

The European Commission



Art. 17 TEU



The European Commission

- Composition



The Commission consists of one **national** of each Member State.
The Commission's term of office is **five** years.

Commissioners are chosen on the grounds of their **general competence** and **European commitment** from persons whose **independence** is beyond doubt.

It promotes the general interest of the EU

It is a supranational institution



In carrying out its responsibilities, the Commission shall be completely independent. The Commissioners shall neither seek nor take instructions from any government or other institution, body, office or entity

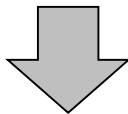


The European Commission

- Selection procedure: I stage

Taking into account the elections to the European Parliament and after having held the appropriate consultations, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall propose to the European Parliament a candidate for President of the Commission. This candidate shall be elected by the European Parliament by a majority of its component members. If he does not obtain the required majority, the European Council, acting by a qualified majority, shall within one month propose a new candidate who shall be elected by the European Parliament following the same procedure.

Lead-candidate system



European citizens can indirectly influence the choice of the President of the European Commission





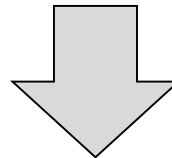
The European Commission

- Selection procedure: II stage

The Council, by common accord with the President-elect, shall adopt the list of the other persons whom it proposes for appointment as members of the Commission. They shall be selected, on the basis of the suggestions made by Member States, in accordance with the criteria set out in [...]

The President, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the other members of the Commission shall be subject as a body to a vote of consent by the European Parliament. On the basis of this consent the Commission shall be appointed by the European Council, acting by a qualified majority.

Since the 1990s, it has become common practice to hold **confirmation-hearings** of the commissioners-designated before the appropriate EP committee



They are a necessary counterpart in order to obtain Parliament's consent



The European Commission

- Selection procedure: overview

The European Council proposes a candidate for President of the Commission to the European Parliament

The European Parliament elects the President by majority of its component members

The Member States draw-up a list of candidates

This list is to be adopted by the Council by common accord with the President-elect

The HR is appointed by the European Council by QMV and with the agreement of the President-elect

The whole body of commissioners is subject to a vote of consent by the European Parliament

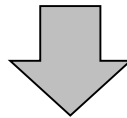
The Commission is formally appointed by the European Council, acting by QMV



The European Commission

- Removal

Once appointed, the **Commission continues to be responsible to the EP**



The European Parliament has the power to propose and adopt a Motion of Censure, a vote of no confidence in the Commission

**Art. 234
TFEU**

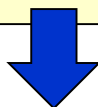
- The motion is passed if it is carried by:
 - a 2/3 majority of the votes cast,
 - representing a majority of the MEP
- If the motion is passed, the Members of **the Commission shall resign as a body** and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy shall resign from duties that he or she carries out in the Commission



The European Commission

- The President-art. 17(6) TEU

The President is the head of the European Commission



'Chief' Commissioner above *his* college



The President:

- lays down **guidelines** within which the Commission is to work;
- decides on the **internal organization** of the Commission, ensuring that it acts consistently, efficiently and as a collective body;
- **appoints Vice-Presidents** (other than the HR) from among the members of the Commission;
- may request a Commission member to resign.

Formidable powers



The European Commission

- The President

10 political priorities of the Juncker Commission

10 priorities

- 01**  A new boost for jobs, growth and investment.
- 02**  A connected digital single market.
- 03**  A resilient Energy Union with a forward-looking climate change policy.
- 04**  A deeper and fairer internal market with a strengthened industrial base.
- 05**  A deeper and fairer Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).
- 06**  A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States.
- 07**  An area of Justice and Fundamental Rights based on mutual trust.
- 08**  Towards a new policy on migration.
- 09**  Europe as a stronger global actor.
- 10**  A Union of democratic change.





The European Commission

- Internal Organization and Functioning

European
Commission

PRESIDENT
JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

Premier Vice-président

Frans Timmermans

*Amélioration de la réglementation,
Relations interinstitutionnelles,
État de droit et Charte des droits
fondamentaux*

Haute Représentante

Federica Mogherini

*Haute Représentante de l'Union
pour les affaires étrangères et
la politique de sécurité/Vice-
présidente*

Vice-présidente

Kristalina Georgieva
*Budget et Ressources
Humaines*

Vice-présidente

Alenka Bratušek

L'Union de l'Energie

Vice-président

Jyrki Katainen

*Emploi, Croissance,
Investissement et
Compétitivité*

Vice-président

Valdis Dombrovskis

*L'Euro et le Dialogue
Social*

Vice-président

Andrus Ansip
*Marché Unique
Numérique*

Commissaire

Věra Jourová

*Justice, Consommateurs et
Égalité des Genres*

Commissaire

Günther Oettinger

*Economie Numérique et
Société Numérique*

Commissaire

Pierre Moscovici

*Affaires Economiques et
Financières, Fiscalité et
Union douanière*

Commissaire

Marianne Thyssen

*Emploi, Affaires sociales,
Compétences et Mobilité
des Travailleurs*

Commissaire

Corina Crețu

Politique Régionale

Commissaire

Johannes Hahn

*Politique de Voisinage
et Négociations
d'Elargissement**

Commissaire

Dimitris Avramopoulos

*Migration et Affaires
Intérieures*

Commissaire

Vytis Andriukaitis

*Santé et Sécurité
Alimentaire*

Commissaire

Jonathan Hill

*Stabilité Financière, Services
Financiers et Union des
Marchés de Capitaux*

Commissaire

Elżbieta Bieńkowska

*Marché Intérieur, Industrie,
Entrepreneuriat et PME*

Commissaire

Miguel Arias Cañete

*Action pour le Climat et
Energie*

Commissaire

Neven Mimica

*Coopération Internationale
et Développement*

Commissaire

Margrethe Vestager

Concurrence

Commissaire

Maroš Šefčovič

Transports et Espace

Commissaire

Cecilia Malmström

Commerce

Commissaire

Karmenu Vella

*Environnement, Affaires
Maritimes et Pêche*

Commissaire

Tibor Navracsics

*Education, Culture, Jeunesse et
Citoyenneté*

Commissaire

Carlos Moedas

*Recherche, Science et
Innovation*

Commissaire

Phil Hogan

*Agriculture et
Développement Rural*

Commissaire

Christos Stylianides

*Aide Humanitaire et Gestion
des Crises*

**Le Haut Représentant peut
demander à ce Commissaire
(et à d'autres Commissaires)
d'assumer un rôle d'adjoint
pour elle dans les domaines
relevant de la compétence de la
Commission.*

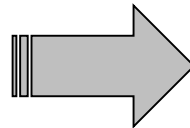


The European Commission

- Functions and Powers

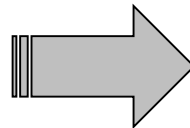
The Commission shall promote the **general interest of the Union** and take appropriate initiatives to that end. It shall **ensure the application of the Treaties**, and of measures adopted by the institutions pursuant to them. It shall **oversee the application of Union law** under the control of the Court of Justice of the European Union. It shall execute the budget and manage programmes. It shall exercise coordinating, executive and management functions, as laid down in the Treaties. With the exception of the common foreign and security policy, and other cases provided for in the Treaties, it shall ensure the Union's external representation. It shall initiate the Union's annual and multiannual programming with a view to achieving interinstitutional agreements.

A. Power of initiative



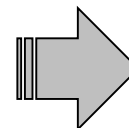
'Motor' of European integration

B. Implementing powers



E.g. implementation of the budget,
implem. and enf. of EU competition rules

C. Power to monitor the application of EU law



**Guardian of the
Treaties**