The negotiating process

**How it works**

The Commission does a 'scoping exercise' & impact assessment, including public consultation.

The Commission proposes the negotiating directives to the Council of the EU. This proposal is simultaneously sent to the European Parliament, national Parliaments and published to facilitate the public debate.

The Council adopts the negotiating directives and instructs the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU.

The Commission negotiates on behalf of the 28 EU countries under close scrutiny of the Council and the European Parliament. During this process, Council and Parliament meet with the negotiators and receive negotiating documents and reports.

EU negotiating proposals, round reports and explanatory documents are published throughout the process. Commission negotiators hold regular meetings with stakeholders and civil society. At the end of the negotiations, the Commission publishes text of the agreement as soon as possible.

Depending on the nature of the agreement:

- The Council approves the results of the negotiation.
- The Parliament gives its consent on the agreement.
- The Commission approves the results of the negotiation.
- The Parliament gives its consent on the agreement.
- The agreement is ratified by National Parliaments in each Member State.