

Institutions

Separation of powers

- In modern states and IO the power cannot be concentrated in hands of one persons or institution
- states are usually divided into branches or estates, each with separate and independent powers and areas of responsibility.
 - Executive
 - Legislature
 - Judiciary

Institutions of the EU

- a European Council,
- a European Parliament,
- a Council of European Union,
- a European Commission,
- a Court of Justice,
- a Court of Auditors.
- Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of the Regions

European parliament

- no supreme legislative competence
- originally:
 - power of control and
 - Budget powers
 - gained legislative power
- One chamber
- 736 MEP's
- Degressive proportionality

Member State	No of mandates (2009-2014)
Germany	99
France	72
United Kingdom, Italy	72
Spain	50
Poland	50
Romania	33
Netherlands	25
Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Portugal, Greece	22
Sweden	18
Austria	17
Bulgaria	17
Slovakia, Finland, Denmark	13
Ireland, Lithuania	12
Latvia	8
Slovenia	7
Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg	6
Malta	5
TOTAL	736

Parliamentary groups

- 7 political groups
 - Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
 - Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
 - Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
 - Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
 - European Conservatives and Reformists Group
 - Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
 - Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group
- At least 25 members and at least one-quarter of the Member States must be represented

Competences of the European Parliament

- gives the approval for the designation of member of the Commission
- power to dismiss the Commission
- Approves to the budget
- Shares the legislative power

Changes under the Lisbon T.

- MPE's – max. 750 + 1
- Increased number of field where the EP will have the shared legislative power
- Possibility to make changes in case of non-mandatory expenditures of the budget (now only the Council)

The European Council

- Politically most important institution
- Provides the European Union with the necessary impetus for its development and defines the general political directions
- No legislative power

Composition of the European Council

- Until SEA not an official institution of the EC/EU - functioning out of its structure, meetings called “European summits”
- Comprises of Heads of State or Government of the Member States together with the President of the Commission
- Decisions taken by consensus
- Meets at least once a year
- States rotate in holding the presidency
- Presidency prepares and chairs all meetings

Competences of the European Council

- has no executive or legislative powers
- shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development

Changes under the Lisbon Treaty

- Fixed and single presidency with a renewable two-and-a-half year mandate

The Council

- Represents the will of MS
- Main decision-making body
- Do not mislead with Council of Europe and European Council

Composition of the Council

- The Council is organized around four structures: the Council configurations, the Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER), the Presidency, and the General Secretariat

Configurations of the Council

- General Affairs and External Relations
- Economic and Financial Affairs
- Cooperation in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Environment
- Education, Youth and Culture
- Competitiveness

Competences and changes under LT

- Legislative power – passes laws alone or together with EP
- Changes:
 - New double majority Qualified Majority Voting
 - 55% MS and 65% of the population

voting weights system

Germany, France, Italy, GB	29
Poland, Spain	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czechia , Hungary, Portugal, Greece	12
Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria	10
Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia	7
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lucembursko , Slovenia	4
Malta	3
Total	345

Big states (orange): **170** votes vs. small states (modrá): **175** votes

QM: **255**

+ demographic criterion (**62%**): facultative and cumulative

+ more than 1/2 of all states must vote yes : obligatory and cumulative

The Commission

- a true supranational body
- “government” of the EC/EU
- promotes the general interest of the European Union
- ensures the application of the Treaties
- executes the budget etc.

Composition of the Commission

- one national of each Member State
- Appointed by Council, approved by EP
- Each Commissioner – assisted by cabinet plus Directorate-General or Service
- Decision-making – usually by consensus

Competences

- Power of control
- Implementing powers
- Executive powers
- Legislative competence

Future

- Reduction of the number of Commissioners
- one of the Commission Members will be the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

The Court of Auditors

- Its main task is to independently audit the management of the EC property and the performance of the Community budget
- one national from each Member State