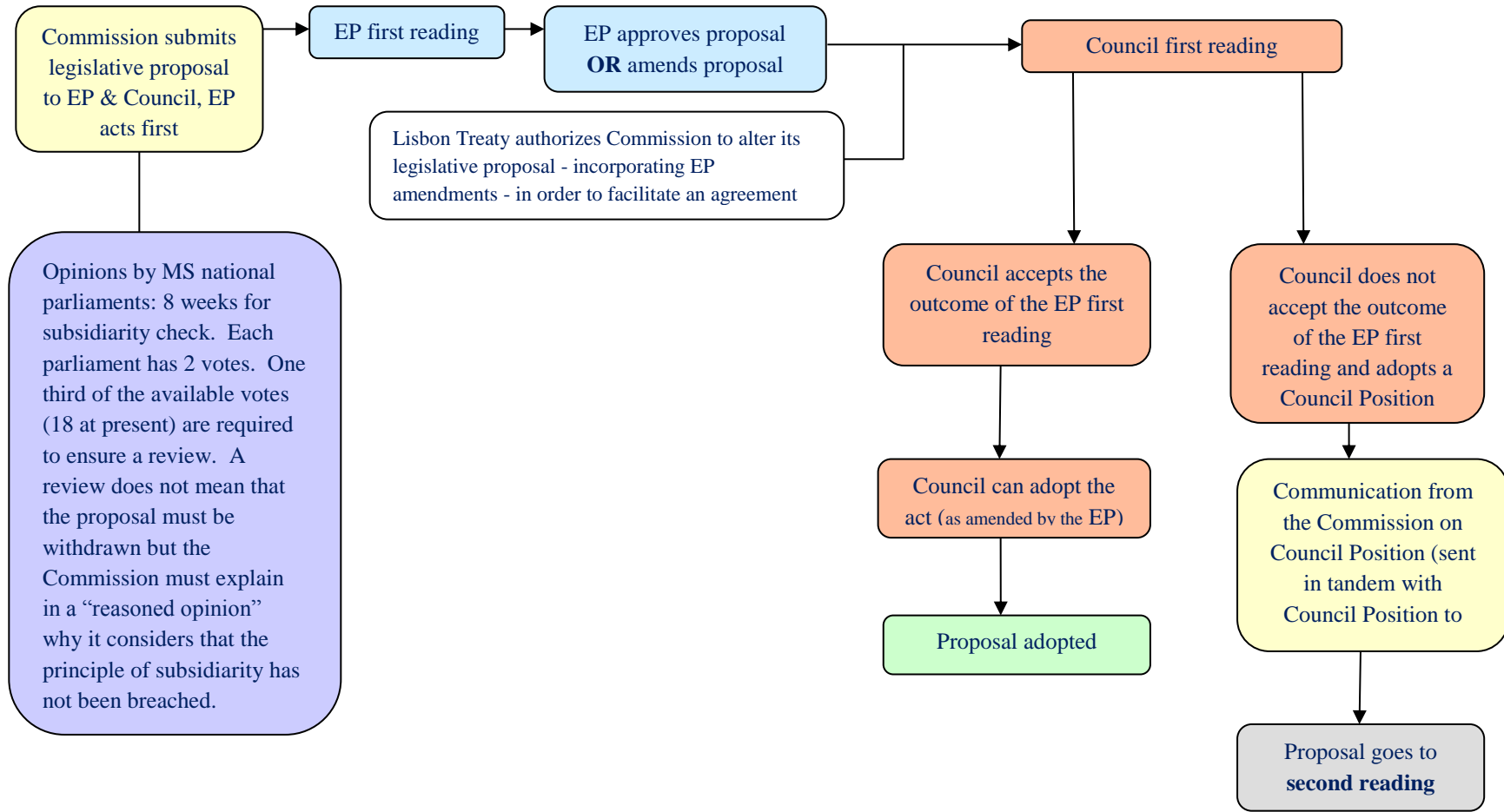


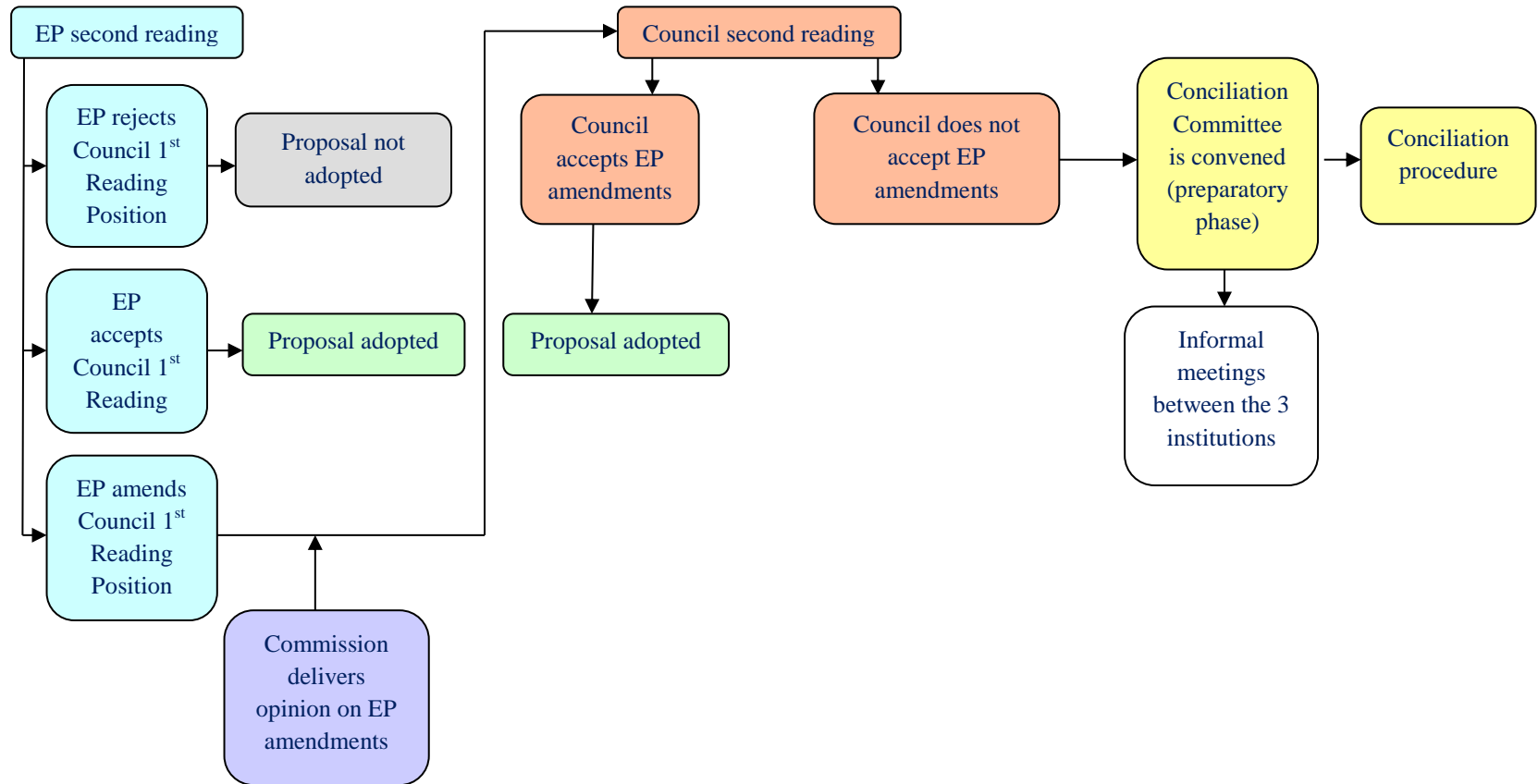
**ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE (OLP – EX CO-DECISION) STEP-BY-STEP  
FIRST READING (NO TIME LIMITS)**



EP votes by **simple majority** in first reading (majority of MEPs taking part in the vote)

Council votes by **qualified majority** (support of at least 16 Member States representing at least 65 percent of EU population) **OR** by **unanimity** if its position differs from that of the Commission  
Blocking minority = at least 4 Member States representing at least 35 percent of EU population

**SECOND READING (WITH TIME LIMITS)**



**3 months** time limit – may be extended by **1 month**

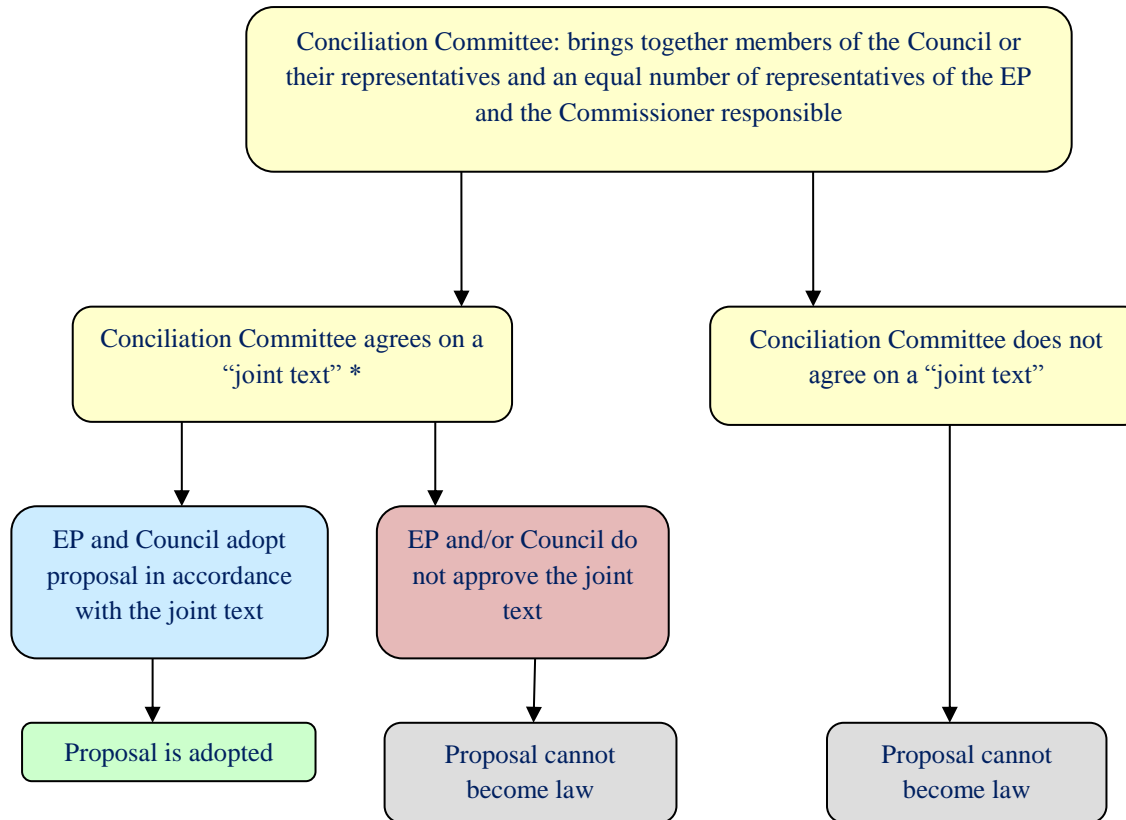
EP voting is based on an absolute majority of component MEPs in 2<sup>nd</sup> reading

**3 months** time limit – may be extended by **1 month**

Council votes by qualified majority or unanimously if the Commission has delivered a negative opinion on the EP amendments

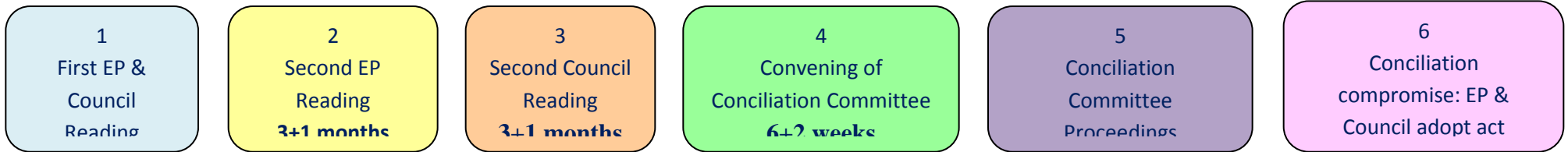
Conciliation Committee has to be convened within **6 weeks** from the time of the Council's formal decision – may be extended by **2 weeks**

### CONCILIATION OR THIRD READING (WITH TIME LIMITS)



\* "Joint text" or compromise resulting from the informal trilogues (see "second reading" is submitted to the Conciliation Committee for approval: the Treaty sets a time limit of 6 weeks for approving a joint text – may be extended by 2 weeks.

### ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE – TIME LIMITS



1. The Commission submits a proposal to the European Parliament (EP) and the Council. The EP either accepts or amends the proposal. The Council either adopts the proposed act (possibly amended by the EP) or adopts a “Council Position” on the EP’s first reading amendments and forwards its position and the statement of reasons to the EP. **No time limits in the first reading phase.**

2. Within **3 months (may be extended by 1 month)** from the formal adoption of the Council Position, the EP either accepts the Council position, rejects it or proposes amendments to the Council Position. EP refers amendments to the Council.

3. The Council has **3 months (may be extended by 1 month)** following the receipt of the EP amendments to act: the Council either approves or does not approve the EP amendments.

4. If the Council does not accept the EP’s second reading amendments, a Conciliation Committee must be convened within **6 weeks (may be extended by 2 weeks)** of the Council’s formal decision.

5. The EP and Council have **6 weeks (may be extended by 2 weeks)** to agree on a “joint text”. The time limit applies as of the first formal meeting of the Conciliation Committee.

6. If the Conciliation Committee approves a joint text, the EP and Council have **6 weeks (may be extended by 2 weeks)** from that approval to adopt the act in accordance with the joint text.