



# HOW THE EU WORKS



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
External Relations



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# The Pillars of the EU

## The European Union

**Foreign policy,  
Peacekeeping,  
Human rights,  
disarmament,  
financial  
aspects of  
defence,  
Europe's long-  
term security  
framework**

**Second pillar:  
IGO**

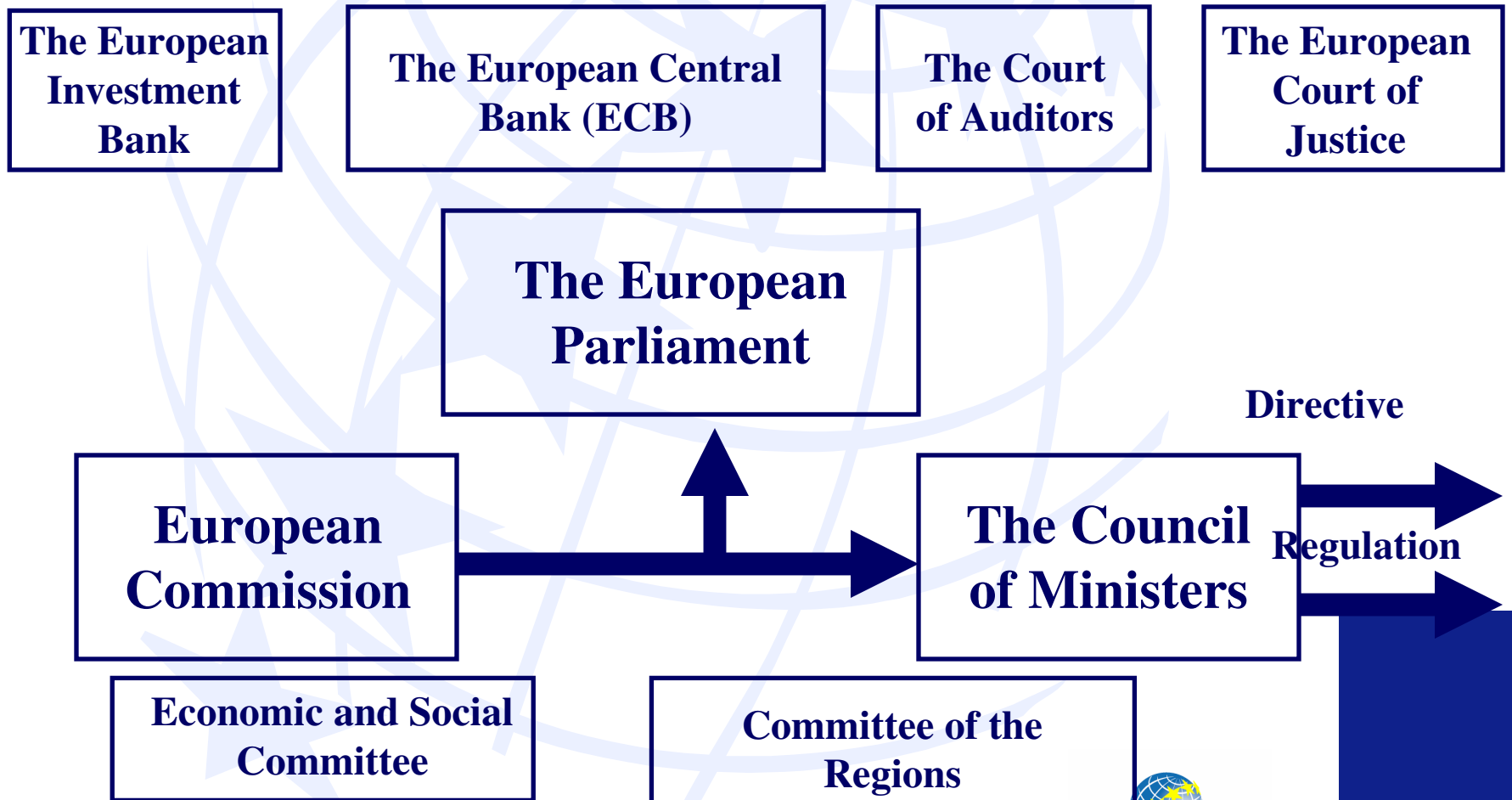
**Customs Union,  
CAP, Structural  
policy, Trade  
policy, Education  
and Culture,  
Consumer  
protection, health,  
environment,  
research, social  
policy, asylum  
policy, immigration  
policy, EMU, etc.**

**First pillar:  
EC**

**Cooperation  
between judicial  
authorities,  
Police  
cooperation,  
fight against  
drugs, arms  
trade,  
xenophobia,  
terrorism,  
trafficking in  
human beings**

**Third pillar:  
IGO**

# Main EU institutions



# Decision-making in the EU

EU uses three main ways to take decisions, depending on the legal basis for the decision:

- ✓ Co-decision was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty. requires two readings by Parliament and Council, and conciliation if they can not agree.
- ✓ Assent was introduced by the Single European Act and means that the Council must obtain the European parliament's assent before certain important decisions are taken. Parliament can accept or reject a proposal, but can not amend it.
- ✓ Consultation: the opinion of the Parliament is sought and integrated in Commission's proposal. If the Council decides to reject the proposal it can then only be done by unanimity.



# European Commission

27 Members of the Commission

Cabinets

Directorates General and Services



# European Commission

## General Directorates and Services

### General Services:

European Anti-Fraud Office  
Eurostat  
Press and Communication  
Publications Office  
Secretariat General  
Internal Services:  
Budget  
Financial Control  
Group of Policy Advisors  
Internal Audit Service  
Joint Interpreting and  
Conference Service  
Legal Service  
Personnel and Administration  
Translation Service

### Policies:

Agriculture  
Competition  
Economic and Financial Affairs  
Education and Culture  
Employment and Social Affairs  
Energy and Transport  
Enterprise  
Environment  
Fisheries  
Health and Consumer Protection  
Information Society  
Internal Market  
Joint Research Centre  
Justice and Home Affairs  
Regional Policy  
Taxation and Customs Union

### External relations:

Development  
Enlargement  
EuropeAid  
External relations  
ECHO  
Trade



# European Commission

The Commission's main roles:

- ✓ propose legislation to the Parliament and the Council
- ✓ administer and implement Community policies
- ✓ enforce Community law (jointly with the Court of Justice)
- ✓ negotiate international agreements, mainly those relating to trade and cooperation



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
External Relations



# Council of Ministers

## European Council

*Heads of State and Government*

## Council of Ministers

*Representatives from Member State Governments.  
Council General secretary also High Representative for  
Common Foreign and Security Policy*

## "Coreper"

*Representatives from Member States permanent  
EU representations*

*Presidency of the Council rotates amongst Member States every 6 months*



# Votes in the Council of Ministers

29 - Germany, France, Italy, UK

27 - Spain, Poland

14 - Romania

13 - Netherlands

12 - Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal

10 - Sweden, Austria, Bulgaria

7 - Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia

4 - Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Slovenia Luxembourg

3 - Malta

Total = 345



# European Parliament – 785 seats

D	99
UK, I, F	78 each
ES, PL	54 each
RO	35
NL	27
BE, CZ,	
EL, HU, PT	24 each
SE, AT, BU	18
DK, SK, FI	14
IE, LT	13
LV	9
SL	7
EE, CY, LU	6
MT	5

Political Groups:	
Conservatives	277
Socialists	217
Liberals	106
UEN	44
Greens	42
United left	41
IDG	23
ITS	20
Others	14
(empty	01)

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# EU Institutions

European Commission:

HQ in Brussels. Some departments in Luxembourg, and representations / delegations in all EU Member States and most other parts of the world.

European Parliament:

Most plenary sessions in Strasbourg, but also some plenary sessions plus most other meetings in Brussels. Some secretariat functions are located in Luxembourg.

Council of Ministers:

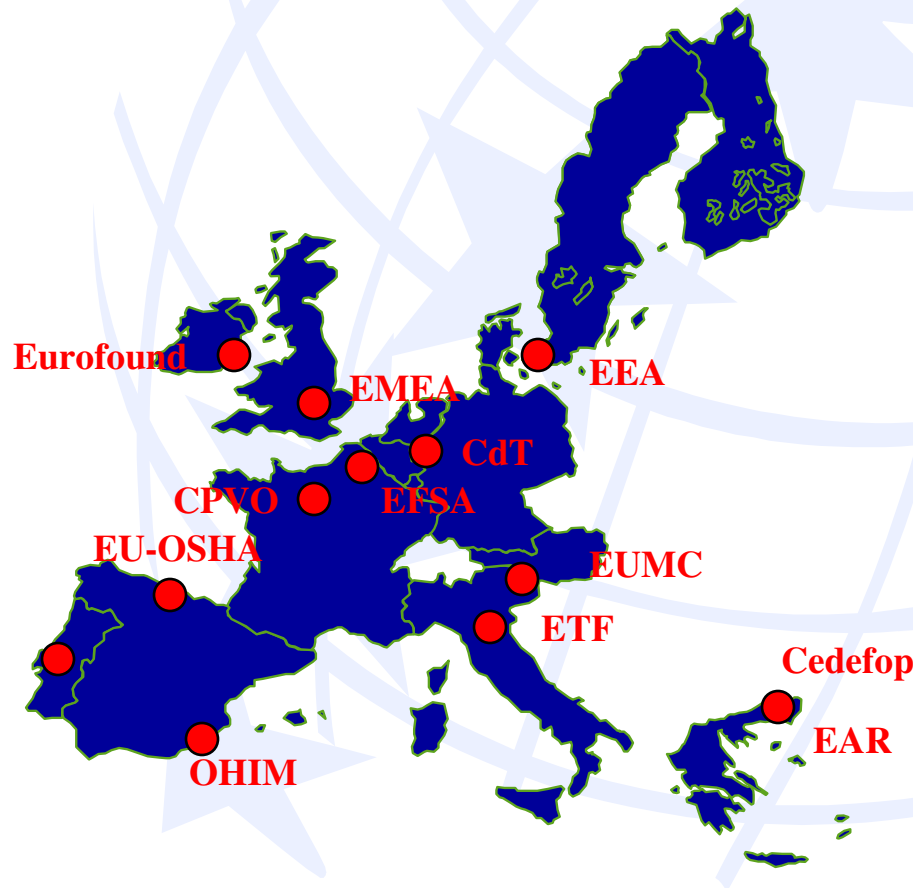
HQ in Brussels, but many meetings take place in president country.

European Central Bank:

HQ in Frankfurt.



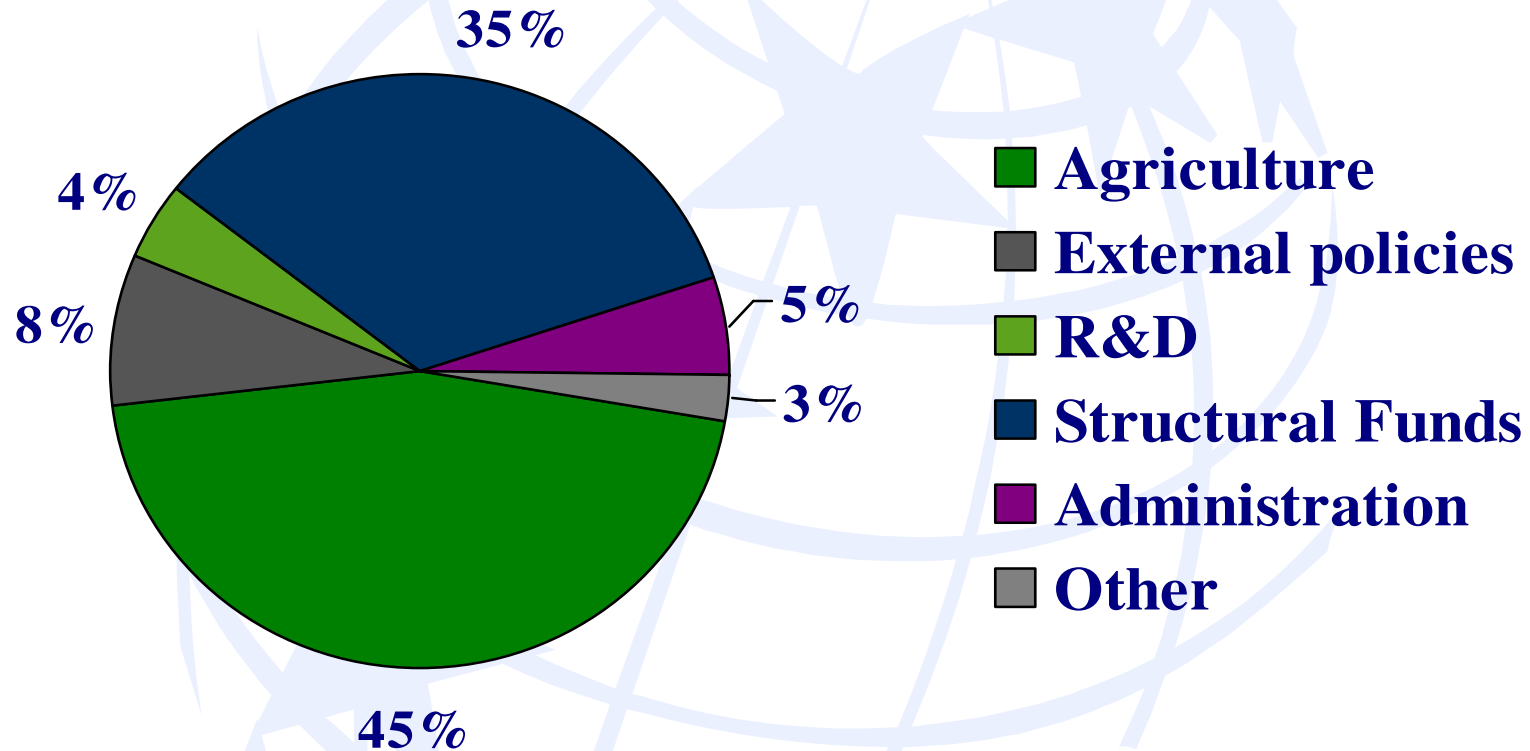
# EU Agencies



- Cedefop: European Centre for Development of Vocational Training (Thessalonica)
- Eurofond: European Foundation for Improvements of Living and Working Conditions (Dublin)
- EEA: European Environmental Agency (Copenhagen)
- EFT: European Training Foundation (Turin)
- EMCDDA: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Lisbon)
- EMEA: European Agency for the Evaluation of Medical Products (London)
- OHIM: Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Alicante)
- EU-OSHA: European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (Bilbao)
- CPVO: Community Plant Variety Office (Angers)
- CdT: Translation Centre (Luxembourg)
- EUMC: European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (Vienna)
- EAR: European Agency for Reconstruction (Thessalonica)
- EFSA: European Food Safety Authority (Brussels – temporarily)



# EU Budget Expenditures



**Total budget: €99 billion = 1,1% of GDP**

# Staff in European Institutions

European Commission	20 765
Council of Ministers	2 590
European Parliament	3 543
Court of Justice	814
Court of Auditors	457
Total	28 169

# EU on the web

<http://europa.eu>

