

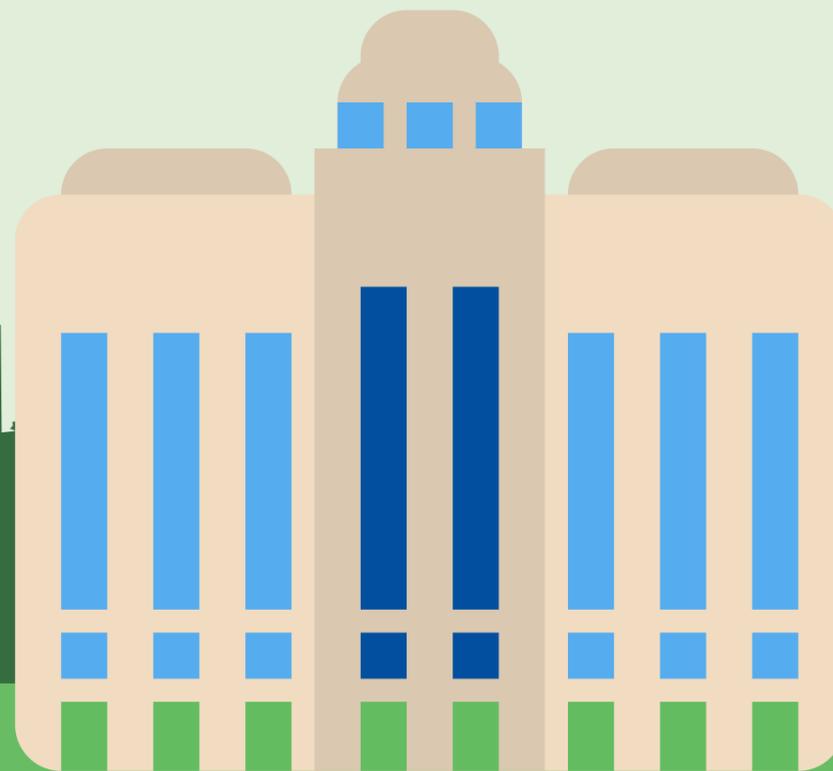


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MODULE 1 - UNDERSTANDING EU CLIMATE INSTITUTIONS

Greenscape - Unlocking Youth Civic
Engagement for a Sustainable Future





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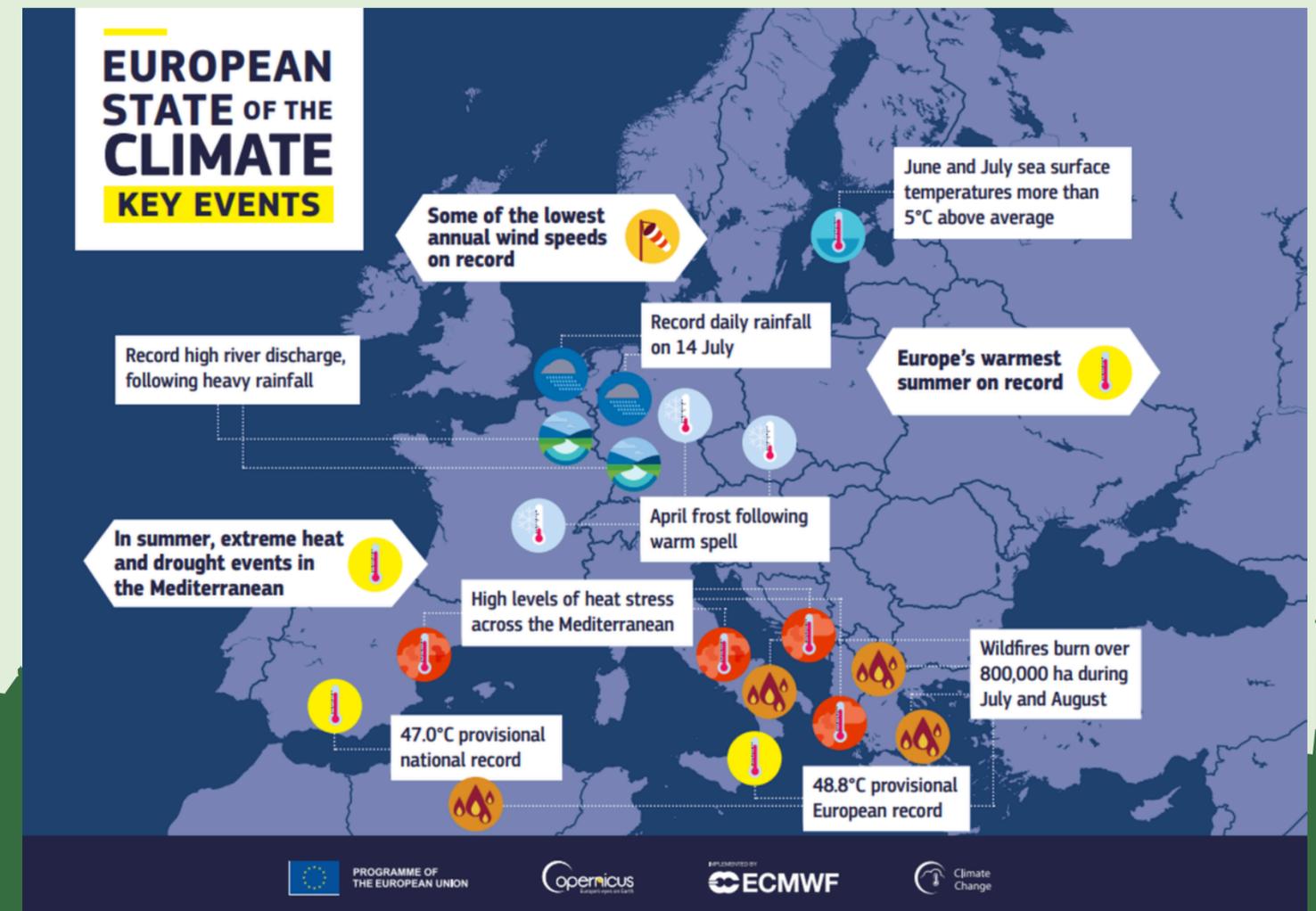
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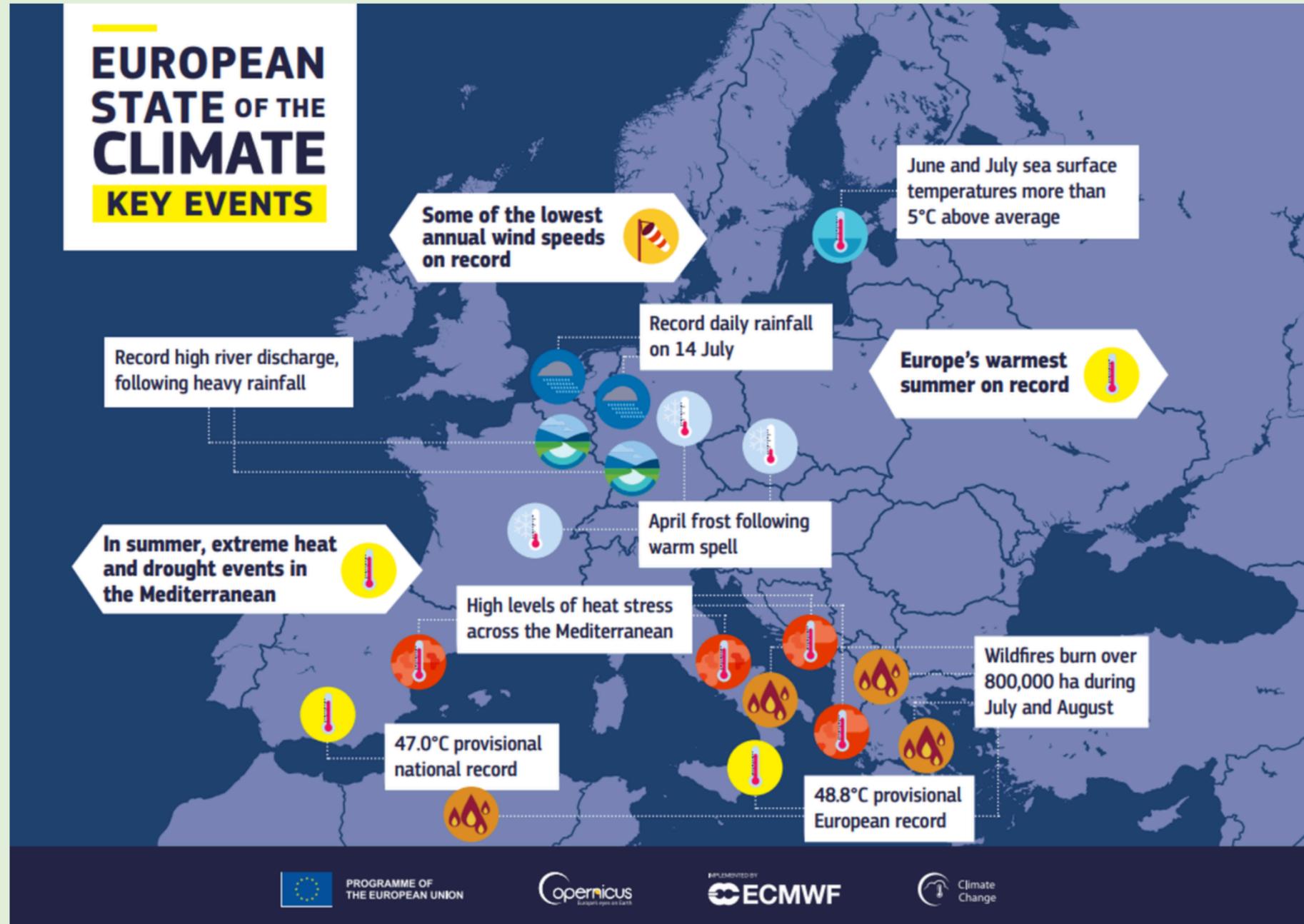
WHY CLIMATE INSTITUTIONS MATTER

- **Climate change** affects us all—
young people included.
- Big decisions are made at the EU level that shape **how Europe fights climate change**.
- Learning **how these institutions work** helps you **participate in shaping your future**.





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WHY CLIMATE INSTITUTIONS MATTER

European State of the Climate Key Events 2021
Copernicus Climate Change Service, 2022



WHAT IS THE EU ?

- A union of **27 European countries** working together on **laws** and **policies**.
- One of its main goals: making Europe a **fair, safe, and sustainable** place to live.





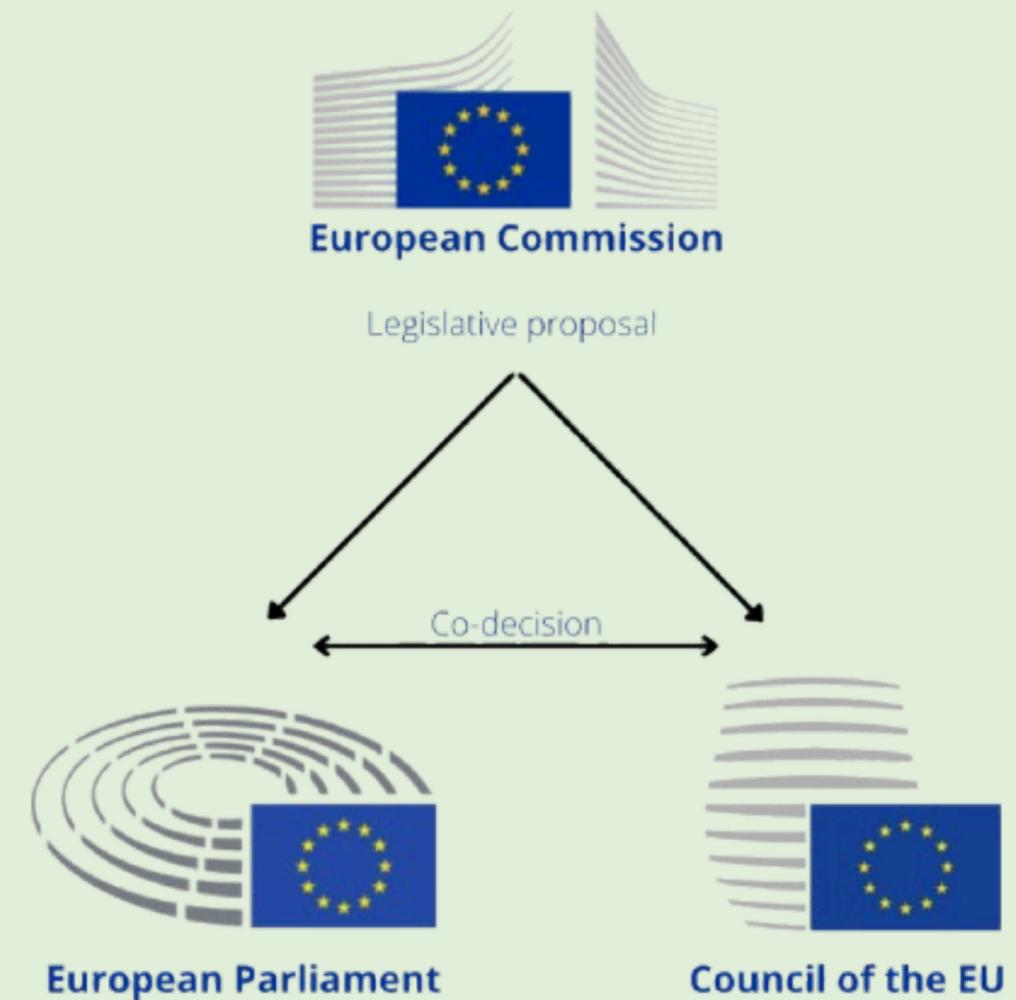
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Let's take a closer look at three of the main EU institutions involved in climate policy, and how they work together



No single person decides—climate laws are shaped by three main institutions:

- 1. European Commission**
- 2. European Parliament**
- 3. Council of the European Union**





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It is composed of **Commissioners**—one from each EU country—but when they work together they act **in the interest of the whole EU**.



THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



The Engine of New Climate Policies
≈ the government of the EU

- Proposes **new laws and policies**, including those that aim to cut greenhouse gas emissions, protect nature, or boost green technology.
- **Monitors how well countries follow EU laws** and can **take action** if they break the rules.





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The person in charge of climate action within the Commission is the **European Commissioner for Climate Action**, and they work closely with teams of **experts**, **scientists**, and **policymakers**.

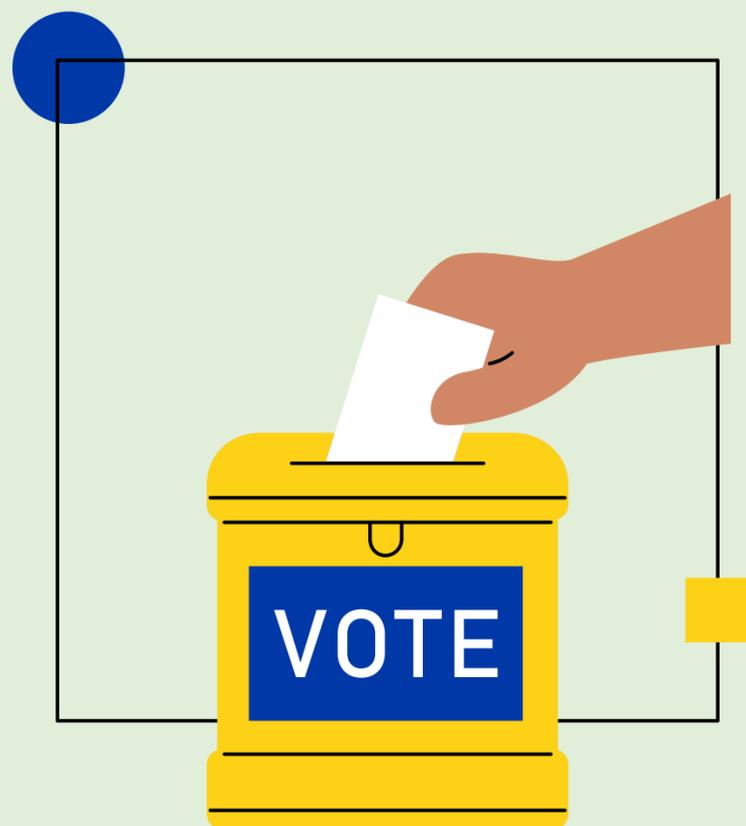
THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



- **Manages the EU's budget**, including funds for green projects (like building solar farms or helping communities prepare for climate impacts).
- **Leads international negotiations**, such as when the EU takes part in United Nations climate summits.



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



- The only EU institution **whose members are directly elected by citizens** in every EU country. They are called **MEPs** (Members of the European Parliament).
- **Brings together voices** from across the political spectrum—greens, conservatives, liberals, socialists—and from all 27 countries.



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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



- **Debates and votes** on **proposed laws**
- Can suggest changes, **block laws** it disagrees with, or ask the Commission to come up with **new ideas**
- **Checks the EU budget** to make sure funds are being spent fairly
- **Raises awareness** about urgent climate topics and **listens to citizens' concerns**





THE COUNCIL OF THE EU



- Works with the Parliament to **approve or reject new laws**.
- **Negotiates compromises** when countries have **different opinions**.
- Makes decisions about **foreign policy, energy cooperation, and big reforms**.

It represents governments of the Member States : it is composed of **Ministers** — one from each EU country.





THE COUNCIL OF THE EU



- This institution is **key** because **it reflects national interests**. For example, a country that relies heavily on coal may be more cautious about **strict environmental rules**, while one that already uses mostly clean energy may want faster change.



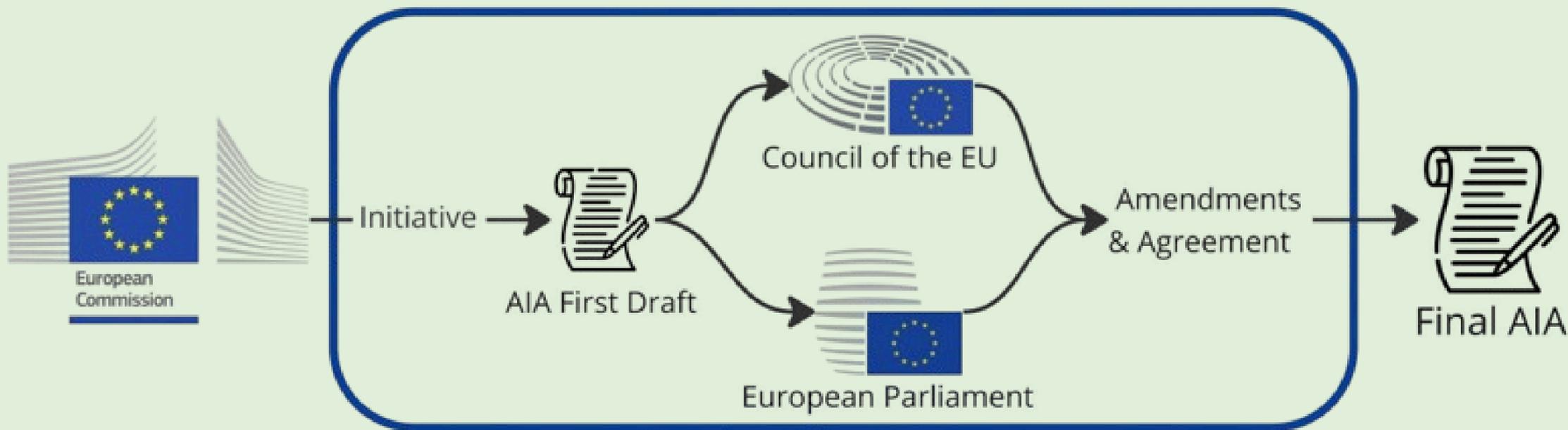


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THE LAWMAKING PROCESS

No EU law can pass unless both the European Parliament and the Council of the EU **agree on it**, based on a proposal from the European Commission.

This creates a **balance**
between :



Ordinary Legislative Procedure





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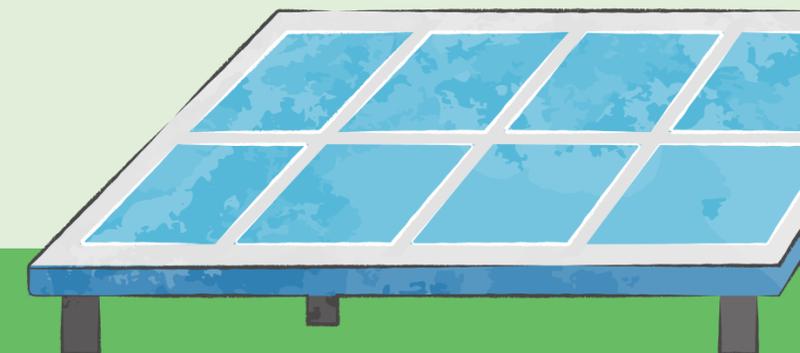
The Green Deal touches almost every part of life:

- **Reducing pollution** and emissions
- Helping people **use cleaner forms of transport**
- **Protecting** forests, rivers, and **wildlife**
- Making sure buildings use less energy
- Creating **new green jobs** and training programs

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL



Roadmap to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050





It includes :

- **Fit for 55** – a package of climate laws to **cut emissions by 55%** by 2030.
- **Just Transition Fund** – money to help coal-dependent regions **shift to greener jobs**.
- **REPowerEU** – plans to **reduce energy imports** and speed up **renewable energy**.



EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL





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YOUTH AND EU CLIMATE ACTION

Understanding how these institutions work is the **first step to getting involved**. Whether you want to become an **activist**, a **policy-maker**, a **scientist**, or a **journalist**, knowing how **climate laws** are made gives you power. It helps you **follow the news, join public debates** and push for the changes you care about.





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YOUTH EU FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Climate decisions are not just made far away in Brussels—they **shape our communities, schools, and futures.** By learning how the EU works, **you can be part of building a greener, fairer world.**





Game : Match the Institution to the Role

Instructions : Associate each EU institution with what it does.

Institution	Function
1. European Commission	a. Adopts laws and ensures implementation
2. European Parliament	b. Proposes new laws and enforces rules
3. Council of the EU	c. Debates and votes on laws



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Module 1 - Understanding EU Climate Institutions

Unlocking Youth Civic Engagement for a Sustainable Future -
GreenScape

