



WeTheEU

UN
UNITED NETWORK

WHAT IS THE “EUROPEAN UNION”?

The European Union is a regional supranational organization, founded by a diverse group of people, after the Second World War, with the aim of stopping any frequent and bloody conflicts in Europe.



**EACH STATE COMES
FROM A BACKGROUND,
AND SO DOES
THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

LET'S SEE ITS STORY...

THE EUROPEAN PATH

1945-1959: THE BEGINNINGS OF COOPERATION

9 May 1950: European Coal and Steel Community.

Founding countries of the European Coal and Steel Community:
Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands

The Community's aim was sharing coal and steel resources, but it progressively united the European countries economically and politically.

1957: the Treaty of Rome → the European Economic Community (EEC), or '**Common Market**'.

THE EUROPEAN PATH

1960-1969: THE ECONOMIC GROWTH

30 July 1962: 'Common agricultural policy'.

20 July 1963: the EU signed its first big international agreement, helping 18 former colonies in Africa.

1970-1979: A GROWING COMMUNITY

1 January 1973: the first enlargement of the EU took place
→ **Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom.**

1979: the first universal suffrage elections of the European Parliament were held = **All European citizens could elect for the first time their members directly.**

THE EUROPEAN PATH

1980-1989: EUROPE CHANGES FACE

9 November 1989: the Berlin Wall was pulled down
= reunification of Germany (October 1990)

1981-1986: **Greece, Spain and Portugal** became Members States of the EU

1986: the Single European Act = a huge six-year programme
with the aim of sorting out problems related to the free flow
of trade across EU borders → 'Single Market'

THE EUROPEAN PATH

1990-1999: A EUROPE WITHOUT FRONTIERS

1993: the Single Market was completed.

Four freedoms': **Freedom of movement of goods, Services, People and Money.**

1995: **Austria, Finland and Sweden became Members States**

1993-1999: the 'Maastricht' Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty of Amsterdam → EU countries started to cooperate in the fields of security and defence.

1995: The 'Schengen' agreements were signed → they have allowed people to travel without having their passports checked at the borders.

THE EUROPEAN PATH

2000-2009: FURTHER EXPANSION AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION

2000: **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.**

2002: the euro became the new currency for many Europeans.

2004-2007: 9 new members.

2009: Treaty of Lisbon → its aim was to make the EU more democratic, efficient and transparent, and thereby able to tackle global challenges such as climate change, security and sustainable development.

THE EUROPEAN PATH

2010-TODAY: A CHALLENGING DECADE

The 'Banking Union'

Climate change

New security policy

The problem of the Religious extremism

The refugee crisis

2013: Croatia becomes the 28th member of the EU



**WE UNDERSTOOD
HOW EUROPEAN UNION
BECAME WHAT IT IS TODAY.**

**NOW, LET'S SEE
HOW IT WORKS...**

THE INSTITUTIONS

The European Parliament

The European Council

The Council of the European Union

The European Commission

The Court of Justice

The European Central Bank

The Court of Auditors

THE INSTITUTIONS

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WHAT IS IT? EU's law-making body

WHAT DOES IT DO? Directly-elected EU body with legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities

MEMBERS 751 MEPs

LOCATION Strasbourg, Brussels, Luxembourg

THE INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

WHAT IS IT? Summit meetings between EU leaders, chaired by a permanent president. It is convened and chaired by its President

WHAT DOES IT DO? It defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union

MEMBERS Heads of State or Government of EU countries, European Commission President, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

LOCATION Brussels

THE INSTITUTIONS

COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN UNION

WHAT IS IT? Together with the European Parliament, the Council is the main decision-making body of the EU

WHAT DOES IT DO? It represents the voice of EU Member Governments, adopting EU laws and coordinating EU policies

MEMBERS Government Ministers from each EU country, according to the policy area to be discussed

LOCATION Brussels

THE INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

WHAT IS IT? The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm

WHAT DOES IT DO? Promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

MEMBERS A team or 'College' of Commissioners, 1 from each EU country

LOCATION Brussels

THE INSTITUTIONS

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

WHAT IS IT? The Court of Justice interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions. In certain circumstances, also individuals, companies or organisations can use it to take action against an EU institution.

WHAT DOES IT DO? Ensures EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country; ensures countries and EU institutions abide by EU law

MEMBERS 1 judge from each EU country, plus 11 Advocates General

LOCATION Luxembourg

THE INSTITUTIONS

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK

WHAT IS IT? The European Central Bank (ECB) manages the euro and frames and implements EU economic and monetary policy

WHAT DOES IT DO? It manages the euro, keeps prices stable and conducts EU economic and monetary policy

MEMBERS ECB President and Vice-President and Governors of National Central Banks from all EU countries

LOCATION Frankfurt

THE INSTITUTIONS

THE COURT OF AUDITORS

WHAT IS IT? It is the EU's independent external auditor, which looks after the interests of EU taxpayers. It does not have legal powers, but works to improve the European Commission's management of the EU budget and reports on EU finances.

WHAT DOES IT DO? Checks EU funds are collected and used correctly, and helps improve EU financial management

MEMBERS 1 from each EU country

LOCATION Luxembourg

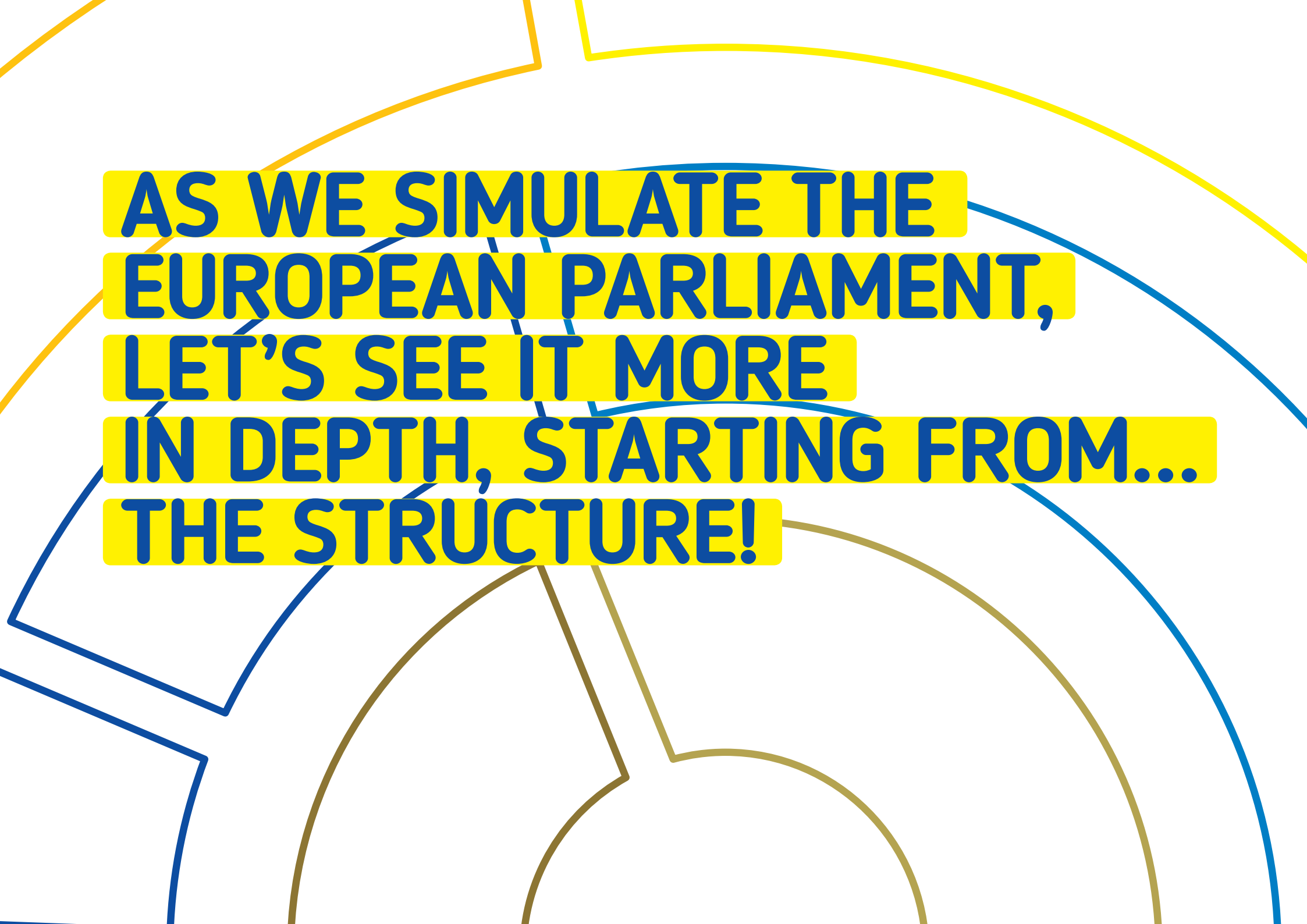
THE CONSULTATIVE BODIES

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC)

THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

THE DIPLOMATIC ARM OF THE EUROPEAN UNION:
THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

DECENTRALISED EU AGENCIES



**AS WE SIMULATE THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT,
LET'S SEE IT MORE
IN DEPTH, STARTING FROM...
THE STRUCTURE!**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

HE OR SHE:

- is elected for a renewable term of two and a half years;
- represents the European Parliament.

TASKS:

- He/she oversees the work of the Parliament the debates in plenary session;
- He/she ensures that Parliament's Rules of Procedure are respected;
- He/She sets out Parliament's point of view and concerns as regards the items on the European agenda and other subjects;
- Once European Union's budget has been adopted by Parliament, he/she signs it, thus rendering it operational.

MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

They are:

- **751 Members**
- **elected by direct universal suffrage in the 28 Member States of the EU**
- **in charge for 5 years**
- **grouped by political affinity, not nationality**

WHAT IS A “GROUP”?

A political group needs a minimum of 25 Members
→ at least 1/4 of the Member States must be represented within the group.

Members may belong only to one political group.

The MEPs who do not belong to any political group are known as “non-attached Members”.

CURRENTLY...

8 political groups in the European Parliament:

1. Group of the European People’s Party (Christian Democrats)
2. Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
3. European Conservatives and Reformists Group
4. Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
5. Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left
6. Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
7. Europe of Freedom and Direct Democracy Group
8. Europe of Nations and Freedom

COMMITTEES

ROLE

Doing the preparatory work for the European Parliament's plenary sessions.

HOW?

With legislative proposals and own-initiative reports;

Considering Commission and Council proposals;

Drawing up reports to be presented to the plenary assembly.

STRUCTURE

From 25 to 71 MEPs

A Chair

A bureau

A secretariat.

CURRENTLY...

22 standing committees:

1. Foreign Affairs (AFET)
2. Human Rights (DROI)
3. Security and Defence (SEDE)
4. Development (DEVE)
5. International Trade (INTA)
6. Budgets (BUDG)
7. Budgetary Control (CONT)
8. Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)
9. Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)
10. Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)
11. Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
12. Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
13. Transport and Tourism (TRAN)
14. Regional Development (REGI)
15. Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
16. Fisheries (PECH)
17. Culture and Education (CULT)
18. Legal Affairs (JURI)
19. Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE)
20. Constitutional Affairs (AFCO)
21. Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)
22. Petitions (PETI)

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

The European Parliament has three main functions, and hence three main powers:

LEGISLATIVE POWER

BUDGETARY POWER

SUPERVISORY POWER

THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

So, The EU Parliament has the power to:

**ADOPT AND AMEND
LEGAL BINDING DOCUMENT
ON A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS.**

Such as... economic governance, immigration, energy, transport, the environment and consumer protection.

**ASK THE COMMISSION TO PRESENT
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR LAWS
ON A CERTAIN TOPIC, TO BE LATER
SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL.**

THE BUDGETARY POWER

So, The EU Parliament has the power to:

DECIDE ON THE ENTIRE ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE EU WITH THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THE PARLIAMENT HAS THE FINAL SAY.

EXERCISE DEMOCRATIC SUPERVISION TO MAKE SURE THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE OTHER INSTITUTIONS DEAL PROPERLY WITH EUROPEAN FUNDS.

MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMISSION ON THE EXECUTION OF THE BUDGET

THE SUPERVISORY POWER

So, The EU Parliament has the power to:

OVERSIGHT OVER OTHER INSTITUTIONS

MONITOR THE PROPER USE OF THE EU BUDGET

ENSURE THE CORRECT IMPLEMENTATION OF EU LAW

SUPERVISORY POWER II

... But How?

THROUGH A REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE EP ON THE OUTCOME OF EACH MEETING

THROUGH WRITTEN AND ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

THROUGH THE RIGHT TO APPROVE AND DISMISS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ASKING THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE TO TAKE ACTIONS AGAINST THE COMMISSION OR COUNCIL IF THEY HAVE ACTED IN A WAY THAT IS CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF EU LAW

SETTING UP A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO CONSIDER VIOLATIONS OF EU LAWS BY MEMBER STATES

SUPERVISORY POWER II

Moreover, The Parliament **MUST** always be consulted:

BEFORE THE PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK (ECB) ARE APPOINTED BY THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

BEFORE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS BY THE COUNCIL



**NOW WE HAVE THE BASIS,
IT'S TIME TO MOVE
TO THE NEXT STEP:
OUR GAME...**

THE MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ROLE OF MEP DELEGATES

WHAT IS IT?

The Model European Parliament (MEP) is a simulation (which means a role playing game) of the activities of the European Parliament.

THE MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ROLE OF MEP DELEGATES

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Education of young students about...
European integration and cooperation
The understanding of common issues
The EU institutions
Political awareness
Leading skills
Social Skills such as teambuilding
and discussion forums

THE MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ROLE OF MEP DELEGATES

WHO PLAYS?

The **students** will be European Delegates and they will act as Members of the European Parliament.

So... **YOU!**

THE MODEL EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE ROLE OF MEP DELEGATES

WHICH MEANS THAT...

You will be grouped by political affiliation.

You will work within the framework of one of the standing committees of the European Parliament.

Each member of the committee presents the view of the government of his/her country on the specific topics in his/her committee.



Associazione United Network
via Salandra, 1/A - 00187 Roma
+39 06 92937028 / fax +39 06 92912866
info@unitednetwork.it

www.unitednetwork.it

 [unitednetwork.eu](https://www.facebook.com/unitednetwork.eu)