

QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING: THE LISBON FORMULA

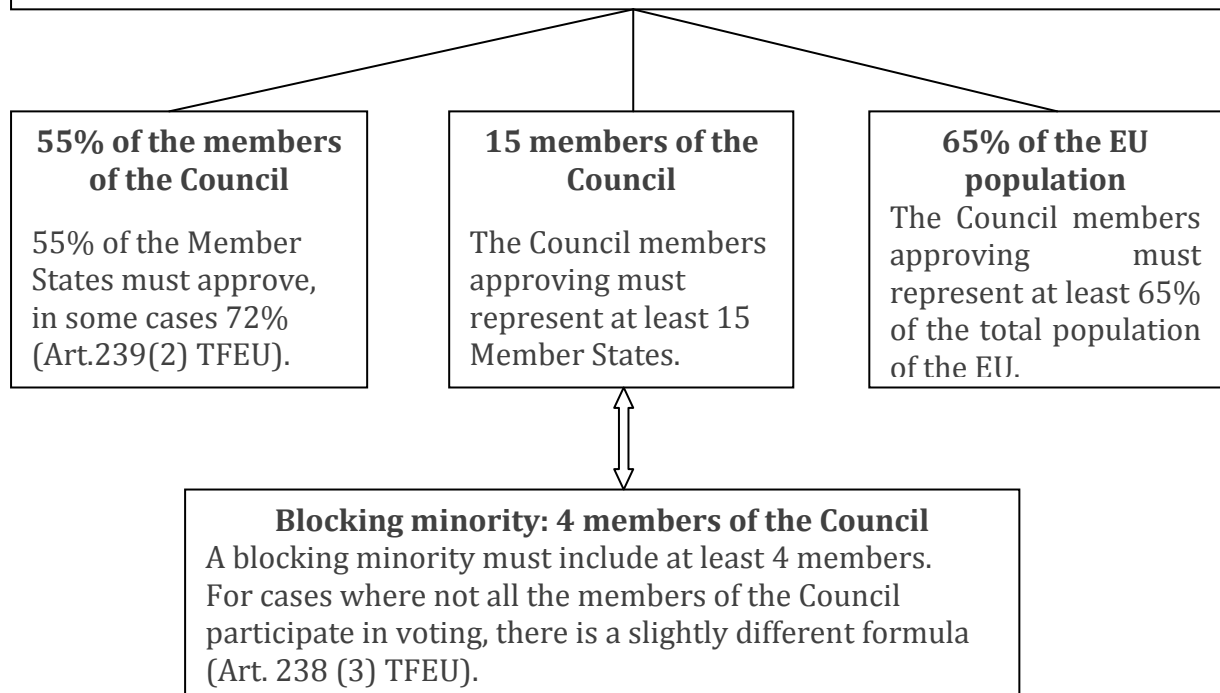
The Council of Ministers acts by a qualified majority except where the Treaties provide otherwise

The Treaty of Lisbon introduced a new system of QMV in the Council of Ministers. The system of weighted votes was abandoned.

The Lisbon formula of Qualified Majority Voting

Article 16 (4) TEU: „As from 1 November 2014, a qualified majority shall be defined as at least 55 % of the members of the Council, comprising at least fifteen of them and representing Member States comprising at least 65 % of the population of the Union. A blocking minority must include at least four Council members, failing which the qualified majority shall be deemed attained“.

Requirements for a qualified majority under Article 16 (4) TEU (applicable where all the members of the Council participate in voting)



Revived and adapted „Ioannina“ mechanism. Declaration No.7

Where a certain number of members of the Council expresses its opposition to the Council adopting an act by qualified majority voting, the Council shall do all in its power to reach a satisfactory solution.

Timeline of the new formula:

- Art. 16 (4) TEU of 1 November 2014
- Art. 16 (5) TEU transitional periods until 31 Oct. 2014 and from 1 Nov. 2014 to 31 March 2017 (also the previous formula may apply).