

The European Union institutions:

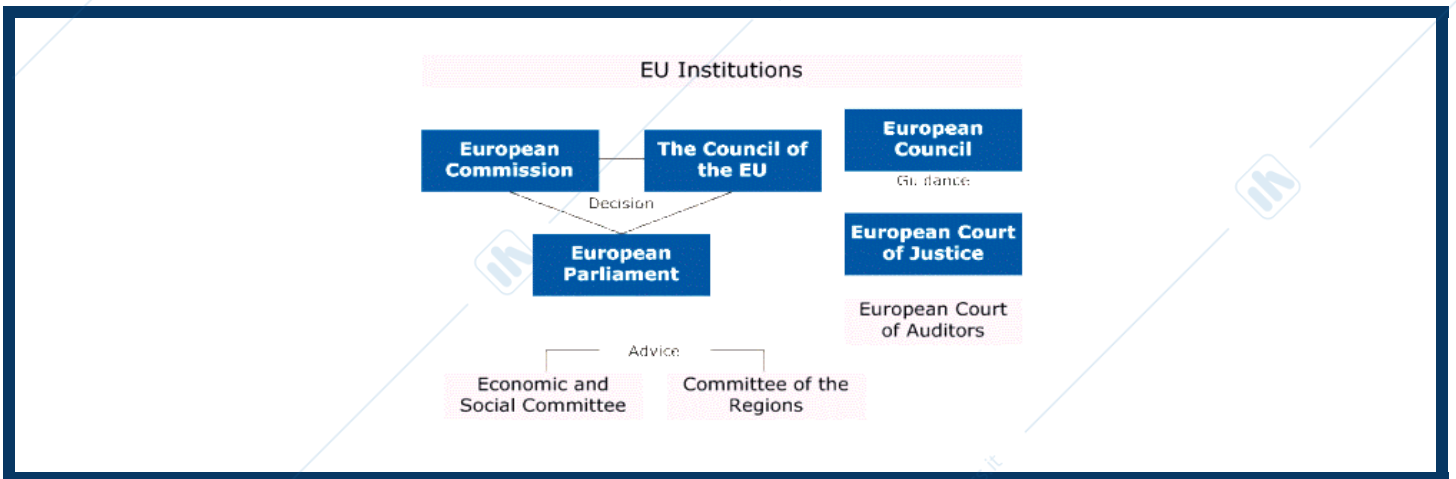
The European Union has different institutions:

- **the European Parliament,**
- **the European Council,**
- **the European Commission,**
- **the Council of the European Union,**
- **the Court of Justice**

and other relevant institutions like the

- **Court of Auditors and**
- **the Economical and Social Committee and the Committee of Regions,**
- **the European Central Bank.**

All these institutions are pools of sovereignty, that means that the member states delegate some of their decision-making powers to share institutions they have created, so that decisions in specific matters can be made democratically at European level. Lets study some of them in depth.



The European Parliament

It represents the EU's citizens and is directly elected by them. It has three places of work: Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg. Luxembourg is home to the administrative offices. Meetings, known as *plenary sessions*, take place in Strasbourg and sometimes in Brussels. The functions of the Parliament are:

- passing European laws.
- Parliament exercises democratic supervision over the other EU institutions, and in particular the Commission. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination of commissioners and the right to censure the Commission.
- The power or purse. Parliament shares with the Council authority over the EU budget and can influence EU spending.

The Council of European Union

Is the EU's main decision-making body. It represents the member states and its meetings are attended by one of the ministers from each EU's national governments. The Council has the following responsibilities:

- Passing European laws jointly with the European Parliament.
- To coordinate the broad economic policies of the member states.
- To conclude international agreements between the EU and other countries or international organizations.
- Approving the EU's budget jointly with the European Parliament.
- To develop the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- To coordinate cooperation between national courts and police forces in criminal matters.

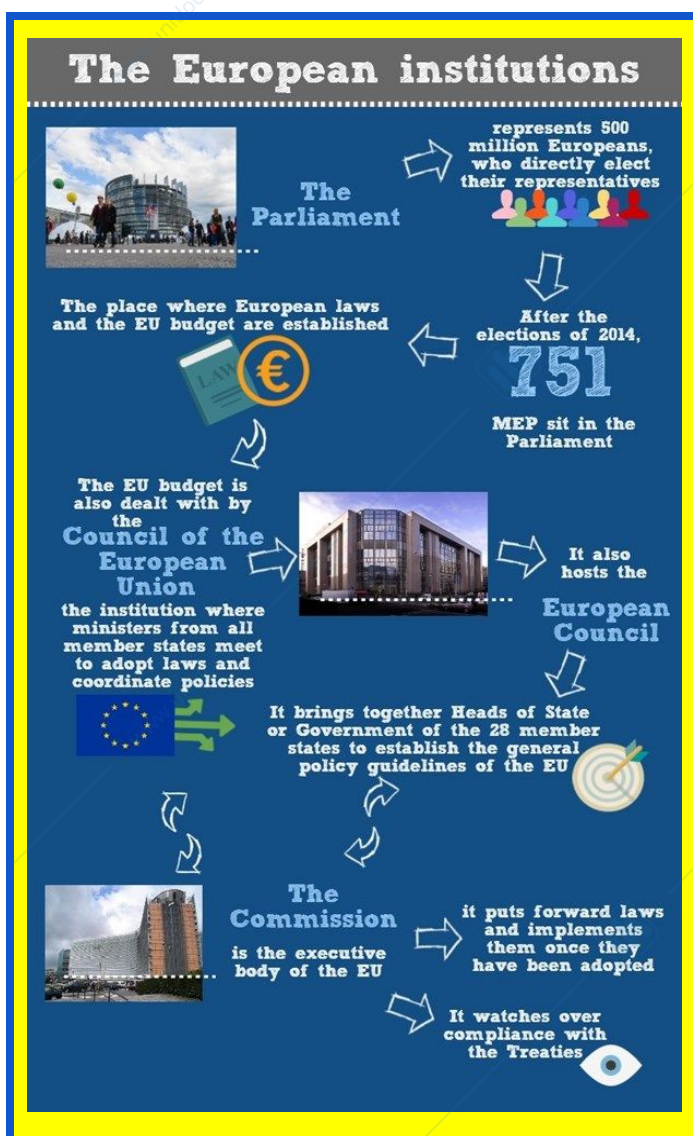
The European Commission

Its job is to represent the interests of the EU and it drafts proposals for new European laws. Moreover, it is responsible for implementing the decisions of the Parliament and the Council, which means that the Commission manages the day-to-day business of the EU. Its roles are:




- To propose new laws to the Parliament and Council.
- Managing and implementing EU policies and the budget.
- To represent the EU on the international stage, for example, by negotiating agreements between the EU and other states.

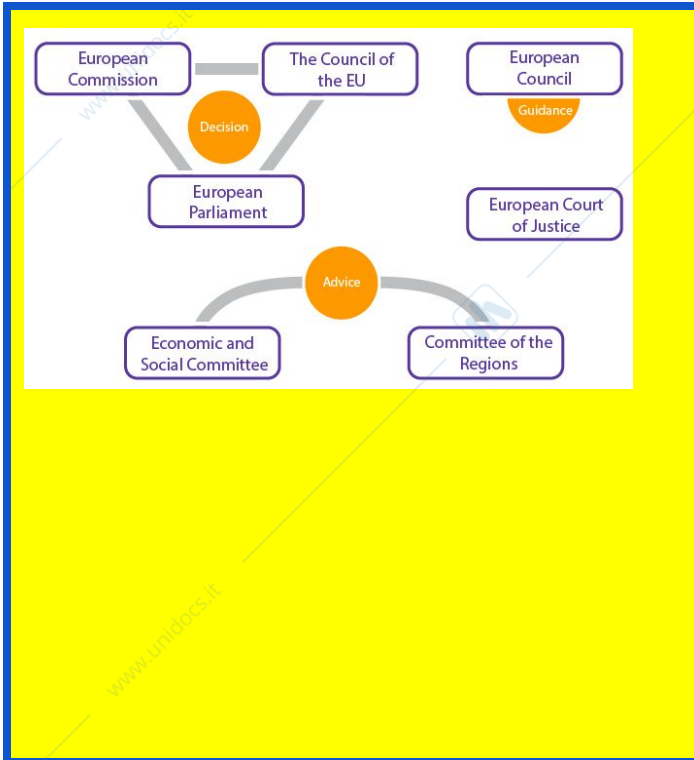
The Court of Justice

Makes sure that the EU legislation is interpreted and applied in the same way in all EU countries, so that the law is equal for everyone. The Court also makes sure that EU member states and institutions do what law requires. It can settle legal disputes between member states, EU institutions, business and individuals. The Court is composed of one judge per member state, so the all 27 of the EU's national legal systems are represented.



The European Union has different institutions:

- **The European Parliament** is made up of **705** Members elected in the 27 Member States of the enlarged European Union
President: David Maria Sassoli

- **The European Council** are the heads of state or government of the **27** EU member states, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission.
President: Charles Michel

- **The European Commission**, A team or 'College' of Commissioners, 1 from each **27** EU country
President: Ursula von der Leyen




- **The Council of the European Union**



- **The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)** is the judicial branch of the European Union (EU). Seated in the Kirchberg quarter of Luxembourg City, Luxembourg. This EU institution **consists of two separate courts: the Court of Justice and the General Court**



<p>Council of Europe</p>	<p>European Council</p>	<p>European Union</p>		

ABC of the EU institutions



European Parliament

The only directly-elected EU body. Represents the EU's 500 million inhabitants.
 Plays a key role in electing the President of the European Commission.
 Shares power over EU budget and legislation with Council of the European Union.

751
MEPs

Seats per country from 2014

BELGIUM	21
BULGARIA	17
CZECH REPUBLIC	21
DENMARK	13
GERMANY	96
ESTONIA	6
IRELAND	11
GREECE	21
SPAIN	54
FRANCE	74
CROATIA	11
ITALY	73
CYPRUS	6
LATVIA	8
LITHUANIA	11
LUXEMBOURG	6
HUNGARY	21
MALTA	6
NETHERLANDS	26
AUSTRIA	18
POLAND	51
PORTUGAL	21
ROMANIA	32
SLOVENIA	8
SLOVAKIA	13
FINLAND	13
SWEDEN	20
UNITED KINGDOM	73



European Commission

The EU's executive body, responsible for proposing and implementing EU laws,
 monitoring the treaties and the day-to-day running of the EU.



Council of the European Union

Government ministers who share budgetary and legislative power with European Parliament.

European Council

Heads of state or government of EU Member States.
 Strategic body that decides the EU's political direction.

Source:
European Parliament



europarl.europa.eu

European Parliament

European Commission

Council of European Union

European Council

Three pillars of the European Union:

1. Community pillar
2. Common Foreign and Security Policy
3. Police and Juridical Co-operation and Criminal matter



The Council of Europe



Major Council of Europe Institutions	Major European Union Institutions
Committee of Ministers (ministers of foreign affairs from each member state)	Council of the European Union or Council of Ministers (member state representatives, usually foreign affairs ministers)
	European Commission (elected members)
	European Council (member state heads of state)
Parliamentary Assembly (appointed or elected members)	European Parliament (elected members)
European Court of Human Rights	European Court of Justice
European Commission of Human Rights	
	Economic & Social Committee
Congress of Local & Regional Authorities	Committee of the Regions



Treaty of European Union:

The Treaties of the European Union are a set of international treaties between the European Union (EU) member states which sets out the EU's constitutional basis. They establish the various **EU institutions** together with their **remit, procedures and objectives**.

The EU can only act within the competences granted to it through these treaties and amendment to the treaties **requires the agreement and ratification** (according to their national procedures) of every single signatory.

Two core functional treaties:

- **the Treaty on European Union** (originally signed in Maastricht in 1992, aka The Maastricht Treaty)
- **the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** (originally signed in Rome in 1957 as the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, aka The Treaty of Rome), lay out

how the EU operates, and there are a number of satellite treaties which are interconnected with them.

The two principal treaties on which the EU is based are:

- **the Treaty on European Union - TEU - (Maastricht Treaty**, effective since 1993)
- **the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU - (Treaty of Rome**, effective since 1958).

These main treaties (plus their attached protocols and declarations) have been altered by amending treaties at least once a decade since they each came into force, the latest being the Treaty of Lisbon which came into force in 2009.

The Lisbon Treaty also made the Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding, though it remains a separate document.

Treaties:

- **Treaty of Paris (1951)**
- **Treaty of Rome (1957)**
- **Euratom Treaty (1957)**
- **Merger Treaty (1965)**
- **Single European Act (1986)**
- **Maastricht Treaty (1992)**
- **Amsterdam Treaty (1997)**
- **Treaty of Nice (2001)**

The Treaty on European Union TEU is one of the primary Treaties of the European Union, alongside the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**.

The primary Treaties of the European Union:

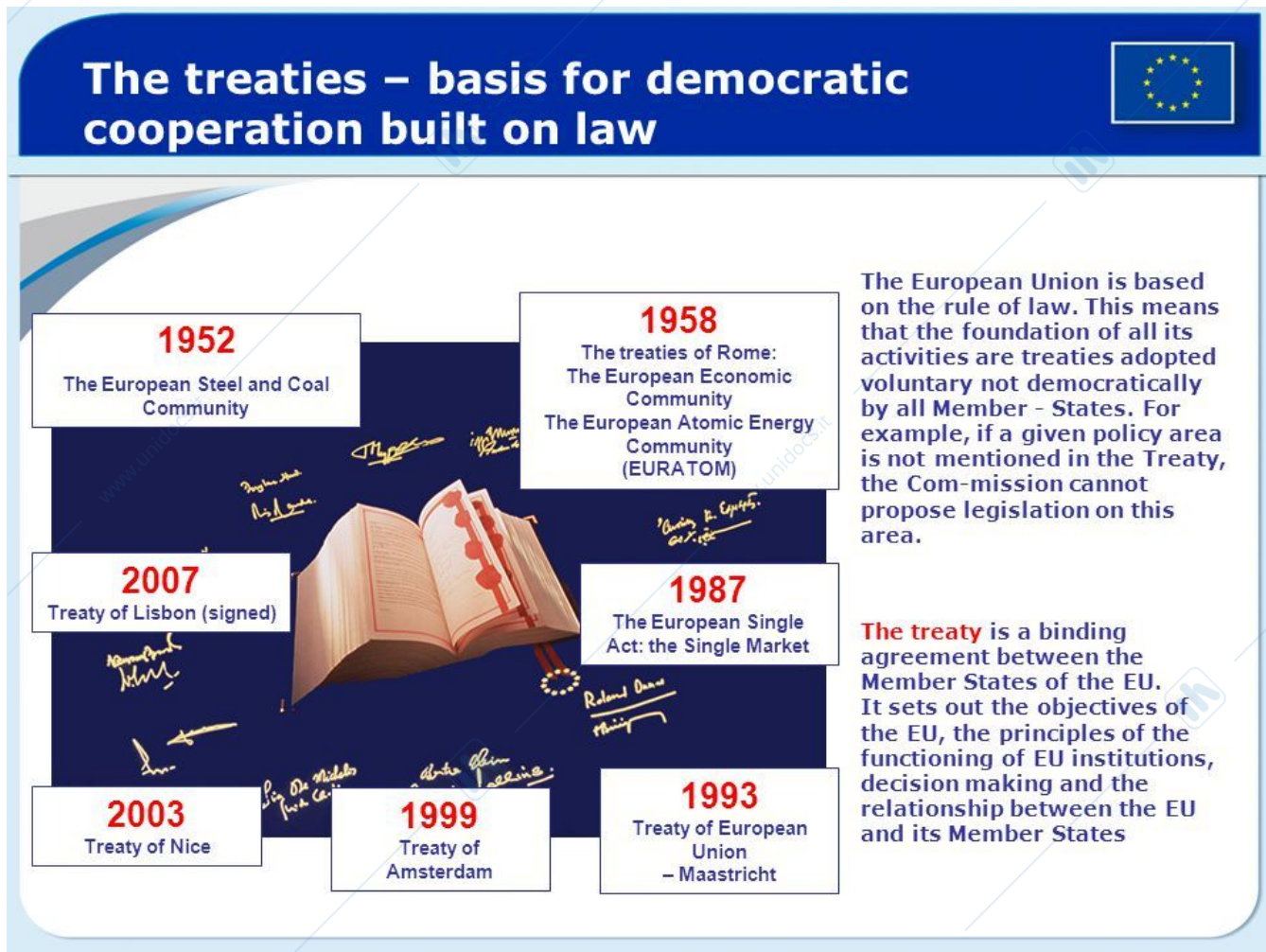
- **The Treaty on European Union (TEU) 2007**
- **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)**

The TEU forms the basis of EU law, by setting out general principles of the EU's purpose, the governance of its central institutions:

- **Commission,**
- **Parliament,**

- Council

as well as the rules on external, foreign and security policy.



The Treaty on European Union - TEU -

The TEU forms the basis of EU law:

- **by setting out general principles of the EU's purpose,**
- **the governance of its central institutions (Commission, Parliament, and Council etc..),**
- **the rules on external, foreign and security policy.**

While the current version of the **TEU** entered into force in 2009, following the **Treaty of Lisbon (2007)**, the older form of the same document was implemented by the **Treaty of Maastricht (1992)**.

Provision:

After the preamble the consolidated treaty text is divided into six parts.

Title I: Common Provisions;

The first deals with common provisions.

Article 1: establishes the European Union on the basis of the European Community and lays out the legal value of the treaties.

Article 2: states that the EU is "founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities". The member states share a "society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail".

Article 3: then states the aims of the EU in six points.

The first is simply to promote peace, European values and its citizens' well-being.

The second relates to free movement with external border controls in place.

Point 3 deals with the internal market.

Point 4 establishes the euro.

Point 5 states the EU shall promote its values, contribute to eradicating poverty, observe human rights and respect the charter of the United Nations.

The final 6th point states that the EU shall pursue these objectives by "appropriate means" according with its competences given in the treaties.

Article 4 relates to member states' sovereignty and obligations.

Article 5 sets out the **principles of conferral, subsidiarity and proportionality with respect to the limits of its powers.**

Article 6: binds the EU to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Article 7: deals with the suspension of a member state and article 8 deals with establishing close relations with neighbouring states.

Title II: Provisions on democratic principles

Article 9: establishes the equality of national citizens and citizenship of the European Union.

Article 10: declares that the EU is founded in representative democracy and that decisions must be taken as closely as possible to citizens. It makes reference to European political parties and how citizens are represented: directly in the Parliament and by their governments in the Council and European Council – accountable to national parliaments.

Article 11 establishes government transparency, declares that broad consultations must be made and introduces provision for a petition where at least 1 million citizens may petition the Commission to legislate on a matter.

Article 12 gives national parliaments limited involvement in the legislative process.

Title III: Provisions on the institutions

Article 13 establishes the institutions in the following order and under the following names: the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the Court of Auditors. It obliges co-operation between these and limits their competencies to the powers within the treaties.

Article 14 deals with the workings of Parliament and its election, **article 15** with the European Council and its president, **article 16** with the Council and its configurations and **article 17** with the Commission and its appointment.

Article 18 establishes the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and **article 19** establishes the Court of Justice.

Title IV: Provisions on enhanced co-operation

Title 4 has only one article which allows a limited number of member states to co-operate within the EU if others are blocking integration in that field.

Title V: General provisions on the Union's external action

Chapter 1 of this title includes articles 21 and 22.

Article 21 deals with the principles that outline EU foreign policy; including compliance with the UN charter, promoting global trade, humanitarian support and global governance.

Article 22 gives the European Council, acting unanimously, control over defining the EU's foreign policy.

Chapter 2 is further divided into sections.

The first, common provisions, details the guidelines and functioning of the EU's foreign policy, including establishment of the European External Action Service and member state's responsibilities. Section 2, articles 42 to 46, deal with military co-operation (including mutual defence).

On 17 November 2015, France called other member states for military assistance, on the basis of the Article 42. This was the first time the article had ever been applied and all of the member states were reported to respond in agreement (ibid). However at least one member state (Finland) made a conclusion that due to conflicting national law, military assistance was excluded.

Title VI: Final provisions

Article 47 establishes a legal personality for the EU.

Article 48 deals with the method of treaty amendment; specifically the ordinary and simplified revision procedures.

Article 49 deals with applications to join the EU and article 50 with withdrawal. In the aftermath of the Brexit vote in Britain on June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom formally invoked

Article 50 in March 2017, giving notice that it would leave the EU within two years. Article 51 deals with the protocols attached to the treaties and article 52 with the geographic application of the treaty.

Article 53 states the treaty is in force for an unlimited period,

Article 54 deals with ratification and 55 with the different language versions of the treaties

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

Treaty of Rome 1957

The **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)** is **one of two treaties forming the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU)**, the other being the Treaty on European Union (TEU; also referred to as the *Treaty of Maastricht*).

The Treaty originated as the Treaty of Rome (fully the *Treaty establishing the European Economic Community*), which brought about the creation of the European Economic Community (EEC), the best-known of the European Communities (EC). It was signed on 25 March 1957 by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany and came into force on 1 January 1958. **It remains one of the two most important treaties in the modern-day European Union (EU).**

Its name has been amended twice since 1957:

The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 removed the word "economic" from the Treaty of Rome's official title and, in 2009, **the Treaty of Lisbon** renamed it the "Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union".

From TEC to TFEU

1 Present contents:

1.1 Part 1, Principles

1.2 Part 2, Non-discrimination and citizenship of the Union

1.3 Part 3, Union policies and internal actions

1.3.1 Title I: Internal market

1.3.2 Title II: Free movement of goods

1.3.3 Title III: Agriculture and Fisheries

1.3.4 Title IV: Free movement of workers, services and capital

1.3.5 Title V: Area of freedom, justice and security

1.3.6 Title VI: Transport

1.3.7vTitle VII: Common Rules on Competition, Taxation and Approximation of Laws

1.3.8vTitle VIII: Economic and monetary policy

1.3.9vTitles IX to XV: Employment, social and consumer policy

1.3.10 Titles XVI to XXIV Networks, industry, environment, energy, other

1.4 Part 4, Association of the overseas countries and territories

1.5 Part 5, External action by the Union

1.6 Part 6, Institutional and financial provisions

1.7 Part 7, General and final provisions

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union EUCFR

The **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union EUCFR** enshrines certain political, social, and economic rights for European Union (EU) citizens and residents into EU law.

It was drafted by the European Convention and solemnly proclaimed on 7 December 2000 by the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the European Commission.

However, its then legal status was uncertain and it did not have full legal effect until the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009.