

The Council of Ministers

A legislative and executive institution in the EU. Consists of ministers from each EU member-state and meets regularly in 10 different configurations depending on the subject. It conducts policymaking and coordinating functions as well as legislative functions.

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What does the Council do?

1. Negotiates and adopts EU laws.

Is a fundamental decision maker that in most cases works with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, known as “condecision”.

2. Coordinates member states’ policies

In specific fields such as economic and fiscal policies; education, culture, youth and sport; and employment policy.

3. Develops the EU’s common foreign and security policy.

The Council ensures the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the EU’s external action.

4. Concludes international agreements.

5. Adopts the EU budget jointly with the European Parliament.



Composition:

The ministers and Council formations

Variation in frequency of ministerial meetings, depending on the issue. Some Councils meet more often than not.

10 Council configurations.

Presidency

Rotating presidency for a six-month period

The Committee of Permanent Representatives

COREPER I and COREPER II

Responsible for preparing the work of the Council of the EU.

Committees and working parties

Ensure that the Commission

knows the concerns of those who will be affected by the new laws.

The General Secretariat

Organise and ensure the coherence of the Council’s work.

Assists the European Council and its President and the Council presidency in negotiations within the Council and with other EU institutions.

Decision-making in the Council:

- Voting (3 types)

a) **UNANIMITY** – where each member state has one vote and legislation cannot be passed if one or more member states vote against the legislation. (Is used in the case of citizenship, taxation, EU membership..)

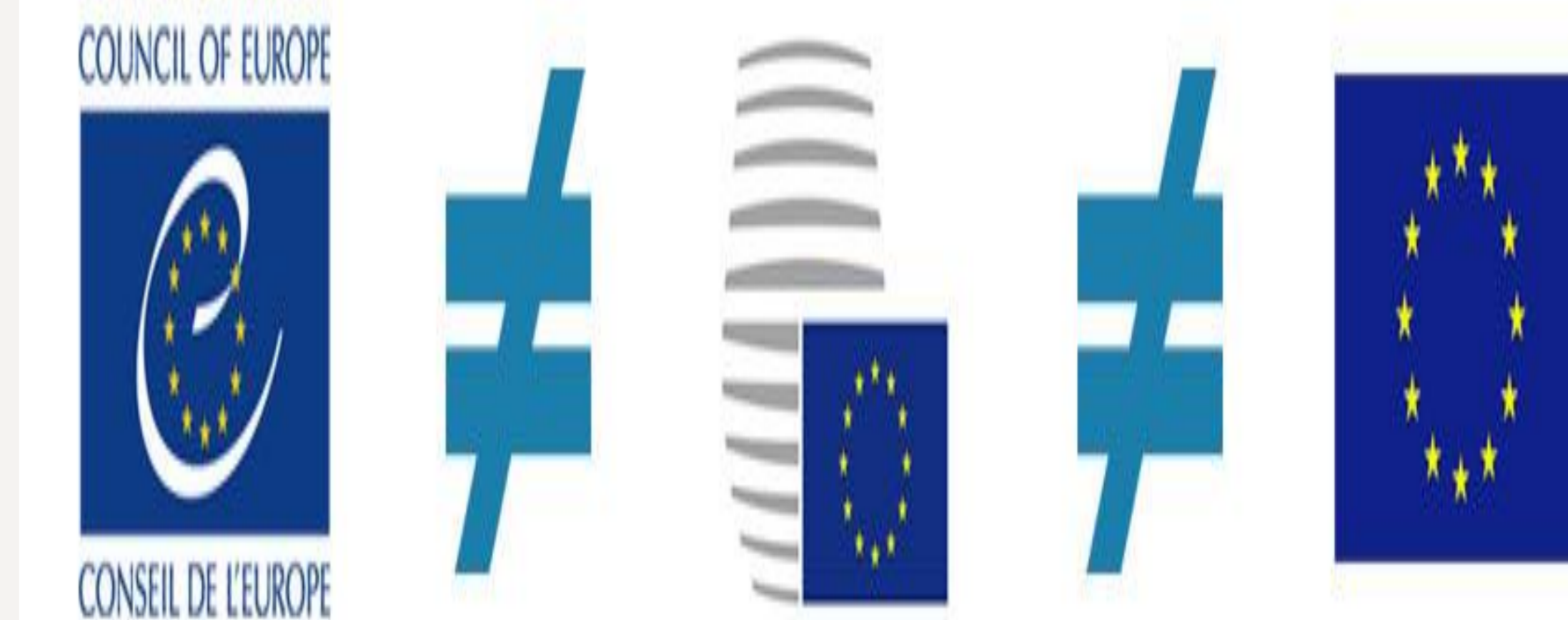
b) **Qualified-majority voting QMV** – where majority of all member states (55%) representing at least 65% of the Union’s population is required in order to adopt new legislation. 35% of EU population can block decision by voting against

d) **Simple majority** - 15 member states (of 28) vote in favour

- The Council, with the European Parliament, acts in a legislative and budgetary capacity. In most cases, the Council’s decisions, based on proposals from the Commission, are taken jointly with the European Parliament under the ordinary legislative procedure.
- the results of Council votes are automatically made public when the Council acts in its capacity as legislator.
- The Council meets in 10 configurations, bringing together the relevant ministers from EU countries
- example of voting results in one of 10 configurations of EU council (“Agriculture and Fisheries Council”)/qualified majority

Vote	Members	Population (%)	Sitting date: 15/04/2019
Yes	26	98.72%	Final result
No	1	1.91%	
Abstain	1	1.37%	
Not participating	0		
Total	28		

Member State	Weighting	Vote	Member State	Weighting	Vote
BELGIQUE/BELGIË	2,22		LIETUVA	0,55	
БЪЛГАРИЯ	1,37		LUXEMBOURG	0,12	
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA	2,04		MAGYARORSZÁG	1,91	
DANMARK	1,13		MALTA	0,09	
DEUTSCHLAND	16,12		NEDERLAND	3,37	
EESTI	0,26		ÖSTERREICH	1,71	
ÉIRE/IRELAND	0,94		POLSKA	7,40	
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	2,09		PORTUGAL	2,00	
ESPAÑA	9,09		ROMÂNIA	3,80	
FRANCE	13,10		SLOVENIJA	0,40	
HRVATSKA	0,80		SLOVENSKO	1,06	
ITALIA	11,92		SUOMI/FINLAND	1,07	
ΚΥΠΡΟΣ	0,17		SVERIGE	1,98	
LATVIJA	0,38		UNITED KINGDOM	12,91	



Don’t get confused! #smartfacts #themoreEUknow

In European political context, there are 3 Councils. The Council of the EU, the European Council and Council of Europe.

The Council of the EU is a legislative and executive institution in EU, and could also be regarded as an upper chamber, with the European Parliament as a lower chamber. Located in Brussels.

The European Council Institution of the European Union, consisting of the heads of state or government from the member states together with the President of the European Commission, for the purpose of planning EU policy. Located in Brussels.

The Council of Europe is an organization comprising of 47 states that works to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Europe. Located in Strasbourg.



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