

#HOWISITGOVERNED

How is the European Union governed?



THE EUROPEAN UNION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

(voice of common interest)

Function: executive arm of the EU. Proposes legislation and policies, and represent the EU in external negotiations.

Structure: one Commissioner from each Member State, and is headed by a President.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(voice of the Member States)

Function: coordinates member states' policies and define the EU's foreign policy.

Structure: relevant ministers of Member States. Presidency rotating every 6 months.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

(setting the strategy)

Function: high-level policymaking to set the EU's strategy and budget.

Structure: Heads of State or Government from each Member State, the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission meet twice every 6 months to define the political agenda of the EU.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

(the people's voice)

Function: shares legislative power with council, exercises democratic supervision of EU institutions, shares authority with Council over EU budget.

Structure: 751 Members of the European Parliament (MEP), directly elected by EU citizens.

EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

(upholding EU law)

Function: gives legal judgement on cases brought before it.

Structure: one Judge from each Member State.