

The EU Decision Making Process Made Easy



Introduction

Since its birth a little over a year ago, PIIGSty.com promised to demystify all that academic speak and needless jargon to make current political, economic and legal topics in the EU accessible and easily understandable for all. After all, that's what we're here for.

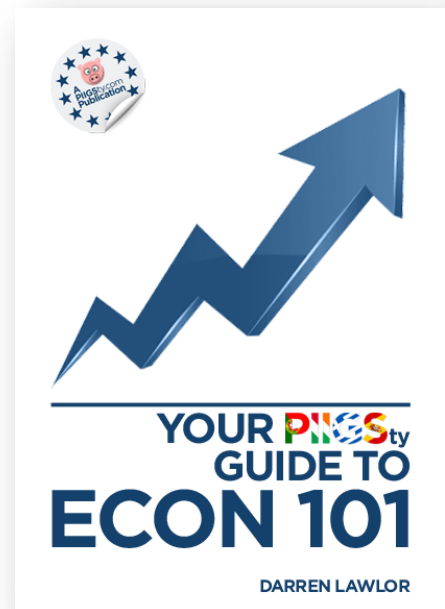
One area which continues to confuse is the rather complicated decision making (aka legislative) process which drives the European Union forward. Lets be frank - nothing in the EU these days is straightforward and the legislative process is no exception. As a result we are proud to present this new PIIGSty publication on that very topic.

With easy to identify (and adorable) original logos displayed with a simple and easy to read diagrammatic style, we have trimmed all the fat and just left the best bits. We hope you all find this and all the other bits on PIIGSty helpful. If you have any comments, queries, suggested articles or would just like to get something 'Europe'-y off your chest, make sure to email the editor of PIIGSty at editor@piigsty.com

We'd also like to announce that PIIGSty is growing fast and aiming to add a number of expert contributors very soon. Remember to visit www.piigsty.com for updates and fresh, new articles and pick up a copy of the **PIIGSty Guide to Econ 101** for a great price.

All the best

The folks at PIIGSty.com

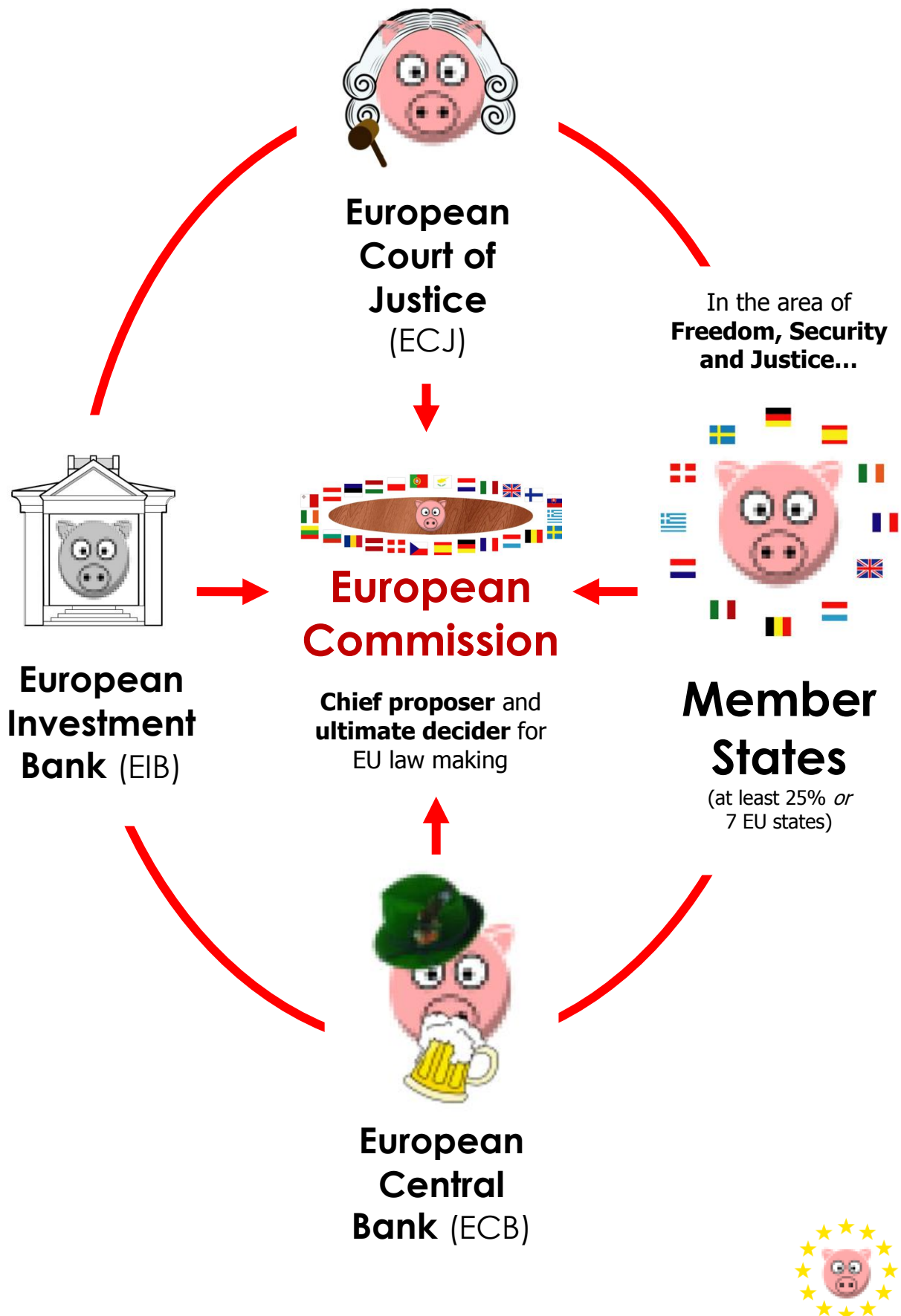


Available [here](#)



Who presents a proposal?

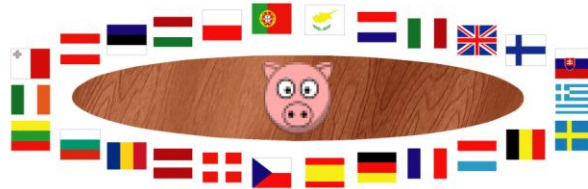
The **European Commission (EU Executive/Government)** is the main player but a select few others can also propose something new...



Influences on proposals

The **Commission** can't make a law just because it seems like a good idea. They first must listen to key bodies/lobbyists and assess potential impact of new laws before proposal drafts are amended. The Commission then has a firm **proposal**.

Requests/
Lobbying
comes from **5**
main sources...

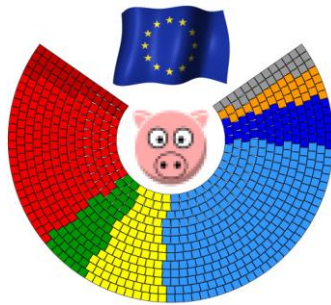


European Commission

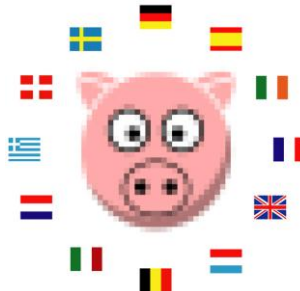
Impact Assessments
to assess economic, social and environmental impact

Consultations
Amendments are allowed from citizens, industry and lobbyists

5 SOURCES



European Parliament



National Parliaments

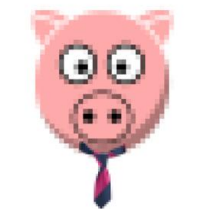


Citizens
Public Consultations



Presidents PM's

Council of Europe



**Industry/
Business/
NGOs**



The legislative process

EU decision making comes in **4 forms** (the 4 'C's)

MOST COMMON

1. Codecision

The EU Parliament and the Council of Ministers (COM) work together to amend, accept or reject proposals. This procedure was introduced in 1992 and improved in 1999. It was renamed in 2009.

2. Consultation

The EU Parliament is consulted by the Commission but the Commission and COM are the two who ultimately decide.

3. Cooperation

COM can accept a proposal but needs unanimous approval of all ministers if the EU Parliament opposes it. This form is used for **economic and monetary policy** i.e. 'Money' Issues only.

4. Consent

This form is used to admit new **EU members** and deal with the **ECB**. Still, the EP must approve proposal first (but cant make any amendments).

Codecision is the most common route for making new laws so this is where we'll focus.

It was renamed '**ordinary legislative procedure**' in 2009 under the Lisbon Treaty. There are 3 potential outcomes of co-decision...

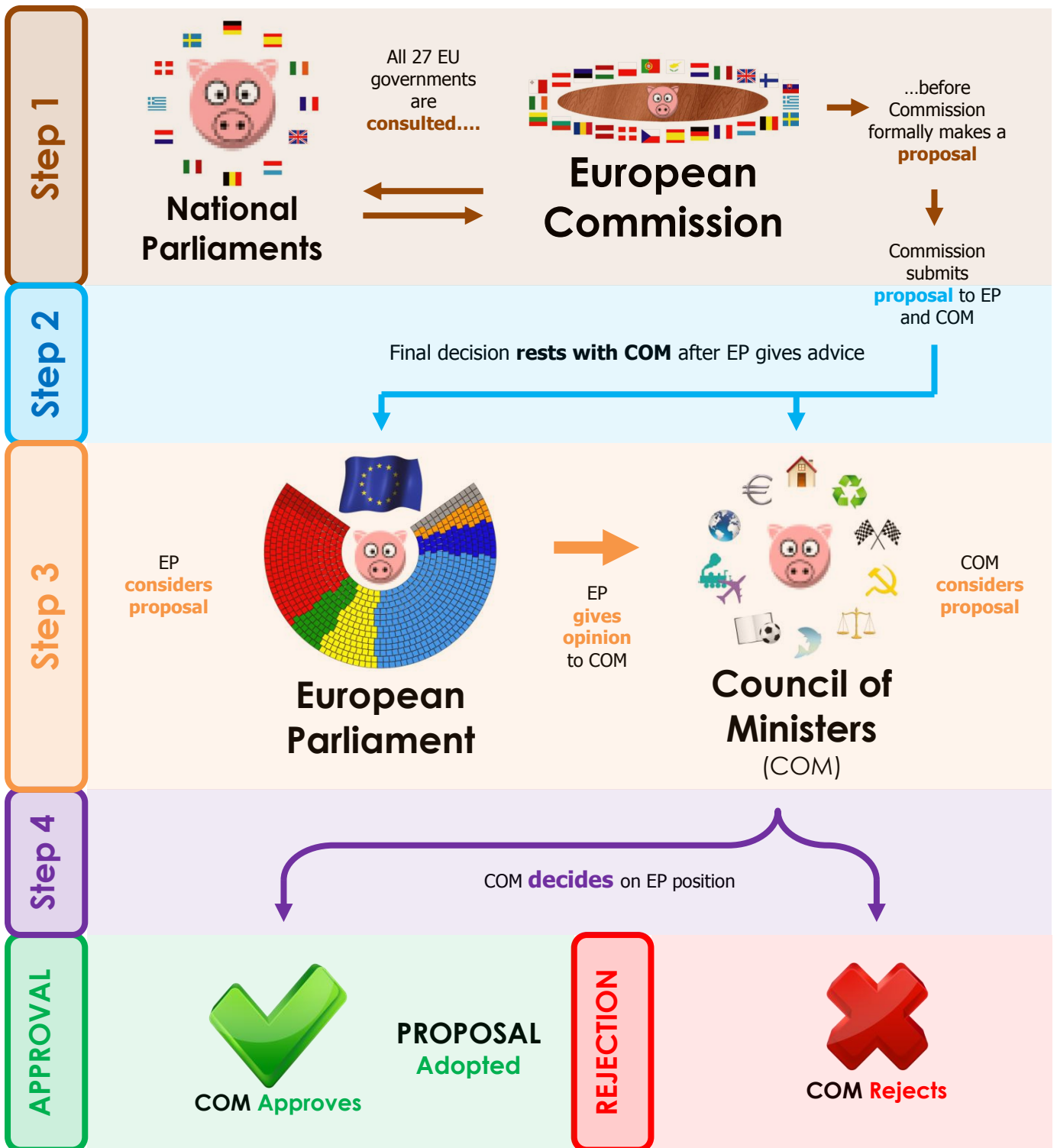
Decision

Disagreement

Deadlock



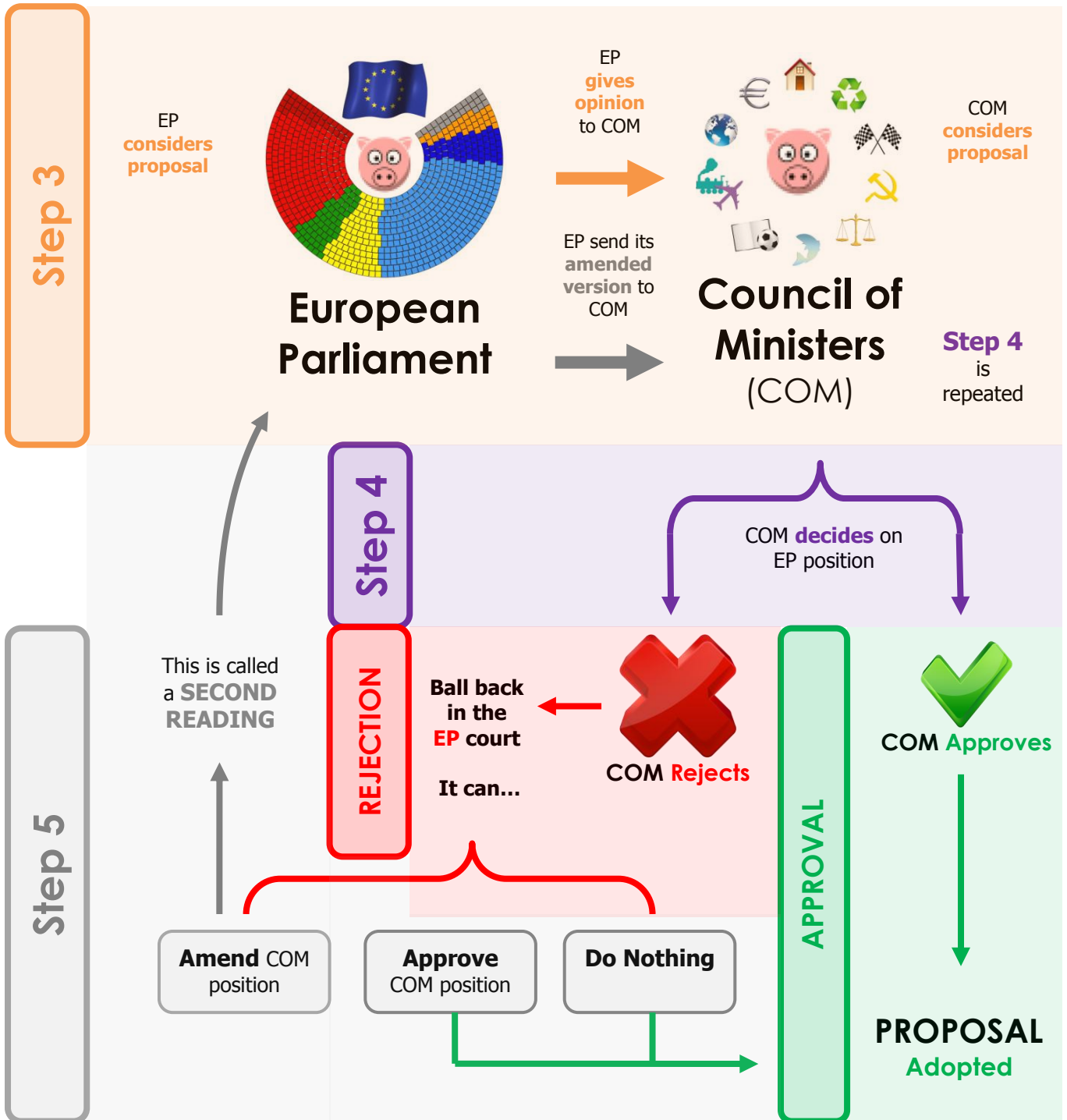
DECISION



What happens if the COM **rejects** EP position?



DISAGREEMENT



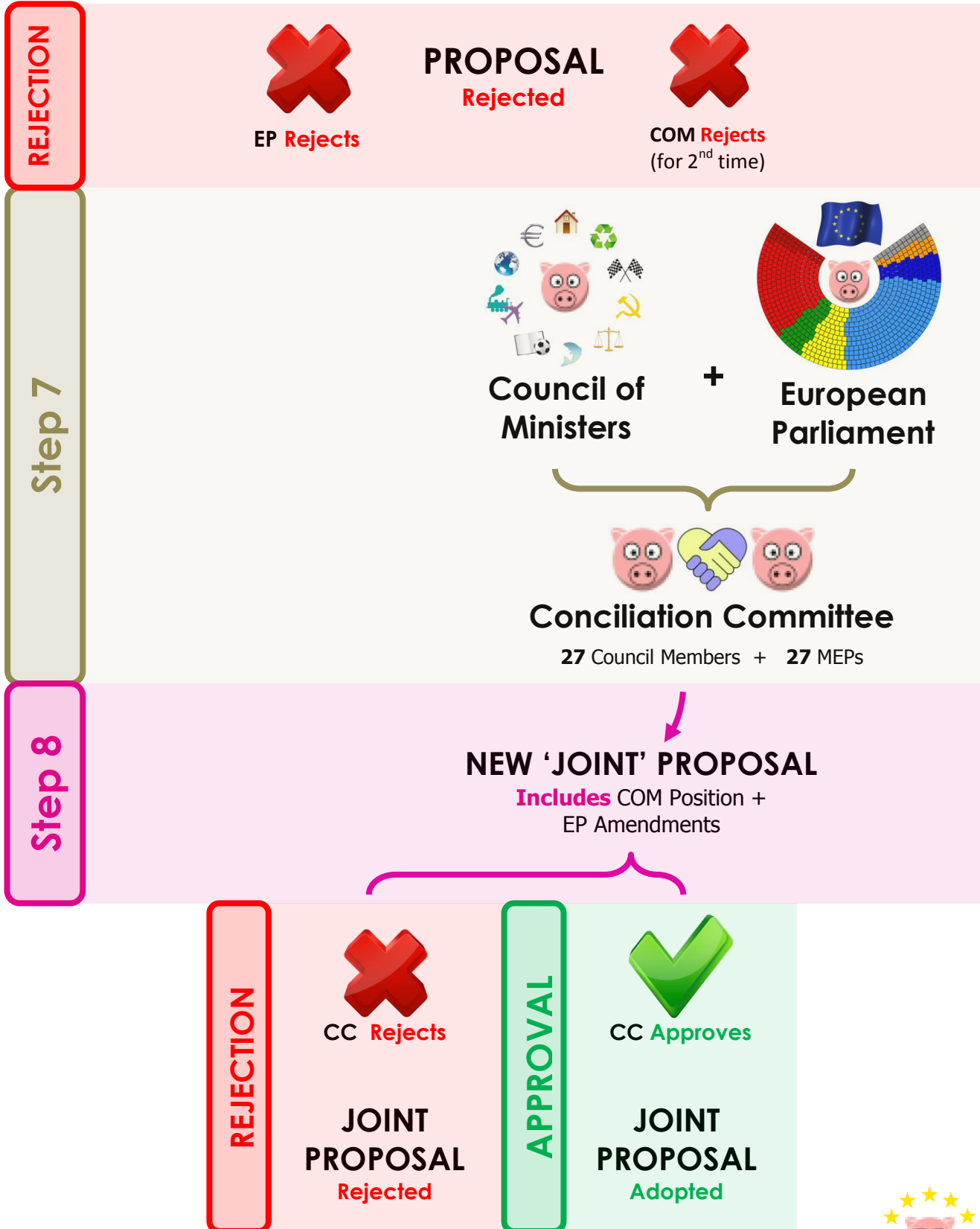
But what happens when the COM **rejects** again...?



DEADLOCK: DEATH or DELIBERATION

A The EP could **reject** the COM decision by an absolute majority of MEPs

B If the COM **rejects** the EP amendments (again...) a **Conciliation Committee** is formed.



In summary...

