

Institutions of the European Union, October 2013

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Functions</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
European Commission <i>Article 17 TEU</i>	28 Commissioners each responsible for one or more DGs. <u>President:</u> Jose Manuel Barroso 8 Vice-Presidents including... <u>HR for FA&SP:</u> Catherine Ashton	Initiates legislation Ensures application of EU law with ECJ Executes budget and manages programs Exercises executive functions Externally represents EU 28 (except CFSP) in int'l forums e.g. WTO, UN. Initiates EU's annual and multi-annual programs	5 year term of office Independence, competence and European commitment. Based in Brussels – Berlaymont Collegiate body – stands or falls as one. President "elected" by EP on nomination of European Council by QMV taking into account the outcome of EP elections. College appointed by European Council following proposals for candidates agreed by Council and Commission President-elect following EP vote of consent.
European Commission <i>cont'd</i> <i>Article 18 TEU</i>	<u>HR for FA&SP:</u> Catherine Ashton	Conducts CFSP and Defence Policy: proposes and carries out policy. HR is "double-hatted", that is: - Chairs Foreign Affairs Council and - is VP of Commission.	Appointed by European Council by QMV in agreement with Commission President Aim: to ensure consistency of EU's external action Assisted by the EEAS (2011): "functionally autonomous body"(1,640)
Council of the EU <i>Article 16 TEU</i>	28 member state government ministers Must be able to commit his/her government and vote	Takes decisions i.e. adopts legislation By QMV in principle if not in practice. From 01.11. 2014 QMV = 55% of Council ministers + 65% of EU population From 01.11. 2014 to 31.03. 2017: transition period	Rotating team presidency of three MS Represents, articulates and defends national interests Based in Brussels – Justus Lipsius building 10 configurations Assisted by Coreper II and I

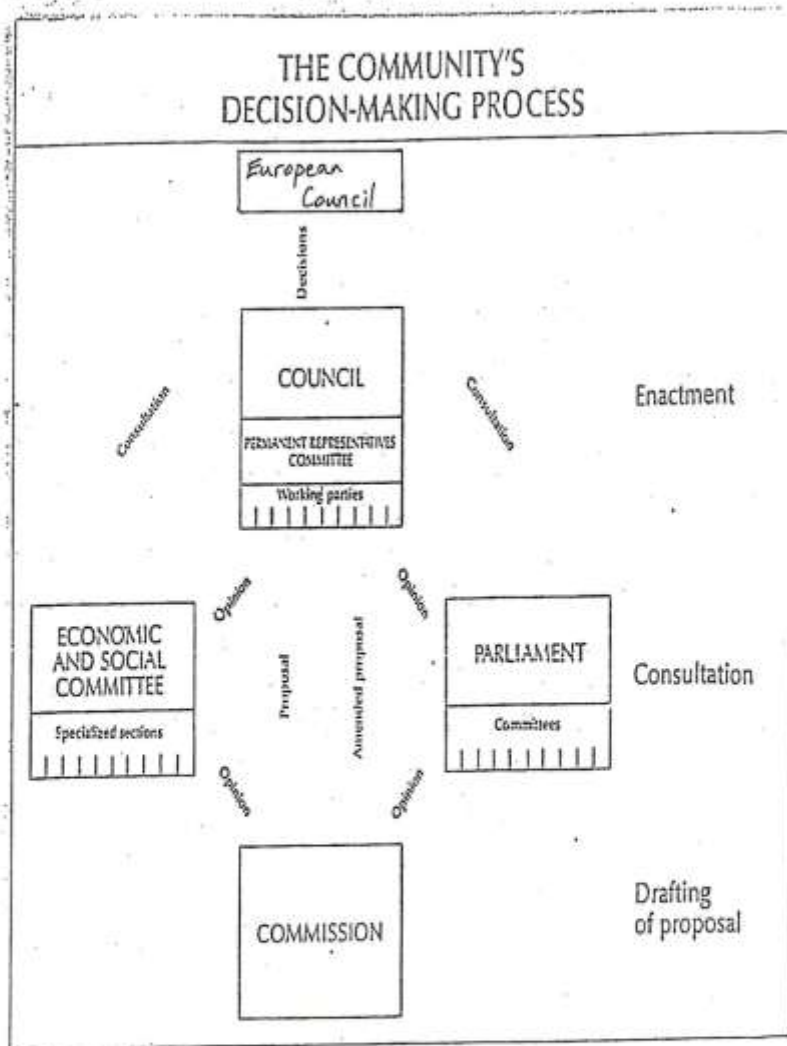
<p>European Council Article 15 TEU</p>	<p>Heads of State or Government (HSG) of EU 28 + <u>President</u>: Herman Van Rompuy + <u>Commission President</u>: Jose Manuel Barroso. <u>HR of Union for FA&SP</u> may take part in its work.</p>	<p>Provides political impetus Defines political direction and priorities Does <u>not</u> exercise executive or legislative functions Decides by consensus <u>President</u>: represents externally the EU on CFSP Shall chair and "drive forward" work of European Council Facilitates cohesion and consensus Presents report to EP after each meeting</p>	<p>Meets twice every six months, convened by its President HSG may be joined by a minister Commission President may be joined by a Commissioner Meetings prepared by GA Council <u>President</u>: Term: 2.5 years, renewable once Elected by European Council by QMV More than a chairman, less than a chief.</p>
<p>European Parliament Article 14 TEU</p>	<p>766 MEPs currently (751 from May 2014) <u>President</u>: Martin Schulz Ger/S&D <u>Bureau</u>: President + 14 VP <u>Conference of Presidents</u>: President + PG leaders <u>College of Quaestors</u>: 5 MEPs</p>	<p>Jointly with Council exercises legislative functions: - Codecision – «ordinary legislative procedure» Art 294 TFEU - Consultation & Consent Jointly with Council exercises budgetary functions. Political control and consultation vis-a-vis Commission. « Elects » Commission President and College of Commissioners.</p>	<p>Directly elected since 1979 Institutional autonomy 5 year term of office Sits in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg 7 transnational political groups 20 standing committees Interparliamentary delegations Intergroups</p>
<p>Court of Justice (CJ) Article 19 TEU</p>	<p>28 Judges (one from each member state) plus 8 Advocates-General - full Court - Grand Chamber (13) - Chambers of 3 or 5</p>	<p>Interprets and applies EU law Quashes law in conflict with EU law</p>	<p>Appointed by common accord among national governments Independent judicial branch of EU 6 year term of office Renewed partially every 3 years Retiring Judges / AGs may be reappointed Assisted by the General Court (1989) and specialized courts Based in Luxembourg</p>

Court of Auditors (CA) Articles 285 to 287 TFEU	28 Judges (one from each member state)	Examines whether revenue has been received and expenditure incurred in a lawful and regular manner, and whether financial management is sound.	Appointed by common accord among national governments 6 year term of office Supranational institution Financial watchdog of the EU Based in Luxembourg
European Central Bank (ECB) Articles 282 to 284 TFEU	<u>European System of Central Banks:</u> ECB and national Central Banks	To maintain price stability – Article 127 Conducts monetary policy of Union – Article 282 Sole right to issue Euro – Article 282	Based in Frankfurt, Germany Supranational in nature Independent Decisions made by the Governing Council and the Executive Board Executive Board: 8 years - not renewable President: Mario Draghi since Nov 2011

Main Advisory Bodies in the European Union

<i>Advisory Body</i>	<i>Composition</i>	<i>Functions</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>
Economic and Social Committee (EcoSoc) Articles 301 to 304 TFEU	353 members	Advises on legislative proposals	Appointed by Council on recommendation of national governments 5 year term of office Represents workers, employers and civil society in general Based in Brussels
Committee of the Regions (CoR) Articles 305 to 307 TFEU	353 members	Advises on legislative proposals	Appointed by Council on recommendation of national governments 5 year term of office Represents local and regional authorities in +/- equal measure Based in Brussels

THE COMMUNITY'S DECISION-MAKING PROCESS



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CEDIA
European Studies Tour
6th November 2013

The Institutions and decision-making process of the EU
Dr Margaret M. Malone

How the EU works

- **EU Law is proposed by:**
 - *European Commission (28 Commissioners)*
- **Proposals are then jointly adopted by:**
 - *Council of the EU (10 configurations) and*
 - *European Parliament (currently 766 MEPs)*
- **Role of the "European Council" (28 HSG + Jose Manuel Barroso + Herman Van Rompuy):**
 - *"makes the weather"*



President of the European Commission

Jose Manuel Barroso *Article 17 TEU:*



- The President "lays down guidelines within which the Commission shall work."
- A Commissioner must resign if the President requests it.
- Choice of President now linked to outcome of EP elections.
- President-elect proposed by European Council is then "elected" by EP.

Who will be Barroso's successor?

Council of the EU

Article 16 TEU:

- "Council, jointly with Parliament, shall exercise legislative and budgetary functions."
- Composition: 10 configurations
- With exception of the FAC, the Presidency rotates every 6 months
- **Current team:**
 - Ireland: January to June 2013
 - Lithuania: July to December 2013
 - Greece: January to June 2014

The 10 configurations of the Council

- GAC
- FAC
- JHA
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- Competitiveness
- Education, Youth and Culture
- Economic and Financial Affairs (Ecofin)
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Environment

Voting in the Council

- Currently, QMV = 260 / 352 votes, cast by at least 15 MS in Council. In addition, a MS may request verification that the QM represents at least 62% of EU population.
- From 1 November 2014, a QM will be reached if a draft decision is supported by at least 55% (i.e. 16 MS) in Council representing at least 65% of EU population.

President of the European Council

Herman Van Rompuy



Article 15 TEU:

- "shall chair and drive forward its work."
- "facilitate cohesion and consensus."
- Presents a report to EP after each meeting.
- Externally represents EU on CFSP matters.

Who will be Van Rompuy's successor?

The European Council, 2007 – "the family photograph"



Family photograph, June 2013



Some members of the "European Council"

Herman Van Rompuy



Angela Merkel



Francis Hollande



Jose Barroso



Endo Kovity



David Cameron



European Parliament

Martin Schulz MEP



Article 14 TEU:

"shall, jointly with the Council, exercise legislative and budgetary functions. It shall exercise functions of political control and consultation. It shall elect the President of the European Commission."

- Since 1979 the EP has been directly elected for a term of five years.
- From May 2014 there will be 751 MEPs