

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)

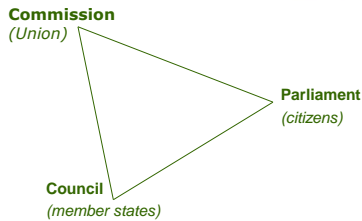
European Parliament (Citizens)

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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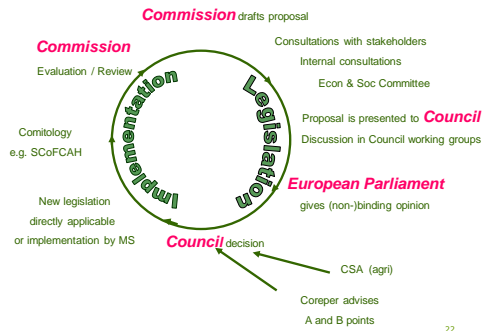


Council of the European Union
Council of ministers of member states
Composition varies per subject (e.g. agriculture council, economic and financial affairs council, etc.)
All MS directly represented
Qualf. Majority
Rotating presidency (... UK, Ger, Por, **Slov**, Fr ..etc)
Decides upon Commission proposals

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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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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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