

Codecision / Trilogue / Early Agreements

Who Negotiates in Trilogues?

For a given file, each institution designates its negotiators and defines its negotiating mandate. As a general rule, trilogues involve political negotiations between

- the **Presidency of the Council** (in particular the chairs of Coreper I and II, but also chairs of working parties, and sometimes ministers),
- **Parliament's negotiating team** (comprising the Chairs of Parliament's relevant committees, its rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs), and
- **Commission representatives.**

The Commission acts as a mediator with a view to facilitating an agreement between the co-legislators, particularly at conciliation stage. If the trilogue negotiations lead to a final compromise text (agreement), it must be confirmed by the Council and Parliament. The agreement then needs to be adopted by the institutions according to their respective internal rules of procedure.

EP criticism:

- no access to working group / COREPER meetings (while publicity of EP)
- Com: active role in working groups /COREPER – honest broker?

Decreasing Influence of the Expert Level?

- COREPER key actor in trilogues
- relationship between European Council and Council?

„[...] the European Council tends to informally intervene in the legislative decision-making process, going beyond its formal role in providing other institutions with ‘guidance’ and ‘impetus’. The reinforcement of the European Council after Lisbon has fuelled its inclination to enter the legislative domain [...]“



“permanent“

European Council President

Bocquillon et al.: Inter-institutional coordination in the EU: reassessing the legislative balance of power after Lisbon, 2013, p.1