



# The European Union Implementation of Sustainable Development

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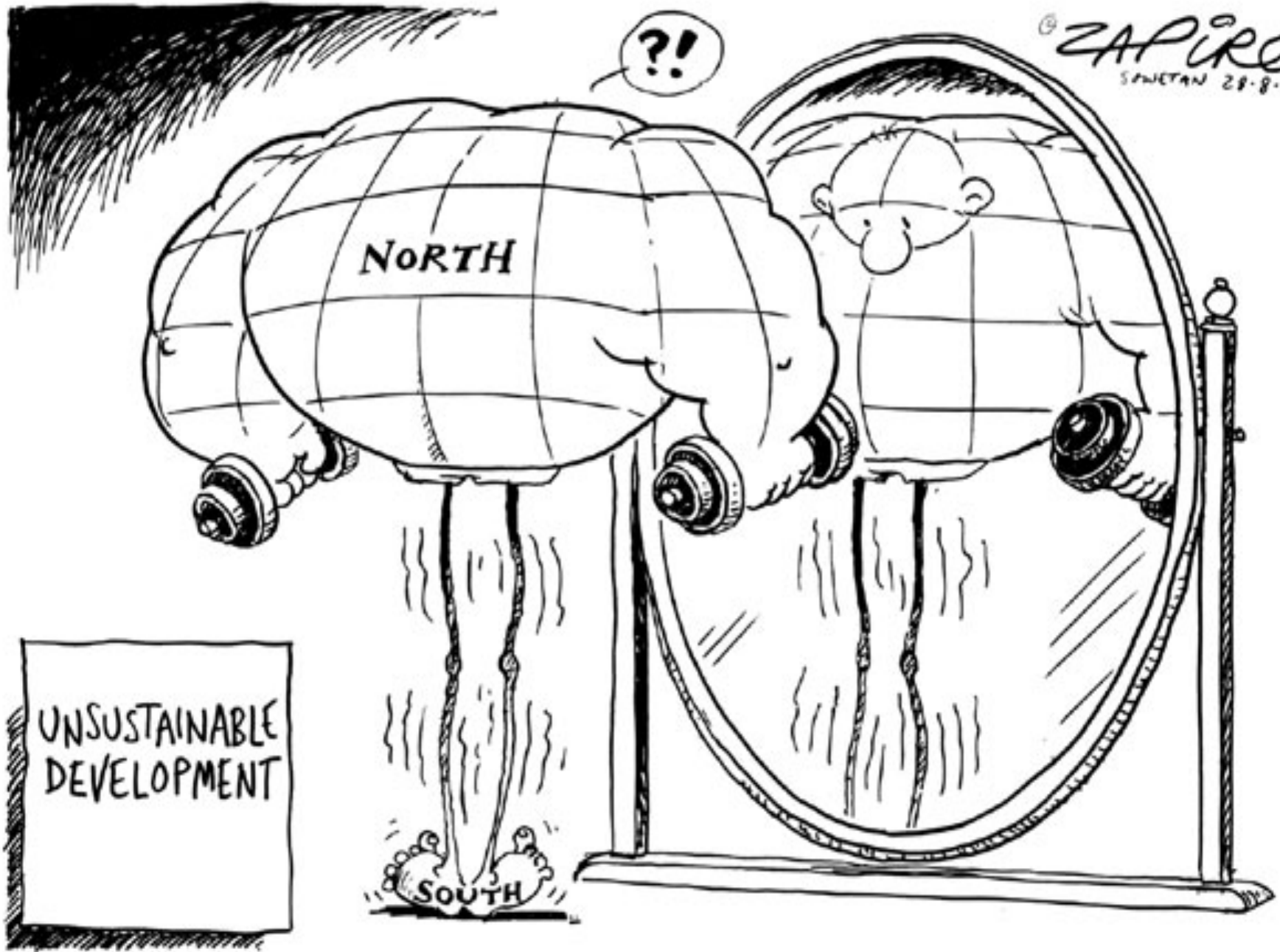
Bucharest (May 22 and 23 2009)

# Objective of the course

- Principles of sustainable development
- Understanding the European Union  
Governance
- Implementation of sustainable  
development by the European Union



# Part I. Principles of sustainable development



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NORTH

?!

UNSUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

SOUTH

## I. The term is widely used

**List of international treaties, agreements, declaration linked to the term of sustainable development for the United Nations:**

The Millennium Declaration and documents related to the **Millennium Summit**

Documents related to the International Conference on **Financing for Development**, including: The Monterrey Consensus

Agreements taken by the **World Summit on Sustainable Development**, including: Johannesburg Declaration and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

Agreements leading to the **World Summit on Sustainable Development**, including

Documents of the Preparatory Committee for the Johannesburg Summit

Documents from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

Documents from the Secretary-General of the Johannesburg Summit

Documents from the Summit Secretariat

## **General Assembly Resolutions**

Documents related to Earth Summit+5: Special Session of the General Assembly to Review and Appraise the Implementation of Agenda 21

## Agreements taken by the United Nations **Conference on Environment and Development**, including

- Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972)
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992)
- Agenda 21
- Global Programme of Action on Sustainable Development
- Statement of principles for the Sustainable Management of Forests
- Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

# **Social issues**

## **Health**

**WHO policy** : Health for All in the 21st Century

## **Human Settlements**

The Habitat Agenda and The Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements  
Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium



## Population

Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (1994)  
Benchmark Indicators Adopted at the ICPD+5 Review  
Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action

## Poverty

The Report of the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995)  
Resolution adopted at the Special Session of the General Assembly (June-July 2000),  
Resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly during its 24th Special Session

# ECONOMIC ISSUES

## Trade and environment

- Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference and related documents
- Final Act of the **Uruguay Round** and related agreements
- The Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Trade and Environment
- WTO : document on the relationship between the provisions of the multilateral trading system and measures for environmental purposes, including those pursuant to multilateral environmental agreements

# Natural resources issues

## Agriculture and Food Security

- Rome Declaration on World Food Security and to the World Food Summit Plan of Action
- World Declaration on Nutrition
- Plan of Action for Nutrition
- Declarations of the World Food Summit: Five years later and other related documents
  - International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides
  - Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
  - Rotterdam
- Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

## **Atmosphere**

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
- The Montreal Protocol
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (1985)

## **Biological diversity**

- Convention on Biological Diversity
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat

## **Desertification**

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

## **Hazardous waste management**

- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- Bamako Convention on the ban of the import into Africa and the control of transboundary movement and management of hazardous wastes within Africa (1991)

## **Nuclear Safety**

- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage

- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- Convention on Nuclear Safety
- Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage
- Joint Protocol Relating to the Application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention

## Oceans

- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
- IMO Conventions in the field of marine safety, preventing marine pollution
- UN Convention on the Law of the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses
- International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea
- Convention on Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation
- FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries

## II. Used by all institutionnal level

- International (UNO, WTO,...)
- Regional (EU)
- National
- Local



# Attempt to define the term sustainable development

Sustainable development is maintaining a delicate **balance** between the human need to improve lifestyles and feeling of well-being on one hand, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which we and future generations depend.

## **Concerns everything and nothing**

- Economic development;
- High level of environment protection including the careful use of natural resources
- Social development, cultural development

## **Principle clearly link with governance principle**

Decision making process, transparency, ...

**Necessity to obtain indicators to measures progress**

**Easy to understand but difficult to implement**



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I LOVE  
EARTH  
DAY...

WE'VE PRODUCED  
3,500,000 EARTH  
DAY T-SHIRTS...  
10,950,000 EARTH  
DAY BUMPER STICKERS.  
9,800,000,000 EARTH  
DAY GREETING  
CARDS...

CHINA

## **II. Understanding the European Union Governance**

# The European Paradox

## Feeling in the Members States

**population that distrust in EU  
Institutions and its policy is  
increasing**

The myth about **Brussels/Eurocrats** who  
“decide for everything and adopt useless  
rules”



Few examples taken from the  
website of the European  
Commission Representation in the  
UK : *Scares stories about the EU  
reported in the British Press :*  
Euromyths

*Crumbs, now home-made cake is dangerous – An EU directive may force full ingredients lists on all food retailers. If baking for the school or church fête was not onerous enough, the Government could soon ban home-made cakes from sale unless they carry a special label declaring whether they contain nuts.*

The Times, 9 July 2004, page 5

**Basic assumption** is almost correct :

New EU rules requires pre-packaged food sold in, for example, supermarkets, to be properly labelled with full ingredients lists

**Objective** : Enable those who suffer from allergies to avoid the often very unpleasant consequences that can ensue after eating the wrong thing.

Directive 2003/89/EC **does not force full ingredients lists on food sold in places like restaurants and fast-food vans.**

The consumer or customer could receive "sufficient information".

How this is done is left **up to individual member states**, providing legislative leeway to avoid the type of over-regulation



*Panic as 10,000 hungry vultures go searching for fresh meat*

The Times, 6 August 2007

*Vultures' revenge? Vultures in Europe are said to be attacking live beings for the first time*

The Daily Mail, 7 August 2007

*How EU turned vultures in birds of prey*

The Daily Telegraph, 16 June 2008

Basic assumption is almost correct : EU Legislation came into force on 1 May 2003 introduced an **obligation to collect and dispose of all fallen animal cadavers.**

**Problem** such mechanism reduce the available food supply for many endangered necrophagous birds, such as vultures.

### **But derogations were authorised**

Commission agreed to **allow** certain risk material (dead ruminants) to be used to feed necrophagous birds, as long as the necessary safety precautions are taken. The derogation mainly affected France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, home to the European population of bearded vultures.

*EU wants to purge the Queen from our passports*

Daily Mail, 10 September 2007

*Queen may be dropped from UK passports*

Daily Telegraph, 10 September 2007

There has been talk about including in passports a passage on all EU citizens' right to **consular protection outside the EU**

No legal proposal to replace any existing texts or symbols in passports, including references to Her Majesty.

*EU bureaucrats might not consider British chocolate the real thing - they want to rename it 'vegelate' or 'milk chocolate with a high milk content'.*

*The Daily Mail, 8 April 1998, p16*

There has **never** been a **proposal** from the Commission to call some kinds of chocolate "vegelate" or "milk chocolate with a high fat content" - just to see them labelled clearly.

Firstly, it was the elected representatives in the **European Parliament** which voted for tougher rules on how chocolate could be described in the EU, not the European Commission.

Secondly, as part of a review of the 1973 Cocoa and Chocolate Products Directive, the Commission has proposed a **system of minimum labelling rules**. The aim is for labels on chocolate to give a clear, neutral and objective indication of the fats used (such as 'non cocoa vegetable fat') in a list of ingredients. This does not mean that chocolate has to be renamed - on the contrary, it would allow different chocolate making traditions to co-exist in a harmonised market.

And many others....

1. Cheese - British cheese faces extinction (1999)
2. Child labour - EU meddlers ban kids on milk rounds (1998)
3. Cigars - Health warning on cigars (1994)
4. Climbing equipment - Brussels bans climbers' safety wedges ? (1995)
5. Clothes sizes - EU harmonisation of women's clothes sizes (2002)
6. Clotted cream - Cornish clotted cream to be made in Brittany (1998)
7. Condoms - Condom dimensions to be harmonised (2000)
8. Copyright - EU vote could curb taping of music and TV programmes (1999)

1. Cosmetics and personal care products - Row over Latin labels (1999)
2. Corgis to be banned by EU (2002)
3. Corporal punishment - EU Court may ban smacking (1998)
4. Cotton - EU plans for cotton duty 'will cost jobs' (1998)
5. Crisps - Smoky bacon crisps face EU ban (2003)
6. Cucumbers (straight) (1998)
7. Curriculum - Brussels to develop Europe-wide school curriculum (2000)
8. CVs - Eurocrats to force jobseekers to use common CV (2002)

# Eurobarometer 70 (november 2008)

**General trend** : did not confirmed the feeling : Trust in the European Institutions remains fairly stable but the tendency not to trust them increases (confidence limits up to 3,1 points)

## 1. European Commission

Spring 1999: 40% tend to trust, 33% tend to not trust

Autumn 2008 47% tend to trust, 30 % tend to not trust

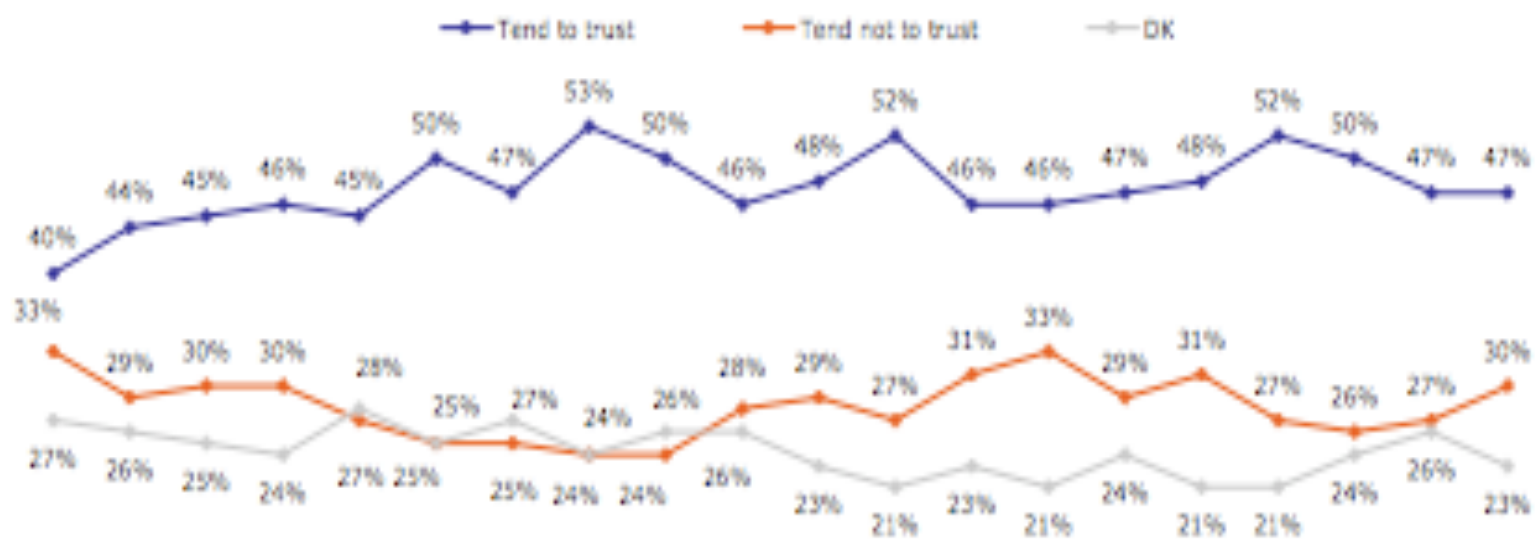
Only UK citizens who “don’t trust” are more numerous than those who “trust” (45% against 19%)

Belgium number of citizens who “trust” the Commission is the higher one.

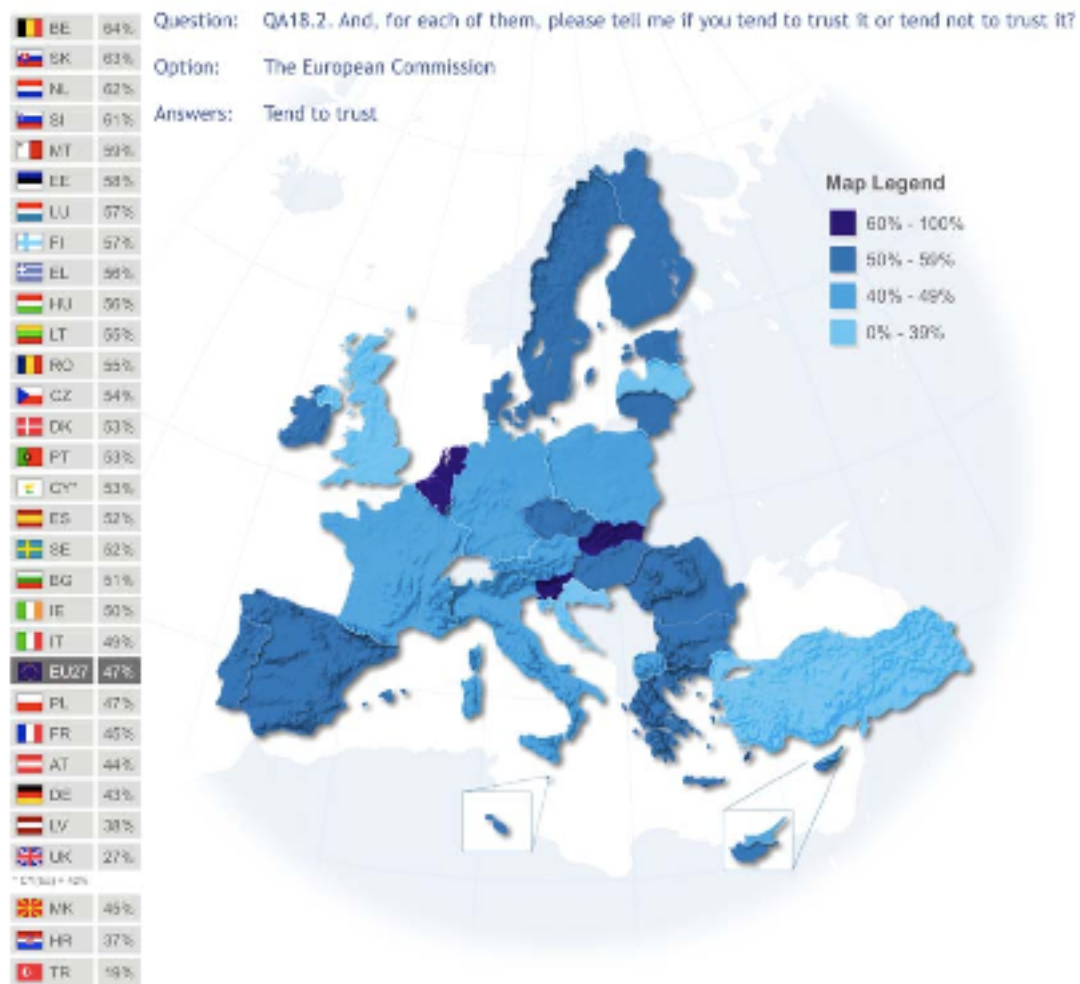


QA18.2 And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

- The European Commission - % EU



|          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |          |           |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Sp. 1999 | Aut. 1999 | Sp. 2000 | Aut. 2000 | Sp. 2001 | Aut. 2001 | Sp. 2002 | Aut. 2002 | Sp. 2003 | Aut. 2003 | Sp. 2004 | Aut. 2004 | Sp. 2005 | Aut. 2005 | Sp. 2006 | Aut. 2006 | Sp. 2007 | Aut. 2007 | Sp. 2008 | Aut. 2008 |
| 1801     | 1802      | 1803     | 1804      | 1805     | 1806      | 1807     | 1808      | 1809     | 1810      | 1811     | 1812      | 1813     | 1814      | 1815     | 1816      | 1817     | 1818      | 1819     | 1820      |



## 2. European Parliament

Spring 1999: 50% tend to trust, 28% tend to not trust

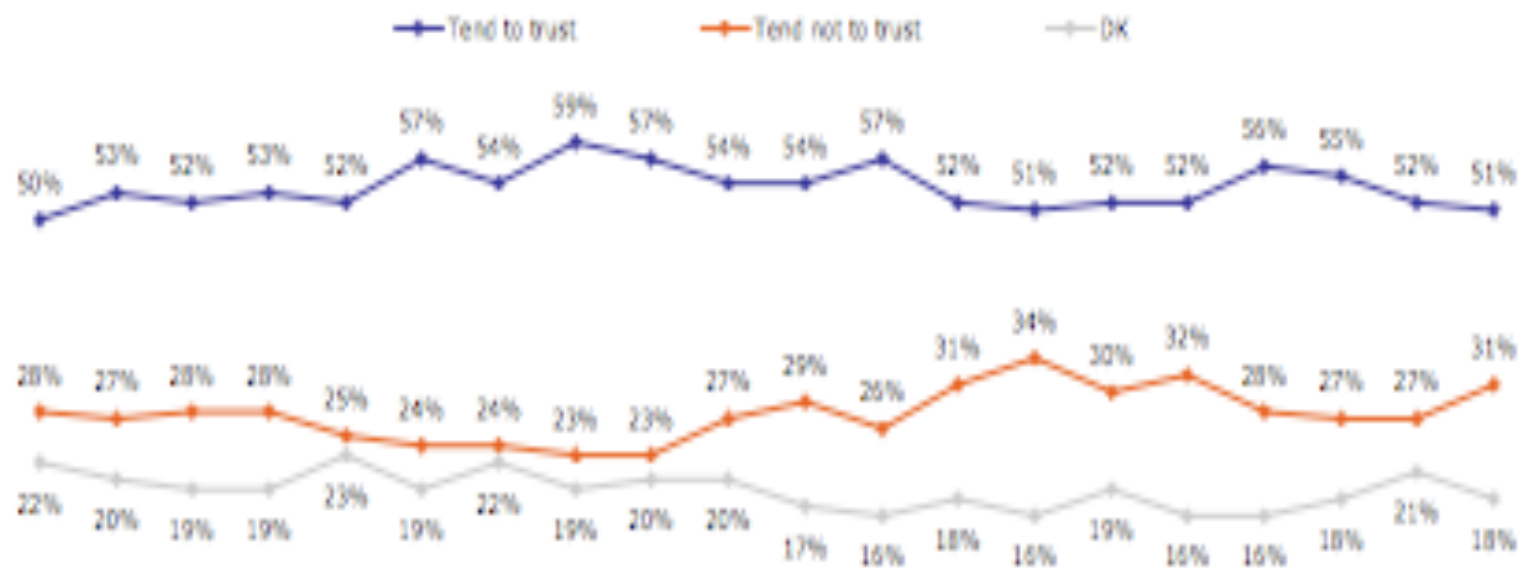
Autumn 2008 51% tend to trust, 31% tend to not trust

Trend is similar to the one of the European Commission:

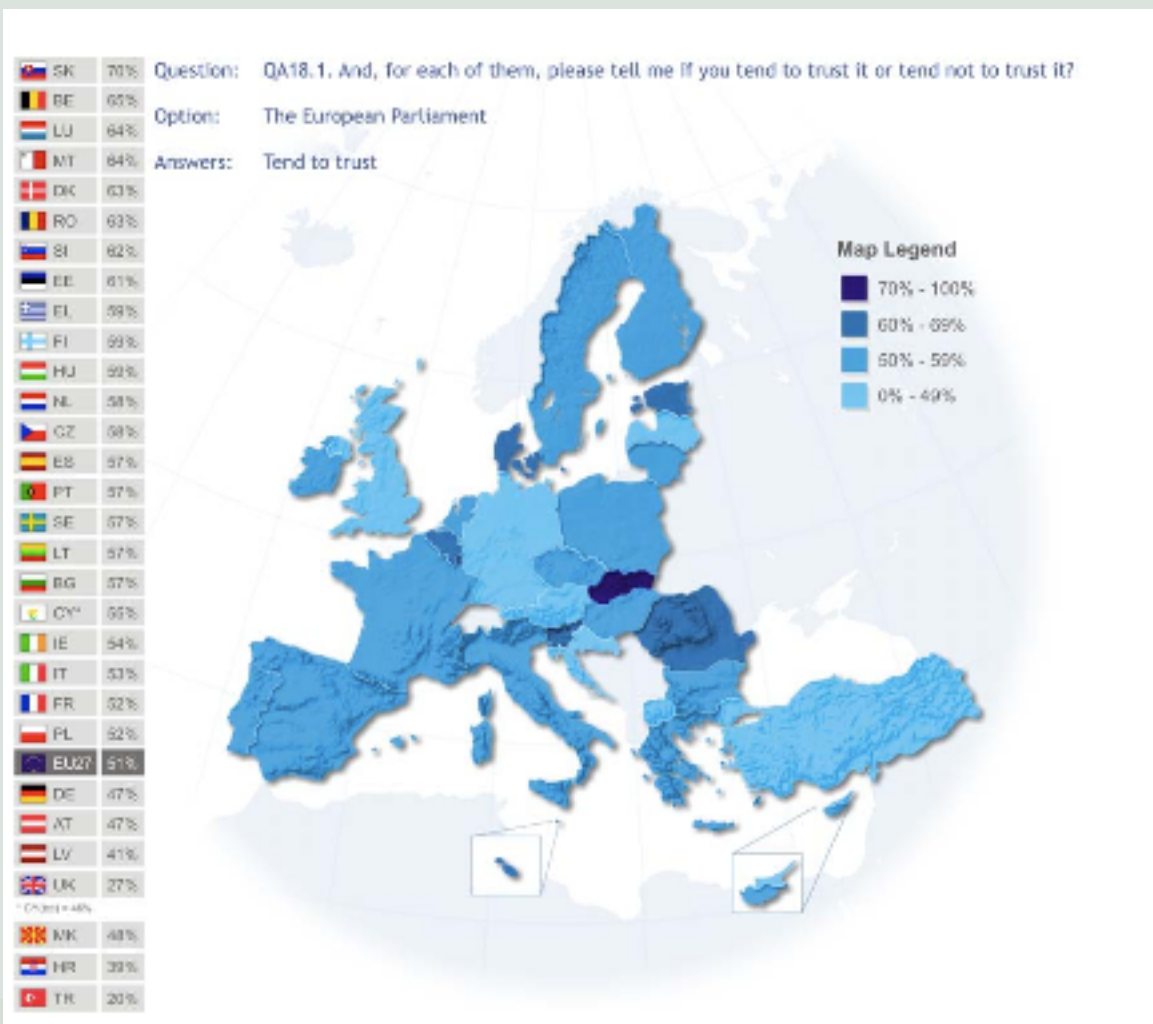
UK highest rate of “not trust” : 51% and lowest of those who “trust” (27%) (next Latvia 41%, EU27 51%)

QA1B.1 And, for each of them, please tell me if you tend to trust it or tend not to trust it?

-The European Parliament- % EU



|          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Sep 1999 | Nov 1999 | Sep 2000 | Apr 2000 | Sep 2001 | Nov 2001 | Sep 2002 | Apr 2003 | Sep 2003 | Apr 2004 | Sep 2004 | Nov 2004 | Sep 2005 | Nov 2005 | Sep 2006 | Nov 2006 | Sep 2007 | Nov 2007 | Sep 2008 | Nov 2008 |
| 1999     | 1999     | 2000     | 2000     | 2001     | 2001     | 2002     | 2003     | 2003     | 2004     | 2004     | 2004     | 2005     | 2005     | 2006     | 2006     | 2007     | 2007     | 2008     | 2008     |



# Eurobarometer 68

## **Perception of the EU institutions compare to national institutions**

EU 48% tend to trust and 35% tend to not trust

National Government 34% tend to trust and 59%  
tend to not trust

National Parliament 35% tend to trust and 56%  
tend to not trust

If the feeling of distrust in EU Institutions remains, seeking **EU institutions support** has never been so high :

1. **Financial** crisis: EU comprehensive plan to help the Member States economy to recover.
2. **Textile** : increasing import taxes and quotas to counter Chinese competitors.
3. **Agriculture** and fisheries: larger part of the EU budget is dedicated to agriculture financial support.
4. Strengthening EU **economic and social cohesion** : Structural funds : European Regional Fund, European Social Fund, ....  
**Budget : around 235 billions (2000-2006)**
5. **Research** : ESA and ITER.
6. **Education** : Socrates (scholarships).
7. **Culture**: Media Europa cinema.

## How to explain this paradox ?

Lack of **perception** of the EU decision making process and of its  
Institutions

- Difference between Commission, Council, CFSP High Representative, Presidency
- Not a “real” democracy?

EU system is perceived as far to **complex**

- How is it ruled?
- Who decide what?

EU regulation is considered as to **intrusive** and highly (too) **technical**  
Essentially technical regulations



## Worsening factors

1. Perception of **inability of the EU to solve real issues**:  
unemployment, security (food safety, terrorism).
2. If EU Institutions act effectively, they **rarely get credits for it**.
3. MS do not communicate on “Brussels Decisions” and usually **blamed it for difficult decisions that they themselves have agreed or requested**.

EU : the easy scapegoat

Raise the question on how the EU **decision making system** works ?

Not legally but politically

Necessity to define the **EU Governance**

Commission has issued an communication dedicated to “better regulation in the EU”

## Better Regulation Strategy in the EU

Organised among **three lines** of action

- Promoting the design and application of better regulation tools at the EU level, notably simplification, **reduction of administrative burdens** and impact assessment.
- Working more closely with Member States to ensure that better regulation principles are applied consistently **throughout the EU by all regulators.**
- Reinforcing the constructive dialogue between **stakeholders and all regulators at the EU and national levels.**

## **EU Commission views means on better regulation in the EU:**

**To Simplify and modernise** the existing legislation through :

- **Codification**: one text without amending it

2008 : 436 acts could be codified, Commission finalised 229  
(142 adopted)

- **Revision** : amending

- **Recast** : amending and codification

Directive on Consumer Rights (4 in 1), Air transport (3 in 1)

- **Repeal** : end of its validity

Covers around 2500 acts

## **Simplification : (January 2009)**

- 132 new initiatives have been tabled by the Commission
- 75 of them have been adopted
- 50 are pending between the Council and the Parliament.
- Should reduce the acquis by 10 % (1300 legal acts, 7800 pages)

**Screening of the present proposals** and withdrawn if necessary

Commission has withdrawn 108 proposals since 2005

## New legislation :

- Listed in the Commission annual Legislative and Work Programme
  - Might be extended to any proposal which has an “significant impact”
- To be submit to **impact assessments**
- Intend to analyse both benefits and costs of the proposal by considering its potential economic, social and environmental impacts including proportionality and subsidiarity principle
  - Taking inputs from stakeholders**
- Over 400 have been completed since 2002, (2008: 135)

## How to analyse EU Governance ?

How to understand the term “governance” ?

- **Several definitions** and associated term: corporate governance, internet governance, clinical governance, global governance, good governance, policy governance, governance structure, e-governance, internet governance forum, technology governance,...;
- Initially used in connection with several contemporary **social sciences**, especially economics and political science.

- Originates from the need of economics (as regards corporate governance) and political science (as regards State governance) for an all-embracing concept capable of conveying **diverse meanings** not covered by the traditional term "government".
- Referring to the **exercise of power overall**, the term "governance", in both corporate and State contexts, embraces **action** by executive bodies, assemblies (e.g. national parliaments) and judicial bodies (e.g. national courts and tribunals).
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## Definition of EU Governance by EU Institutions

“The debate on European governance, launched by the Commission in its White Paper of July 2001, concerns all the **rules, procedures and practices affecting how powers are exercised** within the European Union. The aim is to adopt new forms of governance that bring the Union closer to European citizens, make it more **effective, reinforce** democracy in Europe and **consolidate the legitimacy** of the institutions.

The Union must reform itself in order to **fill the democratic deficit** of its institutions. This governance should lie in the **framing and implementation of better and more consistent policies** associating **civil society organisations** and the European institutions. It also entails improving the **quality** of European legislation, making it clearer and more effective. Moreover, the European Union must contribute to the debate on **world governance** and play an important role in improving the operation of international institutions.”

(from EUROPA website: [http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index\\_en.htm#G](http://europa.eu/scadplus/glossary/index_en.htm#G))

## Definition of EU Governance by EU Institutions

### **Governance as a decision making process**

### **New Governance objective :**

- **Reinforce** democracy in Europe and **consolidate** the **legitimacy** of the institutions.
- **Implementation of better and more consistent policies** associating **civil society organisations** and the European institutions
- Improving the **quality** of European legislation

Analyse will be done through the **role** and the **competencies** of the **actors** in the EU decision making process

Three groups of potential actors

- EU Institutions
- Members States
- Civil Society Organisations

# EU Institutions

## The Institutions « *stricto sensu* »

- I. The **European Council** and its Presidency
- II. The **Council of Ministers**
- III. The **Commission**
- IV. The **Parliament**
- V. The **Court of Justice**
- VI. The European Court of Auditors
- VII. The European Ombudsman
- VIII. The European Data Protection Supervisor

## **2. Advisory bodies**

1. European Economic and Social Committee
2. Committee of the Regions

## **3. Financial Bodies**

1. European Central Bank
2. European Investment Bank
  - European Investment fund

## **4. Interinstitutional bodies**

1. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
2. European Personnel Selection Office
3. European Administrative School



## 5. Decentralized Bodies or Agencies

### The Common and Foreign Security Policy

- European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris)
- European Union Satellite Centre (Madrid)
- European Defence Agency (Brussels)

### Police and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters

- Europol (The Hague)
- European Police College (CEPOL) (Hampshire)
- Eurojust (European Body for the Enhancement of Judicial Cooperation (The Hague)

## Executive Agencies

- Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) (Brussels)
- European Research Council Executive Agency (ERC) (Brussels)
- Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) (Brussels)
- Executive Agency for the Public Health Programme (PHEA) (Luxembourg)
- Research Executive Agency (REA) (Brussels)
- Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency (TEN-TEA) (Brussels)

## Community Agencies

- Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA) (Brussels)
- Community Plant Variety Office (CPVO) (Angers)
- European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) (Bilbao)
- European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders (FRONTEX) (Warsaw)
- European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (Köln)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) (Stockholm)
- European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) (Thessaloniki)
- European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) (Helsinki)
- European Environment Agency (EEA) (Copenhagen)
- European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) (Parma) - European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (EUROFOUND) (Dublin)

- European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) - previously EUMC (Vienna)
- European GNSS Supervisory Authority (GSA) (Brussels)
- European Institute for Gender Equality (under preparation)
- European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (Lisbon)
- European Medicines Agency (EMA) (London)
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) (Lisbon)
- European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) (Heraklion)
- European Railway Agency (ERA) (Valenciennes)
- European Training Foundation (ETF) (Torino)
- Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market (Trade Marks and Designs) (OHIM) (Alicante)
- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union (CdT) (Luxembourg)

## 2. Members States Authorities

### 1. **Governments** (Executive power)

National, Regional, Local Authorities

EU Governance and Federal Government

Belgium, German Lander, Italy

How do they act at the EU level when they have one seat per MS ?

Implementation of the Subsidiarity Principle

### 2. **Parliaments** (Legislative power)

High Chamber, Low Chamber, Regional Parliament

### 3. **Courts and Tribunals** (Judicial power)

## 3. The population

Acts:

- By appointing EU and National Representatives through election  
EU, National MP, President,...
- Through Civil Society Organisation (CSO, Lobbies) established by different Group of Interests

Cultural, economical, environmental, consumers

Could be accredited to

The European Parliament : List of accredited lobbies (1578 organisations and 3012 individuals have been accredited)

The Commission : List of accredited lobbies (non mandatory system implemented directly on a voluntary basis by CSO, 960 interest representatives are registered)

# EU Institutions

## 1. The European Council : From informal to formal

# **1. Analysis through the treaties provisions**



## Origins and development

- **1958 : EC Treaties** did not attribute an institutional role
- Heads of States met **informally** and occasionally from **1961**
- **December 1974** decision to hold regular (informal) meetings to ensure progress and consistency in **EC activities and Political Cooperation**
- **1986 Single European Act** (article 2) : Grant an **legal basis** and focus :
  - On its **composition** : Heads of States or Government and the President of the Commission
  - On its **organisation** : meet at least twice per year
  - Competencies** are not defined

# Single European Act

*The European Council shall bring together the **Heads of State** or Government of the Member States and the **President** of the Commission.*

*They shall be assisted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States and by a Member of the Commission.*

*The European Council shall meet at **least twice a year**.*

**Maastricht Treaty (1992):** established the EU Council as a **formal** institution of the EU (not EC) and initiated to define its **competencies** (Article D)

*The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the general political guidelines thereof.*

*The European Council shall bring together the **Heads of State** or Government of the Member States and the **President** of the Commission. They shall be assisted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States and by a Member of the Commission.*

*The European Council shall meet at **least twice a year**, under the chairmanship of the Head of State or Government of the Member State which **holds the Presidency of the Council***

*The European Council shall submit to the European Parliament a report after each of its meetings and a **yearly written report on the progress achieved by the Union.***

## Amsterdam Treaty 1997: defines more precisely its competencies :

- Article J3 (EU):

1. *The European Council shall define the **principles** of and general **guidelines** for the common **foreign** and **security** policy, including for matters with **defence** implications.*
2. *The European Council shall decide on **common strategies** to be implemented by the Union in areas where the Member States have important interests in common.*

- *Article 109 Q (EC): The European Council shall each year consider the **employment** situation in the Community and adopt conclusions thereon, on the basis of a joint annual report by the Council and the Commission.*

**2001 Nice Treaty** laid down rules governing the **venue** of its meeting :

*Declaration 22 : As from 2002, one European Council meeting per Presidency will be held in Brussels. When the Union comprises 18 members, all European Council meetings will be held in Brussels.*

## **Lisbon Treaty (2007) European Council became formal**

- Article 13 establishes the list of EU institutions which includes the EU Council
- Article 15 organises its objectives, its competencies, its composition and its organisation :
  1. *The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the **general political directions and priorities** thereof. It **shall not exercise legislative functions**.*
  2. *The European Council shall consist of the **Heads of State or Government** of the Member States, together with its **President** and the **President of the Commission**. The **High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy** shall take part in its work.*



3. *The European Council shall **meet twice every six months**, convened by its President. When the agenda so requires, the members of the European Council **may decide** each to be **assisted** by a minister and, in the case of the President of the Commission, by a member of the Commission. When the situation so requires, the **President shall convene a special meeting** of the European Council.*
4. *Except where the Treaties provide otherwise, decisions of the European Council shall be taken by **consensus**.*
5. *The European Council shall elect its **President**, by a **qualified majority**, for a term of two and a half years, renewable once. In the event of an impediment or serious misconduct, the European Council can end the President's term of office in accordance with the same procedure.*



6. *The President of the European Council:*

- (a) *shall **chair** it and drive forward its work;*
- (b) *shall ensure the **preparation** and continuity of the work of the European Council in cooperation with the President of the Commission, and on the basis of the work of the General Affairs Council;*
- (c) *shall endeavour to **facilitate** cohesion and consensus within the European Council;*

(d) shall present a **report** to the European Parliament after each of the meetings of the European Council. The President of the European Council shall, at his level and in that capacity, ensure the **external representation** of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The President of the European Council shall **not** hold a national office

## 2. How treaties provisions are implemented

## Composition

### **Heads of State or Government of the Member States**

- To comply with French and Finnish situation where the President is both the Head of State and Chief Executive
- Under the *cohabitation* in France both were attending occasionally the Council Meeting and the Finnish President does not necessary attend the meeting

### The President of the **Commission**

#### **Attending also Council Meetings:**

- Foreign Affairs and Finance Ministers
- One Commissioner
- Secretary General of the Council and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs
- Deputy Secretary General of the Council and Secretary General of the Commission

## Meetings are organised among a *Club-like atmosphere*

- Access to the meeting rooms are **restricted**
- Participants meet regularly also in other forums
  - Intensive networking, separate dinners, bilateral contacts in margin of the EUC meeting
- **Presidency** chair the meeting but no separate delegation
  - 2008 Slovenia, France
  - 2009 Czech Republic, Sweden
  - 2010 Spain, Belgium
- Rotation mechanism to fight against the risk of an partial chair
- But slow down by the necessity of **full interpretation** during the working session and whispering translation during scheduled meals

## Informal/intimacy inside and the opposite outside

- Large **national delegation** normally limited since 2002 to 20 participants per Member State including one for the President of Commission

- Large technical staff

- Meeting covered by thousands of **journalists**

Around 4000 accredited journalists from 766 different media representing 62 countries

Number of journalists attended the last European Council meeting in December 2008 was 1746.

## **EUC December 2007**

9h15-10h00 - Members of the European Council arrive at Justus Lipsius building (not in protocol order) and are received by the President of the European Council and the Presidency Foreign Minister

10h00-10h30 - Meeting with the President of the European Parliament

10h30-10h45 - [Family photograph](#) (link to March 1 2009)

**10h45-13h00** - First working session of the European Council

13h00 Separate working lunches:

- Heads of State/Government, President of the Commission and Secretary General/High Representative;
- Ministers for Foreign Affairs

**15h00** - Second working session of the European Council

17h30 - Presidency press conference

National press briefings

## Other categories of participant playing a role in the margins of the European Council

- President of the **Parliament** since 1980 is invited to give the views of European Parliament
- Political leaders of **candidate** countries are sometimes invited to discuss relevant issues on the second day  
Perceived as essentially “symbolic”
- **Third countries** could be invited to exchange views if time allowing it  
Prime Minister Allawi of Iraq in 2004
- Possibilities of Exchange of views with **CSO Representatives**  
December 2007: Mr Ernest-Antoine Seillière, President of BusinessEurope and Ms Maria Helena André, Deputy Secretary-General of ETUC



## **Number and location of meetings**

### **Four “regular” Formal Meetings per year**

- One at the end of each Presidency (June and December)
- One in Spring usually devoted to social and economic questions (Lisbon process) : Next March 19/20 2009
- One in Autumn
- Produced Presidency Conclusions and Declarations

### **Extraordinary meetings**

Link to international events such September 2001 (New York terrorists attack), March 2004 (Madrid terrorists attack), September 2008 (Georgia)

## Informal meetings

- Decided by the Presidency to smooth decision on specific and controversial issues

London 2005 (Future of Europe) Berlin 2007 (Berlin declaration (not EU declaration)) Bruxelles 2008 (Financial crisis)

March 1 2009 convened by the Czech Presidency has been dedicated to *the economic situation and the European recovery plan*.

*This informal meeting will consist of a working lunch on Sunday 1 March at 13.00 and will be held at the Council's Justus Lipsius building, 175 rue de la Loi, Brussels.*

## **Informal Meeting of the Heads of States or Governments of 1 March 2009 (joint press lines)**

Heads of State or Government met today in Brussels and had an in-depth discussion on the **current financial and economic crisis**.

They agreed that Europe can only face this challenge and overcome the current crisis by continuing to **act together in a coordinated manner, within the framework of the Single Market and EMU**.

They expressed confidence in the medium and long term outlook of all EU economies.

They agreed to take action along the following lines:

## **Building confidence and promoting financial stability**

- Underline the importance of macro-financial stability throughout the EU. Recognising clear differences between the Member States in central and eastern Europe, review the assistance already made available. Stress the benefits which flow from EU integration and the sound medium term prospects it brings.

(...)

## Getting the real economy back on track

- Make the maximum possible use of the Single Market as the engine for recovery to support growth and jobs. Stress that protectionism is no answer to the current crisis and express confidence in the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaty.
- Welcome the communication on the automotive sector by the Commission of 25 February, including in particular enhanced European coordination of schemes for the renewal of car fleets. Invite the Commission to ensure rapid and effective mutual information on envisaged national measures and to closely monitor actions taken in third countries, as part of the European framework it has outlined for this sector. (...)

## Meetings usually **last two days**

- Exception the Nice in December 2000 last 5 days
- Extraordinary and Informal usually one day
- Hold in Brussels since 2004

## **Others forms of meetings :**

- **Conference of Europe** : since 1998 brought together EU + candidate countries + countries covered by the stabilisation and association process (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo) + EFTA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein and Switzerland).
- **IGCs** where issues on treaties reform are negotiated and decided

## EUC Function

Official texts are inadequate to describe EU Council function even if the treaty precise that its function is to *define the general political directions and priorities*.

Six main roles could be identified :

### **1. Providing strategic guidelines and political impetus**

#### **- Original function**

- Head of States have sufficient individual power to ensure concrete action at the EU level
- All main decisions of the EU have been initiated or approved by the EU Council

Could be track back to one or more meetings of the EU Council : new policies initiative (economic and monetary union) fight against terrorism, reform of the treaties, new Member States,...



## **2. Shaping Foreign policy**

- Attempt to coordinate Member States foreign policies even before CFSP : Georgia, Terrorism,...

## **3. Decision-making on Community matters**

- Even if it does not participate in the elaboration and adoption of EC legislation
- Become an “additional” forum or “appeal chamber”
  - If Ministers meeting in Council forum unable to find a compromise  
The colour of European passport, taxation,...
  - Issues of special interest for the EU  
Economic and monetary union,...



#### **4. Extra Treaty decision making**

Issues of domestic importance to the Members States

- Seat of EU Institutions and others “agencies”
- Senior appointment within the EU Institution

HRCFSP, President of the Commission and the President of the EUC (Lisbon Treaty)

#### **5. Amending the treaties**

Become more directly involved in treaties revision process

Constitution and Lisbon Treaties

#### **6. Engaging in open coordination (The Lisbon Process)**

- Responsibility added on 2000
- Special Spring Meeting on social and economical issues

## **European Council Agenda : What determines whether or not a particular issue will find its way on the EUC Agenda ?**

- **No clear rules depends essentially on several factors:**
  - Nature of the issue (Lisbon Treaty and Ireland)
  - Controversial aspect (Energy and climate change)
  - Personalities involved (Zimbabwe and J. Mukoko)
- **No obligation for the Council to refer any specific matters to EU Council**
  - No often concerns by highly technical matters unless strong political impact (common or national)
  - All majors decision go through the EUC for clearance or for detailed discussion

Consequences ?

## Impact of the EUC on the Council political authority

### Principle

- Input of the EUC political decision : not legally binding unless adopted by the Council
  - With the relevant legal procedure
- The Council might not act unless principles/guidelines have not been laid down by the EU Council

### Councils are **not affected equally**

- GAERC
  - Concerns by CFSP and EC matters
  - Often implementation of EUC guidelines
- Sectoral Councils
  - Avoid to overloading the hierarchy
  - Avoiding to politicise technical matters

## Preparation, proceedings and follow up of the EUC

According to the **rules** it is the GAERC task to prepare EUC

### Practise

- Responsibility shared between **Council's various preparatory** bodies
- Strategic and political input prepared by the Presidency assisted by the Council Secretariat

**Agenda drafted by the Presidency** and discussed in detail by **COREPER** and agreed by GAERC. It contains four groups of items:

1. Items to be **approved** or endorsed without discussion;
2. Items for **discussion** with a view to defining general political **guidelines**;
3. Items for **discussion** with a view to adopting a **decision** (in the context of enlargement and in exceptional cases);
4. Items for **discussion**, but not intended to be the subject of **conclusions**.

**EUC** : President's show : Hosting a “successful EUC”

Criteria by which the EU Presidency is evaluated

**Tasks of the Presidency team** : “Ironing potential difficulties”

Attempt to reach an agreement between delegations **before** the meeting

Wordings

Content of the discussion not always predictable

Bilateral meetings in order to sound MS views

**Agreeing in advance** as much as possible on the draft conclusions to be endorsed or on the objectives of the meeting

## EUC “Detailed agenda” of December 11/12 2008 as stated by French Presidency

The Presidency intends to **restrict** the agenda for the European Council to items which will **actually** be discussed by the Heads of State or Government. (...)

**I. Lisbon Treaty** : Further to the conclusions of its meeting in October 2008, the European Council will return to this issue in order to adumbrate a **solution** and establish **a common way forward**.

**II. Economic and financial affairs** : The European Council will return to the financial crisis and its impact on the economy. In particular, it will review work undertaken following the meeting in October 2008 and will **issue** the necessary **decisions or guidance** as regards:

- strengthening **financial stability** and financial supervision;
- initiatives for reforming the international financial system;
- support for growth and employment, for maintaining European industry's international competitiveness and for Europe's scientific and technological development.

**III. Energy and climate change:** In accordance with its October 2008 conclusions, the European Council will **decide on appropriate responses** to the challenges of implementing the energy-climate package, with a view to reaching **overall agreement** on it by the end of the year, **working closely with the European Parliament**.

**IV. Common agricultural policy:** The European Council will **review the work of the Agriculture Ministers** on the CAP health check and, if appropriate, the way ahead.

**V. External relations and security:** The European Council will be asked to **approve a declaration on European defence** and security, concerning, in particular, the European security strategy, international security, and strengthening European security and defence policy capabilities.

It will briefly consider the Commission proposals for an **eastern partnership** and ask the Council and the Commission to continue work on this in 2009.

The **Presidency** does not, at this stage, plan to raise **any other foreign policy** matters at this European Council meeting.



## Central role of the Council Secretariat

- **Permanent** structure assisting the rotating Presidency

Role depend on the size and experience of the MS in charge

- **Input** could be logistical, substantive and even political

The Note to the President

- During the EUC meeting, working sessions could be **suspended** to allow

Bilateral contact between the Presidency and MS : the Confessional

Allowing MS to report back to their delegation

- Decision are taken by **consensus** except for some majors appointment such as the designation of the Commission President and the President of the Council



Only the Presidency conclusions are made **public** at the end of the meeting

- **Enumerates** the agreements reached during the meeting
- Might be considered as the document to evaluate the result obtained by the MS holding the Presidency

The conclusions could take **various forms**:

- **Political declarations** on matters of external or internal policy
- **Request to the Commission** to draft a report or a proposal on specific matter
- Political **guidelines** for national representatives who have reached an impasse when discussing something at Council or a **lower level** in the hierarchy
- **Instructions** to the Council to implement internal reforms

Working sessions are **recorded** but only the SG could have access to verify a specific point in the discussion

The **follow up** of the EUC is assumed by

GAERC (EC), COPS (CFSP and ESDP), CATS (JHA)

## The EUC of 11/12 December 2008

### PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS (Executive summary)

*The European Council on 11 and 12 December 2008 approved a **European Economic Recovery Plan**, equivalent to about 1,5 % of the GDP of the European Union (a figure amounting to around EUR 200 billion). The plan provides a common framework for the efforts made by Member States and by the European Union, with a view to ensuring consistency and maximising effectiveness.*

*The European Council also reached agreement on the energy/climate change package which should enable this package to be finalised with the European Parliament by the end of the year. This decisive breakthrough will enable the European Union to honour the ambitious commitments entered into in this area in 2007 and to maintain its leading role in the search for an ambitious and comprehensive global agreement at Copenhagen next year.*

*The European Council demonstrated its intent, through concrete decisions, to give new impetus to the European Security and Defence Policy in order to meet the new security challenges. Lastly, the European Council discussed the factors designed to respond to the concerns expressed during the Irish referendum and established an approach to enable the Treaty of Lisbon to come into force before the end of 2009.*

## 2. Around the EU Council

The Secretary-General of the  
Council of the European  
Union

**Acts as**

- Secretary General of the EU
- High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy

**Appointed by the EUC** for a five years mandate (2009)

Assisted by EU Personal representative (6), EU Special Envoy (1) and EU Special Representative (11)



**Clear mandate** but **no power** of decision or constraint

*“Assist the Council in foreign policy matters, through contributing to the formulation, preparation and implementation of European policy decisions.*

*He acts on behalf of the Council in conducting political dialogue with third parties”*

Should be the one to answer the phone if the world caught fire...

To answer the question of the Former US Foreign Secretary Henry Kissinger about who he should call up in Europe if the world caught fire

Might be the one to call but he has no fire extinguishers.

Essentially a representative of the UE 

# The EUC Presidency



- Preparing and chairing the EUC
- Acting on behalf of the EU in international organisation : UN General Assembly, OSCE,...
- Efficiency is linked to the personality of the head of State of the MS holding it.  
Presidency priorities linked to the MS fields of interests

## **Opening statement on behalf of the EU by Mr. Jiří Hlaváček, Commission on Sustainable Development, 17th Session, New York, May 4, 2009**

Madam Chairperson, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, The Czech Republic, on behalf of the European Union and its twenty-seven Member States, wishes to thank the Bureau under Minister Verburg's results-oriented leadership and the Division of Sustainable Development for organizing this session. Now is our opportunity to capitalise on the work we have been carrying out over the past two years, which we have devoted to agriculture, rural development, land, drought, desertification and Africa, including cross-cutting issues, interlinkages and means of implementation, all in the context of sustainable development.

To be efficient and to achieve the best possible consensus, we have to focus on priority issues, which should be selected, through an integrated approach, in a way that will achieve the best possible outcomes within the context of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

We believe that the CSD-17 outcome document should address the following priorities:

- Promote sustainable agriculture as one of the central elements of development policies, due to its substantial role, especially in developing countries, in reducing poverty, as well as stress the need for basic internationally harmonized standards for sustainable agricultural production;

- Develop sustainable production and consumption policies to improve products and services while reducing health impacts and ecological and water footprints, and to protect ecosystem services both for present and future generations;
- Ensure full and effective implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy to promote sustainable development in Small Island Developing States and, in particular, to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

These priorities should be underpinned through concrete measures and actions, which we hope will be agreed in the upcoming negotiations. The adoption of policy decisions is obviously only the initial step. This will not complete the process.

The next steps are for all stakeholders to implement these policies (Governments, UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, regional groups and institutions, international financial institutions and major groups).

The EU is committed to further accomplishing its part in the implementation process and to continue cooperating along the principles of the Accra Agenda for Action with all partners and stakeholders.

## Czech Republic 2009: Priorities

### **Europe without barriers**

- Europe without internal economic, cultural and value barriers for individuals, entrepreneurs and economic entities
- Europe open to the world, but not defenceless against illegal activities and attacks
- Political and historical meaning

### **Priorities**

- Economy : *European Economic Recovery Plan*
- Energy: *Climate Energy Package*
- EU in the world : Eastern dimension of the *European Neighbourhood Policy*.

## Slovenia 2008 : Priorities

1. The future of the Union and timely entry into force of the **Lisbon Treaty**.
2. Successful launching of the new Lisbon Strategy cycle.
3. A step forward in addressing **climate-energy** issues.
4. Strengthening of the European perspective of the **Western Balkans**.
5. Promoting the **dialogue** between cultures, beliefs and traditions.



# United Kingdom 2005 : Priorities

## **1. Economic reform and social justice**

Economic reform, Better regulation, Working Time Directive, Services Directive, Financial Services Action Plan, The Chemicals Regulation (REACH)

## **2. Security and stability**

Counter terrorism, People trafficking and migration, Enlargement

## **3. Europe's role in the world**

Doha Development Agenda, Africa, Climate change, Peace, stability and reform in the Middle East, Peace and stability in the Balkans, Defence capability, Reform of the EU's sugar regime



## Finland 2006 : Priorities

1. The future of the EU and enlargement
2. Competitiveness : innovation and energy policies
3. External relations : Russia, Transatlantic relations and Asia
4. Justice and home affairs : lives up to its citizens' expectations in combating international crime, human trafficking and terrorism

## **2. The Council of Ministers**

## Who does what ?

- National Representatives decide : The Ministers in the Council
- Officials prepare the ground : The preparatory bodies
- Bureaucrats organise and advice : The Council Secretariat
- Taking turn at the wheel : The presidency and HRCFS

## Main **decision making body** of the EU

- All major EC and CFSP acts have to be adopted by the Council

Raise/Has raised concerns regarding the non democratic decision making process

- Several configuration but **one single body**

Attended by Member States Ministers and the Commissioner in charge of the issue.

For reasons of organisation, it is divided presently in 9 configurations (previously 22):

1. General Affairs and External Relations
2. Economic and Financial Affairs (“ECOFIN”)
3. Justice and Home Affairs
4. Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
5. Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research)
6. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
7. Agriculture and Fisheries
8. Environment
9. Education, Youth and Culture

## Composition

TEU 16 (LT) rather short: *The Council shall consist of a representative of each Member State at ministerial level, who may commit the government of that Member State in question and cast its vote.*

Ministerial ? Definition depends on each MS

Practice differs (Senior, Junior, Regional)

Possibility for a MS to be represented by an other (239TFEU)

- Not more than one
- Used often by small Member States
- Quorum half or just over half of the total of MS

## Example : 2923th Council meeting - Education, Youth and Culture - Brussels, 16 February 2009

**Belgium:** Mr Didier SEEUWS Deputy Permanent Representative

**Bulgaria:** Mr Kircho ATANASSOV Deputy Minister for Education and Science

**Czech Republic:** Mr Ondřej LIŠKA Minister for Education, Youth and Sports  
Mr Jakub DÜRR Deputy Minister for Education

**Denmark:** Mr Bertel HAARDER Minister for Education and Minister for Nordic Cooperation

**Germany:** Mr Andreas STORM Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Education and Research

**Estonia:** Mr Gert ANTSU Deputy Permanent Representative

**Ireland:** Mr Batt O'KEEFFE Minister for Education and Science

**Greece:** Mr Spyridon TALIADOUROUROS State Secretary for Education and Religious Affairs

**Spain:** Ms Mercedes CABRERA CALVO-SOTELO Minister for Education, Social Policy and Sport Ms Bibiana AÍDO ALMAGRO Minister for Equality Ms María Ángeles GARCÍA MORENO Minister for Education and Science of the Autonomous Community of Castilla-La Mancha Mr César ANTÓN Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities of the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León

**France:** Mr Martin HIRSCH High Commissioner for active solidarity against poverty

**Italy:** Mr Vincenzo GRASSI Deputy Permanent Representative

**Cyprus:** Mr Andreas DEMETRIOU Minister for Education and Culture

**Latvia:** Ms Tatjana KOKE Minister for Education and Science

**Lithuania:** Mr Gintaras STEPONAVIČIUS Minister for Education and Science

**Luxembourg:** Ms Mady DELVAUX-STEHRÉS Minister for Education and Vocational Training Ms Marie-Josée JACOBS Minister for the Family and Integration, Minister for Equal Opportunities



## Example : 2848th Council meeting - Education, Youth and Culture - Brussels, 14 February 2008

**President** Mr Milan ZVER : Minister for Education and Sport of Slovenia

**Belgium:** Ms Marie ARENA Minister for Training, Minister-President (Walloon Region) and Ms Isabelle WEYKMANS Minister for Culture and the Media, the Protection of Monuments, Youth and Sport (German-speaking Community)

**Bulgaria:** Ms Ekaterina VÍTKOVA Deputy Minister for Education and Science and Mr Ivan Borisov LEKOV Vice President of the State Agency for Youth and Sports

**Czech Republic:** Mr Ondřej LIŠKA Minister for Education

**Denmark:** Mr Bertel HAARDER Minister for Education and Minister for Nordic Cooperation

**Germany:** Ms Ute ERDSIEK-RAVE Minister for Education and Women's Issues, Schleswig-Holstein

**Estonia:** Mr Tõnis LUKAS Minister for Education and Science

**Ireland:** Mr Seán HAUGHEY Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science and at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Lifelong Learning, Youth Work and School Transport

**Greece:** Mr Evripidis STYLIANIDIS Minister for Education and Religious Affairs

**Spain** : Ms Mercedes CABRERA CALVO-SOTELO Minister for Education and Science and Ms Aurora DOMÍNGUEZ Under Secretary of State for Labour and Social Affairs and Mr José Antonio CAMPOS Minister for Education, University and Research of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country and Mr Juan Gabriel COTINO Minister for Social Welfare of the Autonomous Valencian Community

**France**: Ms Valérie PÉCRESSE Minister for Higher Education and Research and Ms Roselyne BACHELOT-NARQUIN Minister for Health, Youth and Sport

**Italy**: Ms Mariangela BASTICO State Secretary for Education

**Cyprus**: Mr George CHACALLI Deputy Permanent Representative

**Latvia**: Ms Tatjana KOĒE Minister for Education and Science and Mr Ainars BAŠTIKS Minister for Children and the Family

**Lithuania**: Ms Roma ŽAKAITIENĖ Minister for Education and Science and Ms Vilija BLINKEVIČIŪTĖ Minister for Social Security and Labour

**Luxembourg**: Ms Mady DELVAUX-STEHRÉS Minister for Education and Vocational Training

**Hungary**: Mr István HILLER Minister for Education and Culture

**Malta:** Ms Theresa CUTAJAR Deputy Permanent Representative

**Netherlands:** Mr Ronald PLASTERK Minister for Education, Culture and Science

**Austria:** Ms Claudia SCHMIED Federal Minister for Education, Arts and Culture and Mr Johannes HAHN Federal Minister for Science and Research

**Poland:** Ms Katarzyna HALL Minister for National Education

**Portugal:** Mr Jorge PEDREIRA State Secretary for Education, attached to the Minister for Education and Mr Laurentino DIAS State Secretary for Youth and Sports

**Romania:** Mr Cristian ADOMNÎEI Minister for Education, Research and Youth and Mr Péter KOVÁCS State Secretary, President of the National Authority for Youth

**Slovenia:** Mr Milan ZVER Minister for Education and Sport and Mr Dušan LESJAK State Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology

**Slovakia:** Mr Ján MIKOLAJ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education

**Finland:** Ms Sari SARKOMAA Minister for Education

**Sweden:** Ms Nyamko SABUNI Minister for Integration and Equal Opportunities and Mr Bertil ÖSTBERG State Secretary to the Minister for Education

**United Kingdom:** Mr Bill RAMMELL Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education

**Commission:** Mr Ján FIGEL' Member

## **Council Configurations are not determined by the Treaties**

- Except General Affairs Council and CFSP Council
- Lisbon Treaty has officially granted the competencies to the EUC (TFEU 236)

## **Number of Council configurations have been drastically reduced but the number of meetings was not reduced proportionally**

- 1980 : 15 and 60 meetings
- 1990 : 22 and 90 meetings
- 2000 : 16 and 77 meetings
- 2004 : 9 and 76 meetings
- 2008 : first semester 33 formal meetings of the Council of Ministers (Brussels and Luxembourg) 16 informal meetings and conferences at the ministerial level (Brdo pri Kranju, Oslo and Brussels)

Sectoral differentiation but **one single body** : Any subject could be submitted to any configuration

**Example : 2917st Council meeting : Agriculture and Fisheries - Brussels, 18-19 December 2008** ( Non exhaustive list of elements)

#### AGRICULTURE

- Green Paper on agricultural product quality
- Removal of surface contamination from poultry carcasses.
- School fruit
- Protection of calves and pigs - Codification of Directives
- Health rules as regards animal by-products not intended for human consumption
- Residue limits in foods of animal origin
- Safety of imported agricultural and agri-food products and compliance with Community rules – Council

## JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

- European Evidence Warrant
- Filling in visa stickers

## COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

- Ballistic missiles – EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

- EU-Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan - enlargement

## ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

- Protection of the euro against counterfeiting

## EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY

- Financing of CFSP opérations

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

- Loans and grants blending mechanisms.

## COMMERCIAL POLICY

- Anti-dumping – Cotton-type bedlinen – Graphite electrodes –India

## REGIONAL POLICY

- Operations co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund

## CUSTOMS UNION

- Export of cultural goods – Codification of the Regulation.

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Time-sharing of holiday products – Tourism – Internal market

## INTERNAL MARKET

- Chemicals – "REACH"

## ENERGY


- Eco-design of digital decoders – Regulatory procedure with scrutiny

## ENVIRONMENT

- Protection of the coasts and waters of the North-East Atlantic



## Council internal decision making process

- Proposal drafted by the Commission
- Send to the Council and the Parliament
- Inside the Council
  - COREPER and others preparatory bodies :
    - COPS (political and security committee), EFC (Economic and Financial Committee), CATS (police and judicial cooperation) Article 133 Committee
  - Working Groups : around 250 



# COREPER

Established at the same time that the Council

- First meeting in 1958 (since has hold more 2500 meetings)

Meet on weekly basis for at least one day (formal and informal meetings, special invitation by the Presidency)

- Considered as the *de facto* main decision making body

All potential Council decisions have to be “analyse” by Coreper

Members have developed an *esprit de corps* characterized by mutual trust and responsiveness, tend to develop into a consensus reflex and aids the process of negotiation in which they are constantly engaged

## Composition

Members are resident in Brussels and hold an diplomatic status

- Senior official with the rank of ambassador
- Head of the Member States Permanent Representation

One per Member States : tasks to *represent the UK's interests in the EU. We are civil servants drawn from a wide range of British Government Departments. We spend our time negotiating and lobbying on behalf of the UK* (Kim Darroch UK. Per. Rep.)

Assisted by Deputies (senior official often ambassadorial level)

## **Divided in Coreper I and II**

- Operate independently, each has its own areas of competencies
- Initially Coreper II (ambassadors) was dealing with high political issues and Coreper I (deputies) was entrusted with the remainder
- Distinction is presently unclear, most of the issues are combination of two

### **Coreper II “political”**

Normally prepares the work for General Affairs and External Relations, Ecofin, JHA Council

Agenda :

### **Coreper I “technical”**

Normally prepares the work for the remaining Council such as Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research), Transport, Telecommunications and Energy, Agriculture and Fisheries, Environment, Education, Youth and Culture

Agenda :

## Function

Not clearly defined : *1. A committee consisting of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States shall be responsible for **preparing** the work of the Council and **for carrying out the tasks** assigned to it by the latter. The Committee may adopt procedural decisions in cases provided for in the Council's Rules of Procedure. (article 240 TFEU)*

- Assures **consistency** of the Union policies and actions (horizontal coordination)

### Two Coreper for 9 Council Configurations

- Partly responsible for the follow up of EU Council decisions
- Participates to the Conciliation Committee with the European Parliament (co-decision procedure)



## **Interface** between Council (even EU Council) and Working groups

- Coordination and oversight of the work of Working groups

Adopting conclusion, substantive discussion of issues that were not settle down

- Preparation for the Council decision

Grouping items into two sections

- Point I to be adopted by the Council (agreement exists within Coreper)
- Point II to be discuss by the Council (no agreement within Coreper)

2266th MEETING OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE (Part 1) date : Wednesday 11 (10:00) and  
Friday 13 (10:00) March 2009

**I (1)**

7. Replies to written questions put to the Council by Members of the European Parliament (+)

- (a) n° E-5737/08 put by Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert  
"Belarus: suspension of visa bans"  
16972/08 PE-QE 863
- (b) n° P-5837/08 put by Thijs Berman  
"Mauritania"  
16963/08 PE-QE 860

9. Case before the Court of First Instance

- Case T-441/08 (ICO Services Limited v European Parliament and Council  
- Information note to the of Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 1)  
17301/08 JUR 572 TELECOM 235 COMPET 582 MI 552

15. Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the conclusion of an Agreement renewing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and the Government of the Republic of India

- Adoption  
16348/08 RECH 391 ASIE 115  
17455/08 RECH 428 ASIE 131



17. **Working programme of the Czech Presidency**
- Information from the Presidency
18. **Preparation for the Council meeting (Agriculture and Fisheries) on 19 January 2009**
1. Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the obligations of operators who place **timber and timber products on the market (LA)**
    - Policy debate  
(Public deliberation, pursuant to Article 8(1)(c) CR  
14482/08 AGRI 336 ENV 703 FOREST 57 CODEC 1353 DEVGEN 190  
RELEX 777 JUR 441 UD 191  
17313/08 AGRI 460 ENV 1018 FOREST 84 CODEC 1857 DEVGEN 274  
RELEX 1028 JUR 573 UD 231
  2. Proposal for a Council Decision authorising the placing on the market of products containing or produced from **genetically modified oilseed rape T45 (ACS-BN008-2)** resulting from the commercialisation of this oilseed rape in third countries until 2005 pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (LA)
    - Adoption  
15039/08 AGRILEG 188 ENV 753  
5066/09 AGRILEG 2 ENV 5
  3. Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the placing on the market, in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of a **carnation (Dianthus caryophyllus L., line 123.8.12) genetically modified for flower colour (LA)**
    - Adoption  
16271/08 AGRILEG 213 ENV 883  
5066/09 AGRILEG 2 ENV 5

# The Working Groups

## Principles

- Could be a permanent, temporary or *ad hoc* body
- Usually created by the Council to support/prepare the decision (proposed by Coreper)
- No official decision are adopted, result of discussion are reported to Coreper for decision

## Organisation

- Around 20/30 meetings per day organised in Brussels  
In 2004 : 3971 meetings (2705 in 1997)
- Meet at various intervals from weekly to several months



## - Composition

**Government representatives** normally operating on the basis of instructions emanating from their capital

Participants are supposed to have the relevant **expertise** in the subject area

Coming from Permanent Representation or from Capital

Who finances for the travel expenses ?

Size of the “delegation” links to Member States decision but usually not more than one seat per MS around the table

**Commission representatives** participate to present and defend the proposal to be discuss

Officials from the **Council Secretariat** provide the necessary administrative and legal back up for the negotiations

Support the Presidency who chairs and prepares the meeting

## - **Function and working methods**

Normally Working groups are considered as **technical** bodies

Concentrate on technical parts of each dossier

Nevertheless could not be only technical as its tasks is to reduce the number of problem areas to be dealt with by Coreper and subsequently the Council

**Agenda** could contain two types of items sent initially by Coreper

New dossiers that require discussion on every point

Dossiers all ready discussed at Coreper or even Council after initial discussion in the concerned working group and returned for further discussion on particular points

Each point is discussed in turn to raise/obtain an **consensus**

Discussion could continue until the Presidency judges that such consensus has been obtained or nothing further could be achieved

Point I : Consensus exists and the dossier to be adopted by Coreper usually without debate (more than 80% of agenda items)

Point II : No consensus necessity to require guidelines to Coreper to go further

**No voting** but relevant voting rules clearly in the mind of MS delegation

**Report** to Coreper is drafted by the Council Secretariat

**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 16 March 2009**

**7214/09**

**Interinstitutional File:  
2006/0266 (ACC)**

**LIMITE**

**COMER 31  
PESC 299  
CONOP 11  
ECO 30  
UD 50  
ATO 26**

**NOTE**

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from : Presidency/Council Secretariat

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to : Delegations

---

Subject : Draft Council Regulation setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items (based on proposal tabled using the "recast" technique) (doc. 16989/06)

---

1. Delegations will find attached a draft Council Regulation setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items agreed by the Working Party on Dual Use Goods at its meeting on 3 March 2009. The agreed draft is based on a Commission proposal for a Council Regulation setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology (doc. 16989/06, tabled using the "recast" technique).

- (iv) Article 2(f) (definition of “brokering services”) was agreed at the 26 February 2008 meeting of the DUWP, subject to a reserve by Sweden (cf. doc. 6986/08 Annex 1).
- (v) Article 2(h) (definition of “Individual export authorisation”) was agreed at 27 November 2007 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 15820/07 Annex 1).
- (vi) Article 2(k) (definition of "national general export authorisation") was agreed at the 31 October 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 15621/08, para. 1(i))
- (vii) Article 3c was agreed at 31 October 2008 meeting of the DUWP.
- (viii) Article 6a was agreed at 26 February 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 6986/08 Annex 1) (.
- (ix) Article 8 para 2 was agreed at 21 April 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 8670/08 Annex 1).
- (x) Article 9 was agreed at 30 May 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 10179/08 Annex 1).
- (xi) Article 10(1) was agreed at 26 February 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 6986/08 Annex 1).
- (xii) Article 15 was agreed at 30 May 2008 meeting of the DUWP (cf. doc. 10179/08 Annex 1).

(c) «exporter» shall mean any natural or legal person  or partnership<sup>17</sup>

(ii) ~~«exporter» shall also mean any natural or legal person who decides to transmit~~  or  
 make available ] <sup>18</sup> software or technology ~~⇒~~ [...] ~~⇐~~ <sup>19</sup> by  any   
 electronic media, fax or telephone<sup>20</sup>  means  to a destination outside the  
 European  Community;

<sup>16</sup> Pcy compromise suggestion (30 July 2008)

<sup>17</sup> Delegations agreed to this wording as proposed in the recast (27 November 2007 meeting of the DUWP).

<sup>18</sup> NL requested deletion of "or make available", LUX felt this was not necessary, IRL/CY wondered how these controls would be enforced; DE/IT/UK noted that the issue of "public domain" had frequently been discussed, a decision would need to be made as to how to close loopholes in this connection. Pcy concluded that the issue should be discussed further (27 November 2007 meeting of the DUWP).

## The different Council Configurations

1. General Affairs and External Relations
2. Economic and Financial Affairs (“ECOFIN”)
3. Justice and Home Affairs
4. Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry and Research)
5. Agriculture and Fisheries
6. Education, Youth and Culture



## 3. The European Commission



# Introduction

Appears to be in competition and/or in cooperation with the Council and the European Parliament

None could act alone: Commission holds the right of proposal and Council/EP hold the right of decision

Lead to the so-called community method :  
obtaining consensus

*Commission shall promote the general interest of the Union and take initiatives to that end (17 EUT)*

Normally independent of national governments.

# Composition

## 27 Commissioners

One per MS up to October 31 2014

Number of Commissioners should (have) decrease in the future

## Nice Treaty

- Not clearly defined

Number should be less than the number of MS

Should be chosen on a rotation system based on the principle of equality

New system should be decided unanimously by the Council

## Lisbon Treaty

From November 2014 : number should be two third (18) of the number of MS and chosen on a strictly equal rotation between MS (no more than one mandate of difference between MS)

Unless the European Council, acting unanimously, decides to alter this number

## The difficult relationship between Commissioners and their Member States

**Principle** : Commissioners have to be independent from *their* MS

### **Commissioner code of conduct**

**Ethical issues** : No private activities, declaration of financial interests, declaration of professional activities of their spouses, could hold Honorary Post only (no decision making power) in NGO or educational institution, more than 150€ **Gift** to be register

**After mandate activities** : occupation during the year after they have ceased to hold office should be declared to the Commission and if in relation with the portfolio , it should be refer to an ethical committee

**Reception, missions rules** : Budget limitation, Day allowance, ...

### **Difficulties**

- Commissioners are proposed by MS
- Interference with national election and national political agenda
- The difficult return at the end of the mandate

# Designation

- Appointed every **5 years** (within 6 months of the European Parliament Election)

1985 (Delors), 1995 (Santer) 2000 (Prodi), 2004 (Baroso), 2009

- **President** is appointed by the **European Council** by qualified majority and approved by the **EP**

If the proposed candidate does not receive a majority of votes, the European Council have to, within one month, propose another candidate

- **Commissioners** are selected by the President from a list of three nominees proposed by each **Member State**
- The **Council**, by **common accord with the President** adopts the list of nominees by qualified majority and communicates it to the European Parliament for approval

- **Parliament** interviews each nominee and **votes** its consent on the whole team
- The new Commission is **formally appointed by the Council**, acting by qualified majority
- Commission remains politically **accountable to Parliament**  
EP has the power to **dismiss the whole Commission** by adopting a motion of censure.
- Commissioners have to resign if asked to do so by the President

## Designation of the last Commission (2004)

**June 30:** European Council : Manuel Barroso appointed as President

**July 22:** President appointment approved by The European Parliament

**July 26-29:** Preparation of the questionnaire by each EP Committee

- Objective : scrutiny Commissioners proposed policies
- One leading Committee plus representation of Committees related

**End of July:** Member State proposed their candidates not necessary MP

Adoption by the Council with the approval of the President

**August :** Definition of Portfolio by the President

**End of August:** adoption of the questionnaire by the EP

**Until mid-September** transmission of answers by the proposed commissioners

**27 September/early October :** Commissioners hearings at the EP

Difficulties with :

- Buttiglione rejected for previous political declaration considered as not compatible with the proposed portfolio (Justice, Freedom and Security)

*I may think that homosexuality is a sin, and this has no effect on politics, unless I say that homosexuality is a crime.*

- Kovacs (Hungary) mostly “lack” of competencies in its portfolio field (taxation and custom union)

**25/28 October:** Barroso postponed the vote

EP could not reject one commissioner

**November 4 :** new proposal by the President

**15/16 November:** new hearings

**November 18:** approval by the EP and designation by the  
European Council

Next President 2009 : might be Manuel Barroso



# Organisation

## Staff figures

- Around **25 000** official and temporary agents   
Administrative officials, experts, translators, interpreters and secretariat.
- Around **9 000** external agents  
Temporary, seconded national experts, service of agency, technical and administrative assistance.
- Majority of Belgians (20%), French (10,2%), Italians (10,4%) and Germans (8,4%)

## Location

- Essentially in Brussels (more than 17 000), Luxembourg (more than 3000) and Italy (more than 1000)   
Commission Agencies established in other Member States  
Representation in all EU MS  
External Services in third States  
Cap Verde, Chili, China, Congo, Fiji, Island, Macedonia, USA ... [\(list\)](#)

## **Divided in Directorate General and Services**

**By Policies :** Agriculture and Rural Development, Competition, Economic and Financial Affairs, Education and Culture, Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Enterprise and Industry, Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection, Information Society and Media, Internal Market and Services, Justice, Freedom and Security, Regional Policy, Research, Taxation and Customs Union, Transport and Energy, Infrastructures and Logistics

**By Services :** Development, Enlargement, EuropeAid - Co-operation Office External Relations, Humanitarian Aid Office - ECHO, Trade, General (European antifraud services, Eurostat, Publication Office, General Secretariat, Press and Communication), Internal (Budget, Personnel and Administration, Interpretation), Legal Service

## **Division more or less established on the Commissioners portfolio**

Antonio Tanjani in charge of transport and Andris Piebalgs in charge of Energy but one DG. Olli Rehn in charge of Enlargement and one DG Enlargement.

## EU Commission role

Holds the **right of initiative** to propose legislation to Parliament and the Council

- Responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation
- Within the limits defined by the subsidiarity and proportionality principle
- Decisions within the Commission are adopted by a majority of its members (article 219)

Formal votes are extremely rare

## **Interferes in the Council activities/decision making**

- “28th Member State” no right to vote but fully participates in negotiations

Speaks, proposes, advocates,...

- Could always withdraw the proposal at any stage before the Council obtains an agreement on it
- Could be only overruled by MS unanimity

## **Weaker role in the second and third pillar**

- No right of initiative but fully participates

## **Manages and implements EU policies and the budget**

- Commission supervises **the spending made by national and local authorities**

No direct spending by the Commission : ‘Interreg’ and ‘Urban’ programmes (creating cross-border partnerships between regions and helping regenerate declining urban areas) or the ‘Socrates’ programme of Europe-wide student exchanges

- **Implementation of policies adopted by Parliament and the Council**

- Common Agricultural and Fisheries Policy
- Competition Policy

Authorises or prohibits **mergers** between companies  
Controls MS financial support to industries to avoid distortion of competition.

## Commission is assisted when implementing adopted policies by Committees

- Implementing EC legislation could be done **directly** by the Council, by Member States and by the Commission

Council reluctance to grant implementing power to the Commission

- Necessity to **supervise** the Commission when implementing EU legislation
- Establishment of Committees

Around 250

- Composed by MS representatives similar Council Working Groups
- Chaired by the Commission
- Committee opinion may be binding or not binding

Different procedures (regulatory, advisory, safeguards)

## **Total numbers of committees : (February 2008)**

- *Policy Sector: Enterprise and industry (DG ENTR) 35*
- *Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities (DG EMPL) 4*
- *Agriculture and rural development (DG AGRI) 17*
- *Energy and transport (DG TREN) 35*
- *Environment (DG ENV) 33*
- *Research (DG RTD) 5*
- *Information society and media (DG INFSO) 9*
- *Fisheries and maritime affairs (DG FISH) 4*
- *Internal market and services (DG MARKT) 13*
- *Regional policy (DG REGIO) 2*



- *Taxation and customs union (DG TAXUD)* 10
- *Education and culture (DG EAC)* 7
- *Health and consumer protection (DG SANCO)* 17
- *Justice, freedom and security (DG JLS)* 21
- *External relations (DG RELEX)* 2
- *Trade (DG TRADE)* 11
- *Enlargement (DG ELARG)* 2
- *Europe Aid (AIDCO)* 6
- *Humanitarian Aid (DG ECHO)* 1
- *Eurostat (ESTAT)* 9
- *Budget (DG BUDG)* 2
- *European anti-fraud office (OLAF)* 1
- *Informatics (DG DIGIT)* 1



## Guardian of the Treaties

To enforce European law (jointly with the Court of Justice)

- Assuring that EU law is properly applied in all MS.
- Transposition does not means it is properly done....
- If not the Commission **could** launch an **infringement procedure** (not judicial)

Sending to the government an **official letter** mentioning

- Why the Commission considers this country is infringing EU law
- Fixing a deadline for sending to the Commission a detailed reply

If procedure fails to put things right, the Commission could refer the case to the Court of Justice, which has the power to impose penalties

**Negotiated in the name of the European Union on the international stage for certain policies**

Within the mandate granted by the Council (WTO,...)

**Table 1.1. - Total number of newly detected infringement cases, by year of detection and by origin**

*(Situation up to 31 December 2007)*

| YEAR         | TOTAL | COMPLAINTS         | OWN INITIATIVE CASES |                             |               |                     | NON-COMMUNICATION <sup>2</sup> |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
|              |       |                    | TOTAL                | OF WHICH:                   |               | SUB-TOTAL (1) + (2) |                                |
|              |       |                    |                      | Parliamentary questions (1) | Petitions (2) |                     |                                |
| 1996         | 2155  | 819                | 257                  | 26                          | 22            | 4                   | 1079                           |
| 1997         | 1978  | 957                | 261                  | 17                          | 13            | 4                   | 760                            |
| 1998         | 2134  | 1128               | 396                  | 25                          | 18            | 7                   | 610                            |
| 1999         | 2270  | 1305               | 288                  | 26                          | 16            | 10                  | 677                            |
| 2000         | 2434  | 1225               | 313                  | 20                          | 15            | 5                   | 896                            |
| 2001         | 2179  | 1300               | 272                  | 6                           | 5             | 1                   | 607                            |
| 2002         | 2356  | 1431               | 318                  | 50                          | 30            | 20                  | 607                            |
| 2003         | 2709  | 1290               | 253                  | 43                          | 23            | 20                  | 1166                           |
| 2004 (EUR15) | 2146  | 1080               | 285                  | 36                          | 23            | 13                  | 781                            |
| 2004 (EUR25) | 2993  | 1146               | 328                  | 36                          | 23            | 13                  | 1519                           |
| 2005         | 2653  | 1154               | 433                  | 27                          | 16            | 11                  | 1079                           |
| 2006         | 2518  | 1049               | 565                  | 23                          | 18            | 5                   | 904                            |
| 2007 (EUR25) | 2345  | 917                | 488                  | 12                          | 7             | 5                   | 940                            |
| 2007 (EUR27) | 2666  | 958 <sup>(1)</sup> | 512                  | 12                          | 7             | 5                   | 1196                           |

(1) In 2007 35,9% of the infringement cases originated in complaints for EUR27 ( 39,1% for EUR25), as to 41,7% in 2006 (EUR25)

(2) Non-communication : this category includes the non-communication of national measures transposing Community directives.

## Interference between Commission, Presidency and Council Secretariat

### **Commission is not a monolith even if acts by collegial decision**

- Potential divisions of views between commissioners
- Potential personal relationship between Council Members and Commissioners

### **Suspicion atmosphere between Commission and Council Secretariat**

- Council Secretariat supported by a less permanent structure (rotating presidency)
  - Competitive relation between Commission and Council Legal Services
- Different views on the interpretation of the Community law

## Different phases of the relationship

### **Agenda setting**

Presidency defines meetings agenda and priorities but Commission has the right of initiative for first pillar issue.

### **Pre-negotiation of proposals**

- MS tend to influence unilaterally the drafting of an Commission proposal.
- Easier if the Commission presents an “Communication” rather than a fully drafted legislative proposal

### **Gathering feedback**

- Council Members have an individual political responsibility (defend national interests and their citizen acceptability)
- Commission no direct pressure, could have a more longer-term perspective

### **Negotiation**

- Commission could act in debate as an “protagonist” or as an “mediator”

# 4. The European Parliament

# Introduction

- Elected for a 5 years term (2004, 2009)
- Since 1979 **MPs** have been elected by direct universal suffrage
- Cost around **2,8€** per inhabitant 1% or one fifth of the total administrative costs of all EU institutions

1.32 billion : 44% for staff expenses, mainly salaries for the 5,800 employees working in the administration and, to a lesser extent, in the Political Groups.

- Met for the first time **1958** with 142 MP and gradually increased with German unification and successive enlargements up to 785.
- After the 2009 elections the number of seats will again be reduced to **732**
- Essential rules are fixed by article 14 TUE

Maximum MP number 750 (plus its President) with a minimum of 6 per MS and a maximum of 96

MP number per MS shall be decided by the EU Council

## MPs by Member State

**Numbers :** (2004) (2009)

**Minus ten:** Estonia (6) (6), Cyprus (6) (6), Latvia (9) (9), Luxembourg (6) (6), Malta (5) (6), Slovenia (7) (7) : (39) (40)

**Minus twenty:** Denmark (14) (13), Ireland (13) (12), Lithuania (13) (12), Austria (18) (19), Bulgaria (18) (18) Slovakia (14) (13), Finland (14) (13), Sweden (19) (20) : (123) (120)

**Minus thirty:** Belgium (24) (22), Czech Republic (24) (22), Greece (24) (22), Hungary (24) (22), Netherlands (27) (26), Portugal (24) (22) : (147) (136)

**Over thirty:** Romania (35) (33), Germany (99) (96), Spain (54) (54), France (78) (74), Italy (78) (73), Poland (54) (51), United Kingdom (78) (73) : (476) (454)

**Total:** 785 (absolute majority: 393) (376)

% of the EU population



## Structure and Time Organisation

**Strasbourg** : One week of plenary session per month in Strasbourg (full session).

**Brussels** :

- Additional plenary settings
- Two weeks for Parliament's committees meetings

**Luxembourg** : Parliament's secretariat

4000 staff, a third is devoted to translation

Remaining week is devoted to meetings of the different political groups

MP set by Political groups and not in national delegation

Divided in seven “political groups” and one “none attached group”



# Organisation

**President** : Hans-Gert Pöttering (Germany) Jozep Borrell (Spain), Pat Cox, Nicole Fontaine,...

**Bureau** : Responsible for Parliament's budget and administrative, organisational and staff matters.

**Quaestors**, Responsible for administrative matters relating directly to MEPs

**Conference of Presidents** made up of the President of Parliament and political group chairmen.

- Responsible for Parliament's political organisation
- Establishes the size and terms of reference of parliamentary committees and delegations
- Decides on the distribution of seats in the Chamber
- Draws up the timetable and agenda for plenary sessions

Conference of Committee Chairmen regarding the work of the committees and plenary-session agendas

Work of sessions is prepared by three kinds of Committees

Parliamentary Committees: **Internal** Policies

Budgets, Budgetary Control, Economic and Monetary Affairs, Employment and Social Affairs, Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Industry, Research and Energy, Internal Market and Consumer Protection, Transport and Tourism, Regional Development, Agriculture and Rural Development, Fisheries, Culture and Education, Legal Affairs, Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs, Constitutional Affairs, Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Petitions

Parliamentary Committees: **External** Policies

Committee on Foreign Affairs (Subcommittee on Human Rights, Subcommittee on Security and Defence), Committee on Development, Committee on International Trade

Temporary or **Inquiry** Committees

Temporary committee on Climate changes

Former: Policy Challenges and Budgetary Means of the Enlarged Union 2007-2013, Alleged use of European countries by the CIA for the transport and illegal detention of prisoners, Foot and Mouth Disease, Human Genetic and others new technologies of modern medicines, Echelon Interception System,...

## A. Parliament Legislative Power

### 1. Codecision mechanism (normal procedure) TFUE 289, 294

- Commission tables a proposal to the Council and the EP
- EP analyses it and could approve, amend or *reject* it (**first reading**)

Lasts for eight months on average.

Simple majority is required to amend the  
Commission proposal

- Commission could alter its legislative proposal, enabling it to incorporate European Parliament amendments

## The Council :

- **accepts** without alteration the Commission's proposal, amended or by the European Parliament and the act can be adopted

Informal tripartite meetings attended by representatives of the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission in order to obtain an agreement at first reading

- **adopts** a Common Position

Council will act by a qualified majority with the agreement of the Commission if its position differs from that of the Commission, unanimity will be required.

Takes from seven months to several years

**Commission communication** on the Council common position

**EP analyses** the common position and the Commission  
Communication (**second reading**)

Procedure strictly limited in term of amendments and time (3  
months plus one)

Discuss within Committee and adopted by the plenary

The **act is considered as adopted** in accordance with the  
common position if the **European Parliament** :

- **endorses** the common position as it stands,
- **fails** to adopt amendments as a result of not obtaining an  
absolute majority of its Members (393 votes)
- **does not take a decision** within the stipulated time limit

**Rejection of the Council common position and** the act is deemed not to have been adopted.

**Require** the votes of an absolute majority of the component Members of the European Parliament

**European Parliament may propose amendments to the Council common position**, and the text thus amended is forwarded to the Council and the Commission

The **Commission** delivers an opinion on the European Parliament's amendments

- The **Council** has a period of three months, following receipt of the European Parliament's amendments, in which to **approve them**

**By a qualified majority or unanimously if the Commission has delivered a negative opinion**

If not the President of the Council, in agreement with the President of the European Parliament, will convene a meeting of the **Conciliation Committee** within six weeks (may be extended by two weeks) (**third reading**)

Composed by **equal number of representatives** of the Council and of European Parliament, as well as the Commissioner responsible.

Each delegation to the Conciliation **Committee have to approve** the joint text in accordance with its own rules

No possibility for the Commission to prevent the Council from acting by a qualified majority without its agreement -  
Text adopted or rejected

## **2. Consultation mechanism**

Could be mandatory so no decision could be adopted unless the EP advise has been received by the Council



## B. Parliament Budgetary Role

### Budget of the EU ?

2009 : 133,8 billion € (40% for CAP, 45 % for innovation, employment and regional development programmes)

- No EU right to levy any taxes or borrowings
- Resources made available by MS

1. **Traditional own resources** (TOR) consist of customs duties, agricultural duties and sugar levies. These own resources are levied on economic operators and collected by Member States on behalf of the EU.

*Around 15% of total revenue*

2. **'VAT resource'** (contribution by the Member States equivalent to 1% of the final selling price of a common base of goods and services)

*Around 15% of total resources*

4. **'GNP resource'** (contribution by each Member State on the basis of its share of the Community's total GNP, with a maximum rate of 1.27%)

*Around 69 % of total resources*



## Budget expenditure :

- **Compulsory** expenditures arising directly out of Union regulations  
Common Agricultural Policy subsidies
- **Non-compulsory** expenditures  
Structural fund subsidies and administrative expenditures

## EP role ?

- Has the “Final word”
- Commission drafted a budget proposal
- Analysed by the Council and proposed to the EP
- Analysed by EP adopted or amended
- If amended send back to the Council
- New Council proposal
- Analysed by the EP and adopted

## C. Parliament Political Role

### **CFSP : « rather weak »**

- Council obligation to inform on developments in the CFSP matters
- MP have the right to put questions and makes recommendations to the Council
- Consulted for certain international agreements (EU and third countries)
- Adopts Resolutions

### **WTO**

- Gives its agreement to the outcomes of negotiations undertaken by the European Union.  
Through recommendations to the European Commission, the Union's main negotiator.

### **Charter of Fundamental Right**

- Proclaimed by The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (December 2000, Nice European Council)

## Human Rights

- Report on the human rights issue each year (Situation in countries outside the EU and Situation within the Union).
- Adoption of resolutions condemning governments that breach human rights

China : We cannot compromise on principles on human rights and the rule of law (D Sterck Head of EP delegation)

- Adoption of resolutions to enhance the debate or support the adoption of an EU Regulation

### Torture Regulation

- Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought

Award to personality who has distinguished themselves in the struggle for human rights (awarded since 88).

Salih Mahmoud Osman (Sudanese human right lawyer), (2007),  
Hu Jia (Chinese political activist) (2008).

**Co-decision** in several issues as explained in the different Council Configuration

# European Parliament, Council and Commission : competition and collaboration

## Parliament and Commission

- The question of legitimacy

*Political* body legitimates through direct universal suffrage

*Technical* body and legitimacy granting by EP

Approval of the Commission proposed by its President

- Commission remains politically **accountable to Parliament**

EP has the power to **dismiss the whole Commission** by adopting a motion of censure

- EP analyses and comments the annual work program of the Commission

Possibility to ask Commission to present a proposal but no power of constraint

Extended right to send parliamentary question to the Commission

## Parliament and Council

- The question of legitimacy

*Political* body legitimate by direct universal suffrage

*Political* body and Members are legitimate due to their national political system

Council as an body as no direct legitimacy

- EMPs could not attend Council meetings but Council Members could attend most EP sessions

EP president invited at the beginning of EU Council

- Increasing of the codecision mechanism made the decision mechanism more publicly and put Council under pressure to develop new tactics and convincing positions
- Rejection of the budget : EP ultimate weapons  
Has been use three times (1979, 1982, 1984)
- To stop the war escalation an informal process has been adopted : “Triialogue”  
Commission, Council and EP

## **Parliament influencing the Council**

- Impact on the **content and ratification** of the Council decisions

Veto on the budget

Codecision mechanism (rejecting first reading)

- Explicit, implicit right of initiative affecting the **content of the Council's agenda**

Cooperation between EP and Commission to drive through an EP initiative

- Power of **scrutiny**

Written and oral question to the Council

## 5. Civil Society Organisation



- **Different** from institutionalised advisory bodies or specialised Agencies:

- Committee of Regions, European Economic and Social Committee

- European Environment Agency, European Medicine Agency

- **Defined by the Commission** as “activities carried out with the objective of influencing the policy formulation and decision-making processes of the European institutions”

- Various term to define such activities :

Interest Group, Pressure Group, Promotion Group, Lobbies

- Usually see by the population as “**counterproductive**”

Its objective are only to support private interests and not common/global interest

Rather **numerous** but difficult to quantify exactly

1992 Commission report estimated

3000 lobbies active in Brussels and Strasbourg

- 1000 EU trade Association
- 750 NGO

Representing various interests : Consumers, Protection of the Environment, Religious interest, Families, Youth, Third world aid,...

- 500 Major Companies
- 150 Regional Offices
- 130 Law firms
- Unspecified number of Consultants

Others estimated the number up to 15 000 and believed they spend at least 90 million euros

## **Various degree of organisation**

### **I. Association of Associations**

- Federation of Association : UNICE, CEFIC
- Branch of International Association : Greenpeace

### **II. Non formal structure and even virtual one**

EMRA : European Modern Restaurant Association (Mac Do, Pizza Hut, Burger King) : No office no permanent representation

### **III. Firms form**

Law firms, Consultants,...

## **Could represent private or public interests**

Defence of the interests of one **economic actors**

**Producers, traders, importers, consumers, ...**

Defence of the so considered “**global interests**” (civic interest)

**Environment, Religions, ...**

## **Could be direct or non direct profit organisations**

- International, European, National, Regional Federation or Association
- EU dedicated law firms, public- relations consultant, technical consultant,...

## Environmental Civil Organisations

Issue favoured an **transnational** approach

### **European Environmental Bureau (1974)**

Was the only one dedicated to EU

Very close to the DG environment

Claimed more 141 Members “Citizen Organisation in all MS” (Association such Inter environnement, IBGE,...Mostly established in Brussels)

### **Others mostly branches of international organisation**

WWF, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth,  
European Public Health Alliance  
(Environmental network)

EU Institutions are **not perceived as a specific area for action** even if EU competencies is more important than MS ones but implementation policies still in the hand MS

Action at the EU might appear disproportionate (travels, translation) compare to its effectiveness.

**Hard to evaluate and to justify to its organisation members**

High numbers of potential interlocutors

No real competition between environmental lobbies even if

...

## Regional Civil Organisations

One of the **most active group** of civil organisations

Around 150 Offices (from one part time to 15/20 staff )

Essentially but not only **Regions of Federal MS**

To Balance action of their Federal Government

Most well-known are:

Assembly of European Regions

Belgium (Bxl, Wallonia, German Community), France,  
Germany, -Italy....

Eurocities

Antwerp, Ghent, Wallonie,..Association of the European  
Frontier Region

Reves (réseau européen des villes et régions de l'économie sociale)

Defence of interests which **may divert** from others regional association

- Borders of the EU
- Maritime areas
- Mountains

Might work in **close cooperation** with the EU Commission

Implementation of the EU development program  
(FEDER funds)

- Interreg (cross border cooperation)
- Urban (regeneration)



## “Societal” Civil Organisations

- Human rights, Minorities, Religion,...
- **Less organised and federated** than others Civil Organisations
- Might be very active and sometimes efficient in their action

Often mentioned the successful action of European Women Lobby and the integration of gender equity in the Amsterdam Treaty

Anti discrimination provisions of article 3 of the EC treaty

- **Increasing of religious lobbying activities**  
“fight against discrimination of spiritual movements”  
Exhibition from an anti abortion movement at the European Parliament
- Might be competitors

# Consumers Civil Organisations

Considered as **better resources** organisation

Normally **no competition** between Consumers lobbies

A regulation that benefit one group will not necessarily harms another one

EU Policy in this field tend to raise the level of protection

**Interest could be divergent :**

Support for increasing consumer choice through liberalisation

Telecom

Support for ensuring the quality and safety of foodstuff

Labelling, content information...

Support for asserting the liability of service provider

After sale services, ...

The most well-known is the BEUC (Bureau European des Unions de

Consommateurs)

## Industrial Civil Organisations

- Have (had) a particular importance

EU founded firstly via economic integration

- Mostly organised among **Trade Association**

Except very large firms who could have EU Representation

**Bayer, Procter and Gamble, Solvay, Siemens**

Could act with both “cart” if needed

**Philips**

- Could have very large scope of interest or rather specific

**UNICE “the voice of business in Europe”**

**ECGA (European Carbon and Graphite Association)**

## “Labour” Civil Organisations

Mostly the European Union Trade  
Configuration

Start to be involved with the development of  
the social dimension in the EU

## Civil Society Organisation Strategies

EU decision making process offers **numerous of entries** for lobbies intervention

- I. Parliament, Commission, Council,
- II. Member States institutions

Problem is not a shortage of access but rather to choose the right one

## **Official consultation mechanism**

Lot of advisory bodies established by the EU institutions in particular the Commission to gather information

## **Unofficial consultation**

Try to be considered as an reliable source of information by the decision makers



# Part III. Implementation of sustainable development by the European Union

## **Sustainable government concerns all EC policies**

### **Article 6 of the EC Treaty**

*Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities referred to in Article 3, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.*

### **Article 11 of the Treaty on the functioning of the Union (Lisbonne)**

*Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union **policies and activities**, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.*



## Union policies and activities ?

Internal market, free movement of goods, agricultural and fisheries, free movement of persons, services and capital, area of freedom, security and justice, transport, common rules on competition, taxations and approximation of laws, economic and monetary policy, employment, social policy, the European social fund, education, vocational training, youth, sport, culture, public health, consumer protection, trans-european networks, industry, economic, social and territorial cohesion, research and technological development and space, environment, energy, tourism, civil protection

# 1. European Council Declaration on guiding principles for sustainable development of June 2005

- Adoption of key objectives
- Adoption of policy guiding principles

## Key objectives

### 1. Environnemental protection

*Safeguard the earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity, **respect** the limits of the planet's natural resources and ensure a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment. Prevent and reduce environmental pollution and **promote** sustainable production and consumption to break the link between economic growth and environmental degradation*

## 2. Social equity and cohesion

*Promote a democratic, socially inclusive, cohesive, healthy, safe and just society with respect for fundamental rights and cultural diversity that creates equal opportunities and **combats** discrimination in all its forms.*

## 3. Economic prosperity

*Promote a prosperous, innovative, knowledge-rich, competitive and eco-efficient economy which provides high living standards and full and high-quality employment throughout the European Union*

## 4. Meeting our international responsibilities

*Encourage the establishment and defend the stability of democratic institutions across the world, based on peace, security and freedom. Actively **promote** sustainable development worldwide and **ensure** that the European Union's internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments. .*

# Policy guiding principles

## 1. Promotion and protection of fundamental rights

*Place human beings at the centre of the European Union's policies, by promoting fundamental rights, by combating all forms of discrimination and contributing to the reduction of poverty and the elimination of social exclusion worldwide.*

## 2. Solidarity within and between generation

*Address the needs of current generations without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs in the **European Union and elsewhere.***

### **3. Open and democratic society**

*Guarantee citizens' rights of **access** to information and ensure access to justice. **Develop** adequate consultation and participatory channels for all interested parties and associations.*

### **4. Involvement of citizens**

*Enhance the participation of citizens in decision-making. **Promote** education and public awareness of sustainable development. **Inform** citizens about their impact on the environment and their options for making more sustainable choices.*

### **5. Involvement of businesses and social partners**

***Enhance** the social dialogue, corporate social responsibility and private-public partnerships to foster cooperation and common responsibilities to achieve sustainable production and consumption.*

## 6. Policy coherence and governance

*Promote coherence between all European Union policies and coherence between local, regional, national and global actions in order to **enhance** their contribution to sustainable development.*

## 7. Policy integration

*Promote integration of economic, social and environmental considerations so that they are coherent and mutually reinforce each other by making full use of instruments for better regulation, such as balanced impact assessment and stakeholder consultations.*



## 8. Use best available knowledge

*Ensure that policies are developed, assessed and implemented on the basis of the best available knowledge and that they are economically sound and cost-effective.*

## 9. Precautionary principle

*Where there is scientific uncertainty, implement evaluation procedures and take appropriate preventive action in order to avoid damage to human health or to the environment.*

## 10. Make polluters pay

*Ensure that prices reflect the **real costs** to society of production and consumption activities and that polluters pay for the damage they cause to human health and the environment.*

## 2. EU Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS)

Adopted by the European Council in June 2006 (replaced the 2001 SDS) and implements the Sustainable Declaration of 2005 (key objectives and guiding principles)

Result of extensive review process that started in 2004  
**motivated by**

- 2004 EU enlargement which induces new challenges
- Climate change and energy use, threats to public health, poverty and social exclusion, demographic pressure and ageing, management of natural resources, biodiversity loss, land use and transport still persist

## SDS identifies seven key challenges and corresponding targets, operational objectives and actions

1. Climate Change and clean energy
2. Sustainable transport
3. Sustainable consumption and production
4. Conservation and management of natural resources
5. Public health
6. Social inclusion, demography and migration
7. Global poverty and sustainable development challenges

**I. Overall Objective** : to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns

**II. Operational objectives and targets**

Promoting sustainable consumption and production by addressing social and economic development within the **carrying capacity of ecosystems and decoupling economic growth** from environmental degradation.

- Improving the **environmental and social performance** for products and processes and encouraging their uptake by business and consumers.
- Aiming to achieve by 2010 an EU average level of Green Public Procurement (GPP) equal to that currently achieved by the **best performing Member States**.
- The EU should seek to increase its **global market share** in the field of environmental technologies and eco-innovations.

### **III. Actions to implement the challenge should include**

The Commission and Member States will explore specific actions **to bring about more sustainable consumption and production patterns** at EU and global level, in particular through the UN Marrakech Process and the Commission for Sustainable Development. In this context the Commission will propose an EU Sustainable Consumption and production Action plan by 2007, which should help to identify and overcome barriers for SCP and to ensure better coherence between the different related policy areas and to raise awareness among citizens and change unsustainable consumption habits.

The Commission and the Member States should **engage in a dialogue with business and relevant stakeholders** aiming at setting environmental and social performance targets for products and processes.

The Commission and Member States will develop a **structured process to share** best practice and expertise on GPP taking into account the potential to promote GPP at local and regional levels. The Commission will facilitate regular EU-wide benchmarking of GPP performance, according to an assessment methodology based on agreed and objective parameters, and examine with Member States how best to promote GPP for other major product groups by 2007.



The Commission and Member States will step up efforts to promote and disseminate social and eco-innovations and environmental technologies, inter alia through effective implementation of the Environmental Technologies Action Plan (ETAP) by all actors concerned in order to create new economic opportunities and new markets.





















The Commission will **propose** extending performance **labelling** schemes from electrical appliances and cars to other groups of environmentally harmful products including products with high environmental impacts.

Member States should support information campaigns with retailers and other organisations to **promote sustainable products** inter alia products that stem from organic farming and fair trade as well as environmentally sound products.






## The European Commission adopted on 22 October 2007 the first progress report on the SDS

- Sustainable consumption and production is difficult to measure reliably on a broad basis
- Decoupling of material consumption from economic growth has been initiated
- Number of products which have an eco-label remains small and there is very limited uptake of EMAS, with the number of registered EMAS companies estimated at 5000 (out of a total of roughly 29 million companies operating in the EU)
- Ten Member States have adopted national action plans on green public procurement (GPP) and some have set national GPP targets. In the Netherlands, public procurement is to be 100% sustainable by 2010.

|   | EU-27   | EU-15   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Resource productivity</b>  | :   |    |
| <b>Resource use and waste</b>   |   |   |
| Domestic material consumption   |    |    |
| Municipal waste generation  |    |    |
| Municipal waste treatment   |    |    |
| Emissions of acidifying substances, ozone precursors and particulate matter |  * |    |
| <b>Consumption patterns</b>   |   |   |
| Electricity consumption by households                                       |    |    |
| Final energy consumption  |    |    |
| Food consumption  | :   |    |
| Motorisation rate   |    |    |
| <b>Production patterns</b>  |   |   |
| EMAS  | :   |  |
| Eco-labels  | :   |  |
| Area under agri-environmental commitment                                    | :   | :   |
| Organic farming   | :   |  |
| Livestock density index   | :   |  |



**LEGEND:**

-  favourable change/  
on target path
-  no or insufficient  
change
-  unfavourable  
change/far from  
target path
- :
- insufficient data/EU  
aggregate not  
available
- \* refers to EU-25

<sup>112)</sup> Indicators on number of households, and household expenditure were not evaluated as they are contextual indicators. 'Area

# Public health

**I. Overall Objective :** To promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats

## **II. Operational objectives and targets**

- Improving protection against health threats by developing capacity to respond to them in a co-ordinated manner.
- Further **improving** food and feed legislation, including review of food labelling.
- Continuing to **promote** high animal health and welfare standards in the EU and internationally.

- **Curbing the increase** in lifestyle-related and chronic diseases, particularly among socio- economically disadvantaged groups and areas.
- **Reducing health inequalities** within and between Member States by addressing the wider determinants of health and appropriate health promotion and disease prevention strategies. Actions should take into account international cooperation in fora like WHO, the Council of Europe, OECD and UNESCO.
- **Improving mental health and tackling** suicide risks.

**Ensuring** that by 2020 chemicals, including pesticides, are produced, handled and used in ways that do not pose significant threats to human health and the environment. In this context, the rapid adoption of the Regulation for the registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals (REACH) will be a milestone, the aim being to eventually replace substances of very high concern by suitable alternative substances or technologies.

- **Improving** information on environmental pollution and adverse health impacts.

### III. Actions should include

The Commission in collaboration with Member States, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and WHO will further **develop and strengthen capacities** at EU and Member-State level to respond to health threats in a co-ordinated manner inter alia by upgrading existing action plans on handling health threats.

The Commission and Member States will **promote** better health and disease prevention by addressing health determinants across all relevant policies and activities. Particular attention will be given to the preparation and implementation of strategies and measures targeting lifestyle related health determinants, such as drugs, tobacco use, harmful drinking, poor diet and physical inactivity, and chronic diseases.

The Commission will propose further **improvements** in the food and feed legislation according to the principles of Articles 14 and 15 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 on the safety of food and feeding stuffs. There is a particular need for improvements to the operation of the system on the production and use of genetically modified food and feed, in order to reassure Member States, stakeholders and the general public that decisions are based on risk assessment and risk management which also take into account possible long term effects on human life and health, animal health and welfare, environment and consumer interests.

The Commission together with Member States will **implement** an EU Strategy to combat HIV/AIDS within the EU and in neighbouring countries. Member States should intensify efforts to implement the existing EU Programme for Action to confront HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in third Countries. Concrete links should be established with other Community measures such as the Strategy for Africa.



- The Commission together with Member States will **increase information on environmental pollution and adverse health impacts** and will coordinate research into the links between environmental pollutants, exposure and health impacts to improve our understanding of which environmental factors cause health problems and how best to prevent them.
- The Commission should propose a **strategy** for improving indoor air quality, with particular attention to VOC emissions.
- Special **attention** will be given by the Commission and Member States to vulnerable groups, in particular children through the EU's contribution to the Children Environment and Health Action Plan for Europe (CEHAPE).
- Further implementation of the **Transport Health and Environment Pan European Programme (THE PEP)** by the Commission and Member States inter alia through the integration of environmental and health aspects into transport policy decision-making, monitoring and impact assessment.



## The European Commission on the first progress report on the SDS
















- Europeans are not only living **longer**, but they are living a greater part of their lives **unaffected** by serious health problems.
- Fewer people are dying from **chronic** diseases.
- There is a continuous **reduction** in the incidence of serious accidents at work
- Life style illnesses such as **obesity** and **mental** illness are becoming an increasing problem. Depending on the country, between 30 and 64 % of young males aged between 25 and 34 were overweight or obese in 2003 and between 12 and 47 % of young women. The proportion of over-65s who are overweight or obese is considerably higher, ranging from 62 to 80 %

**Smoking** continues to present health problems. 26% of Europeans were regular smokers in 2003 - 32 % of males and 21 % of females.

Concerning mental health, while the **suicide** rate is decreasing overall, 60 000 suicides occur annually, exceeding the number of Europeans killed in transport accidents.




**Health inequalities**, measured by differences in life expectancy between social groups range from 4-6 years among men to 2 to 4 years among women. In some countries, these differences are considerably higher (10 years) and in many countries the gap appears to have widened over the last 3 decades. Most of the Member States which joined the EU since May 2004 have significantly worse health indicators than those states which were members before May 2004.

**Table 6.1: Evaluation of changes in the public health theme (from 2000) <sup>(174)</sup>**

|   | EU-27   | EU-15   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Healthy life-years at birth</b>        | :   |    |
| <b>Health and health inequalities</b>     |   |   |
| Healthy life-years at age 65              | :   |    |
| Death rate due to chronic diseases        |      |    |
| Suicide death rate                        |      |    |
| <b>Determinants of health</b>             |   |   |
| Salmonellosis                             |  *   |    |
| Toxic chemicals                           | :   |    |
| Overweight and obesity                    | :   | :   |
| Present smokers                           | :   | :   |
| Population exposure to particulate matter |  * |  |
| Population exposure to ozone              |  * |  |
| Serious accidents at work                 |  * |  |



**LEGEND:**

-  favourable change/ on target path
-  no or insufficient change
-  unfavourable change/far from target path
- :
- insufficient data/EU aggregate not available
- \* refers to EU-25

<sup>(174)</sup> Due to short time series, changes were evaluated from 1999 to 2003 for healthy life-years at birth and from 1999 to 2001 at age 65. Population exposure to particulate matter was evaluated from 2001 to 2004.

# To conclude...

*Consistency is contrary to nature,  
contrary to life. The only  
completely consistent people are  
dead.”(Aldous Huxley)*