

Relevant International Organizations

The European Union

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Training for Flag State Inspectors for
ENP beneficiary countries

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- **What is the EU**
- **How does it work**
- **Brief history of EU Maritime Policy**



What is the EU

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent.

The predecessor of the EU was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation: the idea being that countries that trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict.

The European Union: Member States and key dates



1951: European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), Paris - Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and Netherlands

1957: European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the European Economic Community (EEC), Rome

1967: The three communities were merged

1973: Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom

1979: Direct election of European Parliament Members

1981: Greece

The European Union: Member States and key dates



1986: Portugal, Spain

1992: Treaty of Maastricht(EU Treaty)

1995: Austria, Finland, Sweden

1997: Treaty of Amsterdam

2001: Treaty of Nice

2002: The € Euro becomes currency for EU-12

2004: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia

2007: Bulgaria and Romania join the EU, Slovenia joins the Euro-zone

2008: Malta joins the Euro-zone

2009: Slovakia joins the Euro-zone

2011: Estonia joins the Euro-zone

2013: Croatia

2014: Latvia joins the Euro-zone

2015: Lithuania joins the Euro-zone

How the EU works

- **European Parliament**
- **European Council**
- **Council of the European Union**
- **European Commission**
- **Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)**
- **European Central Bank (ECB)**
- **European Court of Auditors (ECA)**
- **European External Action Service (EEAS)**
- **European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)**
- **European Committee of the Regions (CoR)**
- **European Investment Bank (EIB)**
- **European Ombudsman**
- **European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)**

Role: Directly-elected EU body with legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities

Members: 751 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament)

President: Antonio Tajani

Established in: 1952 as Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community, 1962 as European Parliament, first direct elections in 1979

Location: Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium), Luxembourg

What does the Parliament do?

- **Legislative role**
- **Supervisory role**
- **Budgetary role**

Role: Promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

Members: A team or 'College' of Commissioners, 1 from each EU country

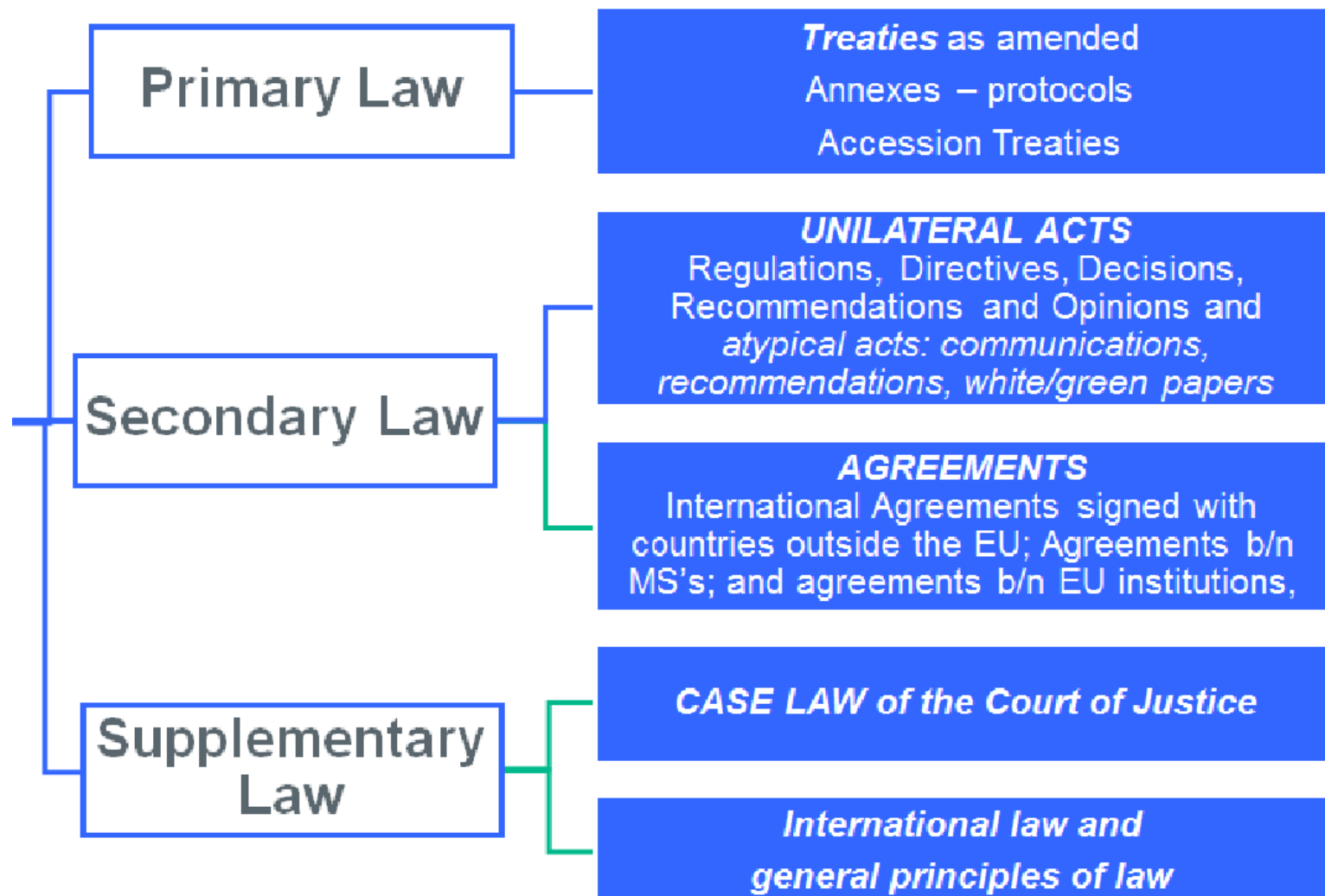
President: Jean-Claude Juncker

Established in: 1958

Location: Brussels (Belgium)

What does the Commission do?

- **Proposes new laws**
- **Manages EU policies & allocates EU funding**
- **Enforces EU law**
- **Represents the EU internationally**





#1 Commission proposal

European Commission submits legislative proposal to the European Parliament



Citizens' initiative



A quarter of the member states



European Investment Bank



European Central Bank



European Parliament

#2 1st reading in the Parliament

During its 1st reading, the European Parliament examines the Commission's proposal and may adopt or amend it.



#3 1st reading in Council

During its 1st reading, the Council may decide to accept Parliament's position in which case the legislative act is adopted, or it may amend Parliament's position, and return the proposal to Parliament for a 2nd reading.



#4 2nd reading in Parliament

Parliament examines Council's position and approves it, in which case the act is approved; or rejects it, in which case the act will not enter into force and the whole procedure is ended; or proposes amendments and returns the proposal to Council for a 2nd reading.



The legislative proposal **is not adopted**



The legislative proposal **is adopted**

The vast majority of proposals are adopted at this stage



The legislative proposal **is adopted**





Proposal adopted

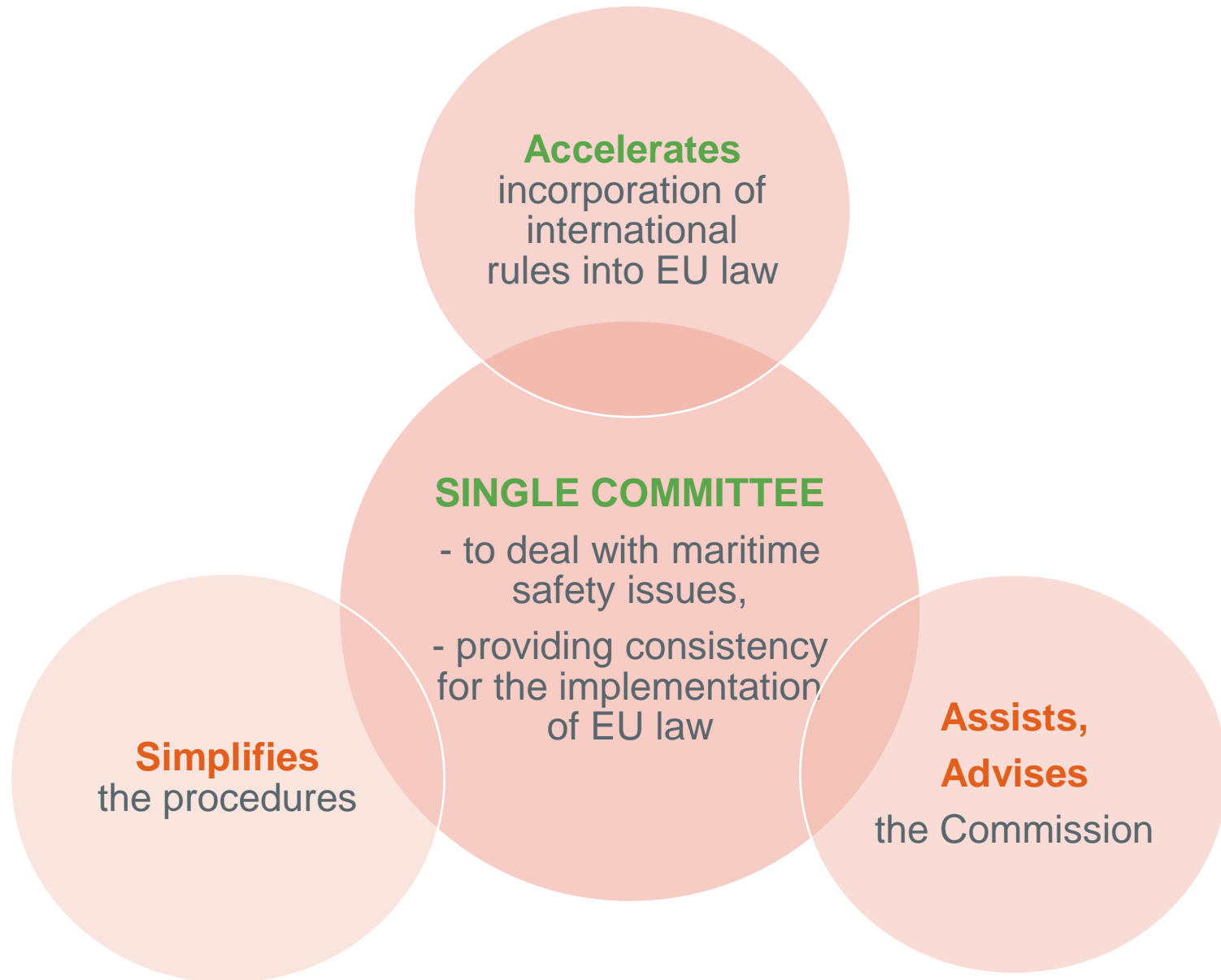
Once both European Parliament and Council have approved the final text of a legislative proposal, it is jointly signed by the Presidents and Secretaries General of both institutions. After signature, the texts are published in the Official Journal and become official.

- Regulations are directly binding throughout the EU as of the date set down in the Official Journal.
- Directives lay down end results to be achieved in every member state, but leaves it up to national governments to decide how to adapt their laws to achieve these goals. Each directive specifies the date by which the national laws must be adapted.
- Decisions apply in specific cases, involving particular authorities or individuals and are fully binding.



Proposal not adopted

If a legislative proposal is rejected at any stage of the procedure, or the Parliament and Council cannot reach a compromise, the proposal is not adopted and the procedure is ended. A new procedure can start only with a new proposal from the Commission.



What does the European Council do?

- Decides on the EU's overall direction and political priorities – but does not pass laws.
- Deals with complex or sensitive issues that cannot be resolved at lower levels of intergovernmental cooperation
- Sets the EU's common foreign & security policy, taking into account EU strategic interests and defence implications
- Nominates and appoints candidates to certain high profile EU level roles, such as the ECB and the Commission

On each issue, the European Council can:

- ask the European Commission to make a proposal to address it.
- pass it on to the Council of the EU to deal with

Role: Defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union






Members: Heads of state or government of EU countries, European Commission President, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy

President: Donald Tusk

Established in: 1974 (informal forum), 1992 (formal status), 2009 (official EU institution)

Location: Brussels (Belgium)



-  Decentralised agencies
-  Agencies under Common Security and Defence Policy
-  Executive agencies
-  EURATOM agencies and bodies
-  Other organisations

Decentralized agencies

Decentralized agencies contribute to the implementation of EU policies. They also support cooperation between the EU and national governments by pooling technical and specialist expertise from both the EU institutions and national authorities. Decentralized agencies are set up for an indefinite period and are located across the EU.

Agencies under Common Security and Defense Policy

Agencies have been set up to carry out very specific technical, scientific and management tasks within the framework of European Union's Common Security and Defense Policy.

Executive agencies

Executive agencies are set up for a limited period of time by the European Commission to manage specific tasks related to EU programmes.

EURATOM agencies and bodies

These were created to support the aims of the European Atomic Energy Community Treaty (EURATOM), which are to: coordinate national nuclear research programmes, for peaceful purposes provide knowledge, infrastructure

Brief history of EU Maritime Policy

A circular graphic of the European Union flag, showing a blue field with twelve yellow stars arranged in a circle.

Early '90s – developments at European level

- ❑ Maritime transport included among the competencies matters of EU
- ❑ Council Resolution of 8 June 1993 on a common policy on safe seas (93/C 271/01)
- ❑ Adoption of EU maritime legislation covering all main areas of maritime safety

Erika I safety package

- Port State Control
- Minimum standards of certification for seafarers
- Recognised Organisation

Erika II safety package

- ❖ **Establishment of EMSA**
- ❖ Community VTMISS
- ❖ Mechanism to improve compensation for victims of oil spills

- EU acquis can only be adopted in the areas for which the Treaties provide competence to the EU
- EU legal acts are developed and adopted in the framework of common policies
- The development of the EU secondary maritime legislation started at the beginning of the 90's when the EU Commission elaborated the *Common Policy on the Safe Seas* - a comprehensive programme containing a set of priority measures to be taken at international and community level to enhance maritime safety and environmental protection

The grievous consequences of the sinking of MT Erika in 1999 and MT Prestige in 2002 have had a profound effect



Questions?





Thank you for the attention

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