

## Annex II: Who is who at the EU

The EU has three legislative bodies:

- [The European Commission](#), composed of the College of Commissioners responsible for different policy areas. There are 27 Members of the College ([the President, Vice Presidents and Commissioners](#)), one per Member State. The Commission acts as a government in that it implements decided upon legislation and sets the agenda, strategies and priorities for the EU's work.

The Commission also suggests new legislation and revisions to old legislation, and drafts first suggestions for legislative resolutions, supported by extensive research and stakeholder engagement. The Commission however, does not have the power to adopt legislation – this falls to the European Parliament and the European Council, who negotiate, amend, and adopt new legislation together.

- [The European Parliament](#), composed of 705 elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), with a proportional number of MEPs per country. The MEPs are divided into 7 political groups according to their political beliefs (regardless of nationality), that are: the Left, S&D, the Greens / EFA, Renew, EPP, ECR and ID (roughly in a left-right political order). There are also non-attached members.

The Parliament works in committees according to different policy areas (eg: environment (ENVI), energy and industry (ITRE)), and negotiates across political groups to come up with a common Parliamentary resolutions. These resolutions can be legislative, and are then amendments of Commission proposals, or own-initiatives, which are non-legislative, and mainly showcase the soft political power of the Parliament announcing its official view. Political files first go through the committees, and are then adopted and sometimes amended in plenary votes, with sessions at least 12 times a year. An adopted legislative resolution is taken by representatives to be negotiated with the Council.

- [The Council of the European Union](#) The Council is responsible for coordinating member states' policies in specific fields (including economic and fiscal, employment). It negotiates and adopts legislative acts in most cases together with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, also known as 'codecision'. When the Council and the Parliament has agreed to the text of a new or revised legislation, it becomes EU law. The Council provides the mandate to the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU agreements between the EU and non-EU countries and international organisations. This Council is not to be confused with the *European Council (below)*.
- [The European Council](#) is not a legislative body, but is nevertheless a crucial player as it sets overarching political priorities and policy agendas for the EU by adopting 'conclusions' during European Council meetings which identify issues of concern and actions to take. It is comprised by the Member States' heads of state or government, as well as the President of the Commission and the appointed President the European Council.