

The Main Institutions of the European Union



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Phases of European integration



- The founding years (1950s)
- Early optimism (early 1960s)
- De Gaulle (mid-1960s to early 1970s)
- Euro-sclerosis (mid-1970s to mid-1980s)
- Delors (mid-1980s to early 1990s)
- Turbulent 1990s
- ... the end of constitutionalisation – back to the ‘real world’

Delors (mid-1980s to early 1990s)



- perceived need for a relaunch of the European project
- Delors as Commission President acting as charismatic leader in this new phase
- Delors' experience as French Finance minister internalised the futility of separate economic policies at the state level
- identification of the Single Market programme as dynamic and unified project for all member states
- linkage between economic integration and institutional reform

The Maastricht Treaty (1992/1993)



- Adds important new policy competences in separate “pillars” of the EU (foreign and security policy; asylum, migration and policing)
- Establishes a fixed schedule for creation of Euro, obliges member states to curb debt and inflation
- Introduces a “Union citizenship” that parallels national citizenship
- More powers for European Parliament, can veto legislation



Turbulent 1990s



- decade of contradictory developments
 - greater concern over popular acceptance of integration post-Danish referendum
 - rapid expansion of EU into new areas (e.g. justice and home affairs)
 - significance of monetary union
- changing global environment after Cold War
- changing internal environment after German unification
- new challenges after EFTA enlargement

Back to the real world....



- Constitutional project ends in debacle, demonstrating the limits of the permissive consensus become more evident
- Lack of leadership in the EU
- Life in the EU-27 continues fairly smoothly
- Changing global environment after 9/11, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Financial and economic crisis leads to a renewed focus on “results” (rather than reform)

The Implementation of the Lisbon Treaty



- Difficult but in the end surprisingly sudden ratification of the treaty
- Many aspects of the treaty involve detailed choices in terms of legislative and institutional changes
- Mixed views about the immediate personnel choices (van Rompuy, Ashton) and the management of external relations
- New powers of the EP (e.g. in Agriculture, Trade, international agreements) may be a culture shock for either side

Sectoral Expansion in the EU



1958 Treaty of Rome (EEC)	1987 Single European Act (SEA)	1993 Maastricht Treaty (EU founded)	1999 Amsterdam Treaty	2003 Nice Treaty	2009 Lisbon Treaty (merges EC & EU)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Market • Agriculture • Transport • Social Policy • Association + Development • Competition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Regional + Structural Policy • Technology • Consumers • European Political Cooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic & Monetary Union • Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (Pillar II) • Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) (Pillar III) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of JHA („area of freedom, security and justice”) • Inclusion of Schengen agreement into EU law • Employment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of Security and Defence • Climate Change • Energy

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The EU's Key Institutions



European Commission	Brussels	Policy-proposals Policy-implementation	The EU's 'Executive'
Council of the European Union	Brussels/Luxembourg	Legislative Decision-making	The EU's 'Legislature'
European Parliament	Strasbourg/Brussels	Legislative Decision-making	
European Council	Brussels	Strategic Direction	The EU's Presidency
European External Action Service	Brussels	Foreign and Security Policy	The EU's 'Foreign Ministry'

Who is Who in the EU?



José Manuel
BARROSO (PT)
President of the
European Commission

Presidency of the
Council of the EU
Rotating every six months
Incumbent: DK (- 30 June 2012)

Herman
VAN ROMPUY (BE)
President of the
European Council

Catherine
ASHTON (GB)
High Representative for
Common Foreign and
Security Policy (CFSP)

Jean-Claude
JUNCKER (LU)
Chairman of the
Euro-Group

The European Commission



*Development of
the
Community Policy*

Proposals

*Application and
implementation
of the
EU-Treaties*

Control

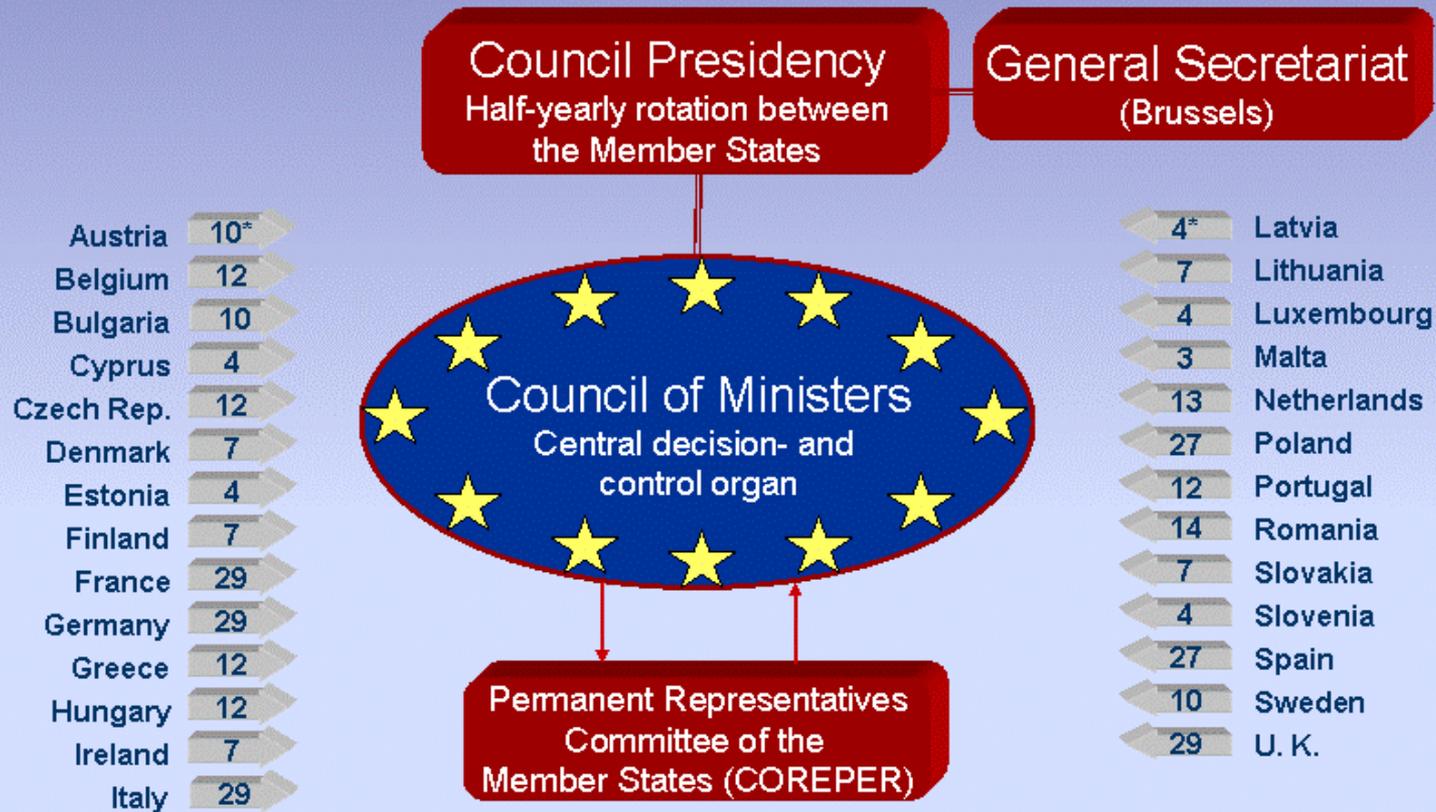
*Execution of
The Community
regulations*

Administration

*The EU in
international
organisations*

Representation

The Council of the European Union



Qualified majority = A minimum of 255 of 345 votes and the majority of Member States

*Voting strength of a state

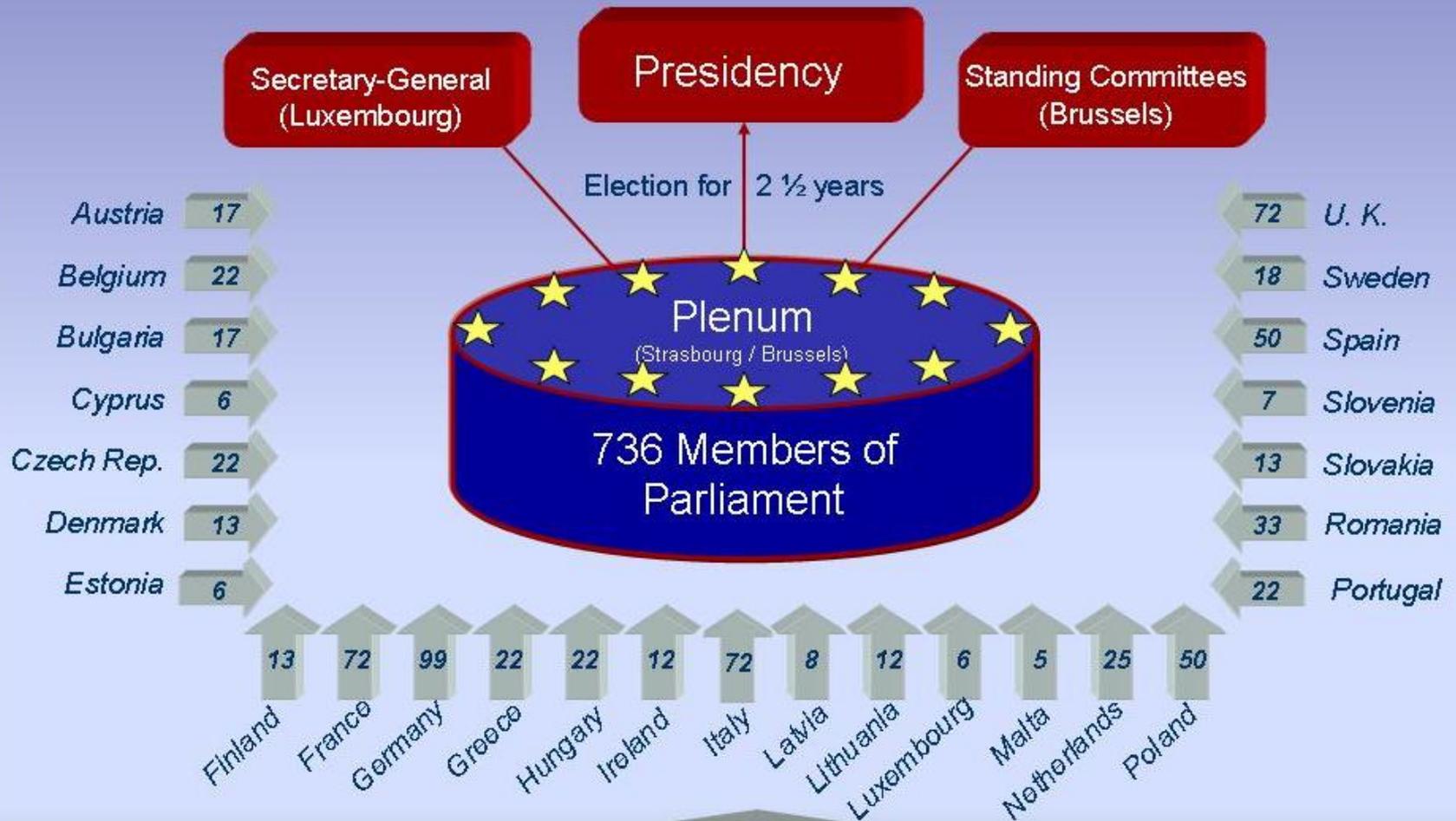
The Rise of the European Parliament



- 1958: The “Assembly” has advisory powers only
- 1970: Some budgetary competences
- 1979: First direct elections to EP
- 1987 (SEA): **Co-operation procedure**
(negative vote in EP can only be overruled unanimously by Council)
- 1993 (Maastricht): **Co-decision procedure**
(EP can veto legislation)
- 1999 (Amsterdam): EP must approve Commissioners, can reject Commission president
- 2009 (Lisbon): Co-decision becomes ‘**ordinary legislative procedure**’ (agriculture, foreign policy exempted)

NB: The various procedures do not apply in all policy areas

The European Parliament



Elected for 5 years by the citizens of the Member States

Family Photo, European Council, 03 / 2012



Future Challenges for the European Union



- How to manage difficult enlargement decisions in the coming years (Balkans, Iceland, Turkey)?
- Can anything be done about the lack of involvement by citizens (impact of the ECI)?
- What will Europe's role be in the multi-polar world, esp in relation to Obama's America, China and other emerging global powers ?
- What role for the European Union in economic governance (government?) during and after the financial and debt crisis?
- Do we need another round of treaty reform (fiscal discipline, repatriation debate in UK)