

# EDRi - Lobbying for digital rights in Brussels

fukami • <fukami@ccc.de> • Hackerspace Athens 2014



- lives in Hamburg, works as IT security consultant at SektionEins GmbH in Cologne (also being one of three managing directors)
- member of CCC, co-organizing Chaos Communication Congress since 10 years, representative of CCC at EDRi
- main focus: IT security, data protection, code, crypto and exploit regulations

# Idea of the this talk

- abandon a prejudice against the EU and its institutions
- getting a rough idea what's going on in Brussels related to digital and human rights
- discussing possibilities to include Greek activists into developments in the next legislative period

Note: most infos are taken from the EDRI paper „Activist guide to the Brussels maze“

# What is EDRI?

# EDRi founding

- founded 2003 in Berlin as **European Digital Rights AISBL** under Belgian law
- Founding members:  
CCC, Fitug (DE), Privacy International, FIPR (UK), Quintessenz, Vibe (AT), Bits of Freedom (FR), Digital Rights (DK), EFFI (FI), IRIS (FR)

# EDRi today

- **36 NGOs** from 23 countries, i.e. CCC, Digiges, Digitalcourage, FlfF, ORG, Article 19, FIPR, Statewatch, DRI, EFFI, APTI, ALCEI, VIBE!AT, Panoptikon, quintessenz, BoF, usw.
- also EFF and Access Now from US
- home page: <http://edri.org/>

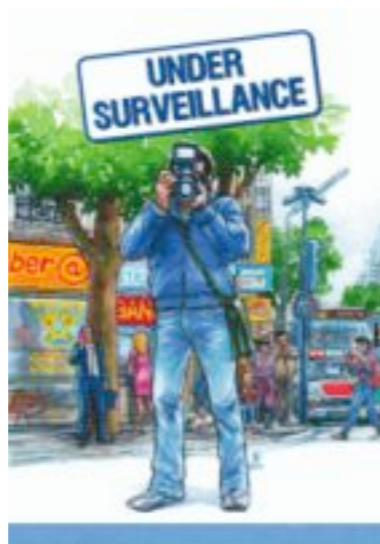
# EDRi structure

- Board: Andreas Krisch (VIBE!AT), Katarzyna Szymielewicz (Panoptikon), Ot Van Daalen (Bits of Freedom)
- Executive Director: Joe McNamee
- MDs and interns
- Office in Brussels (very close to EP)
- lists for members and so-called observers, also some special lists for certain topics (surveillance, data protection, net neutrality, copyright, etc.)
- General Assembly every year

# EDRi Policy Work

- gets invited to consultations
- gives advice to nearly all fractions at the EP (not to right winged anti-EU-loonies)
- close cooperation with policy advisors of parliamentarians
- good reputation - no commercial interests, mainly focussed on civil rights
- keeping track of what's going on at EC and EP

# EDRi Papers



# Funding

- EU Commission: *Fundamental Rights and Citizenship* (renewed every year)
- Adessium Foundation (Netherlands)
- Open Society Foundation (OSF)
- member fees  
(1% of things which are tight to digital rights)
- a little bit of money from the industry  
(25k or less)
- all together roughly 200k Euro/year

# The Brussels Bubble I

- politics in Brussels is sometimes a bit hard to understand and follow
- everything from EP and most other things get published, you just need to find it ^^
- key player: Parliament, Commission and Council, also a massive amount of lobbyists, basically industry
- not much control by press and general public (which is good and bad at the same time)
- high level of knowledge in most fields

# The Brussels Bubble II

- *very* special language (big nerd factor ^^)
- not easy comparable to the way politics works on national level
- there is no real government vs. opposition as we know it from the member states (outcome is not always as clear as in nation states)

# Campaign for EU Election: We Promise

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `https://www.wepromise.eu/el`. The website header includes the **WEPROMISE.eu** logo and navigation links: [Σχετικά](#), [Χάρτης](#), [Επικοινωνία](#), [Partners](#), [Privacy policy](#), and a language selector set to **EL**.

The main banner features a background image of a man in a suit pointing at a laptop icon. The text on the banner reads: **Ψηφίστε για τα ψηφιακά σας δικαιώματα**. Below this, it says: **Βάλτε τα ψηφιακά δικαιώματα στην ημερήσια διάταξη των Ευρωπαϊκών Εκλογών του 2014. Μάθετε αν οι υποψήφιοι από την χώρα σας έχουν υπογράψει και υπόσχονται να ψηφίσουν:**

A search bar is present with the placeholder text: **Πόλη, Ταχυδρομικό Κώδικα ή Περιφέρεια**. Below the search bar, a tooltip displays: **3522** συμπολίτες σου υποσχέθηκαν να ψηφίσουν.

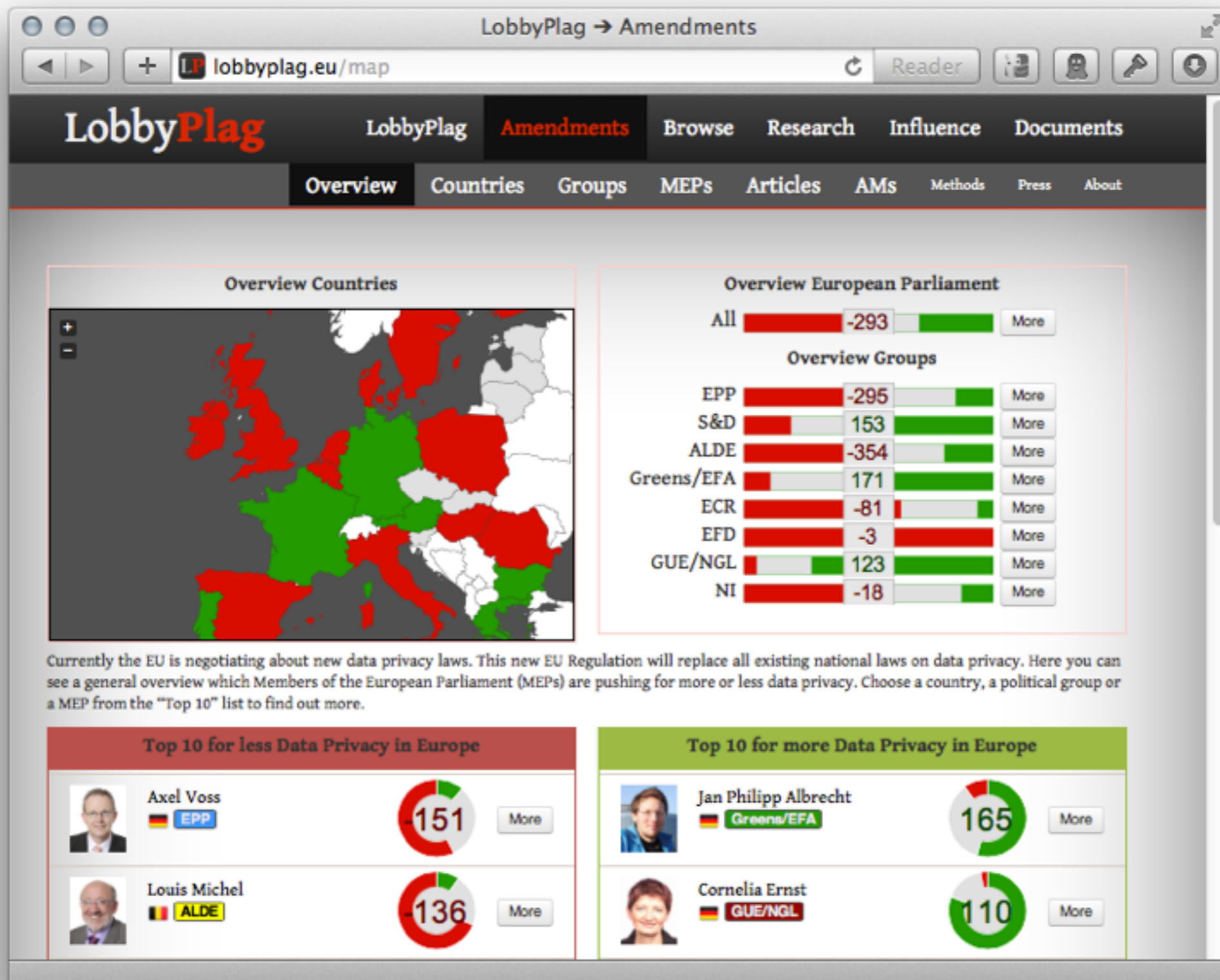
The main text on the page states: **Υπόσχεση ψήφου για κάθε υποψήφιο που υποσχέθηκε να ψηφίσει 10 σημεία του Καταστατικού Χάρτη των Ψηφιακών Δικαιωμάτων.**

The registration form includes the following fields and buttons:

- Name
- E-mail
- Country
- 
- ☐ Λήψη ενημερώσεων της εκστρατείας

The footer contains three links: [Η εκλογική σας υπόσχεση](#), [Η εκλογική τους υπόσχεση](#), and [Τι μπορώ να κάνω?](#)

# Lobbyplag (Data Protection Reform)



# Council, Commission and Parliament

# European Council



- **Perm Reps** are the Permanent Representatives of the EU member states (**Coreper II**) and their deputies (**Coreper I**) who oversee technical issues.
- **Council Presidencies** believe that the whole world is looking at them and that adopted texts are proof of a good presidency. As a result, presidencies frequently vote in favour of whatever will lead to an agreement – even if this is contrary to their own country's best interests.

# European Commission



- **27 Commissioners** (including High Commissioner, President and 6 Vice-Chairman) nominated from 27 member states and voted by European Parliament
- responsible for **33 Departments**, called “Directorates General” (DG) - i.e. DG Connect, DG Justice, DG Enterprise

# Consultative bodies of the EU

- **The Economic and Social Committee** represents civil society, employers and employees.
- **The Committee of the Regions** is meant to represent regional and local authorities. It rarely works on digital issues, except on network rollout.

# European Parliament (past legislative period)

Name	Abbr	No of MEP's	% of MEP's	Member States	Political orientation
European People's Party	EPP	271	35.94	26	Centre-right
Socialists and Democrats	S+D	190	25,19	27	Centrist to left-wing
Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	ALDE	85	11,27	15	Centrist
Greens/European Free Alliance	Greens/ EFA	58	7.69	15	Diverse, generally left-wing
European Conservatives and Reformers	ECR	53	7.02	9	Centre-right
Confederal Group of the European United Left / Green United	GUE/NGL	34	4.51	13	Strongly left-wing
Europe of Freedom and Democracy	EFD	33	4,37	11	Anti-EU
Non-attached members	NI	30	4,98	9	

# European Parliament (past legislative period)



- 754 parliamentarians (called MEPs)
- parliamentary work is organized in **20 committees**
- every committee has one coordinator
- **secretariat** for every committee (non-political) and each fraction (political)
- every parliamentarian has at least one, most of the time 2 or 3 employees

# European Parliament

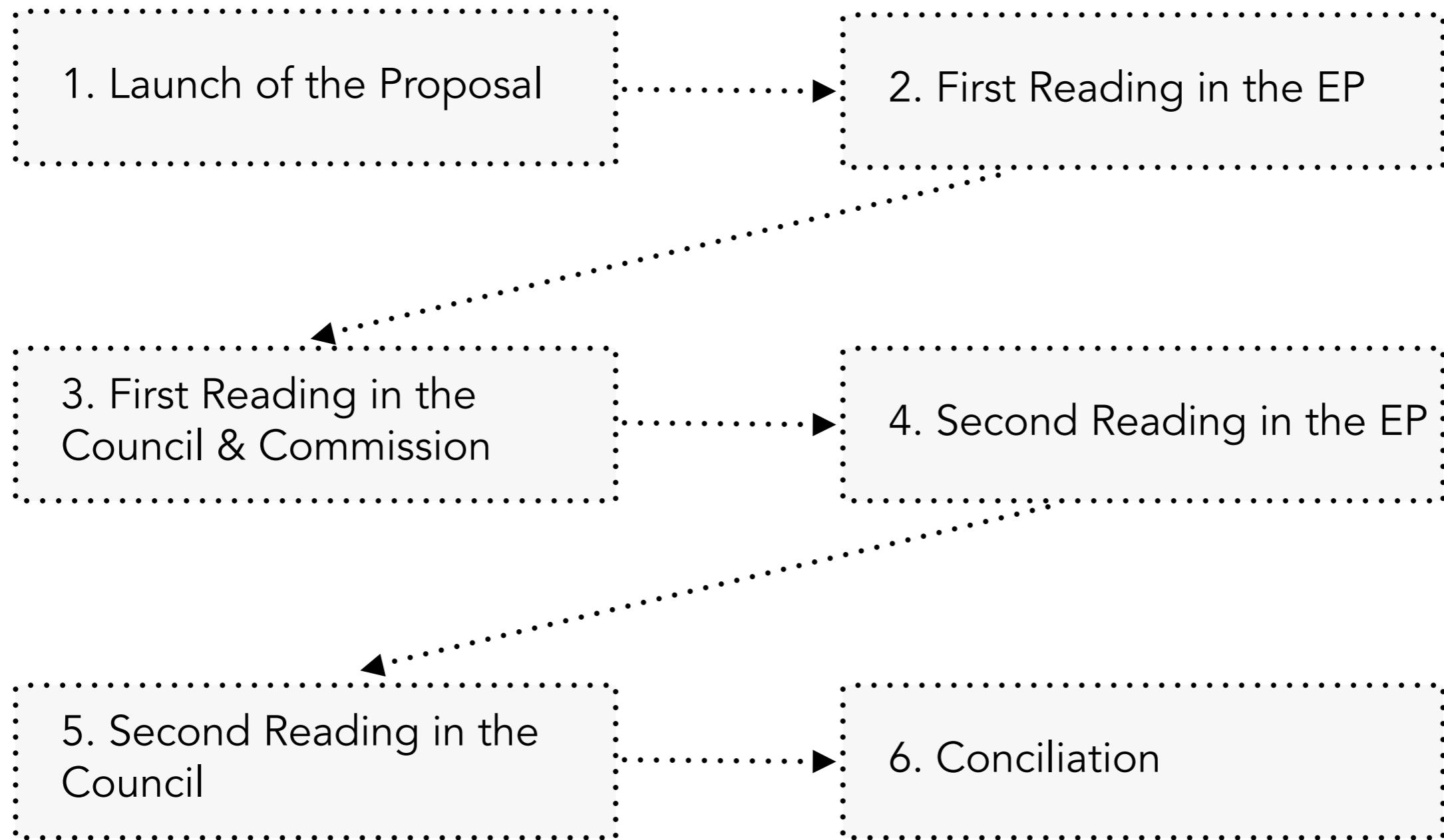
- some of the important EP committees for us:
  - **LIBE** (Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs)
  - **ITRE** (Industry, Research, Energy)
  - **IMCO** (Internal Market, Consumer Rights)
  - **DROI** (Human Rights)
  - **SEDE** (Security and Defense)
  - **PECH** (Fisheries) ^^

# Proposals

# Proposal Management

- in difference to most national parliaments, „normal“ parliamentarians are responsible
- the main responsible MEP called **Rapporteur**
- fractions send one MEP each for reporting - called Shadow Rapporteur (or in short **Shadow**)

# "Ordinary Legislative Procedure"



# Non-legislative

- Parliament Non-legislative dossiers (EP, mainly useful for industry)
- Input from Parliament for EU Commission on international agreements (i.e. Passenger Name Record/PNR or Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement/ACTA)

# 10 tips for good lobbying

# The 10 most important tips

1. **Be early**
2. **Be reliable**
3. **Be honest**
4. **Be understanding**
5. **Be nice**
6. **Be thorough**
7. **Be brief**
8. **Be consistent**
9. **Be personal**
10. **Be a bridge builder**

# What's next?

# Future / next legislative period I

- Copyright will still remain a big topic (I'm personally very bored of it :)
- Privacy discussions get even more important
- Net Neutrality and Data Protection will still be a battlefield. We might need a shift
- Intelligence Community will be a topic for a long long time
- EDRI will start with „cybersecurity“ as a new policy field

# Future / next legislative period

## Questions

- General discussions: Does it make sense to focus on economic arguments in some of the policy fields?
- How far we should take our involvement into technical regulations?
- Who are our future strategic partners?
- How can we help the DPAs?

# Links

# Links

- EDRi homepage: <http://edri.org/>
- EDRi papers: <http://edri.org/papers/>
- Paper „Activist guide to the Brussels maze“  
[http://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/paper01\\_web\\_20120118\\_2.pdf](http://edri.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/paper01_web_20120118_2.pdf)
- EDRi-Gram, bi-weekly newsletter:  
<http://edri.org/newsletters/>