

HOW IS THE EU RUN?

THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE



UK OFFICE OF THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THE EUROPEAN
INSTITUTIONS' FACT-FILE

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THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Where Is It?

Brussels, Belgium



What does it do?

It decides on the long-term goals of the EU.

In the past this has included the Euro, the environment and employment.

Who are its members?

It is made up of Heads of State or Government of the EU member states, together with its own President and the European Commission President. The European Council President is elected by representatives of the member states for a term of two and half years. He/she can only be re-elected once.

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THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Where Is It?

Brussels, Belgium



What does it do?

In partnership with the European Parliament it is responsible for making new laws, deciding how to spend the EU budget as well as co-ordinating policies on foreign affairs and defence, the economy and police and judicial co-operation – particularly on terrorism.

Who are its members?

It is made up of government ministers from all member states. Which minister attends depends on the agenda. For example if agriculture is discussed the Agriculture ministers attend. Each country takes a turn at holding its Presidency which changes every 6 months.

THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT

THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

THE EUROPEAN
COURT OF
JUSTICE

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Where Is It?

Strasbourg, France;
Brussels, Belgium;
and Luxembourg.



What does it do?

It makes new laws jointly with the Council of Ministers. It decides how taxpayers' money is spent. It holds the European Commission to account and can force it to resign. It approves the appointment of the President of the European Commission and the Commissioners.

Who are its members?

MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) who are elected every 5 years by citizens in member states. The bigger member states have more MEPs to represent their larger population.

How can you express your opinions to the European Parliament?

All EU citizens can contact their MEPs. Details of your MEPs can be found at www.europarl.org.uk.

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**WHERE IS IT?**

Brussels, Belgium

**What does it do?**

It takes care of the day-to-day running of the EU. It proposes and implements new laws and checks that EU laws and policies are being properly applied.

Who are its members?

There is one Commissioner from each member state of the EU. These Commissioners are supported by several thousand European civil servants divided into departments called directorates-general. The Commission is headed by a President who is chosen by the European Council and must be approved by the European Parliament. Commissioners are independent and must not take instructions from their national governments. They represent the interests of the citizens of the EU as a whole.

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**THE EUROPEAN COURT
OF JUSTICE**

WHERE IS IT?

Luxembourg



What does it do?

Its role is to interpret EU laws and to decide whether actions are against the law. It can rule against national governments that are breaking EU law.

Who are its members?

One judge from each member state.