

Completing the Legislative Cycle

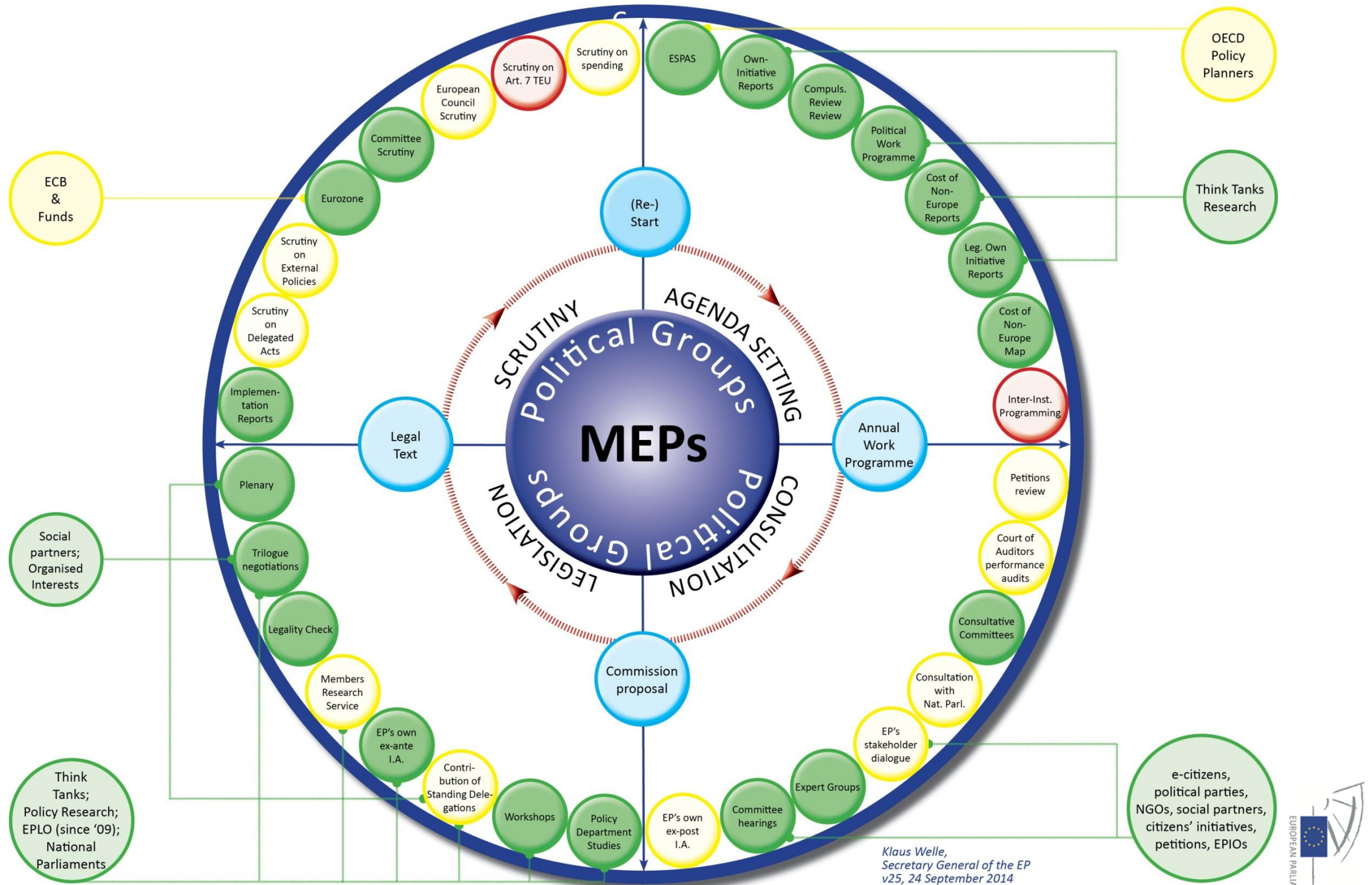
Since the previous inter-institutional agreement on better law making, ten years ago, the Lisbon Treaty has entered into force; the EP co-decides across almost every policy field; trilogue negotiations play an increasing role; Parliament exercises influence on financial instruments and spending programmes, as well as on delegated acts. With new developments in the Eurozone the scrutiny role of the Parliament is becoming reality when it comes to banking supervision and check on the implementation of Country Specific Recommendations adopted in the context of the European Semester.

For these reasons, the European Parliament has been rethinking its role in the new context. The big difference with the past is that Parliament is now present and active throughout the whole legislative cycle and claims it is right to be so. The Members cannot limit themselves to amendments on the Commission's legislative proposals while the other institutions are dealing with the rest. Claiming that the complete legislative cycle is within the remit of Parliament means that:

- Parliament is also interested in **agenda setting** from the very early stage and wishes to impact in a significant fashion the Commission's annual work programme and the multi-annual programme;
- Parliament also has to conduct its own **consultation** when it gets to know on what files the Commission proposes to work;
- Parliament has to play fully its traditional role in **legislation** and budget matters;
- Parliament has to check on implementation of the legislation and the decisions taken at European level.

This means as a consequence that one cannot limit the cooperation with other institutions only to a short phase of the process but one rather has to look at the whole legislative process. Parliament has to become a relevant and respected player in every phase. So when looking at the whole legislative cycle, we could subdivide it into four phases:

- 1) Agenda setting;
- 2) Consultation;
- 3) Legislation;
- 4) Scrutiny.



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v25, 24 September 2014

