

"Covid was only the revealing event, like the litmus in an acid test."

"What happens 'in a crisis' instead

Admittedly, the 'normal' decision-making procedure has its limits and caveats. Its official appellation ("Ordinary Legislative Procedure"), however, is not to say that it is what happens by default.

Normal only applies in normal times—and times are rarely normal. Crises, on the other hand, benefit from very different rules. Take the Covid 'crisis'. None of the laws and rules adopted during this period, whether at national or EU level, followed the formalities explained above. In the name of 'efficiency', 'urgency', 'cutting red tape', 'saving lives', 'acting decisively', etc., all sorts of corners were cut—mostly the good ones, the ones that are supposed to ensure transparency and accountability and keep alight the feeble flame of democracy.

No impact assessment was carried out; no open call for tender was held when contracting the pandemic 'counter-measures', including the vaccines. Everything was suddenly exclusively top-down, and the EU public administration—like any other national administration in Europe, the UK, US, and everywhere else—just followed religiously the instructions received from the political level.

To the outside observer for whom things are clear and whose mind is made up that this was a hoax pandemic, it may seem inconceivable that so many people—the EU administration being calculated at around 32,000 people, including those from the [executive agencies](#) (i.e., not including entities such as the [EMA](#), [Frontex](#) or [Europol](#))—could blindly follow orders that today, at the remove of just a couple of years, seem so unequivocally absurd, deceitful and harmful towards people.

Part of the explanation for this evident failure lies in the fact that in reality, out of this huge administration, only a handful of people deal with any given subject. Not even the Commission's entire Directorate-General for Health (DG SANTE)—which is based far away from Brussels in County Meath—was involved in this; only a task force under *one* of

the units of *one* of the Directorates worked directly on the job.

Moreover, as is often the way in sensitive situations, the Commission does not employ its own experienced civil servants with deep expertise in the matter, but ad-hoc contractual agents, drafted in to a grade outranking the civil servants, to carry out the task in hand. These are people hired on a short-term contract and not with the best salary. They would carry out any task without asking any question or putting two and two together, just to please their boss, to make sure the contract gets extended so that they can continue to have a job. Among the [managerial](#) class, it is a foregone conclusion that the individuals who achieve senior positions will be careerists who long since decided to sacrifice any moral backbone for the benefit of a promotion. So nobody will speak and everyone will avert their gaze rather than jeopardise their yearning to [climb the greasy pole](#).

The creeping corruption in the system

Having inhabited the system for a while, I have formed my own theory about how such a gargantuan failure was possible. The culprit is half human corruption, half incompetence. This *modus operandi* did not wait for a massive blow like the Covid pandemic to strike in order to take shape inside the EU bureaucracy. Covid was only the revealing event, like the litmus in an acid test." (Irène Lhoste, *The European Union Technocracy, Bureaucrats and the Theft of Democracy—an EU civil servant's account*, Monday, 3rd July 2023, 2023-07-03T16:17:11+01:00, <https://www.ukcolumn.org/article/the-european-union-technocracy-bureaucrats-and-the-theft-of-democracy-an-eu-civil-servants> , <https://t.me/realLegeNet/50632> .)