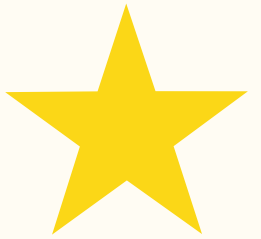




**THE
EU INSTITUTIONS**



The three main EU institutions we often talk about are



**THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT**



**THE EUROPEAN
COMMISSION**



**THE COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Each of them plays a unique role, and we have three separate entities to strike a balance between democratic representation, national interests, and supranational governance in the EU decision-making process.



The Parliament is the legislative branch of the EU representing EU citizens

The Commission is the executive branch



The Council is the voice of the national governments.



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament represents the voices and interests of the EU citizens in the EU decision-making process.



It is the only directly-elected EU institution. Its members, MEPs (Members of European Parliament), are elected every 5 years by citizens in each member state.

BUT WHAT EXACTLY DOES THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DO?



The Parliament is one of the two bodies that pass laws for the EU, along with The Council. They both review, amend and vote on proposed legislation by the Commission. If they both approve, the law is adopted.



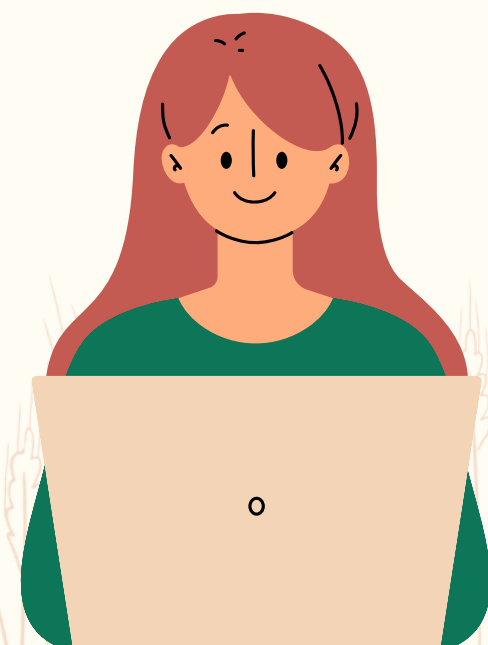


The Parliament has the final say on **how the EU budget is spent** each year. It reviews, amends and ultimately approves the annual budget proposed by the Commission. No money can't be spent without the Parliament's approval!



The Parliament **keeps a check on the Commission and the Council**: It elects the President of the Commission and also can dismiss it entirely. It also examines and scrutinises their work. **It also examines petitions from EU citizens** and can launch inquiries into issues.

IN ESSENCE, THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IS THE KEY DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTION ENSURING LAWS AND BUDGETS ARE DECIDED WITH INPUT FROM ELECTED CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES, WHILE ALSO KEEPING THE EU'S EXECUTIVE BODIES IN CHECK.

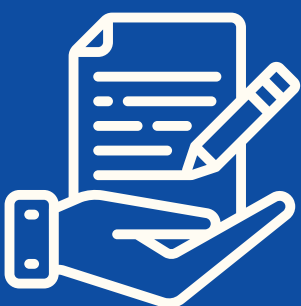




THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission serves as the EU's executive branch, proposing laws, managing the budget, and representing the EU globally. Led by a president, it comprises one Commissioner from each member state and safeguards EU interests.

SO WHAT DOES THE COMMISSION DO?



The Commission is the sole EU institution that can draft and propose new EU laws and regulations across various policy areas. It formulates these legislative proposals for debate and amendment by the European Parliament and Council of the EU.



It oversees the proper implementation of EU legislation by member states. In cases of non-compliance, the Commission can launch infringement proceedings and escalate matters to the European Court of Justice.



The Commission holds executive powers to implement and manage European policies and the annual EU budget.



It manages funding programs like Erasmus+, development aid, humanitarian aid, and oversees the work of the EU civil service.



The Commission represents and upholds the interests of the EU in international organisations like the World Trade Organisation. It negotiates on the EU's behalf in areas like trade policy.





THE COUNCIL OF THE EU

The Council of the European Union is one of the two legislative bodies of the EU, where national ministers meet to pass laws, coordinate policies, approve the budget, and develop the EU's foreign relations.



It is important to note that there are 2 councils: The European Council and the Council of the EU (often known as just 'The Council', and the one often referred to when talking about the three main EU institutions.)

They both act as the voice of EU member governments in the Union, and they are both hosted in the same building.

But they are very different! The European Council defines the EU's general political direction and priorities but does NOT adopt EU legislation. It is comprised by Heads of state or government of the EU countries, the presidents of the European Council and of the European Commission.





The Council is made up of representatives from the national governments of EU member states, and its composition changes depending on the policy area being discussed.

Each policy area, such as agriculture or environment, is represented by relevant ministers from the 27 EU countries, who advocate for their national government's position and interests on the issue.



The Council negotiates and adopts EU laws together with the European Parliament.

Coordinates policies in specific fields like economic, fiscal, employment, education, foreign affairs, etc.



Develops the EU's common foreign and security policy based on guidelines from the European Council (the other Council!)

Provides the mandate to the Commission to negotiate international agreements between the EU and non-EU countries/organizations



Adopts the annual EU budget jointly with the European Parliament



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW THE EU WORKS?

Then let us know in the comments or ask us in the link

tinyurl.com/bdzhepr9

or scan the QR code



Sources
&
resources

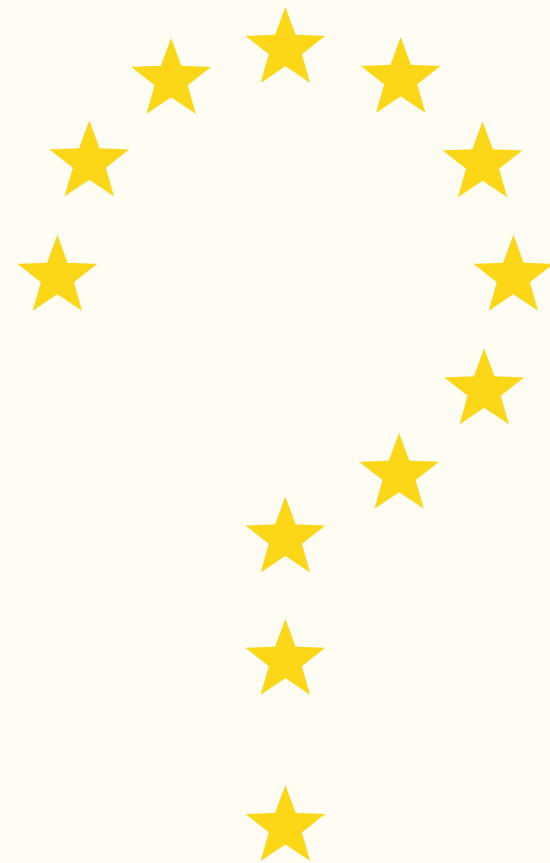


[The European Parliament](#)

[The European Commission](#)

[The Council of the European Union](#)

[The European Council and the Council of the European Union](#)



This post is part of a new series where we explain how different things related to the EU institutions work!