

Basic information**2022/2051(INL)**

INL - Legislative initiative procedure

Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties

Subject

8.10 Revision of the Treaties, intergovernmental conferences

Procedure completed

Key players

European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFCO Constitutional Affairs	SIMON Sven (EPP) BISCHOFF Gabriele (S&D) VERHOFSTADT Guy (Renew) FREUND Daniel (Greens/EFA) SCHOLZ Helmut (The Left)	17/05/2022 17/05/2022 17/05/2022 17/05/2022 17/05/2022
	Shadow rapporteur SARYUSZ-WOLSKI Jacek (ECR) ANNEMANS Gerolf (ID)		
Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed	
AFET Foreign Affairs	VAUTMANS Hilde (Renew)	11/05/2022	
INTA International Trade	The committee decided not to give an opinion.		
BUDG Budgets	UŠAKOVŠ Nils (S&D)	17/05/2022	
CONT Budgetary Control	HOHLMEIER Monika (EPP)	27/09/2022	
ECON Economic and Monetary Affairs	MARQUES Margarida (S&D)	12/07/2022	
EMPL Employment and Social Affairs	Chair on behalf of committee PÎSLARU Dragoș (Renew)	12/07/2022	

	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	Chair on behalf of committee CANFIN Pascal (Renew)	17/10/2022
	ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	Chair on behalf of committee BUȘOI Cristian-Silviu (EPP)	17/05/2022
	AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	LINS Norbert (EPP)	27/06/2022
	CULT Culture and Education	FARRENG Laurence (Renew)	14/07/2022
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs	LÓPEZ AGUILAR Juan Fernando (S&D)	05/09/2022
	FEMM Women's Rights and Gender Equality	GÁLVEZ Lina (S&D)	01/09/2022
	PETI Petitions	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Legal Service	VON DER LEYEN Ursula	

Key events			
Date	Event	Reference	Summary
09/06/2022	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
25/10/2023	Vote in committee		
07/11/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary	A9-0337/2023	Summary
21/11/2023	Debate in Parliament		
22/11/2023	Decision by Parliament	T9-0427/2023	Summary
22/11/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2022/2051(INL)
Procedure type	INL - Legislative initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislative initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 87

Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFCO/9/09208

Documentation gateway				
European Parliament				
Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee opinion	CULT	PE735.503	05/10/2022	
Specific opinion	EMPL	PE735.788	02/12/2022	
Committee opinion	AFET	PE735.826	02/12/2022	
Committee opinion	FEMM	PE736.540	06/12/2022	
Specific opinion	ENVI	PE737.338	24/01/2023	
Specific opinion	ITRE	PE740.662	24/01/2023	
Specific opinion	CONT	PE742.305	31/01/2023	
Committee opinion	AGRI	PE734.266	01/02/2023	
Committee opinion	ECON	PE736.556	02/02/2023	
Committee opinion	LIBE	PE736.602	10/02/2023	
Committee opinion	BUDG	PE739.657	13/02/2023	
Committee draft report		PE746.741	22/08/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE753.699	05/10/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE753.742	05/10/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A9-0337/2023	07/11/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, single reading		T9-0427/2023	22/11/2023	Summary

Additional information		
Source	Document	Date
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency				
Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	18/12/2023	Institut Jean Monnet CesUE

SIMON Sven	Rapporteur	AFCO	08/11/2023	Deutscher Forstwirtschaftsrat
BISCHOFF Gabriele	Rapporteur	AFCO	06/09/2023	JEF Europe
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	27/02/2023	Jacques Delors Centre Berlin
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	30/11/2022	European Movement International
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	29/11/2022	Alliance4Europe gGmbH
DELBOS-CORFIELD Gwendoline	Shadow rapporteur for opinion	FEMM	14/11/2022	Organisation Intersex International Europe e.V.
ANGEL Marc	Shadow rapporteur	PETI	25/10/2022	European Movement International
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	25/10/2022	European Policy Centre
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	27/09/2022	Union of European Federalists
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	26/09/2022	Centre for European Policy Studies Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik
BISCHOFF Gabriele	Rapporteur	AFCO	23/09/2022	ifok GmbH
FREUND Daniel	Rapporteur	AFCO	28/08/2022	Pulse of Europe

Other Members

Transparency		
Name	Date	Interest representatives
MACMANUS Chris	21/11/2023	Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union

Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties

2022/2051(INL) - 22/11/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 291 votes to 274, with 44 abstentions, a resolution on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties.

Members believe that the revision of the Treaties is necessary in the interests of all EU citizens, as it aims to reshape the Union so as to increase its capacity to act, as well as its democratic legitimacy and accountability. It should enable the Union to respond more effectively to geopolitical challenges.

The Union's institutional framework and, in particular, its decision-making process, notably within the Council, is barely adequate for a Union of 27 Member States. The prospect of future enlargements makes a reform of the Treaties inevitable.

The Conference on the Future of Europe has completed its work and presented its conclusions. The conclusions contain 49 proposals and 326 measures, many of which can only be implemented once the Treaties have been revised.

Parliament reiterated its call for the **amendment of the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**. It called on the Council to submit to the European Council, immediately and without deliberation, the proposals set out in its resolution.

It asked the European Council to **convene a Convention as soon as possible** in accordance with the ordinary revision procedure laid down in Article 48 (2) to (5) of the Treaty on European Union.

The proposed amendments to the Treaties concern the following issues:

Institutional Reforms

- **reform decision-making** in the Union to more accurately reflect a bicameral system by further empowering the European Parliament;
- strengthen the Union's capacity to act by considerably increasing the number of areas where actions are decided by **qualified majority voting** (QMV) and through the ordinary legislative procedure (OLP);

- enable Parliament to gain the **right of initiative** for legislation, in particular the right to introduce, amend, or repeal Union law, and to become a co-legislator for the adoption of the multiannual financial framework;
- enable the Commission President (renamed the European Executive) to choose its members based on political preferences, whilst ensuring geographic and demographic balance;
- fix the size of the Executive to no more than 15 members whereby members are chosen from among the nationals of the Member States on the basis of a system of strictly equal rotation as already provided for in the current Treaties while undersecretaries are appointed among nationals of those Member States that have no national represented in the College;
- increase the transparency of the Council of the European Union by requiring it to publish those of its positions which form part of the normal legislative process, and to organise a public debate on the Council's positions;
- ensure the composition of the European Parliament become Parliament's competence subject to the Council's consent;
- strengthen instruments for citizens' participation in the EU decision-making process within the framework of representative democracy.

Competences

- establish **exclusive Union competence** for the environment and biodiversity as well as negotiations on climate change;
- establish **shared competences** on public health matters and the protection and improvement of human health, especially cross-border health threats, civil protection, industry, and education especially when transnational issues such as mutual recognition of degrees, grades, competences and qualifications are concerned;
- further develop Union shared competences in the areas of energy, foreign affairs, external security and defence, external border policy in the area of freedom, security and justice, and cross-border infrastructure.

Subsidiarity

- extend the deadline for "yellow card" procedures to 12 weeks;
- a "green card mechanism" for legislative proposals by national or regional parliaments with legislative powers be introduced in order to make Union law more responsive to local needs.

Rule of Law

- strengthen and reform the procedure in Article 7 TEU with regard to the protection of the rule of law by ending unanimity, introducing a clear timeframe, and by making the Court of Justice the arbiter of violations;
- empower Parliament to bring cases of non-compliance with the Treaties before the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

- decisions on sanctions, interim steps in the enlargement process and other foreign policy decisions to be taken by QMV;
- establish a defence union including military units, a permanent rapid deployment capacity, under the operational command of the Union;
- joint procurement and the development of armaments should be financed by the Union through a dedicated budget under parliamentary co-decision and scrutiny.

Parliament also recommended:

- the development of common objectives and standards for education that promotes democratic values and the rule of law, as well as digital and economic literacy;
- the promotion of democratic values, good governance, human rights and sustainability, as well as foreign investment, investment protection and economic security should be included in the scope of the common commercial policy;
- expanding non-discrimination protections to gender, social origin, language, political opinion and membership of a national minority;
- adding climate protection and biodiversity to the EU's sustainable development objectives;
- the creation of an integrated European Energy Union;
- common standards for long-term visas and residence permits, to prevent the sale and abuse of citizenship and residence, and the strengthening of the Union's common immigration policy;
- the establishment by the EU of common indicators for health systems.

Proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties

The Committee on Constitutional Affairs adopted the report by Guy VERHOFSTADT (Renew, BE), Sven SIMON (EPP, DE), Gabriele BISCHOFF (S&D, DE), Daniel FREUND (Greens/EFA, DE), Helmut SCHOLZ (The Left, DE) on proposals of the European Parliament for the amendment of the Treaties.

This report follows Parliament's resolution of 9 June 2022 on the call for a Convention for the revision of the Treaties. It reiterates Parliament's call for the amendment of the Treaties and call on the Council to immediately and without deliberation submit Parliament's proposals to the European Council. Furthermore, it calls on the European Council to convene a Convention in accordance with the ordinary revision procedure provided for in Article 48(2) to (5) of the Treaty on European Union (TEU), as soon as possible.

The current Treaties entered into force on 1 December 2009.

The proposals in this report aim to reshape the Union in a way that will enhance the Union's capacity to act and strengthen its democratic legitimacy and accountability.

On 9 May 2022, the Conference on the Future of Europe (COFE) finished its work and presented its conclusions. Those conclusions contain 49 proposals and 326 measures, the European Parliament welcomed the conclusions of the Conference on the Future of Europe of 9 May 2022 and noted that several of the Conference proposals require amendments to the Treaties.

The proposed Treaty changes concern the following issues:

Institutional reforms

- reform decision-making in the Union to more accurately reflect a bicameral system by further empowering the European Parliament, and by changing the voting mechanism in the Council;
- strengthen of the Union's capacity to act by considerably increasing the number of areas where actions are decided by qualified majority voting (QMV) and through the ordinary legislative procedure (OLP);
- Parliament to gain the right of initiative for legislation, in particular the right to introduce, amend, or repeal Union law, and to become a co-legislator for the adoption of the multiannual financial framework;
- introduce a European referendum on matters relevant to the Union's actions and policies; calls for the strengthening of instruments for citizens' participation in the EU decision-making process within the framework of representative democracy.

Competences

- establish exclusive Union competence for the environment and biodiversity as well as negotiations on climate change;
- establish shared competences on public health matters and the protection and improvement of human health, especially cross-border health threats, civil protection, industry, and education especially when transnational issues such as mutual recognition of degrees, grades, competences and qualifications are concerned;
- further develop Union shared competences in the areas of energy, foreign affairs, external security and defence, external border policy in the area of freedom, security and justice, and cross-border infrastructure.

Subsidiarity

- extend the deadline for "yellow card" procedures to 12 weeks;
- a "green card mechanism" for legislative proposals by national or regional parliaments with legislative powers be introduced in order to make Union law more responsive to local needs.

Rule of Law

- strengthen and reform the procedure in Article 7 TEU with regard to the protection of the rule of law by ending unanimity, introducing a clear timeframe, and by making the Court of Justice the arbiter of violations.

Foreign, Security and Defence Policy

- decisions on sanctions, interim steps in the enlargement process and other foreign policy decisions to be taken by QMV;
- establish a defence union including military units, a permanent rapid deployment capacity, under the operational command of the Union;
- joint procurement and the development of armaments should be financed by the Union through a dedicated budget under parliamentary co-decision and scrutiny.

Single Market, Economy & Budget

- reinforce QMV used for decisions on direct and indirect taxation;
- establish the multiannual financial framework for a five-year period.

Energy Policy

- create an integrated European energy union.

Area of Freedom, Justice and Security

- Europol should receive additional competences subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Migration

- common minimum standards for the acquisition of Union citizenship by third-country nationals, as well as for common standards for long-term visas and residency permits to prevent the sale and abuse of citizenship and residency.