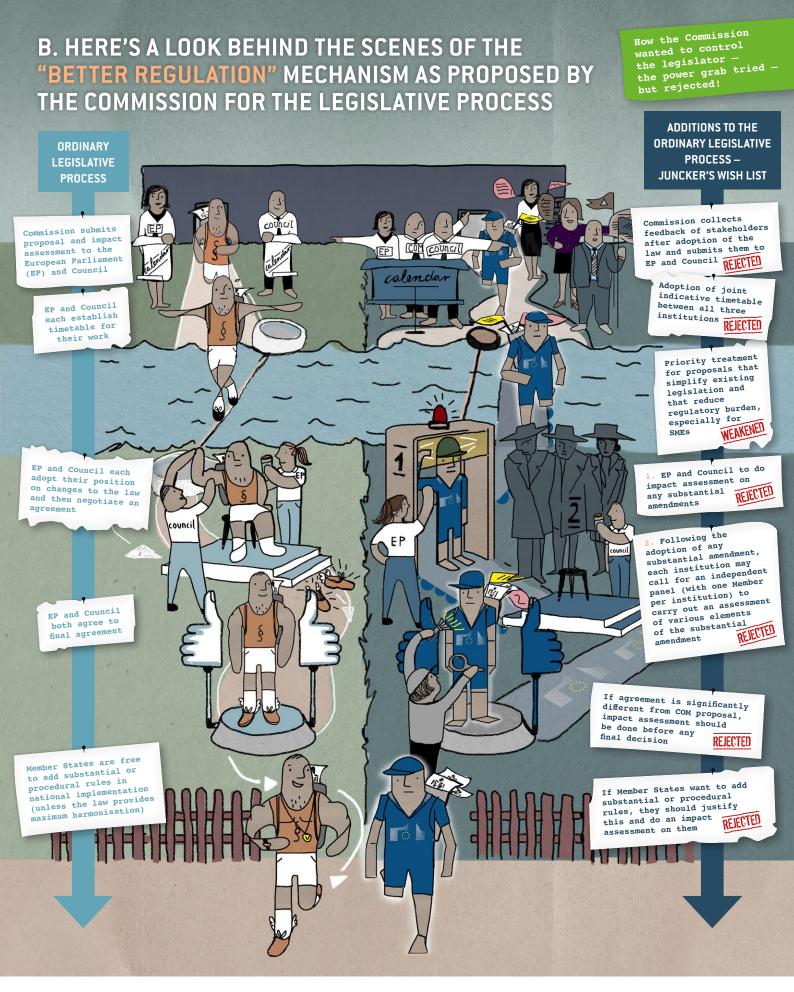


In May 2015, the European Commission adopted the 'Better Regulation' package. It is the centre-piece of its new agenda to change what the Union does, and how it does it. 'Better Regulation' is meant to ensure that only the 'big things' that contribute to the ten priorities of President Juncker's Political Guidelines will be tackled. The European Commission decided it would do so by

establishing all kinds of new procedures in the name of 'Better Regulation'. Political control will be exercised right from the beginning, impact assessment procedures strengthened, new evaluations added, consultations multiplied. In reality, 'Better Regulation' stands for 'Better internal controls for less Regulation'. And this sad reality applies since May 2015.





Having controlled its own house and established 'Better internal controls for less Regulation' (see related infographic), the European Commission wanted to ensure that the co-legislators — the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament - also play along. For that reason, they proposed a revision of the inter-institutional agreement on better law-making. With this new agreement between the three institutions, the Commission sought better control over the legislative process both in time and in substance. Above all, the Commission wanted to make it more difficult for Council and

the Parliament to make changes to the laws it had proposed. The co-legislators should oblige themselves to do impact assessments for substantive changes — and all institutions should be entitled to call upon an 'independent panel' to evaluate all kinds of things prior to the adoption of an agreement. In summary, Council and Parliament should hurry to work on Commission priorities - and be straight-jacketed if they wanted to deviate from them. In this context, 'Better Regulation' actually stood for 'Better controls of the co-legislators for less Regulation'. Council and Parliament rejected this power grab.

