



KS5: EU law-making process

Stage 1

The Commission sends a proposal for a new law to the Parliament and Council of Ministers

Stage 2

Parliament gives its opinion on the proposal. The Commission then frequently amends its proposal in the light of the Parliament's comments.

Stage 3

The Council approves the amended proposal and it becomes an Act.

OR

The Council rejects the amended proposal, and adopts "a common position," which is the text of the law that it would like to see adopted.

Stage 4

Parliament approves the "common position." The Act is adopted.

OR

Parliament proposes amendments to the "common position." The Commission gives its opinion on the Parliament's amendments.

Stage 5

The Council approves the new set of amendments from the Parliament. The Act is adopted.

OR

The Council doesn't approve all the Parliament's new amendments. A "Conciliation Committee" of the Council and the Parliament is set up with the Commission taking part.

Stage 6

The Conciliation Committee does not reach agreement. The Act falls.

OR

The Conciliation Committee reaches agreement. Provided both the Parliament and the Council approve the outcome of the Conciliation Committee, the Act is adopted.

From the time the proposal is first published by the Commission to the time the Act is adopted can take up to two years.