

# European Labour Law

## Institutions and their Competencies

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# 1. General Institutions

- European Parliament
- European Council
- Commission
- Council of the European Union
- European Court of Justice
- European Central Bank
- Committee of Auditors

# European Parliament

- Represents the interests of the EU citizens
- **Seat:** Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg
- **Composition:** representatives of peoples of Member States elected every five years (754 members in total, the Czech Republic has 22 representatives)
- EP acts by an absolute majority of the votes except of cases stated in the Treaty

# Main Competencies of the EP

- Passes the laws (jointly with the Council )  
– co-decision procedure
- Consultative role – e.g. migration policy
- Exercise of democratic supervision over the other EU institutions
- Approves the EU budget jointly with the Commission.

# European Council

- Represents the interests of the EU Member States
- **Seat:** usually Brussels
- **Composition:** Heads of States or Heads of Governments of the Member States, the President and the President of the Commission
- **President.** Herman Van Rompuy
- **Role:** provides the Union with the necessary impetus for its development, defines general political directions and priorities

# Council of the European Union

- Main decision making body
- Represents the Member States
- **Composition:** one minister from each Member State responsible for the related agenda

# Main Competencies of the Council of the EU

- Passing laws
- Passing laws jointly with the European Parliament
  - regulations, directives - on a proposal of the Commission, opinions, recommendations
- Approves the EU budget jointly with the European Parliament
- Co-ordinating the policies of the Member States

# European Commission

- Represents the interests of the Union
- Independent of national governments
- **Seat:** Brussels
- **Composition:** commissioners one from each Member State
- Appointed every five years
- **President:** José Manuel Barroso (Portugal)



# Main Competencies of the Commission

- Drafts proposals for new European laws (directives, regulations) the right to initiative)
- Implements EU policies
- Enforces European law (jointly with the Court of Justice)

# Court of Justice of the EU

- Main judiciary body of the EU
- **Seat:** Luxembourg
- **Composition:** Court of Justice,  
General Court  
Specialised Courts – Civil Service Tribunal
- Court of Justice - one judge from each Member State appointed by Governments for six years
- Advocates General (8 in total) state their opinions before the Court's decision

# Competencies of the ECJ

- Reviews the legality of the acts of the institutions of the European Union
- Ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties (the Commission can start the proceedings against the Member State)
- Provides interpretation of European Union law at the request of the national courts and tribunals (preliminary ruling)

# **Institutions Acting in the Field of the Social Policy**

## **Institutions Based on Treaties**

European Economic and Social Committee

Committee of Regions

Standing Committee on Employment

European Social Fund

## **Institutions Established by an Act of Secondary Law**

- European Agency for Health and Safety at Work
- European Centre for Development of Vocational Training
- European Foundation for Improvement of Living and Working Conditions