

Character and structure of institutions and bodies

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

(1) The Union shall have an institutional framework which shall aim to **promote its values, advance its objectives, serve its interests**, those of its citizens and those of the Member States, and **ensure the consistency, effectiveness and continuity of its policies and actions**.

(2) Each institution shall act within the limits of the powers conferred on it in the Treaties, and in conformity with the procedures, conditions and objectives set out in them. The institutions shall practice **mutual sincere cooperation**.

Art. 13 - TEU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Main institutions and bodies

1/ European Commission  
2/ European Parliament  
3/ European Council  
4/ Council of European Union  
5/ Court of Auditors  
6/ Court of Justice (separate lecture)  
7/ EU Central Bank

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## European Commission

The Commission shall promote the **general interest of the Union** and take appropriate initiatives to that end.

- it shall ensure the application of the Treaties, and of measures adopted by the institutions pursuant to them.
- it shall oversee the application of Union law under the control of the Court of Justice of the European Union.
- it shall execute the budget and manage programmes. It shall exercise coordinating, executive and management functions, as laid down in the Treaties.
- it shall ensure the Union's external representation.
- it shall initiate the Union's annual and multiannual programming with a view to achieving interinstitutional agreements.

Article 17 TEU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Content of the Commission:

1/ The Commission appointed between the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon and 31 October 2014, shall consist of one national of each Member State, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy who shall be one of its Vice-Presidents.

2/ As from 1 November 2014, the Commission shall consist of a number of members, including its President and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, corresponding to two thirds of the number of Member States, unless the European Council, acting unanimously, decides to alter this number.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The **members of the Commission** shall be chosen from among the nationals of the Member States on the basis of a system of strictly equal rotation between the Member States, reflecting the demographic and geographical range of all the Member States. This system shall be established unanimously by the European Council in accordance with Article 244 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The **President of the Commission** shall:

- (a) lay down guidelines within which the Commission is to work;
- (b) decide on the internal organisation of the Commission, ensuring that it acts consistently, efficiently and as a collegiate body;
- (c) appoint Vice-Presidents, other than the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, from among the members of the Commission.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## European Parliament

- the only institution directly elected by the citizens of the EU
- 732 MEPs elected for 5 years
- organization:
  - President
  - Presidency
  - Members of the European Parliament
  - Political Groups
  - Parliamentary Committees
  - Delegations
  - Political Bodies
  - Secretariat

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Political groups

- organized by political affiliation
- 20 members are needed to form a political group

### Delegations

- delegations - relations with other states, such as India, Israel, the United States of America and other + European Union candidate countries

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Lisbon Treaty gives the European Parliament new lawmaking powers: it now decides on the vast majority of EU legislation. Over 40 new fields come under the procedure for co-decision by Parliament and the Council of Ministers, including **agriculture, energy policy, immigration and EU funds**. Parliament has the last say on the EU budget.

New role in **relations with other institutions**: results of elections to the European Parliament will be directly linked to the choice of candidate for the President of the European Commission. The whole Commission, including the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, needs **Parliament's approval** to take office.

Lisbon Treaty gives Parliament a new **right to propose treaty changes**.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## European Council

- (1) The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the general political directions and priorities thereof. It shall not exercise legislative functions.
- (2) The European Council shall consist of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States, together with its President and the President of the Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall take part in its work.

Article 15 - TEU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The European Council shall meet **twice every six months**, convened by its President.

When the situation so requires, the President shall convene a **special meeting** of the European Council.

The decisions of the European Council shall be taken by **consensus**.

The European Council shall elect its President, by a **qualified majority**, for a term of two and a half years, renewable once.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The **President of the European Council:**

- (a) shall chair it and drive forward its work;
- (b) shall ensure the preparation and continuity of the work of the European Council in cooperation with the President of the Commission, and on the basis of the work of the General Affairs Council;
- (c) shall endeavour to facilitate cohesion and consensus within the European Council;
- (d) shall present a report to the European Parliament after each of the meetings of the European Council.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The President of the European Council shall, at his level and in that capacity, ensure the **external representation of the Union** on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Council of European Union**

- (1) The Council shall, jointly with the European Parliament, exercise legislative and budgetary functions. It shall carry out policy-making and coordinating functions as laid down in the Treaties.
  - (2) The Council shall consist of a representative of each Member State at ministerial level, who may commit the government of the Member State in question and cast its vote.
  - (3) The Council shall act by a qualified majority except where the Treaties provide otherwise.
  - (4) As from 1 November 2014, a qualified majority shall be defined as at least 55 % of the members of the Council, comprising at least fifteen of them and representing Member States comprising at least 65 % of the population of the Union.
- A **blocking minority** must include at least four Council members, failing which the qualified majority shall be deemed attained.

Article 16 - TEU

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

I/ General Affairs Council

II/ Eco-Fin

COREPER

Secretariat General

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Court of Auditors**

The Court of Auditors shall carry out the Union's audit.

It shall consist of one national of each Member State. Its Members shall be completely independent in the performance of their duties, in the Union's general interest.

Art. 285 ToFEU (ex-article 264 TEC)

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Members of the Court of Auditors shall be chosen from among persons who belong or have belonged in their respective States to external audit bodies or who are especially qualified for this office. Their independence must be beyond doubt.

The Council, after consulting the European Parliament, shall adopt the list of Members drawn up in accordance with the proposals made by each Member State.

- 6 years, renewable position

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

The Court of Auditors shall **examine the accounts of all revenue and expenditure of the Union**. It shall also examine the accounts of all revenue and expenditure of all bodies, offices or agencies set up by the Union in so far as the relevant constituent instrument does not preclude such examination.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Other institutions – presentations

- 1/ Human rights agency of EU
- 2/ Ombudsman of EU
- 3/ European Central Bank and European Investment Bank

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---