



Welcome to the **Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU!**

Presentation by Niels Timmermans (Communications Officer)

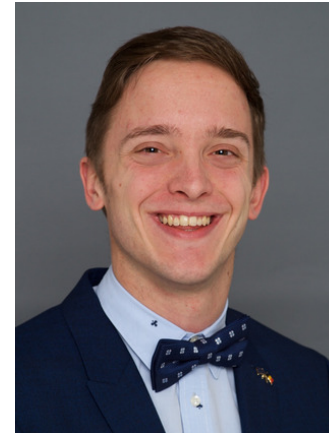


Communications @BelgiumEU



Stéphanie Rossion

Spokesperson



Niels Timmermans

Communications
Officer



1. The European Institutions





The European Commission

Jean-Claude Juncker (LU) (2014-2019)

Brussels (Berlaymont), Luxembourg

- Only have the right to draw up proposals for new EU legislation
- Sends it to Council & Parliament afterwards for discussion and (possible) adoption
- 5-year term
- One Commissioner from every country, including the President and HR/VP (responsible for Foreign Affairs/Security Policy)
- Ten priorities set out (e.g. digital single market, migration,...)





The European Parliament

David Sassoli (IT) (S&D) (2019)

Strasbourg, Brussels, Luxembourg

- Elected body that represents the EU citizens
- Supervises EU's activities and together with the Council, enacts EU legislation.
- 751 MEPs
- How many after Brexit?
- 5 year term
- Decision making via co-decision: ordinary legislative procedure (95% of EU legislation): first reading, second reading, conciliation committee





The Council of the European Union

Presidency: Finland

Location: Brussels (Also Councils in Luxembourg)



- Made up of ministers from the EU's national governments
- Council of the European Union (The Council)
- Attention for: Council of Europe/European Council
- Presidency: different member state every 6 months
- Romania/Finland/Croatia
- Belgium in 2024
- Ministers attend meeting according to topic
- Main job: passing laws





The Council of the European Union

- Council Formations (10): GAC, FAC (HR/VP), AGRIFISH, COMPET, ECOFIN, ENVI, EPSCO, EYCS, JHA, TTE
- Each Council is prepared by a Coreper
- 6 formations in COREPER I
- 4 formations in COREPER II
- 'Working Parties': Disinformation
- Preparations for Coreper : Wednesday+ Friday Corepers
- Most decisions taken in WP (70/75%): 3500 meetings every year
- Coreper: 15/20%
- Council: 5-15%





The Council of the European Union

- Decisions: mostly a qualified majority:
double majority: 55% MS + Representing
65% of all the EU citizens (332 million)
- Unanimously on topics like taxation,
amendments to treaties,...
- Eurogroup: Economic and finance ministers
of the 19 countries of the Euro Area





The European Council

European President: Donald Tusk Brussels

- Most important political institution of the EU
- Head of State or government (presidents/prime ministers)
- Normally 4 times a year
- President: 2,5 years, can be reelected once
- Establishes EU goals and sets out the course
- Takes decisions on difficult decisions that the Council can't agree upon
- 'Common foreign and security policy'
- Article 50. Format





The Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

Brussels

- Federal level: part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Flemish, Wallonian, German speaking delegations en delegation Brussels
- Largest diplomatic mission of Belgium in the world: 161 employees
- Ambassadors François Roux (Coreper II), Jan Hoogmartens (Coreper I), Ambassador François Cornet d'Elzies (COPS)
- Diplomats and experts (from different Federal Public Services)







Permanent Representation
of Belgium to the European Union
Vertegenwoordiging van België bij de Europese Unie
après de l'Union européenne

The role and importance of the Permanent Representation

- Official communication channel between Belgian authorities and EU institutions
- Representing Belgium in the Council of the European Union and others
- Informing Belgian authorities on the developments in the EU (Council, European Parliament, European Commission)
- Information!



The Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

- Brussels as capital of Europe: Presence of different European and international actors
- Importance of the EU for Belgium: 80% of legislation from EU + working together on problems in a globalized world
- Importance of Belgium for the EU: Motor of European Integration, one of the founding fathers, experience in compromises



The Permanent Representation of Belgium to the EU

How a Belgian position is defined?

- Preparations are needed, Belgium is a federal country with divided competences
- Directorate-general for European Affairs and Coordination (DGE)
- Meetings with all the different actors involved
- Position is defined during those meetings.
- DGE: Secretariate-general (GAC + EUCO) en 6 'formations': E1-5 + ME6







Questions ?

