



All About EU

European Languages



Official EU Languages

Though there are 27 EU member states, there are only 24 official EU languages, as French, Dutch, English, Swedish, German, and Greek are the official language for multiple states.

Languages per Person

Through programs like Erasmus+, the EU works to build multilingualism in all member states, with the goal of all citizens speaking at least 3 languages.



Unofficial Languages

In addition to teaching language, the EU also creates legislation to preserve the more than 60 indigenous and minority languages spoken within its borders.

Learn more at jmce.unc.edu

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



The European Commission in Numbers

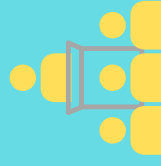
27



Commissioners

are approved by the European Parliament and Council for five-year terms. These commissioners propose EU legislation and draft the EU's budget. Each member has specific competencies and an equal voice on the Commission.

1



President

is nominated by the European Council and approved by Parliament to lead the Commission.

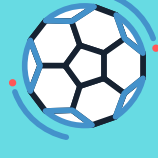


139

Delegations

represent the EU in non-member states and conduct outreach and EU diplomacy.

33



Directorates-General

each specialize in a specific set of policy. Ranging from Climate Action to Translation, these offices draft and implement EU legislation.

Learn more at [jmce.unc.edu!](https://jmce.unc.edu/)

All About EU

The Seven EU Institutions

While the EU may seem like a very complex entity, it can be much more easily understood by studying its main institutions, the organs that carry out specific roles within the EU. Here, we've conceptualized them as trading cards.

Source: eur-lex.europa.eu

The European Commission



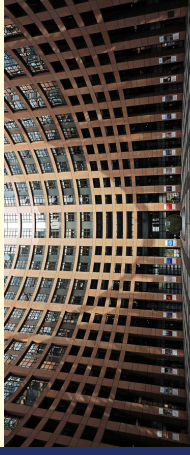
Category: Legislative

Founded: January 1, 1958

Summary

The European Commission **drafts** EU legislation for the Parliament and Council to amend and approve, and **proposes** the EU budget. Furthermore, the Commission **monitors** the implementation of EU law in member states.

The European Parliament



Category: Legislative

Founded: September 10, 1952

Summary

The European Parliament is the **only directly-elected** institution of the EU. It passes EU law and the **budget** with the Council of the European Union. In addition, Parliament **approves** the members of the Commission.

The Council of the European Union



Category: Legislative

Founded: July 1, 1967

Summary

The Council of the European Union—not to be confused with the European Council—**approves and amends** proposed EU legislation and **nominates** members of the Commission. It has **ten sets** of members called "configurations."

The European Council



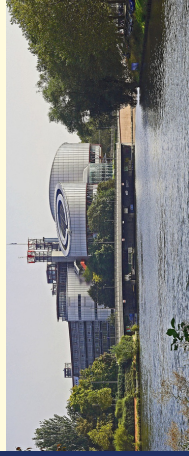
Category: Executive

Founded: December 9, 1974

Summary

The European Council is comprised of the heads of all EU member states and governments. Together, the heads of state **direct the focus** of EU legislation, and develop the strategies for **further European integration**.

The Court of Justice of the European Union



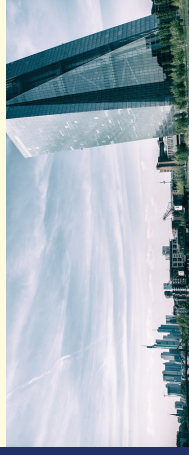
Category: Judicial

Founded: April 18, 1951

Summary

The Court of Justice of the EU judges **interprets EU law** for member states and citizens, and ensures that laws are being **enforced correctly**. It also **settles disputes** between EU member states, their citizens, and the EU.

The European Central Bank



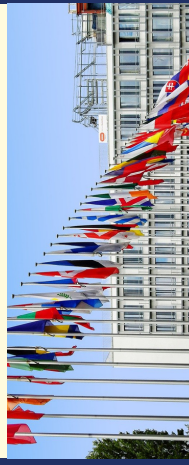
Category: Financial

Founded: June 1, 1998

Summary

The European Central Bank **sets monetary policy** for the EU. This can take the form of setting interest rates, and **controlling the value** of the Euro relative to other currencies.

The European Court of Auditors



Category: Financial

Founded: July 22, 1975

Summary

The European Court of Auditors makes sure that the EU is **spending money legally**, and verifies that the EU spends within its means. This institution **reports annually** to the Parliament and Council before they approve the next budget.

Learn more at jmce.wnc.edu/



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The Lawmaking Process

The process by which the EU makes laws is called the Ordinary Legislative Procedure, sometimes referred to as “Co-Decision. In this process, three EU institutions—the European Commission, the European Parliament (EP), and the Council of the EU (Council)—engage with each other to propose, amend, and pass legislation.

Source: eumonitor.eu



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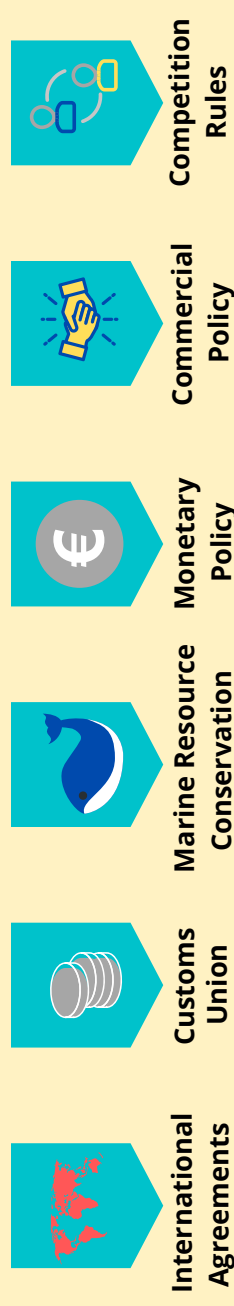
Division of Power

Legislative power in the EU is divided into 3 sets of competences, or areas of policy focus.

Source: eur-lex.europa.eu

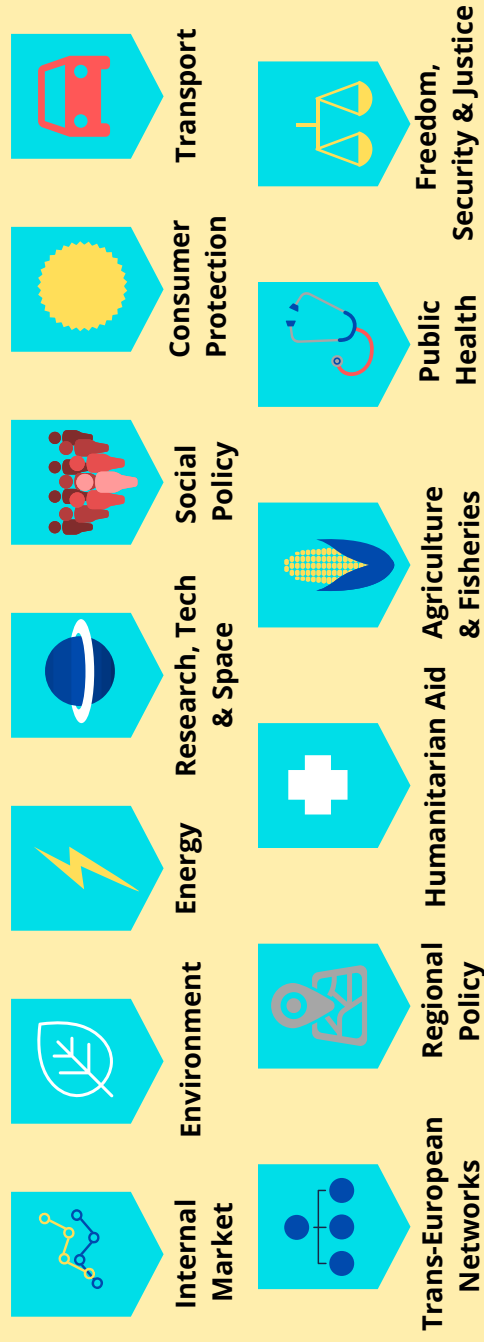
Exclusive Competences

Areas in which only the EU can create legislation.



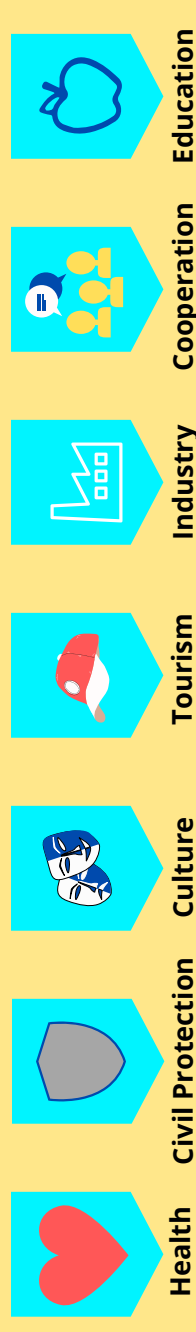
Shared Competences

Areas in which the EU and member states can create legislation if the EU does not — or decides not to — use its ability to create laws.



Supporting Competences

Areas in which the EU only assists in creating member state legislation.



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A Brief History of EU Institutions

1950-52

TREATY OF PARIS

The European Coal and Steel Community was created under the Treaty of Paris to **combine the economic interests** of France and Germany in order to **avoid future animosity** between them.

1957

TREATY OF ROME

The Treaty of Rome created the European Economic Community, and built upon existing ECSC institutions by **creating a Parliament and Court of Justice to further political integration** of member states.

1965

MERGER TREATY

Also known as the Treaty of Brussels, the Merger Treaty **combined the executive institutions** of EURATOM, the EEC, and the ECSC.

1987

SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT

The SEA created the Single Market, thereby **increasing economic integration** by reducing barriers to commerce. Furthermore, it led to **increased pooling of sovereignty** in European institutions.

1993

MAASTRICHT TREATY

Called the Treaty of the European Union, this treaty created a **supranational political structure** founded on "pillars" of **pooled sovereignty** in certain policy areas.

2009

LISBON TREATY

Ratified in 2009, the Lisbon Treaty **strengthened and shaped** the main political institutions of the EU— the Commission, Parliament, and Council of the EU— into the forms they take today.

PRESENT

The EU and its institutions continue to change and evolve today. Learn more about contemporary Europe and the EU at jmce.unc.edu!



All About EU

Comparing Councils

Though they share similar names and structures, the Council of the EU and the European Council are two very different institutions. To help avoid confusion, we've created a brief, side-by-side comparison.

Source: consilium.europa.eu

European Council



Identifies policy priorities and plans strategically to direct EU integration.

1



Council comprising the 27 EU heads of state or government



Focuses on EU policy as it relates to the institutions and their relation to states outside the EU.

5-year

Term for the President of the European Council, elected internally.

Council of the EU

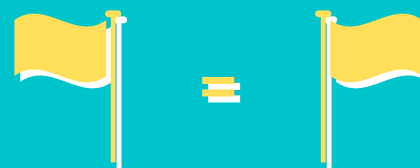


Works with the Commission and Parliament to create EU legislation.



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Topic-specific Configurations of 27 officials from member state governments.



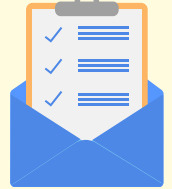
Prioritizes the small details of EU policy, ensuring that member states policies are aligned.

6-month

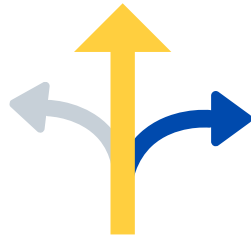
Term for the rotating Council president, who works in a "trio" with two other incoming presidents.

Elections

The Parliament is the **only directly elected institution** of the EU. Citizens in EU Member states vote for their preferred parties, who send representatives to be Members of Parliament (MEPs).



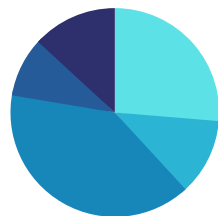
Officials



The European Parliament **influences the direction of EU policy** by electing the President of the EU Commission. Furthermore, the Parliament must approve all members of the Commission.

Legislation

The Parliament **approves Commission legislation** with the Council of Ministers. It can also **edit or add to legislation** with acts that influence details of a law or its implementation.



Budgeting

A subset of its larger legislation duties, the Parliament **approves the EU's spending** with the Council of Ministers. It also **examines past EU spending**, and **proposes changes for future budgets**.

