

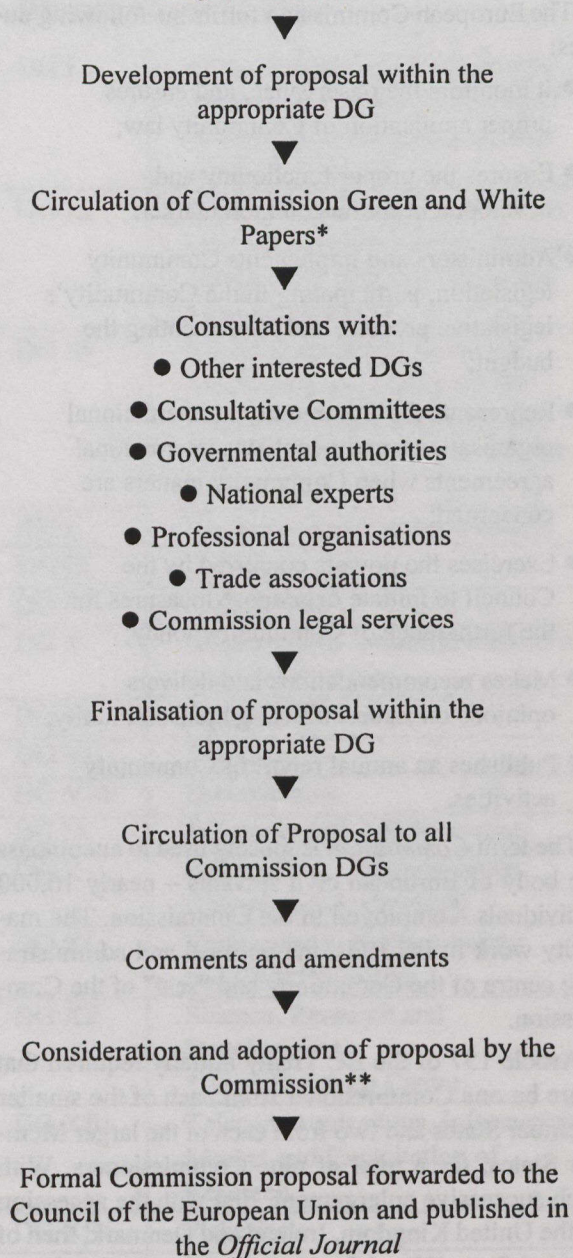
measure, an intrusion on the exclusivity of the Commission's right of initiative.

The Commission acts with exclusive competence from Treaty-based executive powers in the field of competition policy and safeguard measures. Its actions in these fields are subject to review by the courts, but not by the Council, making these the only areas where the scope of the Commission's powers is not determined by the Council. In all other areas, the extent of the Commission's powers to enact laws is almost entirely dependent on the Council's willingness to delegate its legislative power to the Commission. Nevertheless, its involvement from the outset of the proposal process, combined with limitations on Council's powers to amend proposals, gives it real influence on the content of the final legislation.

The Commission also has executive powers in administering the Community structural funds, but its ability to act is dependent on resources determined in the budget by the Council and the Parliament.

THE PROPOSAL PROCESS

Legislative Initiative



Article 155 of the EC Treaty also provides that the Commission shall formulate recommendations, or deliver opinions, on matters which are either expressly addressed in the Treaty, or on which the Commission considers its recommendation or opinion necessary. In this latter case, the Commission delivers "notices" and "communications" of an informational or advisory nature which carry no binding force.

Proposed Community legislation appears, in its earliest stage, upon the preparation and circulation – in

*Working document prepared within relevant Commission Directorate

**Simple Majority Vote required for Adoption