

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, ESTONIA, 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.





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



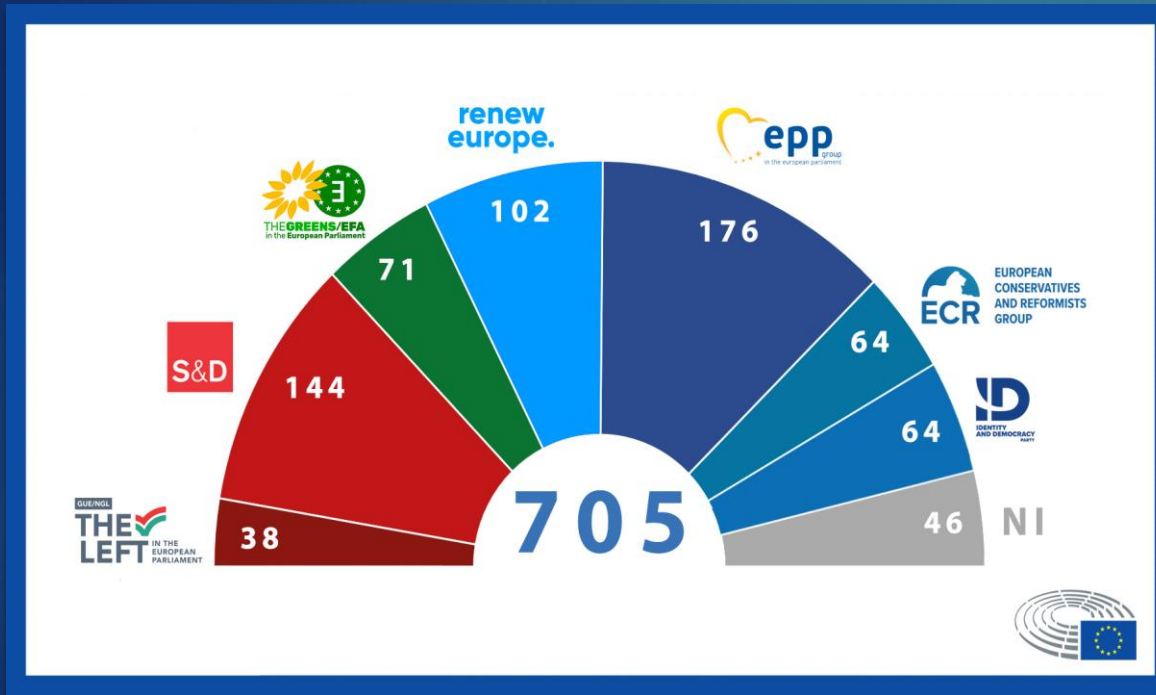
European Elections: road to new mandate – Key Institutional dates

▶ 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



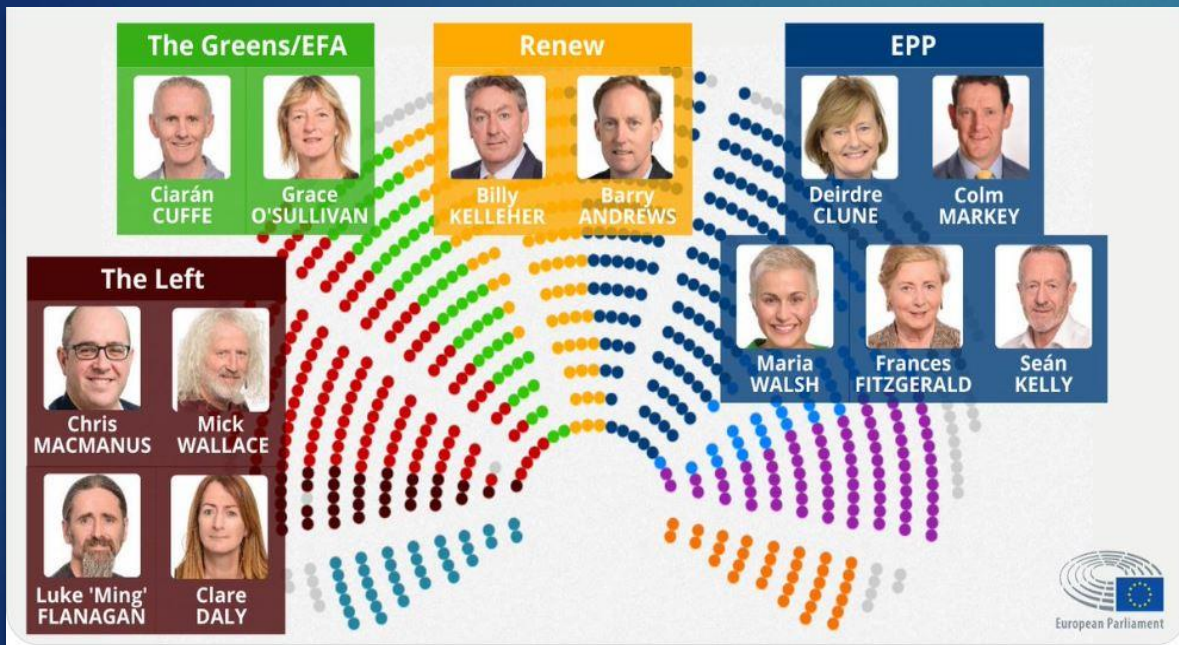
EU Parliament Make Up



- ▶ **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

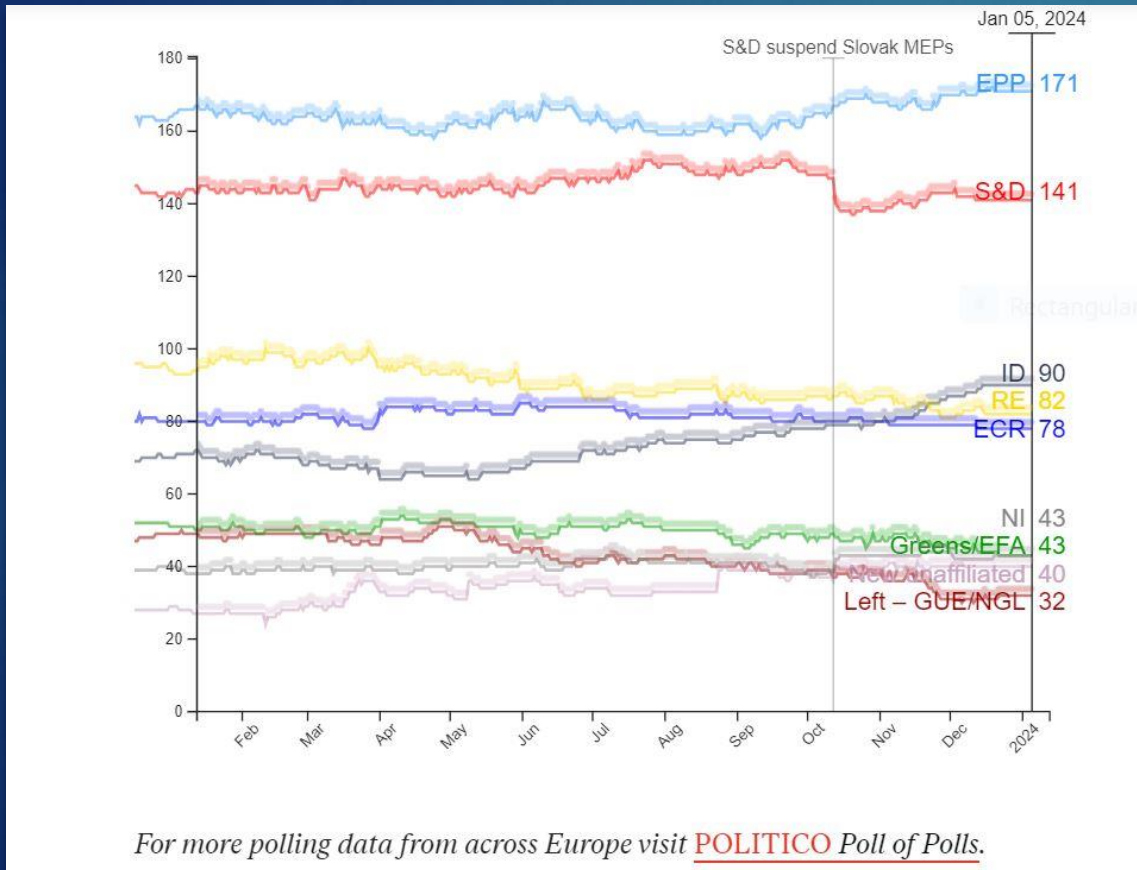


- ▶ Ireland 13 MEPs (going to 14)
- ▶ EPP: Fine Gael (5)
- ▶ Renew: Fianna Fail (2)
- ▶ The Greens (2)
- ▶ The Left: Independents, Sinn Féin (4)



Current Poll of Polls

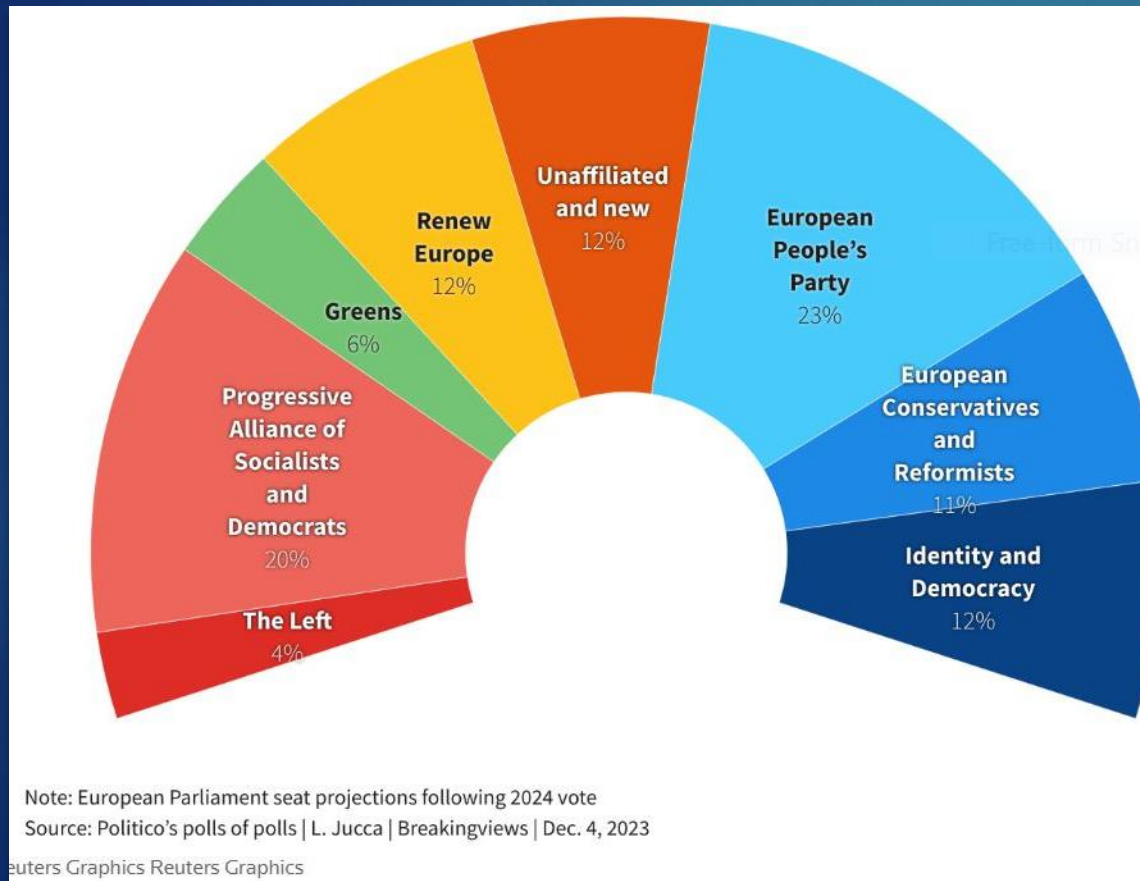
Source: Politico



- ▶ 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)

Common
Agricultural
Policy

Animal
Welfare
Legislation

CSRD and
Due Diligence
Directive

Industrial
Emissions
Directive

Sustainable
Use
Regulation

Glyphosate
Licencing

Green Claims
Directive

Nitrates
Directive

Soil Monitory

EU Waste
Framework
Directive

Carbon
Farming

EU Trade
Agreements

New
Genomic
Techniques



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



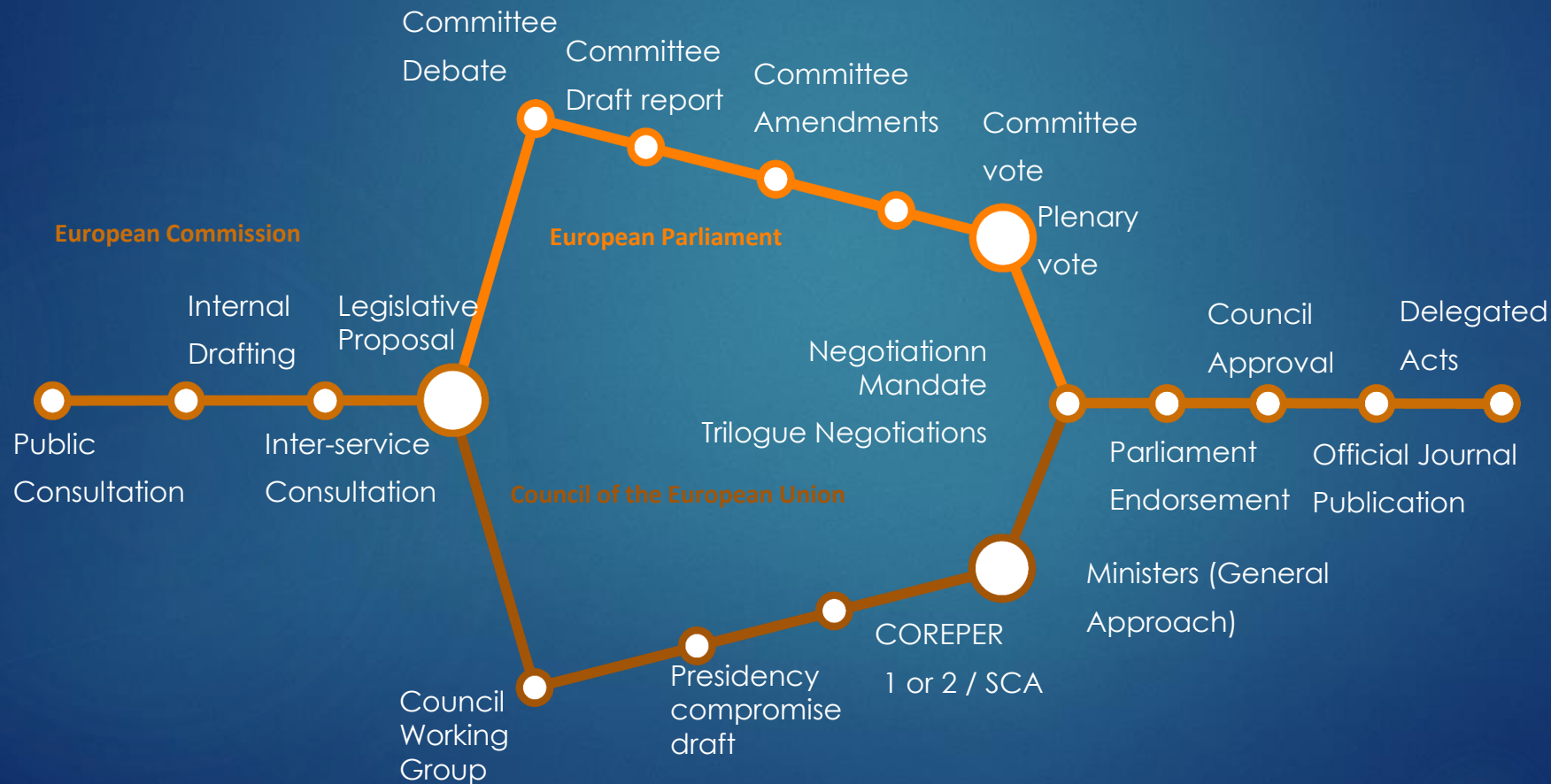
DG CLIMA (CLIMATE CHANGE)

LULUCF
Certification for
carbon removals



The EU Policy timeline

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





DONE: Nature Restoration Law

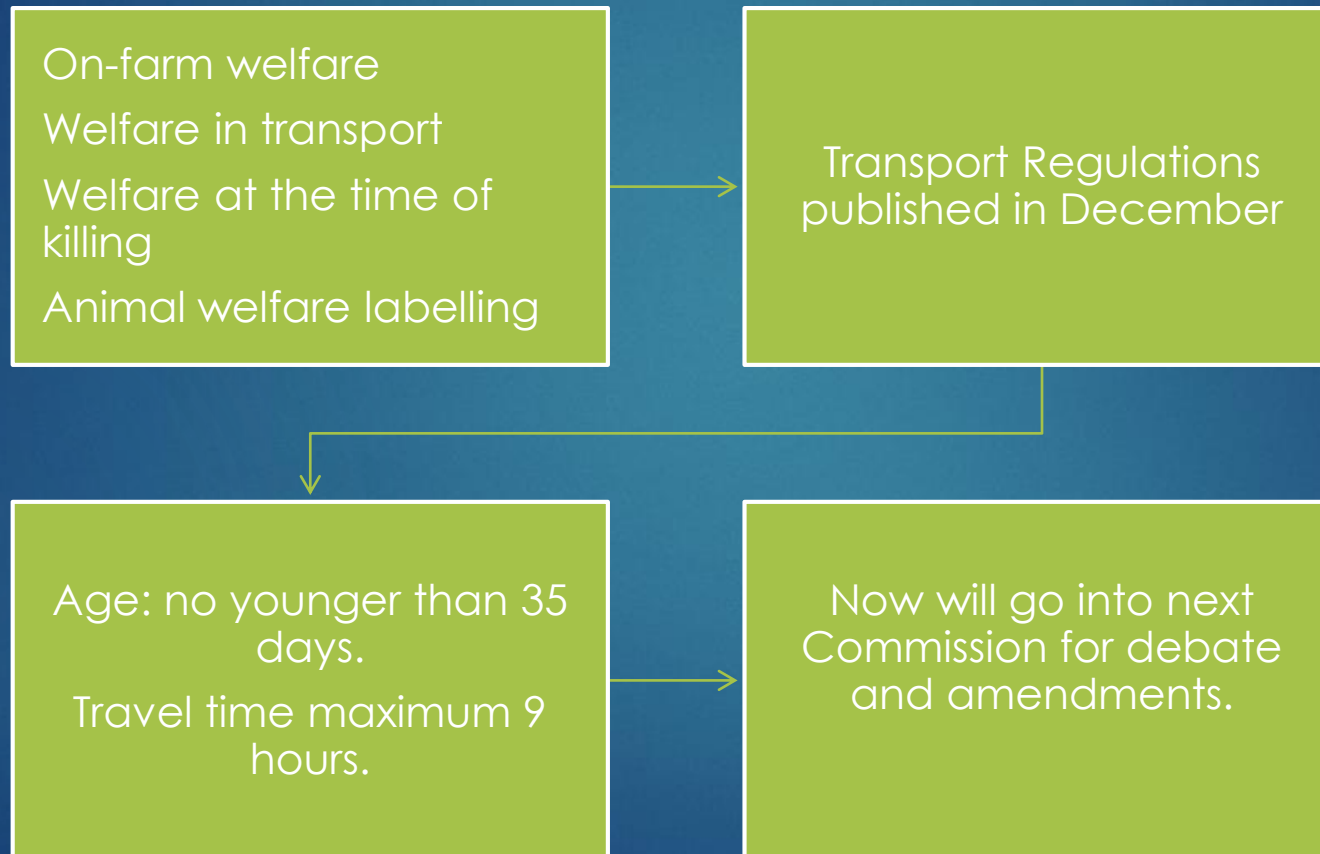
- ▶ Much “watered-down” version of EP and Commission Proposal supported by EU parliament.
- ▶ Final Plenary Vote in February.
- ▶ Up to Government how to implement but concerns about rewetting agricultural land averted.



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 8th, 2024:
 - ▶ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14051/public-consultation_en





Thank You!

