

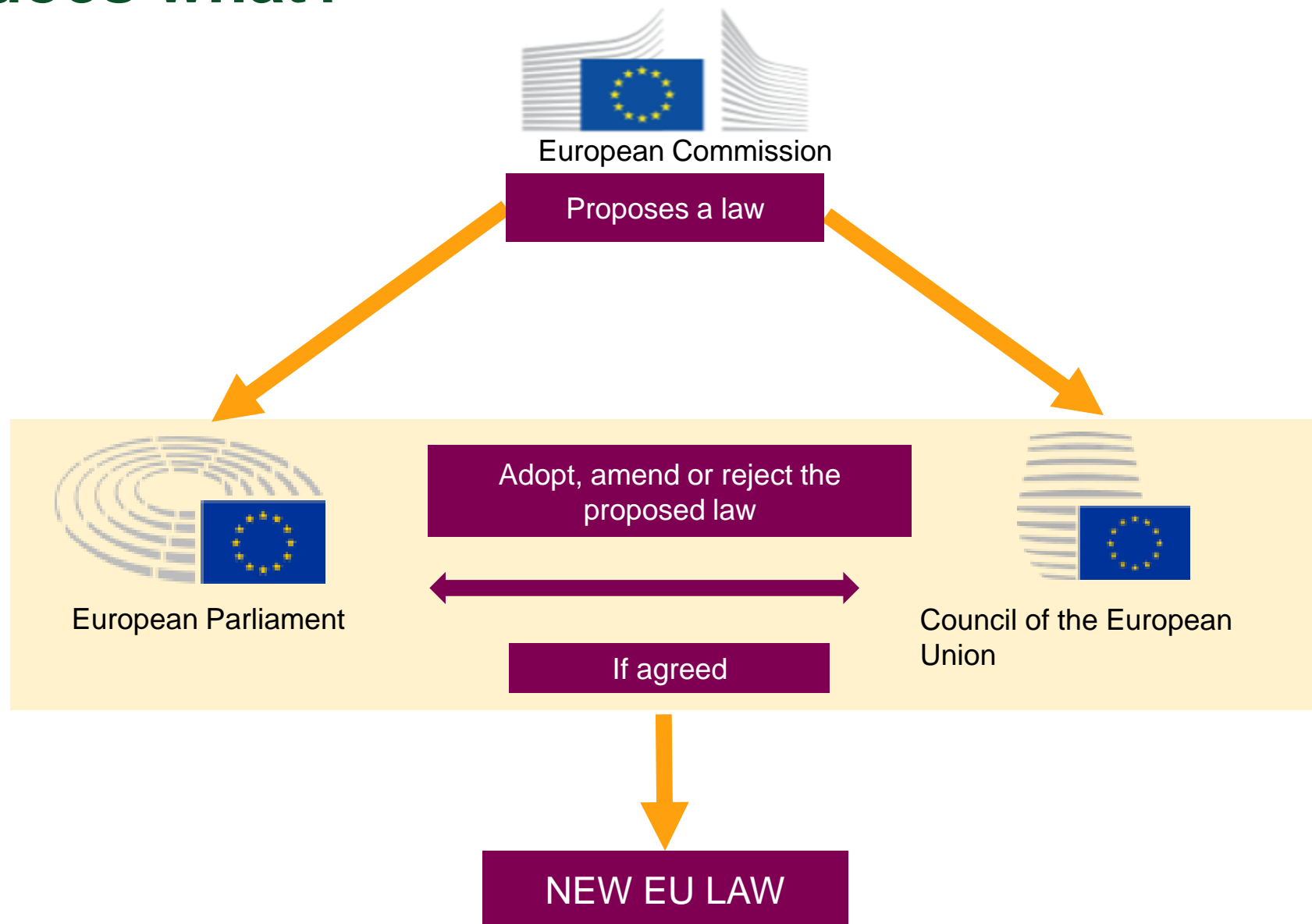
Institutions

- MENDELU
- Faculty of Forestry
- and Wood
- Technology

5 Main Bodies

- European Commission (EC)—EXEC
- Council of Ministers—LEG
- European Parliament—LEG
- Court of Justice—JUD
- Court of Auditors—Financial Evaluator

Who does what?



European Commission

represents the EU common interests

is made up of one President and a Commissioner from each EU country responsible for a specific topic

proposes new laws and programmes

is elected by the European Parliament for five years

manages the EU policies and budget

is the guardian of the EU Treaties

is located in Brussels and Luxembourg



European Commission

- Proposes and implements laws (right of initiative, "guardian" of the Treaties)
- 27 Commissioners (one from each Member State) including the president
- Each commissioner is responsible for the administration of a specific area of EU policies
- Commissioners are elected for a 5 years period, including the President.
- Commissioner are independent of their home governments
- Commission staff is organized into two departments known as "Directorates General" (DGs) and "services"
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

European Council

brings together the heads of state or government of each EU country

sets the EU's main priorities and policy directions

does not adopt EU laws

meets at least four times a year in Brussels (Belgium) or Luxembourg (Luxembourg) for European Summits



European Council

- Provides the EU with political guidance and defines the political direction and priorities
- Consists of the heads of state or government of the Member States, together with its president and the president of the European Commission
- The post of the President of the European Council after the Lisbon treaty
 - chairs the summit meetings
 - represents the EU in external affairs

Decision making rules

- Unanimity
 - treaty changes, the accession of new member states, setting multi-year budget plan
- Qualified majority voting (QMV)
 - regarding internal market, economic policies coordination
 - about 80% of all decisions
 - 55% of member states vote in favour - in practice this means 15 out of 27
 - the proposal is supported by member states representing at least 65% of the total EU population
- Reinforced qualified majority
 - Proposal not coming from the Commission or the high representative
 - at least 72% of member states vote in favour - in practice this means at least 20 out of 27
 - member states supporting the proposal represent at least 65% of the EU population
- Simple majority
 - Decisions regarding internal procedures

Voting

- Germany, France, Italy: 29 votes
- Spain and Poland: 27
- Romania: 14
- Netherlands: 13
- Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary and Portugal: 12
- Austria, Bulgaria and Sweden: 10
- Croatia, Denmark, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia and Finland: 7
- Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg and Slovenia: 4
- Malta: 3

Council of the European Union



represents the governments of the EU countries

brings together ministers of EU countries who meet to discuss EU matters (agriculture, foreign affairs, justice, etc.)

takes decisions and passes laws together with the European Parliament

has a rotating Presidency – every six months another EU country takes the lead

meets in Brussels or Luxembourg



Council of the European Union

- Co-legislates with the European Parliament (amends, adopts or rejects the Commission's legislative proposals)
- Consists of ministers from the 27 Member States chosen according to the agenda
- Rotating presidency: is chaired by a different Member State every 6 months

Working Party on Forestry

- Forest-related issues, including both international forest processes and internal dossiers within the EU
 - the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
 - Forest Europe
 - the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Committee on Forestry (COFO)
- The Working Party on Forestry mainly works on:
- presentation of UNFF and COFO sessions
- legally binding agreement on forests in Europe (LBA)
- EU timber regulation and FLEGT regulation (import licensing system and general regulation)
- signature and conclusion of voluntary partnership agreements with non-EU countries to tackle the trade in illegally harvested timber

Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture - September 2019

- Visit at a private forest estate in northwest Uusimaa
- EU Agriculture and Fisheries ministers visit a private forest estate in northwest Uusimaa, on the sidelines of the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Agriculture, on 23 September 2019 in Helsinki.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/213637>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - December 2019

- Preliminary remarks by Jari LEPPÄ, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, at the press conference on World's Forests for the Sustainable Future, on the sidelines of the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, taking place on 16 December 2019, in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/216197>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2021

- Arrival and doorstep by Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries , at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council (Fisheries), taking place on 11 October 2021, in Luxembourg.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/229351>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2021

- Arrival and doorstep by Jože PODGORŠEK, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, taking place on 15 November 2021, in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/230241>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2021

- Preliminary remarks by Jože PODGORŠEK, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of Slovenia, during the press conference following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, on 15 November 2021, in Brussels.
- EU Forest Strategy 2030
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/230244>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2021

- Preliminary remarks by Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, during the press conference following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council, on 15 November 2021, in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/230245>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2022

- Arrival and doorstep by Zdeněk NEKULA, Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council taking place on 21 November 2022 in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/events/20221121-agriculture-and-fisheries-council-november-2022/137684-arrival-and-doorstep-czech-eu-presidency-nekula-with-translation-20221121>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2022

- Preliminary remarks by Zdeněk NEKULA, Minister of Agriculture of the Czech Republic, during the press conference following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council taking place on 21 November 2022 in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/240927>

Agriculture and Fisheries Council - November 2022

- Preliminary remarks by Virginijus SINKEVIČIUS, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, during the press conference following the Agriculture and Fisheries Council on 21 November 2022 in Brussels.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/events/20221121-agriculture-and-fisheries-council-november-2022/137691-1-press-conference-fisheries-environment-part-1-20221121>

European Parliament

is the voice of European citizens

has Members from all EU countries directly elected by citizens every five years

discusses new laws proposed by the European Commission

modifies (if necessary) and decides these laws together with the Council

elects the President of the European Commission

approves the EU budget

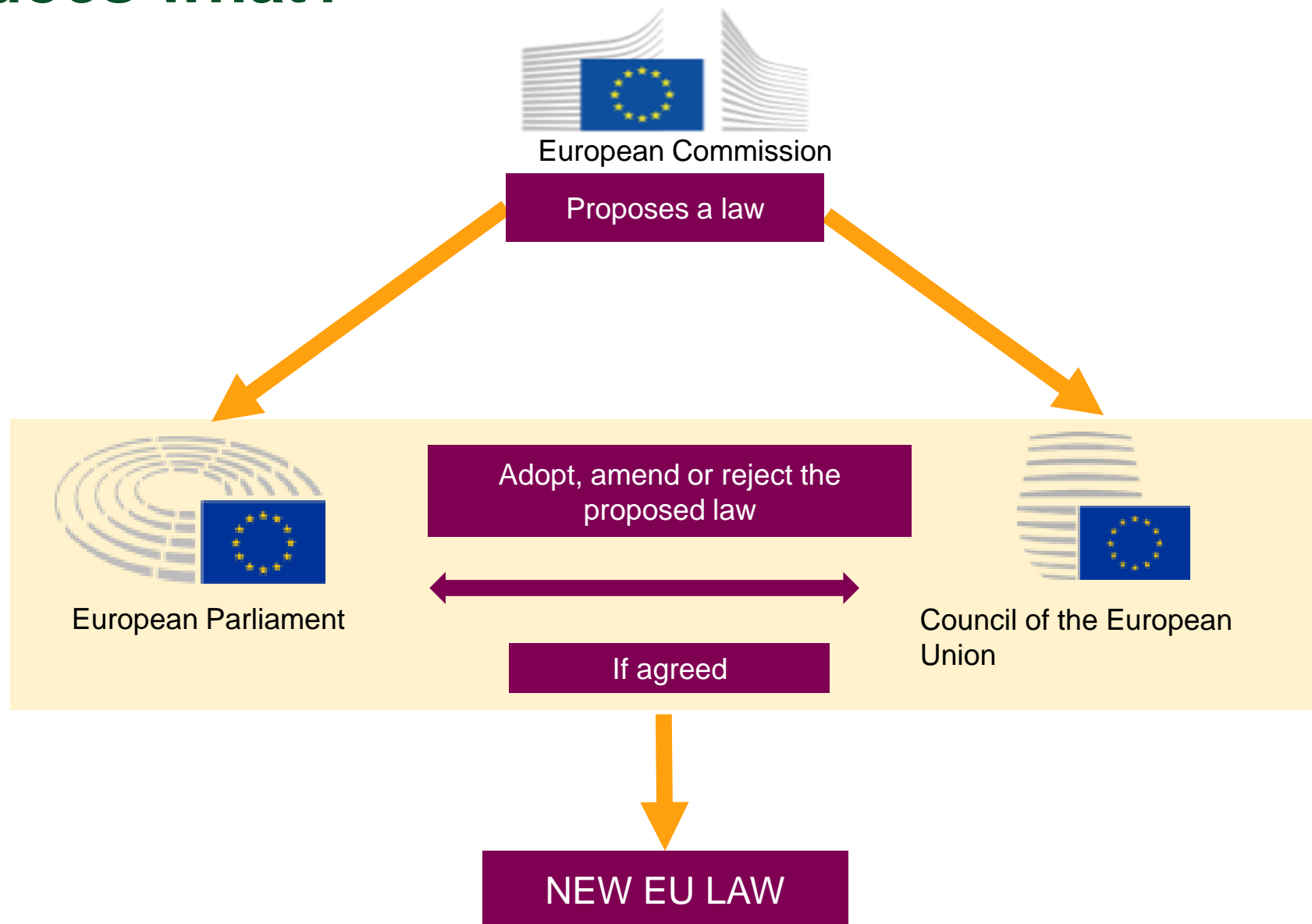
holds at least six sessions per year in Brussels (Belgium) and 12 in Strasbourg (France)



European Parliament

- Shares with the Council the power to legislate (to pass laws)
- Monitors the budget of the EU (with the Council) and supervises policies of the EU institutions
- Has 705 members elected by universal suffrage
- Elections every 5 years

Who does what?



Who does what?

<https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/permalink/213053>

EU Legal Instruments

- Sources of the EU law
 - Primary legislation = Treaties
 - Secondary legislation
- Binding:
 - Regulations - Apply directly in the Member States w/o requiring any further national legislation
 - Directives - Binding in substance but up discretion of Member States how to transpose them into national legislation & execute them.
 - Decisions - Addressed to a Member State, firm, or individual.
- Non Binding:
 - Recommendations
 - Opinions
 - Resolutions

Other EU institutions and bodies

- Court of Justice of the European Union
- European Central Bank
- European Court of Auditors

Court of Justice of the European Union



keeps track of EU laws

makes sure that EU countries respect EU laws

advises national courts on the interpretation of these laws

fines countries if they do not respect EU laws

checks if the laws respect fundamental rights (e.g. freedom of speech, freedom of the press)

consists of one judge per EU country

is located in Luxembourg



Court of Justice of the European Union

- 28 Judges and 8 Advocates General (hold office for a renewable term of 6 years)
- Most common types of cases are:
 - requests for a preliminary ruling – when national courts ask the Court of Justice to interpret a point of EU law
 - actions for failure to fulfil an obligation – brought against EU governments for not applying EU law
 - actions for annulment – against EU laws thought to violate the EU treaties or fundamental rights
 - actions for failure to act – against EU institutions for failing to make decisions required of them
 - direct actions – brought by individuals, companies or organisations against EU decisions or actions



European Court of Auditors

checks whether the EU's budget has been correctly spent

reports fraud, corruption or other illegal activity

advises EU policymakers on how to best spend the budget

has Members appointed by the Council for six-year terms

is located in Luxembourg



European Central Bank



leads EU economic and monetary policy

manages the European currency – the ‘euro’

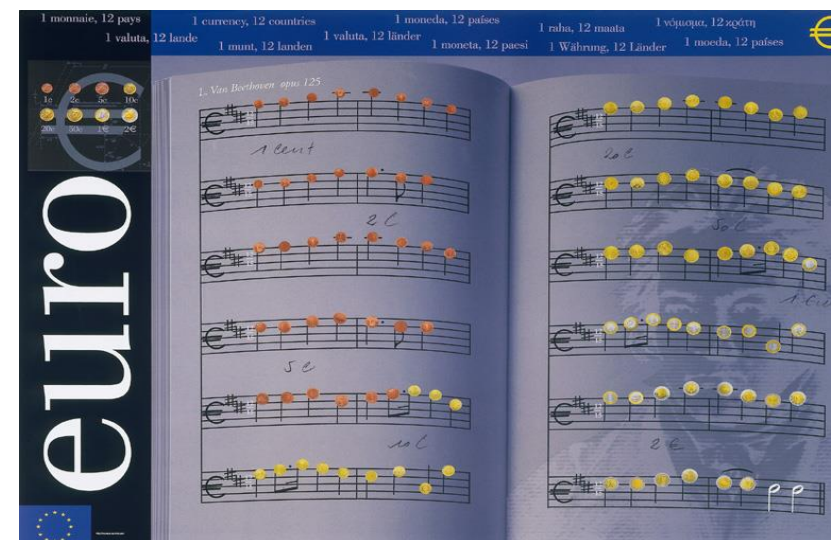
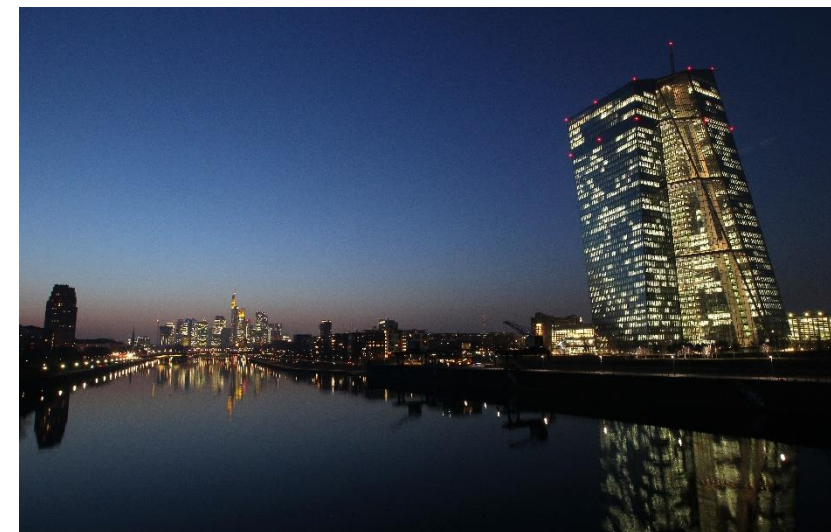
is responsible for keeping the euro and prices stable

fixes interest rates for the euro area

works with the national central banks of EU countries

has six Members appointed by the Council for an eight-year term that cannot be renewed

is located in Frankfurt (Germany)



Other EU institutions and bodies

- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- European Committee of the Regions
- Europe Investment Bank
- European Ombudsman

European Economic and Social Committee

- An advisory body set up by the Treaty of Rome (1957)
- Represents organised civil society
- Main tasks:
 - To ensure that EU policies reflect the true economic, social and civic picture,
 - To build a more participatory EU, closer to its citizens, and
 - To promote EU values and civil society organisations globally.



EESC

- 350 members (appointed for 5 years) from the 27 Member States of the EU
- The EESC has 1 president and 2 vice-presidents elected every 2 and a half years
- It represents economic and social interest groups: employers, workers, various interests (NGOs, farmers, youth, consumer protection, etc.)
- It has 6 sections and a Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI)
- Its opinions are debated and adopted by simple majority at its plenary sessions (+/-9 a year)
- The Committee can be consulted by the European Parliament, the Council of the EU or the European Commission. Its Opinion can be mandatory, own-initiative or exploratory
- To issue opinions, the sections usually set up study groups, each with a rapporteur
- Constructive debate in meetings to reach consensus
- A vote is taken in the section, then in the plenary session
- The final opinion is sent to the European institutions and published in the Official Journal of the EU

From fireside chats to key decision-maker: A history of the European Council (EN)

- In the 1950s, when an embryonic European Union was taking shape, national leaders had to improvise every time they wanted to meet. But the need to respond to pressing events in Europe and in the rest of the world, as well as the determination of some, would gradually transform their informal chats into the decision-making centre that we know today. This documentary looks at the story of the European Council through the eyes of those who witnessed its impressive transformation.
- <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/events/20170725-from-fireside-chats-to-key-decision-maker-a-history-of-the-european-council/112776-from-fireside-chats-to-key-decision-maker-a-history-of-the-european-council-en-20170322>

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz addresses the European Parliament

9. 5. 2023

During the tenth This is Europe debate, MEPs will discuss Europe's current situation, challenges and the EU's future prospects with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

This is Europe is a series of debates with EU leaders discussing their visions for the future of the EU with MEPs.

Scholz became Chancellor in 2021. Before that, he was Vice-Chancellor and Finance Minister from 2018 to 2021 and First Mayor of Hamburg from 2011 to 2018. He has also served as Federal Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Interior Senator of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, and Deputy Chair of the Social Democratic Party of Germany.

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u7Cr-hH_KhM

Watch the ceremony of Parliament's 70th anniversary

- From the first session of the Common Assembly in 1952 to the European Parliament we know today, it's been 70 years of democracy in action.
- Parliament will mark the anniversary with a ceremony hosted by President Roberta Metsola.
- Special guests:
 - Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxemburg
 - Élisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of France
 - Alexander de Croo, Prime Minister of Belgium
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KheeNzq0q9w>