

# **EUROPE'S MECHANISMS**

## **Decision-making at EU level**

# EURACOAL's tasks

- Regular information on all matters relevant to coal
- Forum for members
- Concentration of energy and coal policy interests at European level
- Cooperation in shaping policy and legal framework
- Extension of the information of and contact with EU Commission and EU Parliament
- Cooperation with politicians, associations, etc., in Brussels

# Coal interests in the European Environment and Energy Policy

- EU Measures for Implementing the Kyoto Protocol
- Directive on the Management of Waste from the Extractive Industry
- Groundwater Directive
- Communication from the Commission towards a Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection
- Chemicals legislation (REACH-System)
- Environmental Liability Directive
- Directive on Public Access to Environmental Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

# Community Acts

- Regulations - directly applicable in all Member States
- Directives - binding, as to the result to be achieved, but leaves the Member States the choice of form and methods
- Decisions - binding upon those to whom it is addressed
- Recommendations and opinions - no binding force

# Procedures (I)

## Assent procedure

- Requires the Council to obtain EP's assent before certain important decisions are taken.
- Examples
  - accession of new Member States
  - appointment of the President of the Commission
  - procedure for EP elections
  - tasks and statutes of the European Central Bank

# Procedures (II)

## Consultation procedure

- EP gives its opinion on a proposal from the Commission

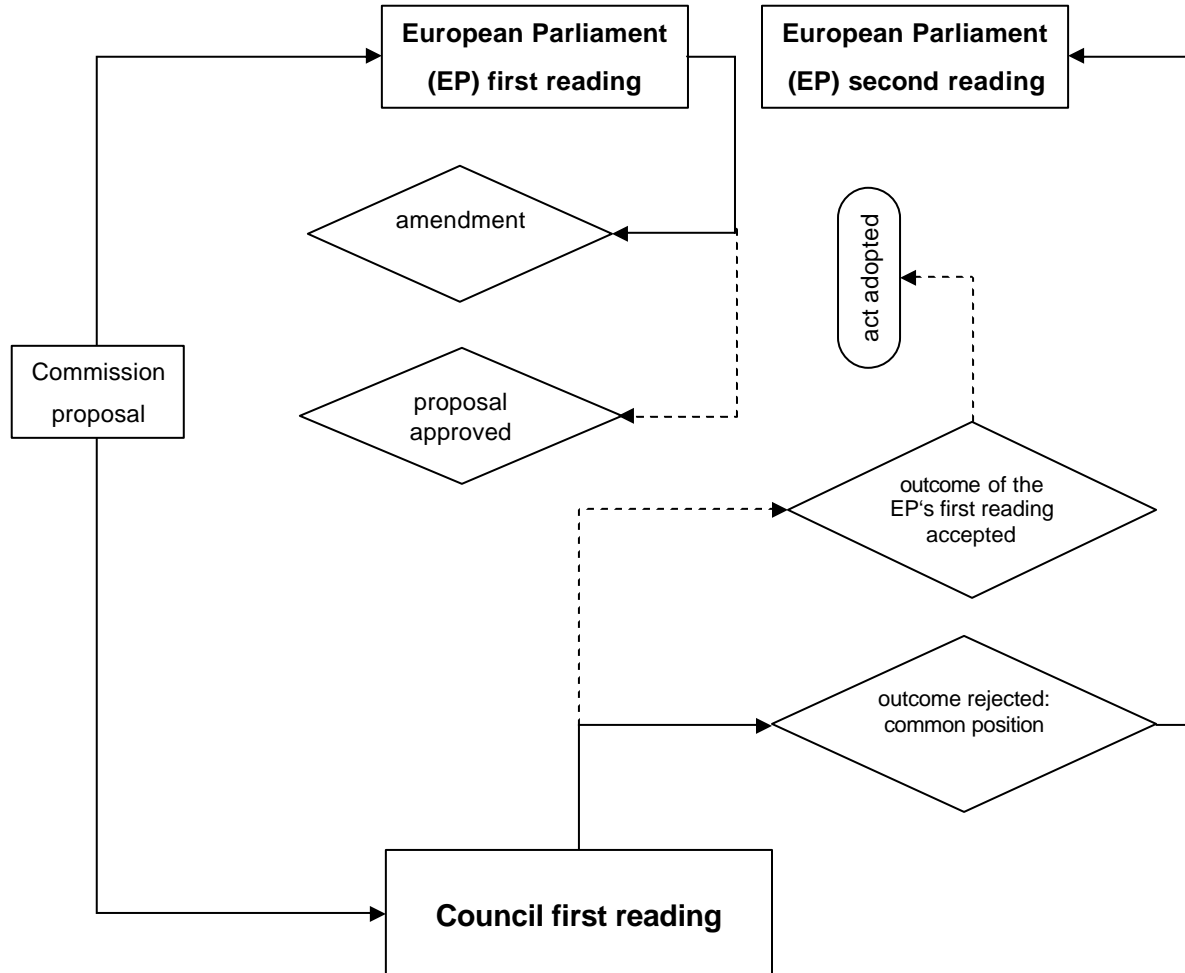
# Co-decision Procedure

- Gives EP the power to adopt instruments jointly with the Council e. g. in the following fields:
  - Environment
  - Internal Market
  - Consumer Protection
  - Trans European Networks
  - Statistics
  - Research (Framework Programme)

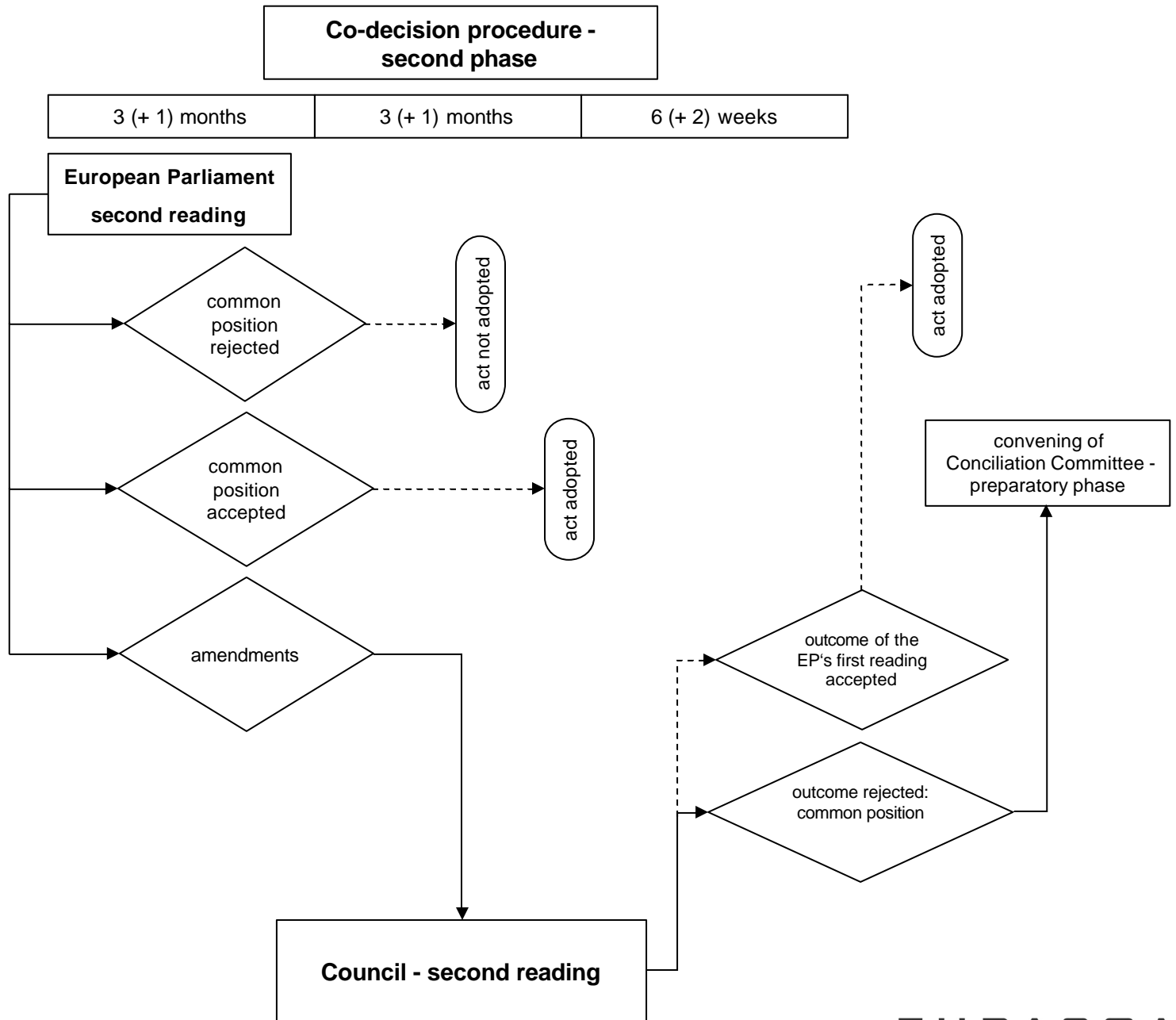
## Co-decision procedure - first phase

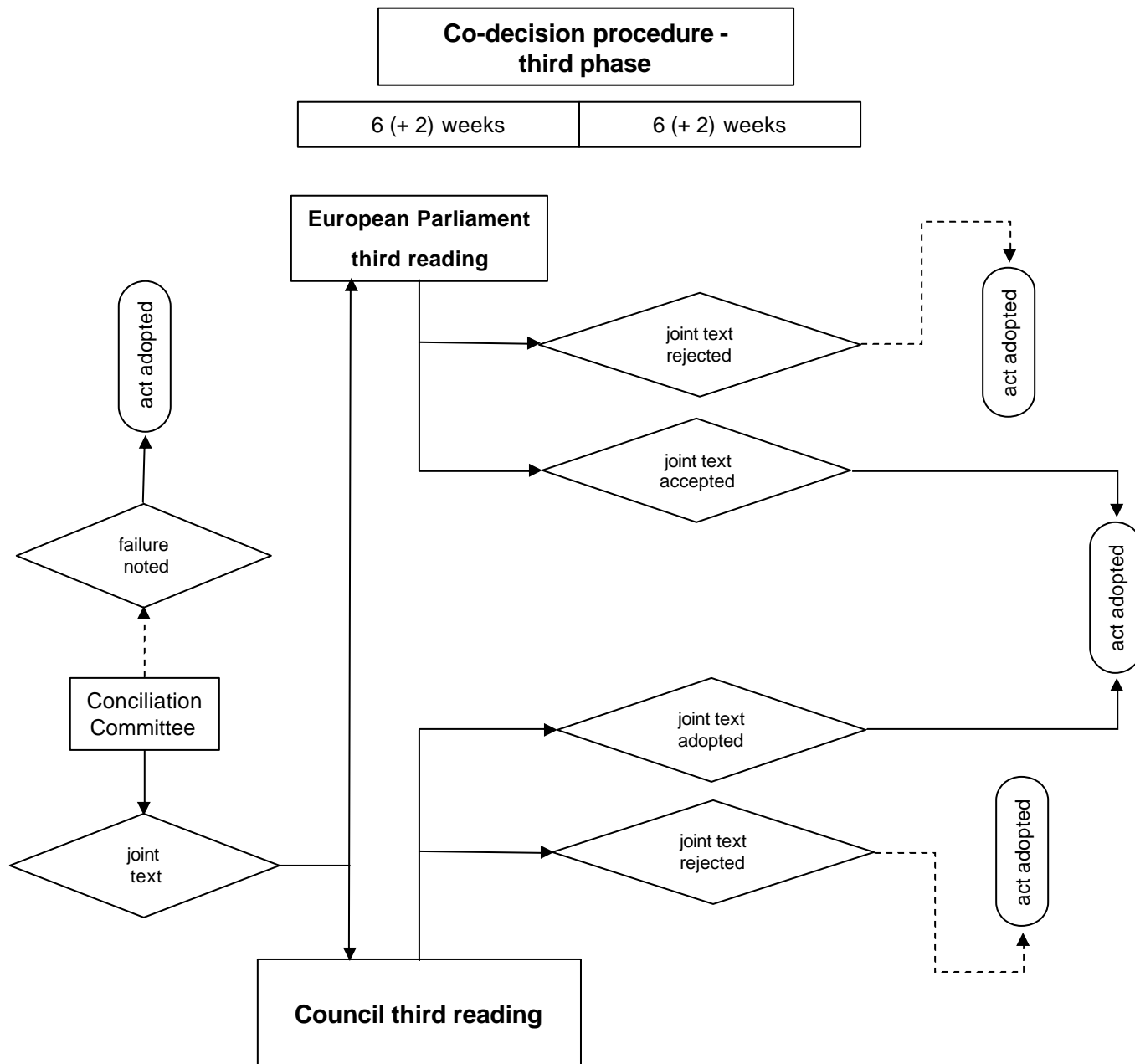
Without time limit

3 (+ 1) months

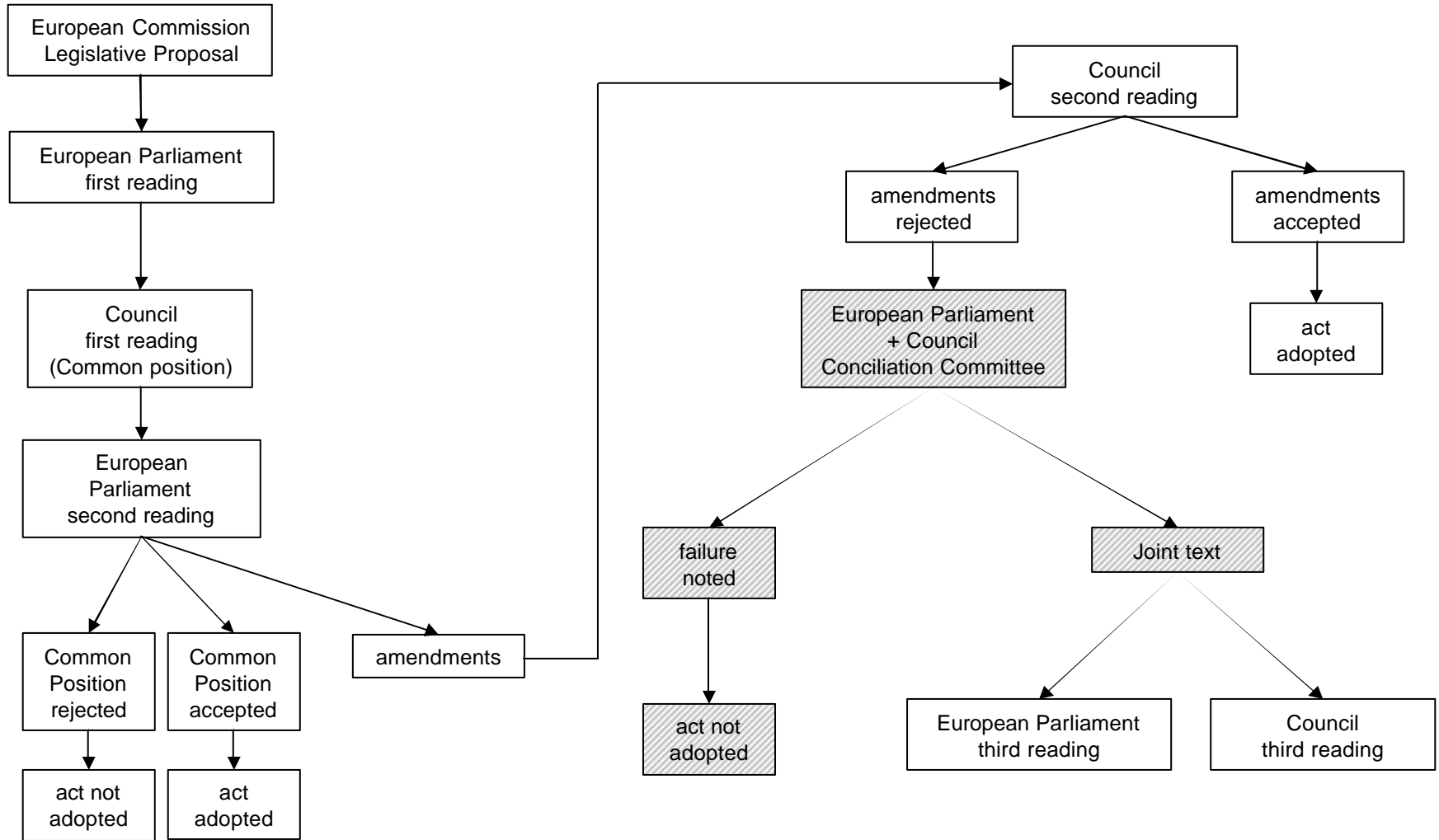








# Co-decision procedure



# Conciliation Committee

- 15 Council members, as a general rule the representatives within Coreper
- 15 EP members appointed by the political groups
- Commission as a rule represented by the Commissioner responsible for the matter; takes all necessary initiatives
- before the meetings:  
preparatory meeting of each delegation, followed by a formal triologue (Commissioner + the two chairmen)