

Chapter 7: The European Union



THE BASICS

The European Union

COUNTRY	DATE OF ACCESSION
Belgium: France, Germany, Italy Luxembourg, Netherlands	1957
Denmark, Great Britain, Ireland	1972/73
Greece	1981
Portugal, Spain	1986
Austria, Finland, Sweden	1995
Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia	2004
Romania, Bulgaria	2007

You Say You Want a Constitution?

- Does it matter whether it's called a constitution or a treaty?
- What about growth?

Thinking about the EU

- Who's in? Who's Out?
 - EU grew to 27 member states in '07
 - Ascending member: Croatia
 - Candidates: Iceland, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
 - Application submitted: Albania
 - 503 million residents
 - GDP (2012) 16.19 trillion
 - Per Capita: \$34,500

Thinking about the EU

- The new Europe
 - Expansion forced debate about governance
 - New members are significantly poorer than others
 - Many new countries had been ruled by Communists

Thinking about the EU

- Three Pillars
 - Trade and economic issues
 - Cooperation in justice and home affairs
 - Desire to create a Common Foreign and Security Policy

Thinking about the EU

– Key Questions

- How and why did the EU emerge?
- What is its political culture and how does it affect the way people participate in political life?
- What are its main decision-making bodies?
- What are its critical public policy initiatives?
- How do the European people learn about and react to those policies?

The Evolution of the EU

- Not such a new idea
 - Marshall Plan and OEEC (Organization for European Economic Cooperation), late 1940s
 - ECSC (European Coal and Steel Community), 1951
 - The Treaty of Rome: the EEC (European Economic Community) and EURATOM, 1957

TABLE 7.2 Key Events in the Evolution of the EU

YEAR	EVENT
1951	Creation of ECSC
1957	Treaty of Rome signed
1967	Creation of EC
1972	First expansion
1981	Admission of Greece
1985	Single European Act passed
1986	Portugal and Spain admitted
1991	Treaty of Maastricht signed
1995	Austria, Finland, and Sweden admitted
1997	Treaty of Amsterdam signed
1998	Twelve countries agree to join EMU
2001	Treaty of Nice signed
2002	Euro launched
2004	Ten new members added
2007	Bulgaria and Romania admitted

The Evolution of the EU

- Creating the Common Market
 - Early debates about expansion
 - Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), 1966 (How well has this worked?)
 - Single European Act, 1985
 - Maastricht Treaty, 1993
 - Treaty of Nice, 2001
 - Treaty of Lisbon, 2009

Political Culture and Participation in the EU

- Partisan life remains almost exclusively national, not European
- Democratic Deficit describes “distance” between citizens and EU decision making
- Media remain national, not European, except for Eurosport
- Language differences remain, 23 official languages of the EU

The European State?

- The Commission
 - Permanent executive of the EU
 - Supervises work of 30 ministry-like services
 - Initiates and implements most programs
 - Commissioners nominated by their national government; approved by qualified majority of Council
 - Serve EU, not home countries (in theory)
 - President: Since 2004 Jose Manuel Barroso Portuguese

TABLE 7.3 Presidents of the European Commission

START OF TERM	NAME
1958	Walter Hallstein
1967	Jean Rey
1970	Franco-Maria Malfatti
1972	Sicco Mansholt
1973	Francois-Xavier Ortoli
1977	Roy Jenkins
1981	Gaston Thorn
1985	Jacques Delors
1995	Jacques Santer
2000	Romano Prodi
2004	Jose Manuel Barroso

TABLE 7.4 Directorates-General of the European Union as of 2007

EXTERNAL RELATIONS	GENERAL SERVICES	INTERNAL SERVICES
Agriculture and Rural Development	Executive Agencies	Justice, Freedom and Security
Development	Communication	Budget
Competition	Fisheries and Maritime Affairs	Regional Policy
Enlargement	European Anti-Fraud Office	Bureau of European Policy Advisers
Economic and Financial Affairs	Health and Consumer Protection	Research
EuropeAid–Co-operation Office	Eurostat	Informatics
Education and Culture	Information Society and Media	Taxation and Customs Union
External Relations	Publications Office	European Commission Data Protection Officer
Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities	Internal Market and Services	Transport and Energy
Humanitarian Aid	Secretariat General	Infrastructures and Logistics–Brussels
Enterprise and Industry	Joint Research Centre	Infrastructures and Logistics–Luxembourg
Trade		Internal Audit Service
Environment		Interpretation
		Legal Service
		Office for Administration and Payment of Individual Entitlements
		Personnel and Administration
		Translation

The European State?

- The Council of Ministers
 - Ministers from member governments meet to deal with topics relevant to their portfolios
 - Foreign and Finance ministers meet monthly
 - Heads of government meet twice yearly
 - Commission proposals require Council as well as Parliamentary approval
 - Complex system of “qualified majority voting” is an attempt to avoid gridlock of required unanimity
 - President: Since 2009 Herman Van Rompuy from Belgium

FIGURE 7.1 Decision Making in the EU

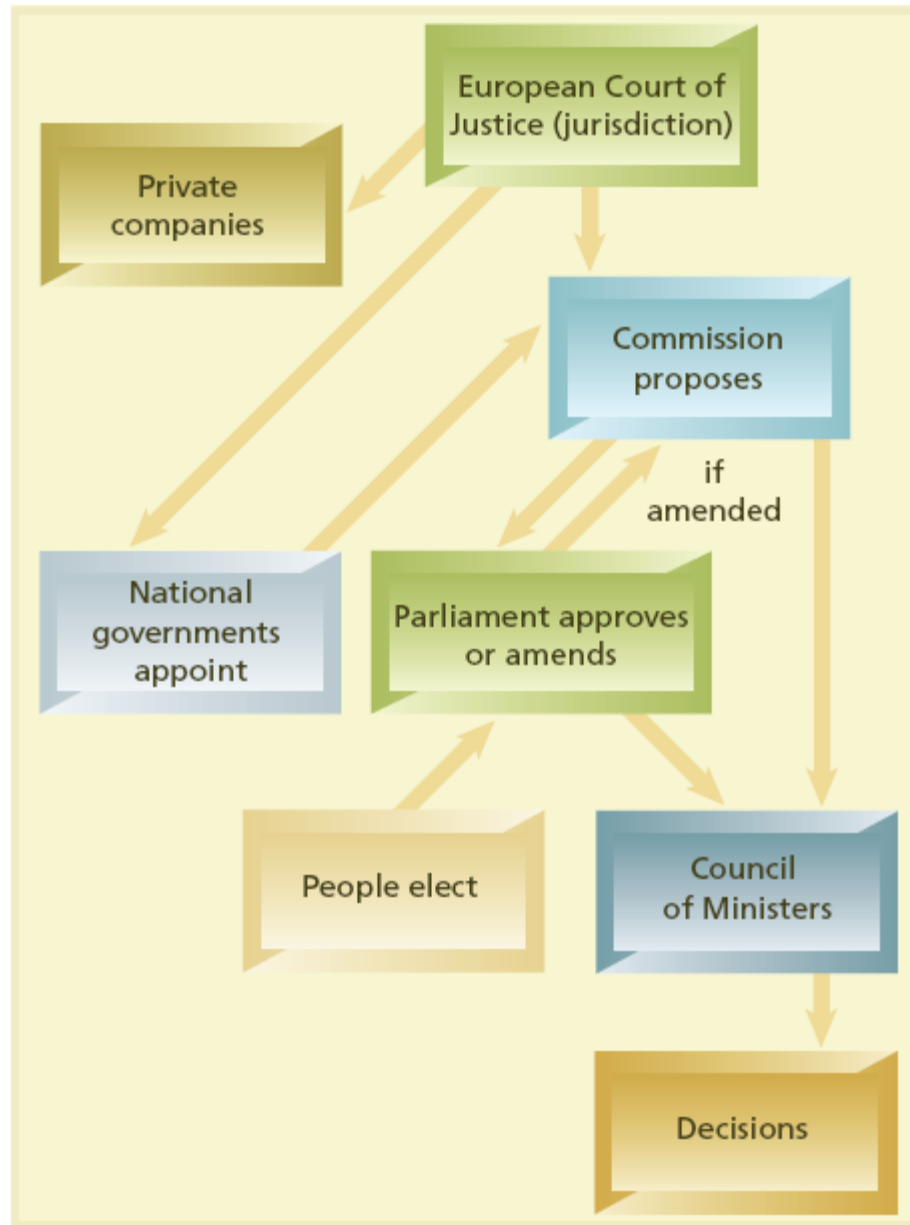


TABLE 7.5 Size and Voting Power in the EU: 2007

COUNTRY	POPULATION IN MILLIONS	SEATS IN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTS	VOTES IN QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING
Germany	82.0	99	10
United Kingdom	59.4	78	10
France	59.1	78	10
Italy	57.7	78	10
Spain	39.4	54	8
Poland	38.6	54	8
Romania	21.7	35	14
Netherlands	15.8	27	5
Greece	10.6	24	5
Czech Republic	10.3	24	5
Belgium	10.2	22	5
Hungary	10.0	22	5
Portugal	9.9	22	5
Sweden	8.9	19	4
Austria	8.1	18	4
Bulgaria	7.7	18	10
Slovakia	5.4	14	3
Denmark	5.4	14	3
Finland	5.2	14	3
Ireland	3.7	13	3
Lithuania	3.7	13	3
Latvia	2.4	9	3
Slovenia	2.0	7	3
Estonia	1.4	7	3
Cyprus	0.8	6	2
Luxembourg	0.4	6	2
Malta	0.4	5	2

The European State?

- The European Court of Justice
 - Court of First Instance (Trial Court) think about Chocolate and Soccer
 - Court of Auditors (EU finance cases)
 - European Court of Justice
 - Each government appoints one judge
 - Broad constitutional jurisdiction
 - EU laws and regulations take precedence over national law

The European State?

- The European Parliament
 - Legitimacy increased after 1979 when MEPs were directly elected
 - Codecision requires Council and Commission to consult and get Parliamentary approval or acquiescence without a unanimous Council vote
 - Approves all nominees to Commission
- The Complexities of EU Decision Making

The European State?

- Next steps?
 - Membership for Turkey is next big question
- The EU and national sovereignty
 - How much national sovereignty has EU assumed?
 - Further regulation of trade will be a demonstration of power of EU

Public Policy in the EU

- The Internal Market
 - Removal of tariffs and trade barriers
 - Growth of transnational enterprises
 - European Monetary Union has facilitated European business
 - Common Currency, the Euro, started in 2002
 - Currently 17 countries use the Euro with Great Britain and Denmark opting out

Public Policy in the EU

- The Common Agricultural Policy
 - Huge, expensive program
 - Seems to inhibit free trade
 - Changes forced on EU by global forces
 - Not extended to newest members immediately

Feedback

- Little news coverage of EU and its politics
- Voting rates lower than for national elections
- Alienation from EU politics widespread

Conclusion: A Balance Sheet

- Major factor in post-WWII peace and prosperity
- Demonstrates success of transnational organization

Learning Objectives

After mastering the concepts presented in this chapter, you will be able to:

- Comprehend the history of the political and economic development of the European Union.
- Understand the role of Jean Monnet in the history of the EU formation.
- Define the constitutional importance of the EU's *acquis communautaire*
- Recognize factors that contribute to the challenges of adopting the European Union's Constitution.
- Recognize three pillars of the European Union.
- Discuss the complexity of supranationalism vs. intergovernmentalism while debating the statehood characteristics of the EU.
- Understand the process of formation, functionality, importance and legitimacy of the following institutions of the European Union: European Parliament, European Commission, Council of Ministers, European Council, European Court of Justice
- Assess the political, economic and social importance of the following treaties of the European Union: Treaty of Rome, Single European Act, Maastricht Treaty, Treaty of Amsterdam, Treaty of Nice

Learning Objectives

After mastering the concepts presented in this chapter, you will be able to:

- Understand the purpose and functions of the European Monetary Union.
- Assess the economic (and, political) impact of the *euro*, as well as the decision of some EU members not to join the Euro Zone.
- Discuss the specifications of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- Define civil society and political culture of in the European Union.
- Identify challenges of political participation in the EU.
- Recognize and discuss the ‘democratic deficit’ in the European Union.
- Describe the process of the enlargement of the European Union.
- Understand the codecision procedure of the European Parliament and analyze the concept of legitimacy of the EP.
- Discuss process of political decision making in the European Union.
- Comprehend the impact of the European Union’s development and enlargement on the national sovereignty of member states.