

Introduction to the EUROPEAN UNION

History, Structures, Procedures

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History

Following the World Wars I and II,
the French government developed a
proposal for a

Supranational High Authority

to govern the coal and steel industry

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1951: Treaty of Paris

European Community for Coal and Steel

France, Germany, Italy, Belgium,
The Netherlands and Luxembourg

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Legal base: Treaties

- 1951 Treaty of Paris → (ECSC)
- 1957 Treaty of Rome → (TEC, EEC & Euratom)
- 1986 Single European Act
- 1992 Treaty of Maastricht → (TEU)
- 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam
- 2002 Treaty of Nice
- 2008 Treaty of Lisbon

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25 March 1957 Treaty of Rome establishing the European Economic Community

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Treaty of Amsterdam signed in Amsterdam on 2 October 1997, and entering into force on 1st May 1999

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ENLARGEMENT

- 1951: Fr, Ger, It, Be, Ne, Lux.
- 1965: UK, Ir, Dk
- 1981: Gr
- 1985: Sp, Por
- 1996: Fin, Aus, Sw
- 2004: Est, Lat, Lit, Pol, Hun, Cz, Slvk, Slov, Cyp, Malta
- 2007: Rom, Bul
- 20??: Cr, Tur, ????

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Accession

- Copenhagen criteria
- Application
- Negotiations
- Accession Treaty
- Assent procedure
- Implementation « *aquis communautaire* »

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Goals

- Freedom
- Security
- Prosperity

Free movement of people, goods, services and capital

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TREATY

Lays down the mandate
Member States have given to EU

- It describes:
- EU goals,
 - its competences and the areas wherein it can be active,
 - role of the institutions,
 - procedures,
 - etc.

Everything EU does, is based on a provision in the Treaty

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EU Institutions that play a role in legislation

European Commission (EU level~ high authority)

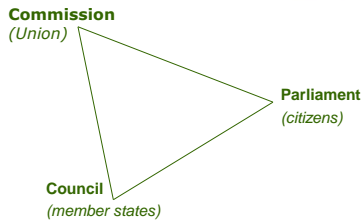
European Parliament (Citizens)

Council of the European Union (Member States)

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Institutional triangle



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EU Commission

- Successor of High Authority for Coal and Steel
- 27 Commissioners
- Appointed by Council, after approval EP
- Chair: José Manuel Barroso
- Multinational civil servants
- Accountable to EP / EP can dismiss Commission

Exclusive right to initiate legislation

- Proposals must have a legal base in treaties
- Administering and implementing community policy
- Guardian of treaties, protect them from infringements

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European Council
(heads of states and governments)
→ 2.5 years President: Herman Van Rompuy

Council of the European Union
(ministers)

Council of Europe

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Council of the European Union

Council of ministers of member states
Composition varies per subject (e.g. agriculture council, economic and financial affairs council, etc.)
All MS directly represented
Qualf. Majority
Rotating presidency (... UK, Ger, Por, **Slov**, Fr ..etc)
Decides upon Commission proposals

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Council of Europe

Council of Europe,
 Separate organisation
 established in January 1949,
 45 countries



Council of Europe rights,
 social cohesion, focuses on four areas:
 democracy and human
 the security of citizens and
 democratic values and cultural diversity.

European Conventions on Human Rights Animal Welfare ...
 OSCE...

European Parliament

785 seats (→ 750)
 Directly elected every 5 years
 Seat in Strasbourg, convenes in Strasbourg and
 Brussels

No right to initiate legislation

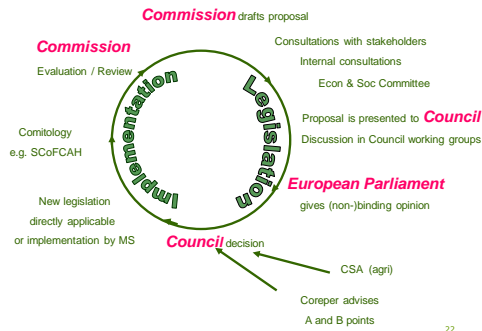
Main political groups:
 » PES: social democratic parties
 » EPP: christian democratic parties
 » ELDR: liberals

Several committees: AGRI, JURI, PECH, ENVI, BUDG,
 etc.

Rapporteurs, appointed by cie to draft report
 President: mr Jerzy Buzek



European Parliament





Procedures

Co - decision Procedure
 Consultation Procedure

Assent Procedure
 (Cooperation Procedure)

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1. Codecision

Applicable for specified subjects only
 - e.g.: internal market, transport, culture, health, consumer protection, research, environment, ... etc.

Council and EP have to reach an agreement

Limited number of possibilities

No agreement → proposal will not be adopted

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Commission proposal

EP opinion

Council approves all EP amendments
- or Council issues « common position »

EP approves council's common position
- or EP amends council's com. pos.

Council approves all EP amendments
- or Conciliation procedure

EP and council agree joint text

Council approves act

2. Consultation

- Commission issues proposal
- Sends proposal to Council and EP
- Council asks advice of EP and committees
- Commission may amend its proposal on the basis of the EP's opinion
- Council takes decision (council may amend proposal itself but only on the base of unanimity)

Article 249 of the Treaty

- Regulation
- Directive
- Decision

Regulation

- General application
- Binding in its entirety
- Directly applicable in all MS (in gen. 20 days after publ.)
- Uniform in all MS (common policy)

Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 laying down Community procedures for the authorisation and supervision of medicinal products for human and veterinary use and establishing a European Medicines Agency

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents.

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Directive (*framework law*)

- binding as to the result to be achieved, upon each MS
- leaves national authorities the choice of forms and methods
- certain period for implementation

Directive 2004/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 March 2004 amending Directive 2001/82/EC on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products

Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents, amending Council Decision 90/424/EEC and repealing Council Directive 92/117/EEC.

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Decision

- Binding in its entirety upon those to whom it is addressed
- COMMISSION DECISION of 23 March 2004 concerning protection measures in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza in the United States of America
- COMMISSION DECISION of 30 March 2004 derogating from Decisions 2003/803/EC and 2004/203/EC as regards the format for certificates and passports for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets and amending Decision 2004/203/EC

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Areas for Veterinary Legislation

- Trade
- Health protection and disease control
- Animal welfare
- Zootechnical Aspects
- Feeding stuffs
- Foodstuffs
- Veterinary Medical and Biotechnical Products
- Veterinary Qualifications

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<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/nl/index.htm>

To search legislation on number, topic, etc.
Site in 23 languages

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Thank you

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