

**Training on EU maritime legislation for newcomers**

**Introduction to EU institutions and EU legislative process**

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**Content of the presentation on EU institutions and the EU legislative process**

European Union Member States



Introduction to the EU



Main EU Institutions



EU Legislative process

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**Introduction to EU institutions and EU legislative process**



**Introduction to the EU**

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# EU Institutions

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## Key players

**The European Parliament**  
- voice of the people  
Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament



**The European Council and the Council of Ministers**  
- voice of the Member States  
Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council



**The European Commission**  
- promoting the common interest  
José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission



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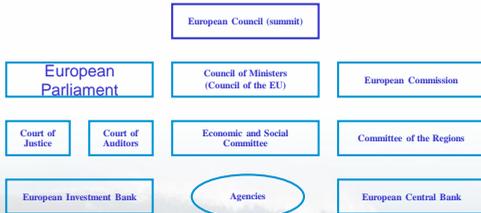
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## The EU institutions



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### European Council

Summit of heads of state and government of all EU countries

- ▶ Held at least 4 times a year
- ▶ Sets the overall guidelines for EU policies
- ▶ President: Herman Van Rompuy



Composed by the Head of EU Governments plus the President of the EU Commission  
 Presidency full time (2 years and half)

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### Council of Ministers – voice of the member states



- ▶ One minister from each EU country
- ▶ Presidency: rotates every six months
- ▶ Decides EU laws and budget together with Parliament
- ▶ Manages the common foreign and security policy
- ▶ International Agreements with Third Countries/IOs

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### Council of Ministers – number of votes per country

Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom	29
Spain and Poland	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and Portugal	12
Austria, Bulgaria and Sweden	0
Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Finland	7
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg and Slovenia	4
Malta	3
<b>Total:</b>	<b>345</b>

"Qualified majority" needed for many decisions:  
 255 votes and a majority of member states  
 From 2014: 55% of the Member States with 65% of the population

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### Council of the European Union WORKING PROCEDURES



Working Parties

- Divided into Groups (i.e. Shipping Working Party)
- Made by Officials from the National administration, assists the COREPER

COREPER

- Prepare the work of the Council
- Composed by Head of Perm Reps

Council

- composed by relevant Ministers (i.e. Ministers for Transport)
- Adopts the acts of the Council

Presidency assisted by the Secretariat General which prepares and ensures the smooth functioning of the Council's work

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### Catherine Ashton

Double hat: chairs the Foreign Affairs Council meetings + Vice-president of the European Commission

Manages the common foreign and security policy

Head of European External Action Service

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### The European Parliament – voice of the people

- Decides EU laws and budget together with Council of Ministers
- Democratic supervision of all the EU's work

Number of members elected in each country (January 2012)

Austria 19	Finland 13	Latvia 9	Romania 33
Belgium 22	France 74	Lithuania 12	Slovakia 13
Bulgaria 18	Germany 99	Luxembourg 6	Slovenia 8
Cyprus 6	Greece 22	Malta 6	Spain 54
Czech Republic 22	Hungary 22	Netherlands 26	Sweden 20
Denmark 13	Ireland 12	Poland 51	United Kingdom 72
Estonia 6	Italy 73	Portugal 22	<b>Total 753</b>

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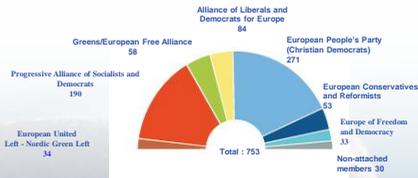
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## The European political parties

Number of seats in the European Parliament per political group (January 2012)



(22) Parliamentary Committees (e.g., TRAN, ENVI..)

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## European Parliament MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES



### Legislative powers

Shared with the Council  
(Ordinary legislative procedure, ex CO-DECISION)



### Budgetary powers

Budgetary authority together with the Council



### Supervisory power

Supervises the work of EU Institutions, in particular the Commission

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## The European Commission – promoting the common interest

27 independent members, one from each EU country

- Proposes new legislation
- Executive organ
- Guardian of the treaties
- Represents the EU on the international stage



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**Commission employs about 23 000 permanent civil servants and 11 000 temporary or contract workers**

**Other EU institutions: about 10 000 employed**

- › Permanent civil servants
- › Selected by open competitions
- › Come from all EU countries
- › Salaries decided by law
- › EU administration costs €15 per EU citizen per year



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### European Court of Justice

27 Judges one from each MS

Ensures EU countries apply EU laws in the same way

ECJ decisions are binding on EU institutions, MSs, individuals

Challenges, interprets and enforces EU legislation



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### European Court of Justice Infringement Proceeding

Letter of formal notice

Reasoned opinion asking MS to take corrective action

If no action is taken, Case is referred to the Court



Judgement of the Court

Monetary sanctions if MS does not comply with Court's Judgement



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**The European Court of Auditors:  
getting value for your money**



**27 independent members**

- › Checks that EU funds are used properly
- › Can audit any person or organisation dealing with EU funds

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**The European Central Bank:  
managing the euro**



Mario Draghi  
President of the Central Bank

- › Ensures price stability
- › Controls money supply and decides interest rates
- › Works independently from governments

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**The European Economic and Social Committee:  
voice of civil society**

**344 members**

- › Represents trade unions, employers, farmers, consumers, etc
- › Advises on new EU laws and policies
- › Promotes the involvement of civil society in EU matters



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**The Committee of the Regions:  
voice of local government**

**344 members**

- › Represents cities, regions
- › Advises on new EU laws and policies
- › Promotes the involvement of local government in EU matters



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**EU  
legislative  
process**

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**Fundamental principles of EU action**



**Principle of Conferral**

- The EU shall act only within the limits of the powers conferred upon it by the Treaty

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**Principle of Subsidiarity**

- The EU acts only if objectives cannot be attained sufficiently at MS level or could be better attained at EU level



**Principle of Proportionality**

- EU action shall not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of this Treaty

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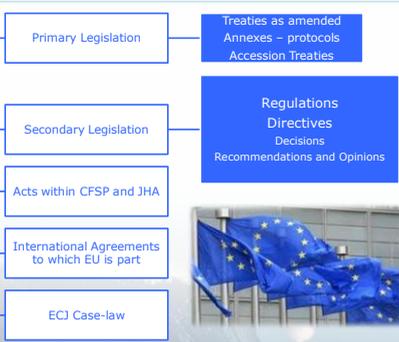
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Community Acquis



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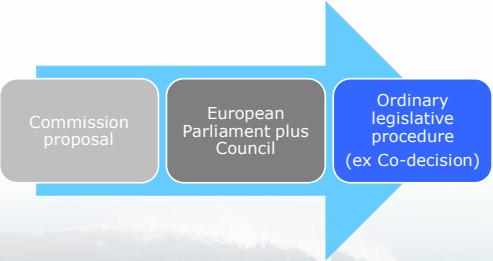
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Ordinary Legislative Procedure



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Nearly all EU policy areas, including maritime transport

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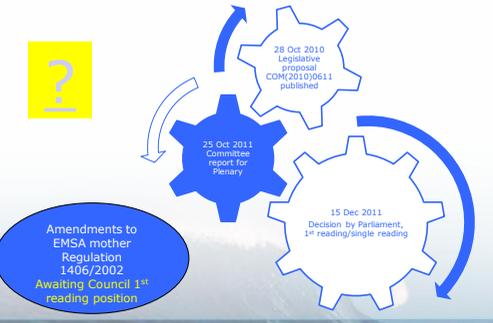
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"Ordinary Legislative Procedure"



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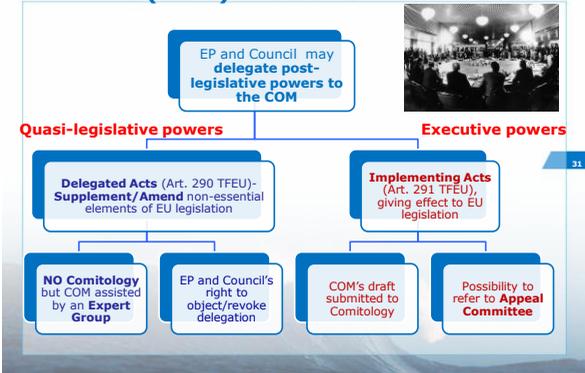
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**COSS- Committee on Safe Seas and the Prevention of Pollution from ships established by Regulation 2009/2002/EC**




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