

# Institutions of the EU

What institutions the European Union does have;

What is their structure and competences;

What are their mutual relations?

# Main institutions of the EU

- European Council,
- European Parliament,
- Council of European Union,
- European Commission,
- Court of Justice,
- Court of Auditors

# European Parliament

- no supreme legislative competence
- consists of representatives of the peoples of the Member (MEPs)
- MEPs are organized not according to their nationality but political opinion into different parliamentary groups.

<b>Member State</b>	<b>No of mandates (2009-2014)</b>	<b>No of mandates (Lisbon Treaty)</b>
<b>Germany</b>	99	96
<b>France</b>	72	74
<b>United Kingdom, Italy</b>	72	73
<b>Spain</b>	50	54
<b>Poland</b>	50	51
<b>Romania</b>	33	32
<b>Netherlands</b>	25	26
<b>Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Portugal, Greece</b>	22	21
<b>Sweden</b>	18	20
<b>Austria</b>	17	18
<b>Bulgaria</b>	17	18
<b>Slovakia, Finland, Denmark</b>	13	13
<b>Ireland, Lithuania, Croatia</b>	12	11
<b>Latvia</b>	8	8
<b>Slovenia</b>	7	8
<b>Estonia, Cyprus, Luxembourg</b>	6	6
<b>Malta</b>	5	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	748	751

# Competences

- power of control over the Union's institutions
- budgetary power
- Limited (shared) legislative power

# The European Council

- politically the most important institution
- comprises of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States, President of the Eu. Council, President of the Commission
- no executive or legislative power, it only defines the European Union's main policy agenda

# The Council

- The Council ≠ Council of Europe ≠ European Council

Configurations of the Council
General Affairs
Economic and Financial Affairs
External Relations
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

# COREPER and Presidency

- COREPER is responsible for preparing the work of the Council, examines in advance all the items on the agenda for a Council meeting
- Presidency - system of rotation with one exception – external affairs



# Voting – qualified majority

Germany, France, Italy, Great Britain	29
Poland, Spain	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, <b>Czechia</b> , Hungary, Portugal, Greece	12
Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria	10
Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Croatia	7
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia	4
Malta	3
<b>CELKEM</b>	<b>352</b>

Big states - orange: **170** votes vs. Small states - blue: **175** votes

Qualified majority: **260**

+ population(**62%**): not obligatory

+ more than 1/2 of all states : obligatory

# New (post-Lisbon) qualified majority

- Majority of 55% of all MS
- And majority must represent at least 65% of population

# Competences of the Council

- budgetary authority
- Legislative competence
- Competence in external relations

# The Commission

- true supranational body
- resembles a national government
- consists of one national of each Member State (Commissioner) – independent!
- Competences:
  - Power of control
  - Implementing powers
  - Executive powers
  - Legislative competence

# The European Central Bank

- responsible for the monetary policy of the Eurozone
- main task is to maintain the price stability and to implement the European monetary policy
- independent from any Union's or national institution
- main decision-making bodies
  - Governing Council and
  - the Executive Board

# The Court of Auditors

- main task is to independently audit the management of the EU property and the performance of the Union budget
- consists of one national from each Member State
- has the control power to examine the accounts of all revenues and expenditures of the whole European Union including all its bodies, offices or agencies.