

## INFOCUS

**Lawmaking in the European Union – the good, the bad and the ugly**

C4EP analysis on the subject – *The EU legislative procedure – trying to strike a delicate balance between sovereignty of member states, interests of the whole community, while giving weight to the representatives of the European electorate*

“The current analysis describes the legislative procedure of the European Union, the way how sources of Union law, the different Union acts are being adopted. Understanding the process is very important to analyse cases like the current so-called “migration package”, as it produces all the typical and interesting signs of an EU legislative process, and is also being followed by all kinds of misunderstandings and confusions as many political actors have strong interests related to that. However, we are not going to focus on the texts of these laws being formed right now (or on the differences of positions of the various actors), we will deal with those and the subject of migration in a later analysis dedicated exclusively to that.

The legislative process, the way how the European Union makes laws (regulations, directives or decisions) is a complex procedure involving all three major institutions of the EU. There are simplifying political messages out there which are – as usual – not true. Some of the common misunderstandings are the following: the European Commission (“Brussels bureaucrats”) makes all the decisions over the heads of the member states and the people; all decisions are being made with the agreement of all of the member states; all EU laws are adopted by the European Parliament now, so member states’ interests are washed away in a growing “federalisation” of Europe – actually, none of these are true. The reality is that the legislative process tries to strike a delicate balance between sovereignty of member states and the “common” interests of the whole community of the member states, while giving weight to the representatives of the European electorate.”

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*The ordinary legislative procedure*

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*Ordinary legislative procedure*

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## C4REPORT

*Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies: European Ideas Forum 2023 – 10-11 October 2023*

„No wonder why the European Ideas Forum is the flagship event of the Martens Centre! It is a professionally organized, high-quality event with interesting topics ranging from geopolitics through education and environment to economics with high-ranking officials and experts from all over the world. This year, the event was hosted in the elegant DoubleTree by Hilton on the 10th and 11th of October. We provide You with insight to some of the various panels.”

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*EPC: Reconciling competitiveness and economic security – 11 October 2023*

„The aim of this hybrid dialogue, organized by EPC in partnership with Equinor, is to understand how to strike a balance between energy security and competitiveness, more than a year after the beginning of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The goal is to comprehend the challenges facing Europe in this context of “permacrisis” and to identify potential solutions for ensuring competitive energy security within the European Union.”

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*EPC: Polish elections: What is at stake for the EU? – 16 October 2023*

„Exit poll data prognosed the Law and Justice (PiS) Party securing 36,6% support, followed by the centrist Civic Coalition with 31.6%. The center-right Third Way is expected to receive 13%, the Left 8.6% and the far-right Confederation, which cooperates with the government to receive 6.4%. (The final official results were not considerably different – ed.) A controversial referendum was also held in Poland at the same time, but not enough people have participated to reach a valid result. The referendum included questions on the privatization of state-owned enterprises, increase in the retirement age and the admission of immigrants under an EU relocation mechanism, similar to the one held in Hungary in 2016 (without any actual EU relocation mechanism or anything like that being in existence).”

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