CONSULTATION PROCEDURE

The consultation procedure follows three stages:

- (a) The Commission submits a proposal to the Council;
- (b) The Council consults the Parliament;
- (c) The Council adopts the measure, either by qualified majority or by unanimity, depending upon the field in question.

The most important feature of the consultation procedure is named the duty to consult the Parliament. At the same time, the Parliament's powers under the consultation procedure are more limited than under the ordinary legislative procedure. The Council is not required to take account of the Parliament's views.

(Source: Damian Chalmers. European Parliamentarism and Representative Democracy after Lisbon (Total Law. Central European University, 2010).