

The Formation and Governance of European Union

- European Union (EU), international organization comprising 27 European countries and governing common economic, social and security policies.
- The EU was created by the Maastricht Treaty, which entered into force on Nov 1, 1993, designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating -
 - i. a single currency (the euro),
 - ii. a unified foreign and security policy, and
 - iii. common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum and
- The EU was awarded the Nobel Prize for peace in 2012, in recognition of the organization's efforts to promote peace and democracy in Europe.

ORIGIN AND FORMATION OF THE EU

The EU represents one in a series of efforts to integrate Europe since WWII.

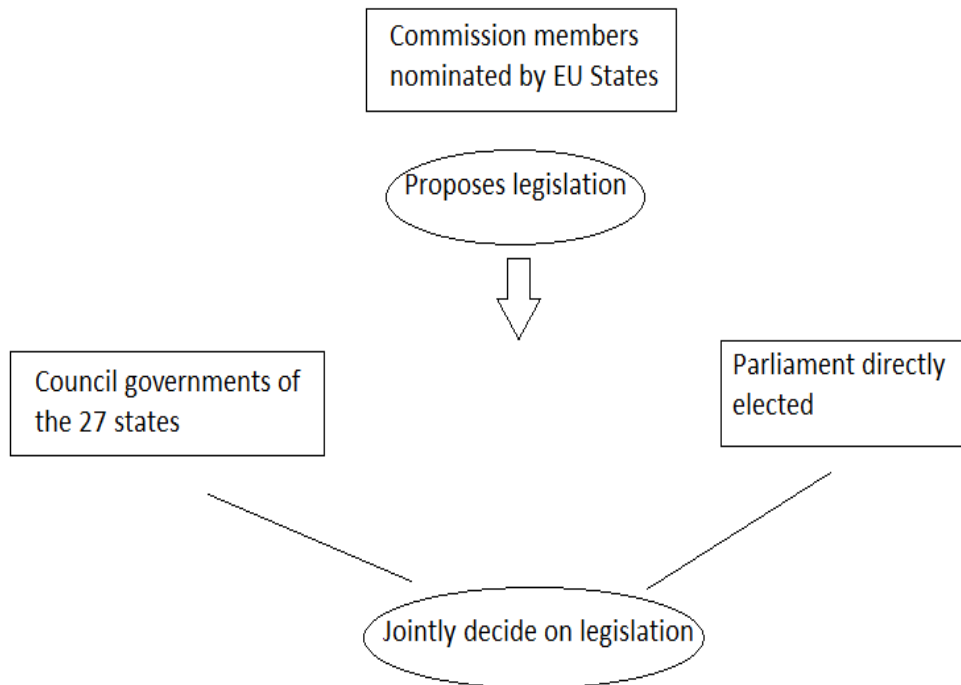
- At the end of the war, several western European countries sought closer economic, social and political ties to achieve economic growth and military security and to promote a lasting reconciliation between France and Germany.
- To this end, in 1951 the leaders of six countries - Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany - signed the Treaty of Paris, thereby, when it came

- into effect in 1952, founding the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).
- On March 25, 1957, the six ECSC members signed the two Treaties of Rome that established the -
 - i. European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the
 - ii. European Economic Community (EEC)
 - In 1965 members of the EEC signed the Brussels Treaty, which merged the commissions of the EEC and Euratom and the high authority of the ECSC into a single commission. It also combined the councils of the three organizations into a common council of Ministers.
 - The EEC, the Euratom, and the ECSC - collectively referred to as the European Communities - later became the principal institutions of the EU.
 - Established in 1974, the European Council meets at least twice a year to define the long term agenda for European political and economic integration.
 - The Maastricht Treaty (formally known as the Treaty on European Union), which was signed on February 7, 1992, created the European Union. An amended version of the Treaty officially took effect on November 1, 1993.

GOVERNANCE OF THE EU

- The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union are the three central legislative institutions of the European Union and are often referred to as the EU's 'INSTITUTIONAL TRIANGLE'.

- They are not the only institutions that have a role in EU decision-making but are the three most important.
- All three play an integral part in the legislative and decision-making process of the EU, but in different ways.



- A key thing to remember about these three institutions is that they represent different interests in the EU bureaucracy.

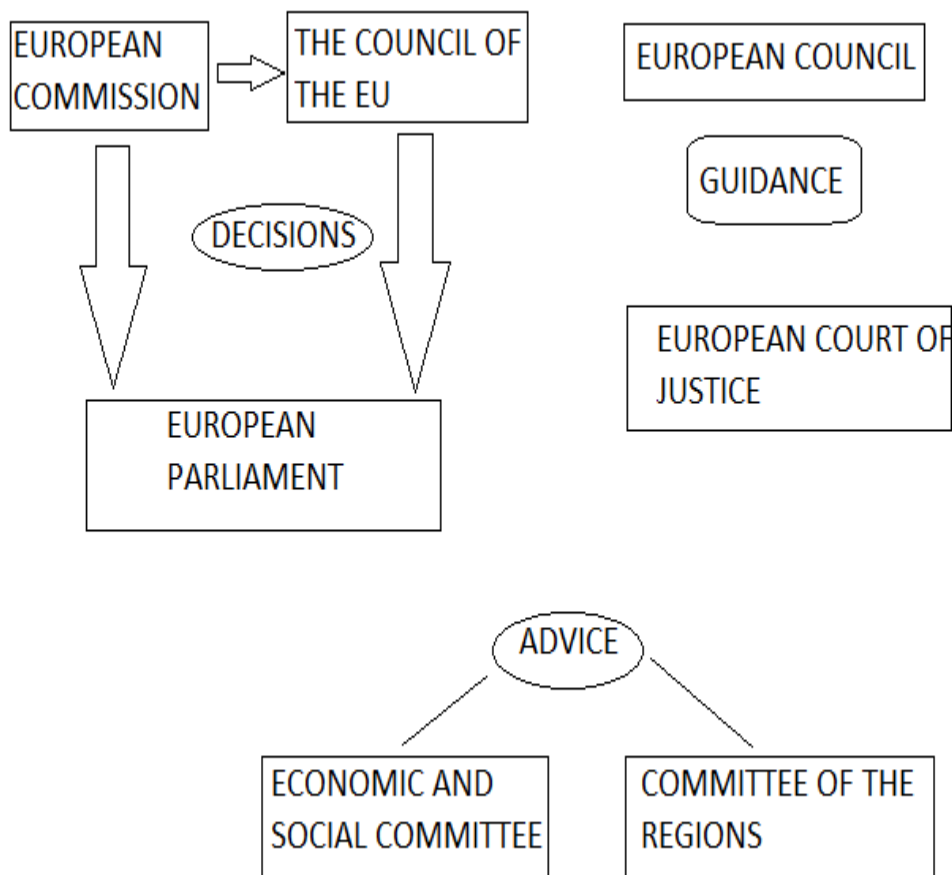
==> Putting it simply

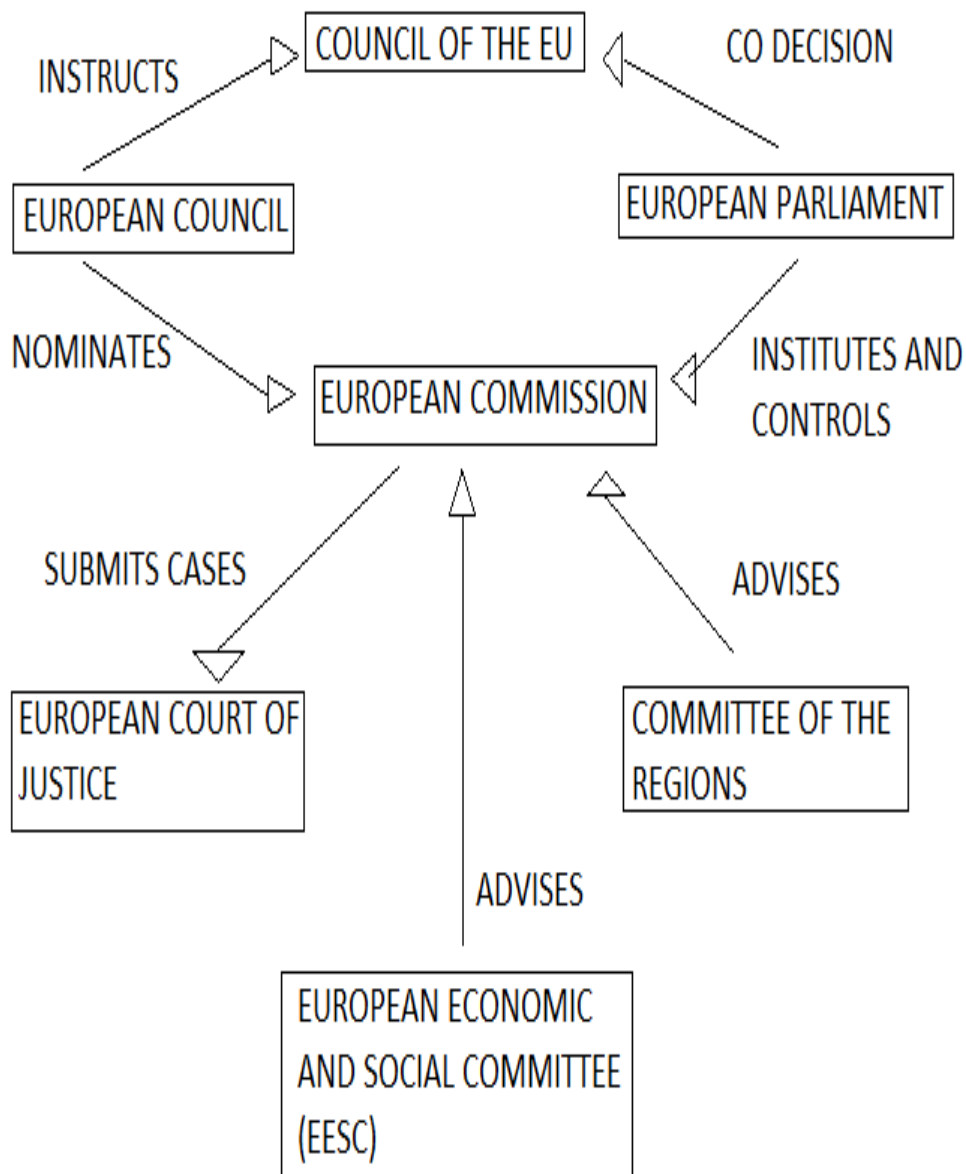
- A. The European Commission represents the interest of the EU as a whole.
- B. The European Parliament represents the interest of European Citizens.

- c. The Council of the European Union represents the member state governments.

==> There are other EU institutions we should also consider:

- A. The European Council gives the impetus and directions to European integration.
- B. The Committee of Regions and The Economic and Social Committee are advisory bodies.
- c. The EU institutional structure could therefore be represented like this:





- **EUROPEAN COMMISSION** - Consists of a permanent civil service directed by commissioners. It has three primary functions :

- a. to formulate community policies
 - b. to monitor compliance with community decisions, and to
 - c. oversee the execution of community law.
- Initially, commissioners were appointed by members to renewable four-year terms, which later extended to five years.
 - The commission is headed by a President, who is selected by the heads of state or heads of government of the Organization's members.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- The European Commission has shared its agenda-setting role with the European Council (not to be confused with the Council of Europe, an organisation that is not an EU body), which consists of the leaders of all member countries.
- Established in 1974, the European Council meets at least twice a year to define the long-term agenda for European political and economic integration.
- The European Council is led by a President, an office that originally rotated among the heads of state or heads of government of member countries every six months. Upon the adoption of the Lisbon Treaty in 2009, the presidency was made permanent, with the office holder being selected by European Council members.
- The President of the European Council serves a term of two and half years - renewable once - and functions as the "face" of the EU in policy matters.
- The first "president of the EU", as the office came to be

known, was former Belgian Prime Minister Herman Van Rompuy.

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

- The main decision-making institution of the European Community and the EU has been the Council of the European Union (originally the council of Ministers), which consists of ministerial representatives.
- The composition of the council changes frequently, as governments and different representatives depending on the policy area under discussion.
- All community legislation requires the approval of the Council.
- The President of the Council, whose office rotates among council members every six months, manages the legislative agenda. Council meetings are chaired by a minister from the Country that currently holds the Presidency.
- The exception to this rule is the FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL, which, since the ratification of the Lisbon Treaty, is under the permanent supervision of the EU high representative for foreign affairs and security policy.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The Common Assembly, renamed the European Parliament in 1962, originally consisted of delegates from national parliaments. Beginning in 1979, members were elected directly to five-year terms. The size of members' delegations varies depending on the population. The Parliament is organized into transnational party

groups based on political ideology - eg., the Party of European Socialists, the European People's Party, the European Federation of Green Parties, and the European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party. Until 1987 the legislature served only as a consultative body, though in 1970 it was given joint decision-making power (with the Council of Ministers) over community expenditures.

EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE (ECJ)

The ECJ interprets community law, settles conflicts between the organization's institutions, and determines whether members have fulfilled their treaty obligations. Each member selects one judge, who serves a renewable six-year term; to increase efficiency, after the accession of 10 additional countries in 2004 the ECJ was allowed to sit in a "grand chamber" of only 13 judges. Eight impartial advocates-general assist the ECJ by presenting opinions on cases before the court. In 1989 an additional court, the Court of First Instance, was established to assist with the community's increasing caseload. The ECJ has established two important legal doctrines. First, European law has 'direct effect', which means that treaty provisions and legislation are directly binding on individual citizens, regardless of whether their governments have modified national laws accordingly. Second, community law has 'supremacy' over national law in cases where the two conflict. The promulgation of the Lisbon Treaty signaled the acceptance of these doctrines by national courts, and the ECJ has acquired a supranational legal authority.

ROLE OF EU

INTEGRATIVE

- Economic integration of Europe (single market) and world

(FTA etc.)

- Institutional integration internally (EC, CEU, Parliament etc.)
- Institutional cooperation with other organisations- IMF, WB, UNO
- Political integration of Europe (Schengen area)

TRANSFORMATIVE

- Post-Westphalian superstructure
- Export of norms
- Democracy promotion, human rights
- Support for regime change
- Models for sustainable development and environmental protection

EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY

- Good governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights
- Economic development for stabilisation
- Security
- Migration and mobility
- European Neighbourhood instrument with a grant of EUR15billion
- 16 ENP countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Syria, Palestine, Tunisia, Ukraine

EU VIEWED FROM OUTSIDE

- Gradual shift in the image of EU from a powerful bloc- an ideal model of integration to an example of house in disarray
- A model of multilateralism that is failing
- Economic crisis, Brexit and rise of right wing forces contributed to this image
- EU's neighbourhood policy needs to change
- Mismatch between the self-perception of EU and actual presence on the ground. In contrast, opposite perception about the US.
- EU model as generalisable to universe has come under criticism.
- BRICS seeks to transform the West dominated and over-represented EU multilateralism to one where BRICS has greater say.

EUROPE FROM OUTSIDE

- Important trading bloc but far less relevant
- Europe is seen as a declining force due to economic crisis, political divisions, aging population, rise of the REST.
- Subordinate to US
- EU is still seen as 'conglomerate of sovereign' nations.
- Europe in India seen through prism of London, New York.

- The knowledge about functioning of EU confined to IR experts, bureaucrats and some business elites.

INDIA-EU

- India-EU strategic partnership in 2004
- EU largest trading partner of India and India 9th largest of EU.
- In 2014 trade of Euro 95 billion. Export 48b, import 47b
- Largest source of investment. Investment stock of 51b euros in 2015
- Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Europe foreign and security affairs and vice-president of the European Commission was in India in April 2017
- Security issues- Afghanistan to pirates to climatic change
- Biggest market, largest donor, global power
- Negotiating on India-EU free trade agmt
- 14th EU-India Summit to be held in Delhi this year
- Talks on EU-India stalled due to Italian marine crisis