure (Article 251 TEC) and made it possible to conclude agreements at first reading. It also extended the scope to cover more than 40 legal bases, in particular in the fields of transport, environment, development cooperation, employment and social affairs.

May 1999

Joint Declaration on practical arrangements for the new codecision procedure, in which the three institutions confirmed that informal contacts between them should "cover all stages of the co-decision procedure" and, *inter alia*, stated that they "shall cooperate in good faith with a view to reconciling their positions as far as possible so that wherever possible acts can be adopted at first reading".

February 2003

Entry into force of the Treaty of Nice: extension of codecision to a few additional legal bases, primarily in the field of justice and home affairs.

June 2007

Revised Joint Declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure. Explicit recognition of the importance of the "trilogue system" throughout the procedure. The revised Joint Declaration also codified a number of new practices, including agreements at the stage of the Council's common position, i.e. early second reading agreements.

September 2008

Conference of Presidents approves the EP's Code of conduct for negotiating in the context of the ordinary legislative procedures (Annex XXI of the Rules of Procedure), intended to increase accountability and transparency in inter-institutional negotiations.

December 2009

Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, codecision officially became the 'ordinary legislative procedure' (Article 294 TFEU) and the rule for passing legislation at EU level. With new legal bases in the areas of freedom, security and justice, international trade, and agriculture and fisheries, codecision now covers 85 areas of Union action.

December 2012

Entry into force of amended Rule 70 and new Rule 70a of the EP's Rules of Procedure. They make binding key elements of the 2009 Code of conduct, and seek to make the procedures more effective, transparent and inclusive. They cover, in particular, the decision of a committee to enter into negotiations, the decision on the composition and mandate of the negotiating team, the regular report-back to the committee concerned on the progress and outcome of the negotiations, including any agreement reached, and the re-consultation of the committee on the text agreed before the vote in plenary.

2. From Maastricht to the present day: the evolution of 20 years of codecision

The number of adopted codecision files

Over the course of the four legislative terms covered by figure 1, there has generally been a steady increase in the number of codecision files adopted by the co-legislators. This is largely due to the progressive extension of the scope of the codecision procedure, and partly to the increasing number of codecision legislative proposals adopted by the Commission, which has kept its right of initiative.

A cyclical trend for the adoption of codecision files is evident since the 5th legislative term (1999-2004), with a greater proportion of files adopted at the end of each legislative period. The year 2013-2014 will be no different; indeed, the number of files adopted since the end of the 2013 summer recess is already higher than for the entire preceding parliamentary year (July 2012 - July 2013).

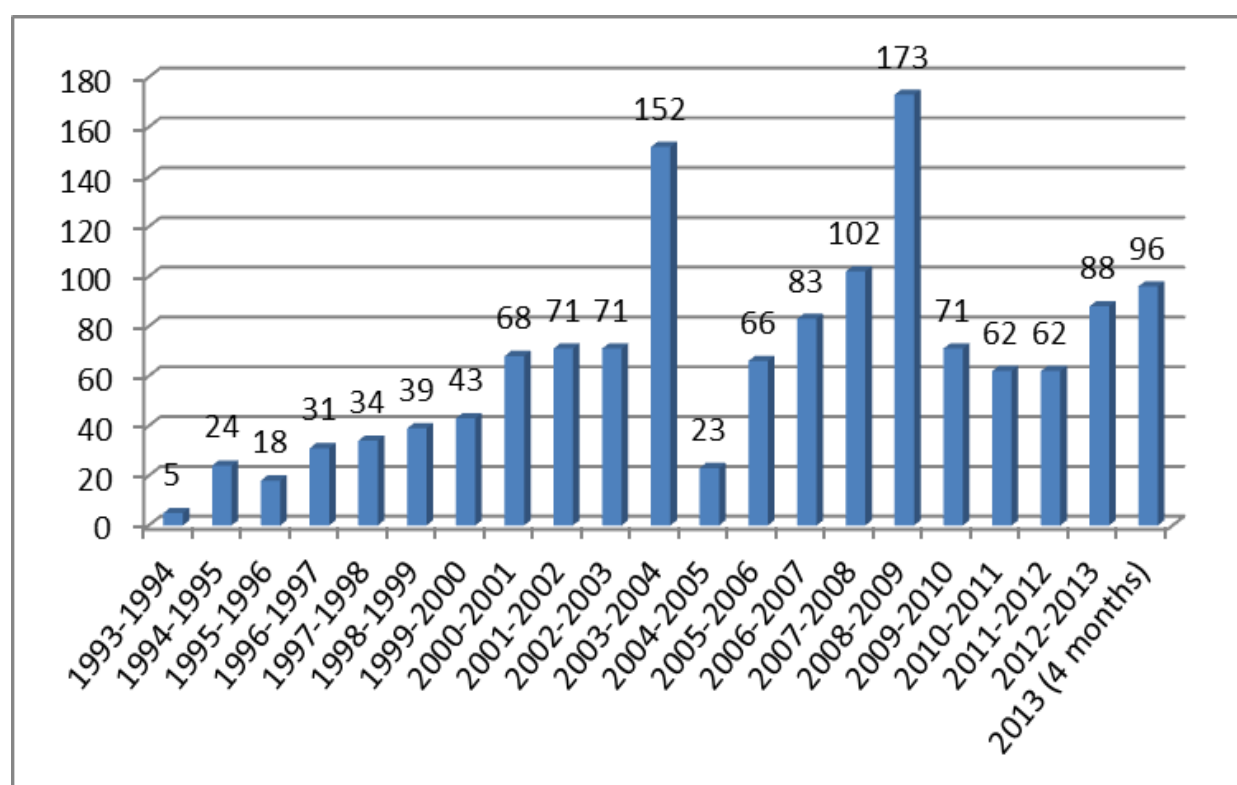


Figure 1: Number of codecision files adopted over the course of a year in the period 1993-2013 (1993-2008: files adopted between 1 May of the first year and 30 April of the second year; 2009-2013: the cycle runs from 14 July of the first year till 13 July of the second year, except for the last column 2013 which runs until the end of October 2013).¹

¹ The statistics for adoption dates are based on the dates on which the files are signed by the co-legislators.

Scope of the codecision procedure and distribution of codecision files among committees

Between 1993 and 1999, although ten EP committees dealt with codecision files, four of them² dealt with only one file each. Six EP committees were therefore responsible for almost all codecision files (151 in total) between the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty on 1 November 1993 and the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty on 1 May 1999: Environment (36%), Economic (25%), Legal Affairs (18%), Culture (8%), Research (7%) and Transport (4%).

Over the years, the scope of the codecision procedure has been progressively extended, and the European Parliament's legislative powers correspondingly strengthened. Codecision now covers 85 areas of Union action, including, under the Treaty of Lisbon, new legal bases in the areas of freedom, security and justice, international trade, and agriculture and fisheries.

While codecision files are now more evenly shared across a larger number of committees (this is particularly true since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon), the distribution of codecision files among the different committees within the EP has, over recent years, remained fairly stable: ENVI (14%) is the committee with the largest share of the codecision files, followed by the ECON committee (13%), the JURI committee (11%) and the INTA and LIBE committees (10% each) (the share of the two latter has increased since the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon).

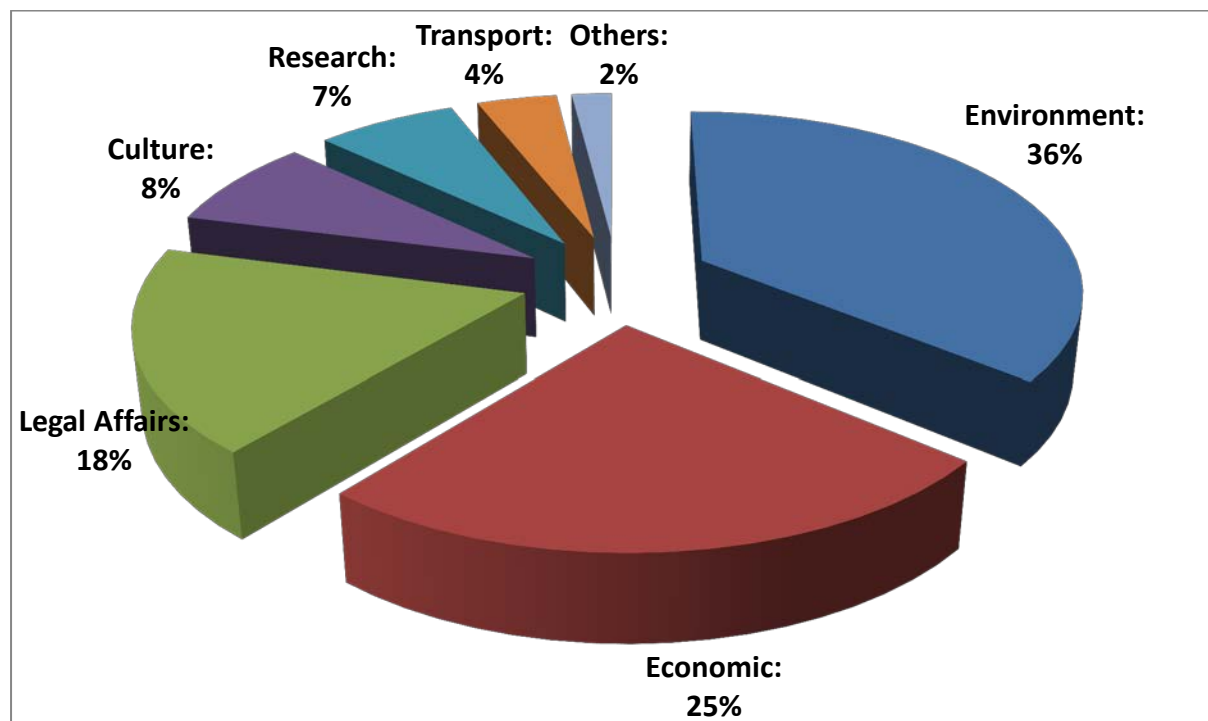


Figure 2: *Distribution of codecision files adopted by parliamentary committee between 1993 and 1999*

² Agriculture, External Economic Relations, Social Affairs, Civil Liberties.

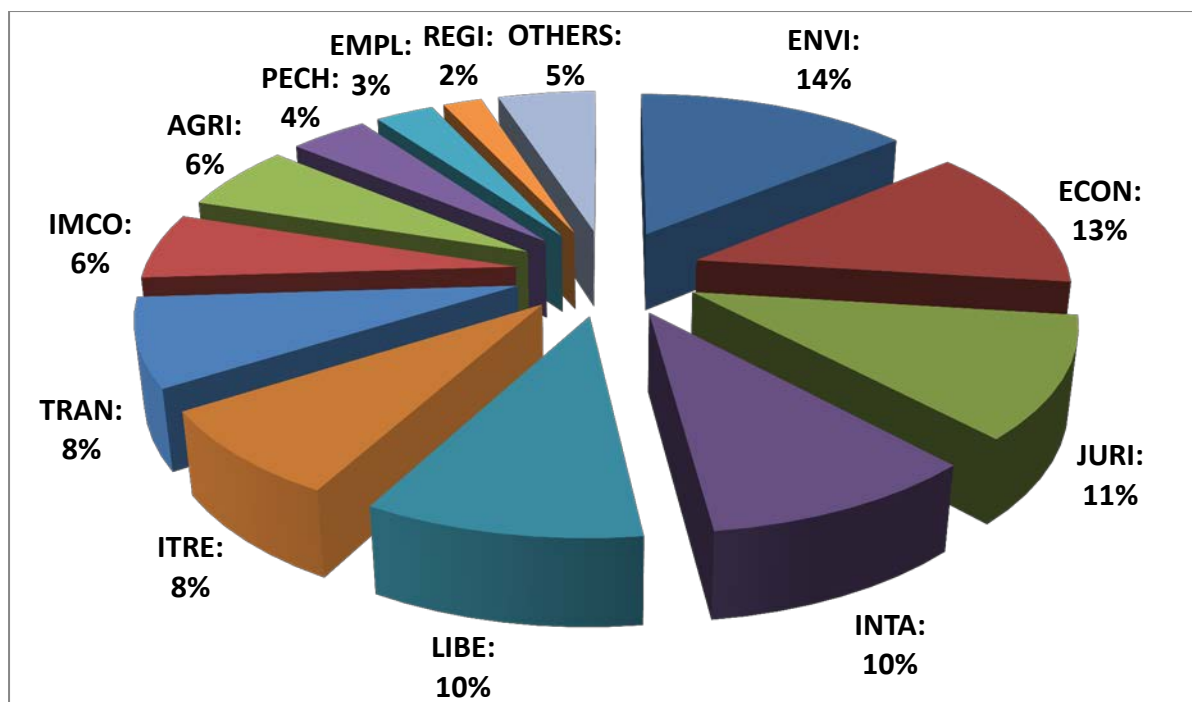


Figure 3: *Distribution of codecision files adopted from July 2009 until October 2013 by parliamentary committee*

Stage of adoption of codecision files

First reading agreements were not possible under the codecision rules of the Maastricht Treaty. However, the co-legislators quickly demonstrated an ability to agree files at an early stage of the codecision procedure; indeed, for almost 70% of files agreed at second reading during the 1994-1999 legislative period the EP merely approved the Council's common position without amendments, despite the fact that informal discussions between the institutions were at the time exceptional and trilogues largely confined to the conciliation phase. It was not until the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam, in May 1999, that first reading agreements became possible. Each legislative term has since seen a steady increase in the proportion of files agreed at first reading and, correspondingly, fewer files adopted in conciliation. The rise and predominance of first reading agreements is no longer in doubt, while conciliations have become very much the exception and are limited to very difficult files.

The legislative period 1999-2004 also saw the progressive introduction of early second reading agreements. These have come to represent a distinct phase of the codecision procedure, which in practice could be described as consisting of four possible readings. This reality was explicitly stated in the revised Joint Declaration on practical arrangements for the codecision procedure (June 2007), which formally codified agreements at the stage of the Council's common position, i.e. early second reading agreements.

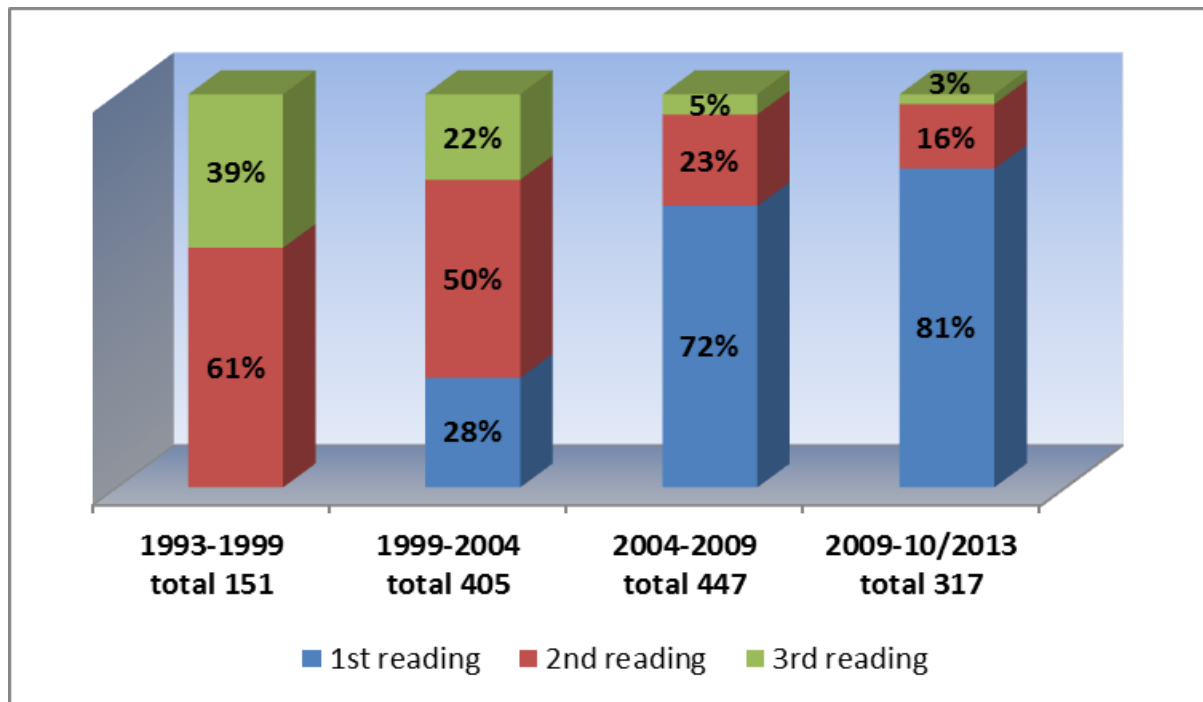


Figure 4: *Percentage of codecision files adopted at 1st, 2nd or 3rd reading by legislature*

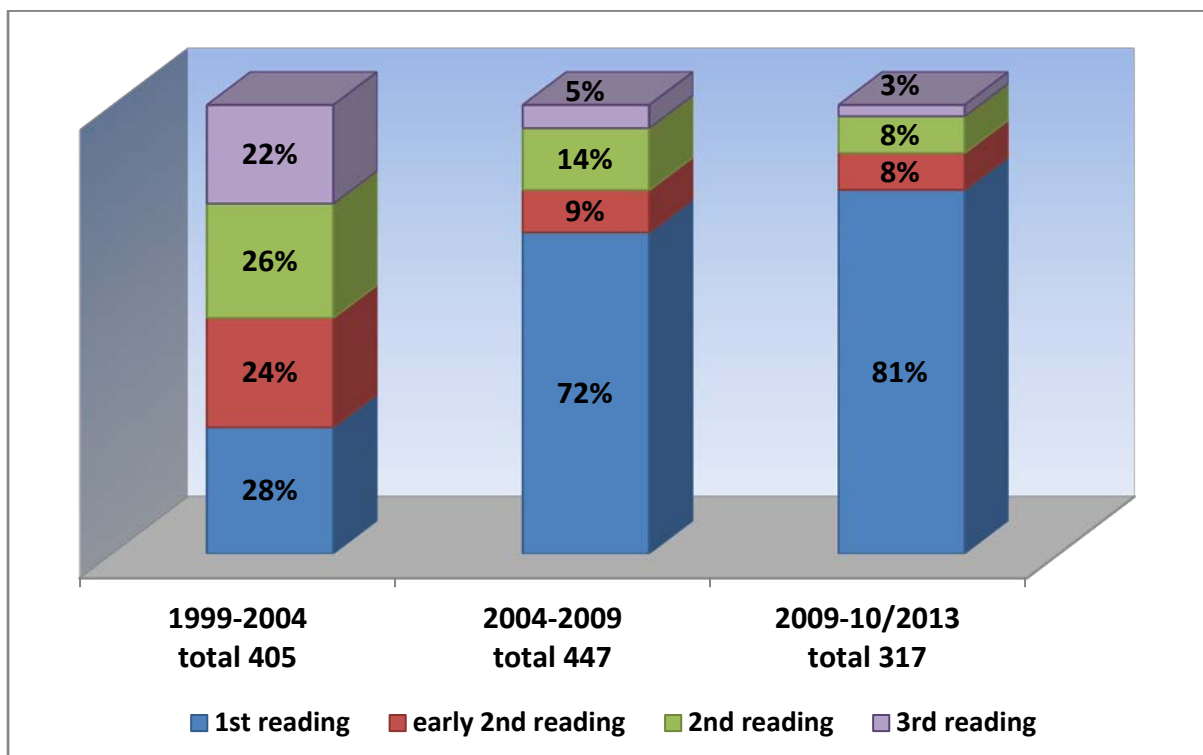


Figure 5: *Percentage of codecision files adopted at 1st, early 2nd, 2nd or 3rd reading per legislature since the 1999-2004 legislative term*

Length of procedure of codecision files

Since the introduction of the codecision procedure in 1993, the average length of time it takes for codecision files to be adopted has dropped progressively, from almost 24 months during the 1994-1999 legislative term to approximately 19 months during the current legislative term. The significant fall in the number of files adopted at third reading is one of the reasons for this. However, the time it takes to reach agreements at first or second reading has actually increased, as some very difficult files are now also negotiated at these stages of the procedure. In this respect, it is important to note that the institutions are not bound by time-limits during the first reading stage.

Indeed, over the past three or four legislative terms, the average length of the procedure has increased for both first and second readings: from an average of 11 months (1999-2004) to 16 months (2009-October 2013) for first reading agreements, and from an average of 21 months (1994-1999) to 31 months (2009-October 2013) for second reading agreements (which includes early second reading agreements).

The increasing role of trilogues

Trilogues are not codified but they are mentioned in the 2007 Joint Declaration. Yet they have become a defining feature of the codecision procedure and, over the course of the current legislative term, the number of trilogues that have taken place on codecision dossiers has steadily risen.

These tripartite negotiations involve, on the Council side, representatives of the Presidency, with the Chairs of COREPERs I and II increasingly involved, and, on the EP side, a negotiating team consisting of the Chair of the responsible committee, the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs.

As an example of the number of trilogues: in the first half of 2013 under the Irish Presidency of the Council, during a particularly busy legislative period (given the extensive negotiations on Multiannual Financial Framework files), there were close to 400 trilogues, covering approximately 100 codecision files.

Whereas some files can be finalised with very few trilogues, other dossiers require far more. For example, there have been over 50 trilogues on the Common Provisions Regulation of the MFF Cohesion policy legislative package (REGI committee), while the Connecting Europe Facility (TRAN/ITRE committees) was agreed following 9 trilogues.

New EP rules for greater transparency and accountability

The revision of Rule 70 (Inter-institutional negotiations in legislative procedures) of the EP's Rules of Procedure was initiated by the Conference of Presidents of 10 March 2011, which invited the AFCO committee to review Rule 70 in order to make certain procedures related to the conduct of inter-institutional negotiations more effective, transparent and inclusive.

This was considered necessary in light of the extension of the scope of codecision under the Treaty of Lisbon and, in parallel, the high number of trilogues and increasing number of codecision files adopted at first reading.

Amongst other things, the AFCO committee was tasked with incorporating into the binding part of the Rules of Procedure key elements of the non-binding "Code of Conduct for negotiating in the context of the ordinary legislative procedures".

The new Rules 70 and 70a entered into force on 10 December 2012 and introduce two different procedures for entering into negotiations:

- A standard procedure (Rule 70), under which negotiations can start immediately based on the report adopted in committee.
- An exceptional procedure (Rule 70a), which applies to negotiations that start prior to the adoption of a report in committee, and involves the Conference of Presidents and the plenary.

The following important elements concerning accountability and transparency are among those now binding on both the standard and exceptional procedures:

- the vote on the decision for entering into the negotiations requires absolute majority of the committee members;
- the decision for entering into negotiations includes the definition of the mandate and the composition of the negotiating team;
- documents intended to be discussed in trilogues must be circulated to the negotiating team in advance;
- there must be a regular report back to the committee after each trilogue;
- the committee must be informed of the compromise and the agreed text must be tabled for consideration and the agreement formally voted in committee.

It is too early at this stage to draw detailed conclusions about the functioning of the new Rules but from the first months of their implementation it is already possible to note that the large majority of codecision files are negotiated under the standard procedure (Rule 70), while, instead of using the exceptional procedure (Rule 70a), committees have very often preferred to use the standard procedure in combination with a plenary vote to reinforce or adopt the mandate (combining Rules 70 and 57 (2)).

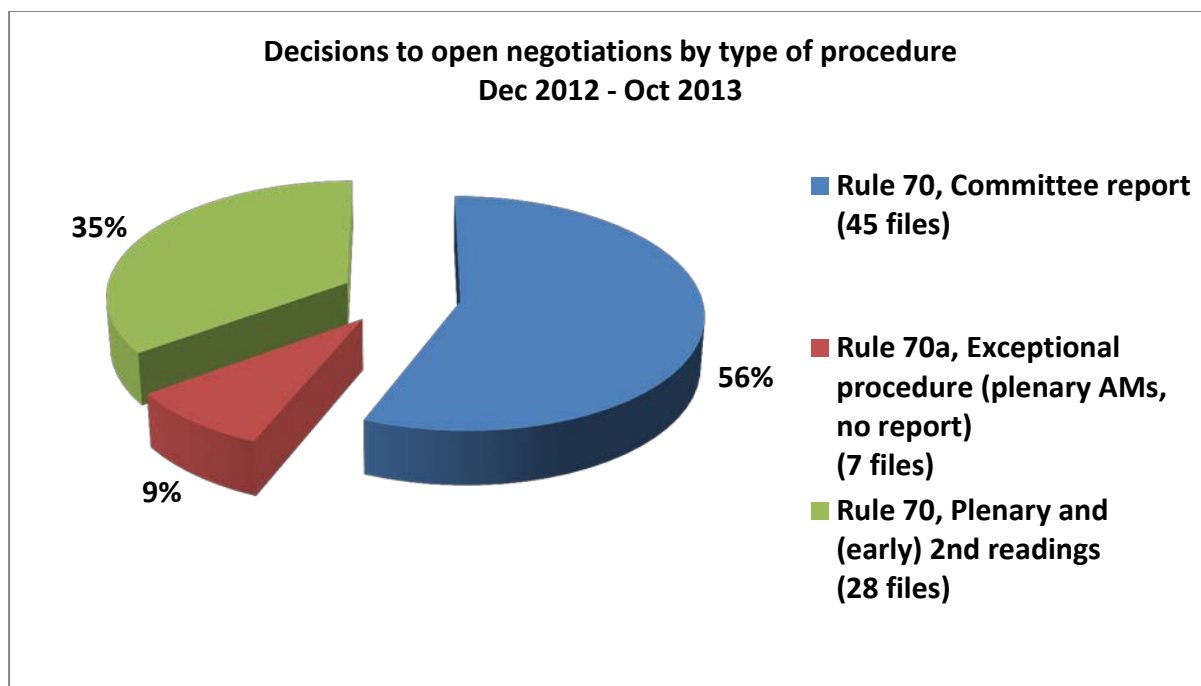


Figure 6: Rules 70 and 70a: Decisions to open negotiations by type of procedure, December 2012 - 10 October 2013