

# Bord Bia

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THE EUROPEAN  
UNION



# EU 27

## Population: 448m

- ▶ **1951**: GERMANY, FRANCE, ITALY, BELGIUM, NETHERLANDS, LUXEMBOURG
- ▶ **1973**: UK(\*), IRELAND, DENMARK
- ▶ **1981**: GREECE
- ▶ **1985**: SPAIN, PORTUGAL.
- ▶ **1995**: AUSTRIA, FINLAND, SWEDEN
- ▶ **2004**: CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTOINA, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, HUNGARY, MALTA, POLAND, SLOVENIA, SLOVAKIA
- ▶ **2007**: ROMANIA, BULGARIA
- ▶ **2013**: CROATIA

*(\* UK left in 2020)*



# EU INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ 7 principal decision-making bodies
- ▶ **4 key:**
  - ▶ EUROPEAN COMMISSION
  - ▶ EU COUNCIL
  - ▶ COUNCIL OF THE EU
  - ▶ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT





# EU COUNCIL

- ▶ EU Council President: Charles Michel former Belgian Prime Minister
- ▶ Membership: Heads of state or government + EU Commission President + EU Parliament President.
- ▶ Meet quarterly to set the broad direction of EU policy making.



A portrait of Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission. She is a middle-aged woman with blonde hair, smiling, wearing a white blazer over a light-colored shirt. The background is blurred with European Union flags.

# EU COMMISSION

EU Commission President: Ursula von der Leyen.

The President also sets the Commission's policy agenda.

Nominated by largest EP party and EU Council and elected by the Parliament

27 member states have a Commissioner each including President (Germany)

Irish Commissioner: Mairead McGuinness.

Commission de facto Civil Service and Ministers.

Purpose is to design and propose legislation.





# COUNCIL OF THE EU

- ▶ Council of the EU.
- ▶ Ministers meet to discuss, amend and adopt draft legislation.
- ▶ Part of the decision-making process along with the EU Parliament.
- ▶ Council meetings chaired by the Minister of country that is serving EU President.
- ▶ Current EU Presidency – Belgium
- ▶ Ireland EU Presidency-July to December 2026





# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- ▶ President Roberta Metsola (Malta)
- ▶ 705 MEPs elected every 5 years. Going up to 720.
- ▶ Commission Proposals debated and amendments made by Parliament Committees such as COMM-Agri or COMM-Envi.
- ▶ Meet in Brussels and Strasbourg.
- ▶ Co-legislate with Council of EU

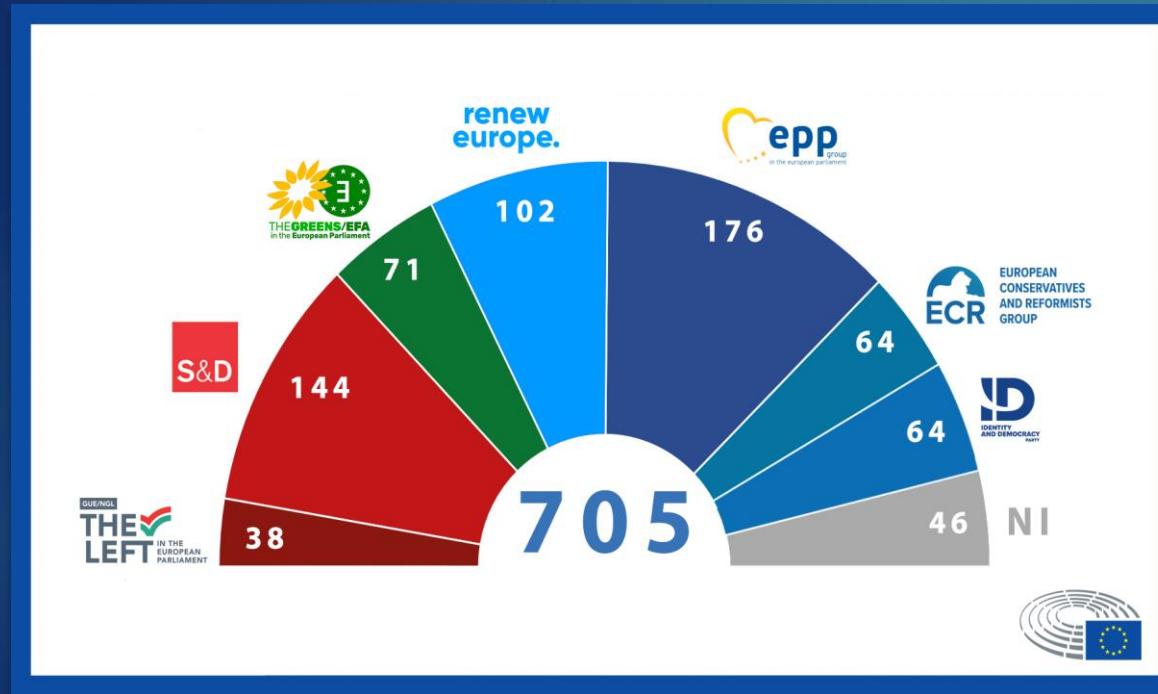


# European Elections: road to new mandate – Key Institutional dates

- ▶ 2024
  - ▶ January/February: Last files being signed off
  - ▶ 22.April: Final **EP Plenary session**
  - ▶ April-June: **Official campaign**
    - ▶ 6-9.June: **European elections**
  - ▶ 16.July: **Inaugural session** of the 10th EP term (Elections of the bureau, Committee structures..)
  - ▶ 2.September: **Resuming of sessions** and start of Commissioner hearings



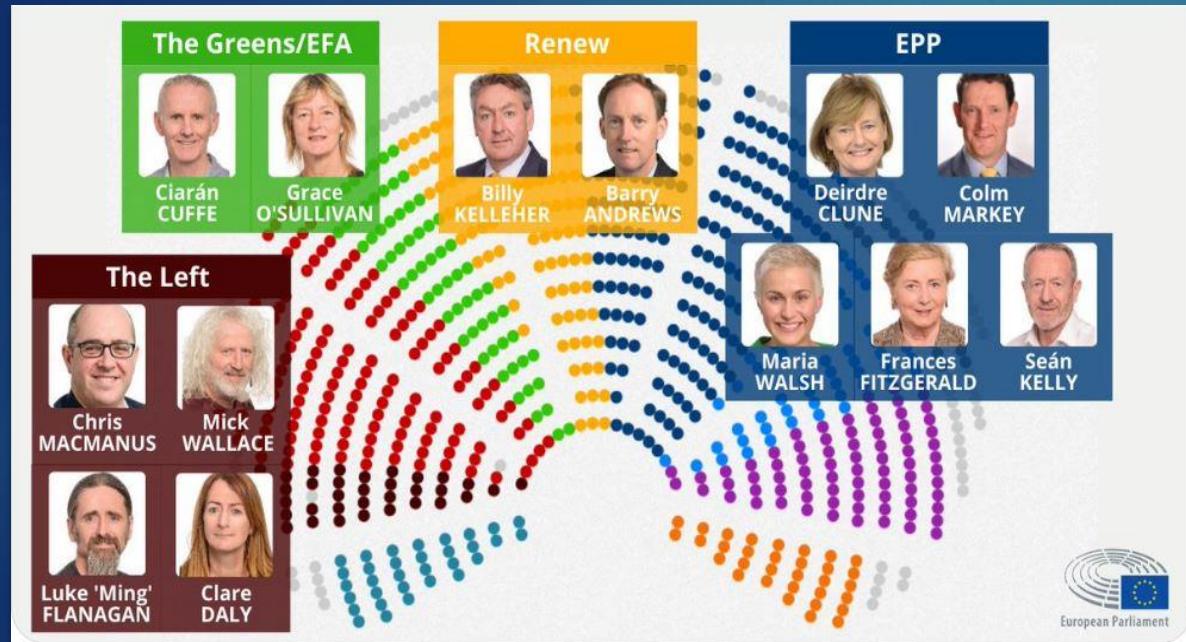
# EU Parliament Make Up



- ▶ **European Conservatives and Reformists ECR:** Giorgia Meloni Brothers of Italy, Spain's Vox Party, Poland's Law and Justice.
- ▶ **Identity & Democracy (ID):** Marine Le Pens "Rally", Geert Wilders "Freedom" Party.
- ▶ **Current Coalition:**
  - ▶ EPP, Renew, S&D.



# Irish MEPs Parliament Seats

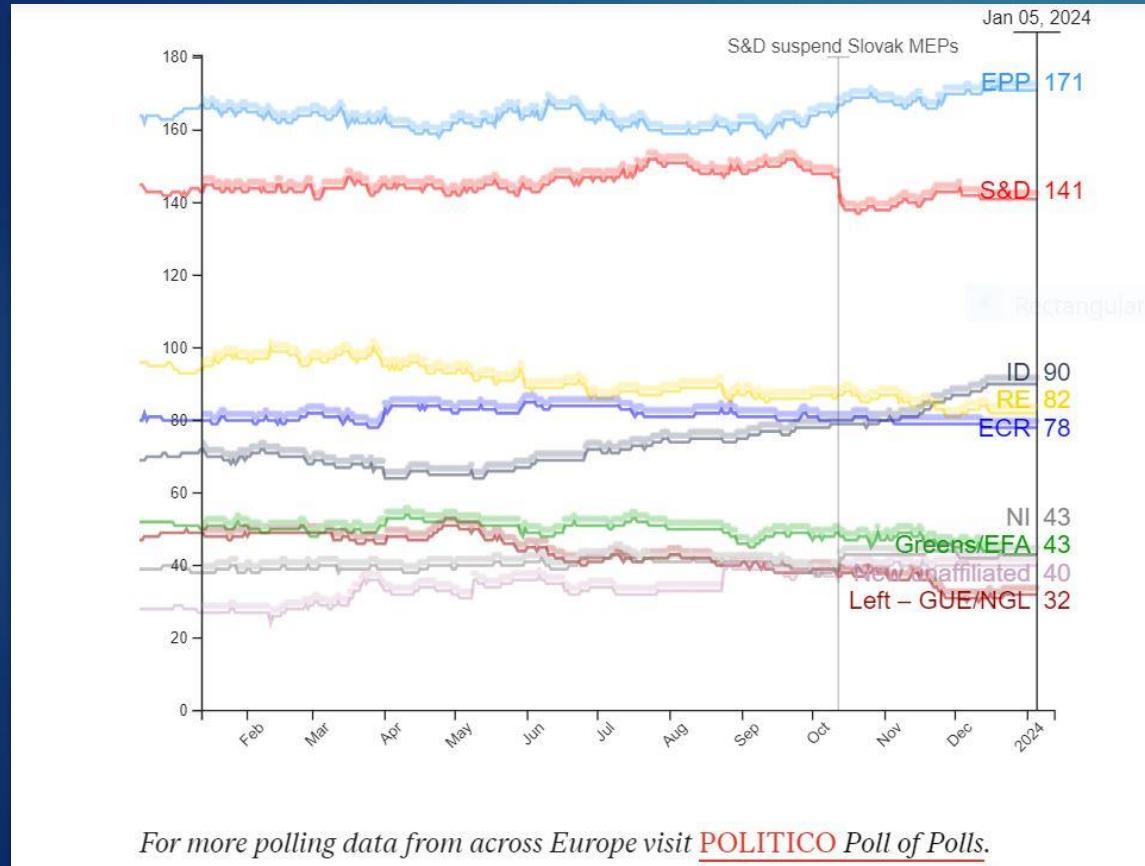


- ▶ Ireland 13 MEPs (going to 14)
- ▶ EPP: Fine Gael (5)
- ▶ Renew: Fianna Fail (2)
- ▶ The Greens (2)
- ▶ The Left: Independents, Sinn Fein (4)



# Current Poll of Polls

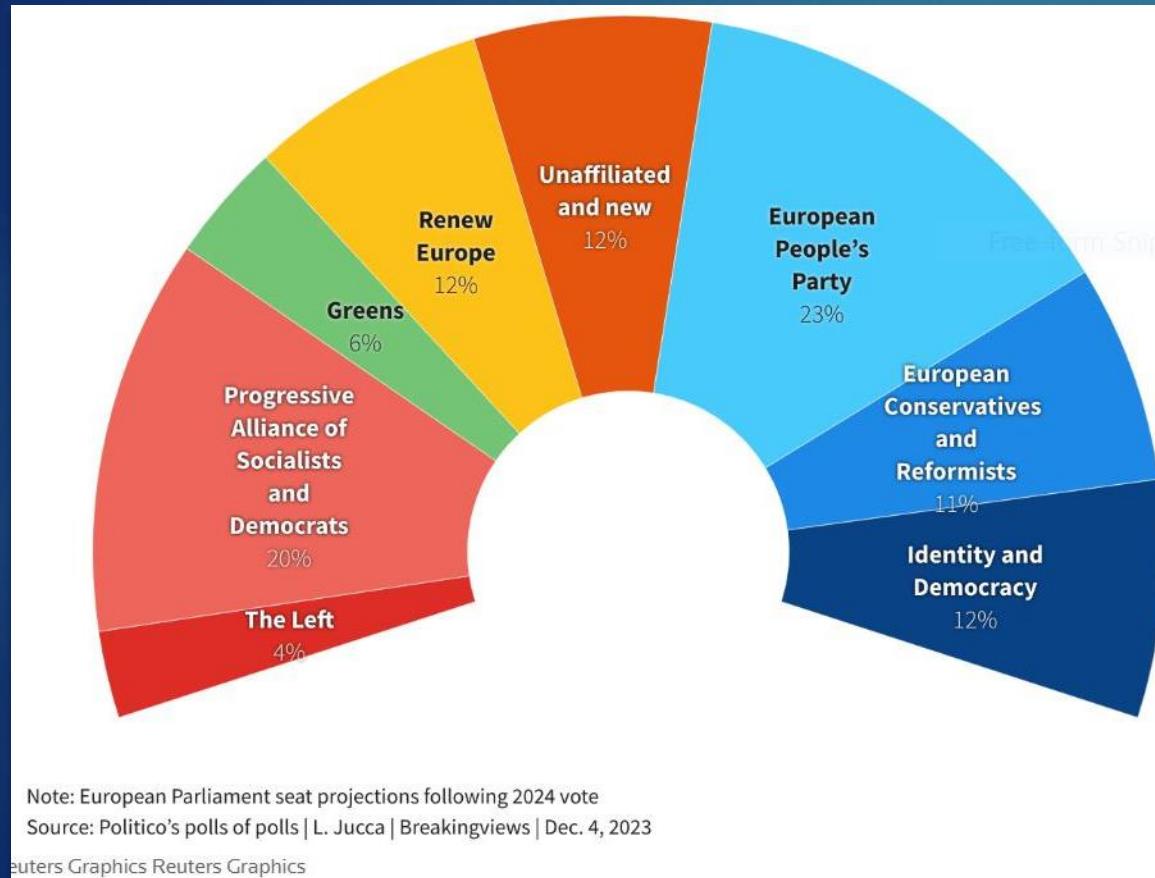
Source: Politico



- ▶ EPP 171 (-5)
- ▶ S&D 141 (-3)
- ▶ ID 90 (+26)
- ▶ Renew 82 (-20)
- ▶ ECR 78 (+14)
- ▶ NI 43
- ▶ Green 43 (-28)
- ▶ Unaffiliated 40
- ▶ The Left 32 (-6)



# EU Parliament Prediction 2024 (Polls)



## Possible Coalitions?

- ▶ Right Wing Europe?
- ▶ Conservative Europe?
- ▶ Green and Centre Right Europe?
- ▶ Current arrangement?
  - ▶ EPP, Renew and Socialists



# EU LEGISLATION





# EU GREEN DEAL

- ▶ Striving to be the first Climate Neutral Continent by 2050
- ▶ First step- cutting at least 55% net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 compared to 1990.
- ▶ “Fit for 55” is now adopted into legislation- EU has legally binding targets across all sectors.
- ▶ FARM TO FORK Policy



# EU FARM TO FORK POLICY

- ensure sufficient, affordable and nutritious food within planetary limits
- halve the use of pesticides and fertilisers and sales of antimicrobials
- increase the amount of land devoted to organic farming (25%)
- promote more sustainable food consumption and healthy diets
- reduce food loss and waste
- combat food fraud in the supply chain
- improve animal welfare



# FARM LEGISLATION

## (In the mix)



# FARMING FARMED OUT



## DG AGRI

Common Agricultural Policy



## DG SANTE (Health and Food Safety)

Sustainable Use of Pesticides  
New Genomic Techniques  
Animal Welfare  
Framework for Sustainable Food Systems



## DG ENVIRONMENT

Soil Health Law  
Nature Restoration Law  
Industrial Emissions Directive  
Nitrates Derogation



## DG CLIMA (CLIMATE CHANGE)

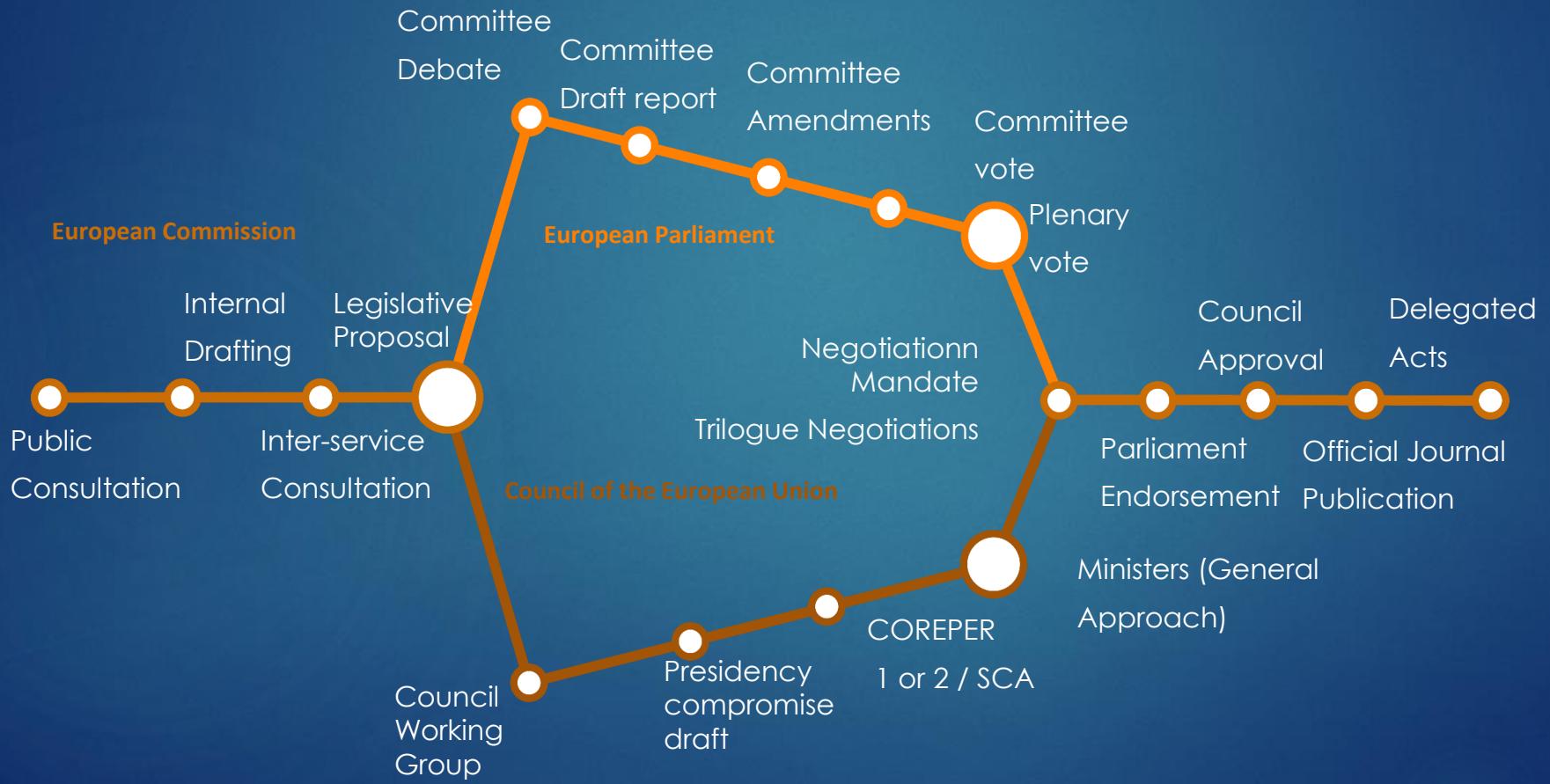
LULUCF

Certification for carbon removals



# The EU Policy timeline

(2,3,4,5... year)





# DONE: Nature Restoration Law

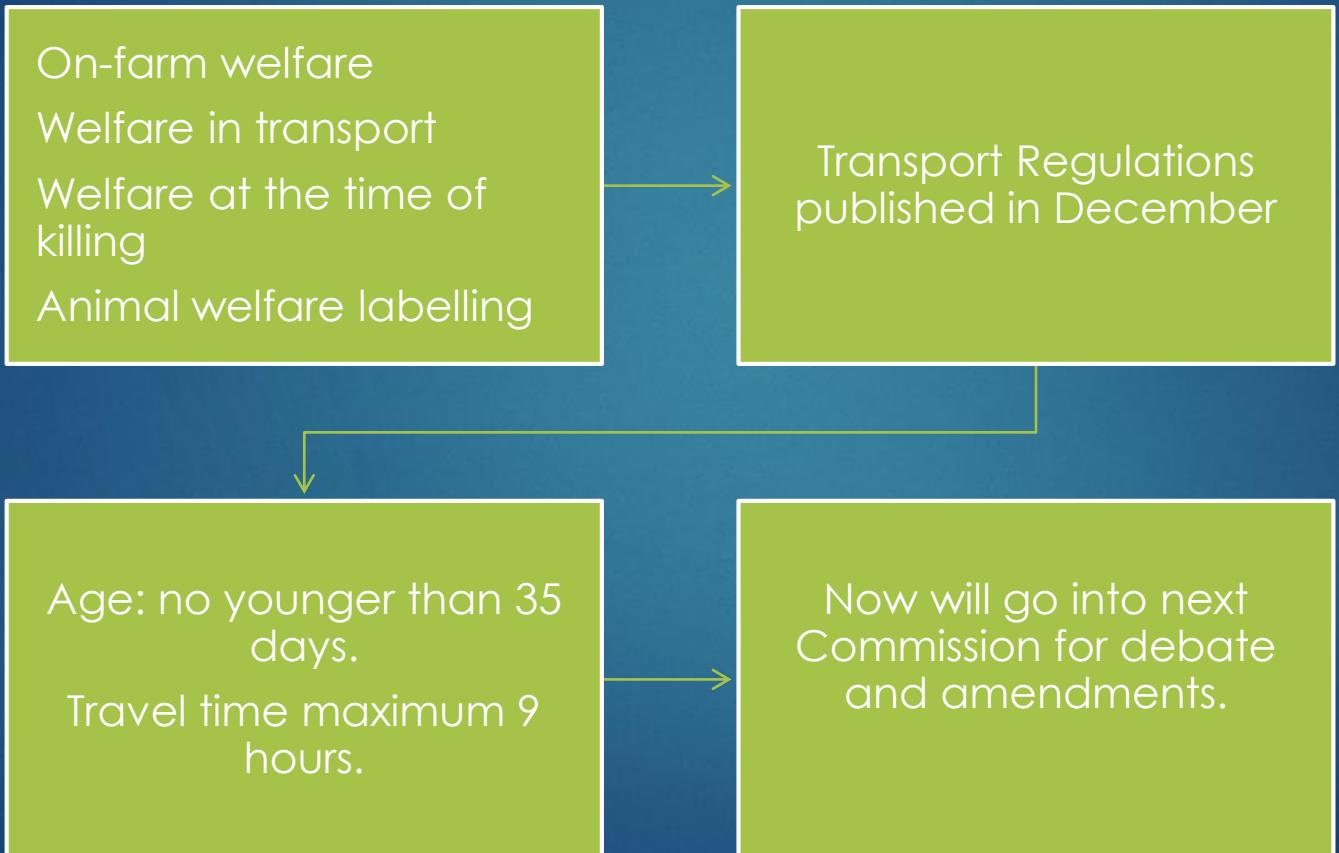
- ▶ Much “watered-down” version of EP and Commission Proposal supported by EU parliament.
- ▶ Final Plenary Vote in February.
- ▶ Up to Government how to implement but concerns about rewetting agricultural land averted.



# NOT DONE: Sustainable Use Regulation (SUR)



# TO DO: Animal Welfare Legislation.





# EU Waste Framework Directive

- ▶ The European Commission has proposed legally binding targets to reduce food waste by 2030, including a 30% reduction for households, restaurants, and retail.
- ▶ In addition, a 10% reduction binding target will be put in place to tackle food waste during the processing and manufacturing of food.
- ▶ Commission's figures, 59 million tonnes of food thrown away in the EU each year – representing an estimated loss of €132bn.
- ▶ Text does not set target for primary production but there may be push for Parliament to include primary production.



# Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive

- ▶ Transposed into Irish Law by July 2024
- ▶ System of compulsory reporting on sustainability matters for companies and co-operatives.
- ▶ Replaces the Non-Financial Reporting Directive.
- ▶ Companies must report on how its actions impact on areas under environment, social and governance including human rights.
- ▶ Qualifying businesses meet 2 of 3 criteria (€40m turnover, €20m balance sheet or >250 employees).
- ▶ Value chain assessment by independent auditors.



# Trade Agreements

- ▶ **Mercosur:** (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay)
  - ▶ Agreed a deal in 2019. Nothing signed.
  - ▶ Negotiations resume next week in Brazil.
- ▶ **Australia:**
  - ▶ Talks broke down in July over Australian agricultural access
  - ▶ No news on re-opening of talks.





# Nitrates Derogation Review

- ▶ Holding onto 220kg/N/ha in 2025.
- ▶ Not interested in economic impact. It's all about proving how 220kg/N/ha will not impact water.
- ▶ Not an issue in Brussels. Only 2 other countries have it. (DK & NED).
- ▶ Commission has launched a “fit for purpose” public consultation until March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024:
  - ▶ [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14051/public-consultation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14051/public-consultation_en)



# Thank You!

