

# EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS

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**Abstract:** *The European Union is an economic political state, of security and of defence, community composed from 25 states members that achieves conjointly a series of specific tasks by dint of the community politics and programs. EU is through nature and his structure an institution sui-generis (unique, which didn't existed till now). EU is an international organization and in the same time is driven by dint of supranational institutions, to which the states member delegate a part from sovereignty and power of decision in its own internal business. For a good function of UEM it is necessary an efficient cooperation between different institutions of the EU.*

**Key words:** *European Union, economic, community, institutions*

EU owns today some from the attributes of a state - institutions with executive legislative juridical powers communes, the unique coin, flag, hymn - and even of a politic system - politic European parties, groups of lobby, nongovernmental organizations, and the finality towards shall evolve EU in the future - a federation of states or an intergovernmental structure - is one of the main subjects of theoretical and practical debates concerning EU.

With a population of approx. 450 millions of persons and Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for approx. 10.000 milliards euro, EU is today the second economic power from the world after US and one of the most important actors in international political and security relations.

The Union flag represents a circle with twelve golden stars on blue background. The politic system of European Union is defined of a series of European treaties. The last among these treaties is the Treaty to establish a Constitution for The Europe. The current and future treaties assign for the politics of European Union a series of institutions. The politic system resulted from these papers reflect through his structure the democratic principle of separation of the powers in states in the legislative executive and juridical power, and in what it concerns the legislative process follows the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The institutions of the European Union are:

- The European Committee
- The Council of the European Union
- The European Parliament
- The European Council
- The European Court of Justice
- The European Court of Accounts
- The Economic and Social committee
- The committee of the regions
- The European Ombudsman
- The European bank of Investments
- The European Central bank

The committee is the first supranational organism from the frame of EU. The committee is composed from 25 of members, proposed by the cabinets of the states member and elected on a period of five years. The European parliament gives the agreement for their choice. The commissaries don't deploy the activity on behalf of their country of origin, having to involve detachedly, in the sight of the accomplishment of the communitary objectives. The committee must elaborate proposals in the sight of the development of the communitary politics. The committee follows the way in which are applied the specified dispositions in the treaty as well as the decisions taken of the EC organisms, having the possibility, in the case in which finds certain informalities, to appeal to the European Court of Justice. The Council of the ministries is the

most important organ of decision of EC. This decides considering the suggested laws by the Committee, in collaboration with The European parliament. In this kind were taken decisions as part as Community since from the beginning. The members of the Council gather depending on the politic area in discussion in different composition, see the Ministries Council for Agriculture, the Ministries Council for Environment.

The Council secretariat is composed of approx. 2500 persons, which activates within the frame of a six departments. Its tasks are firstly of administrative order: Preparation of the work agenda, the elaboration of the reports, the translation service, the verification of the problems of juridical order etc. Another feature of this organism represents the diversity of the activities of CEE from its establishment. The political areas, being in the incidences of different Councils of specialty, bear an autonomous life, especially from two reasons:

6. At the level of the states members it renounced more and more at the principle of coordination. This fact indicates how much the politics missed at the level of the states members the statute of the external politics in comparison to EU.
7. Secondly, with the crossing to the principle of the qualified majority it felt the necessity to arrive at an agreement through the adoption of such "package deals".

The European parliament (EP) is the first organism at supranational level. EP is different from the national parliaments. The competences and the EP in the frame of the Community were in a permanent change, still from the establishment of CECO, this becoming more and more influential. Other modifications appeared also after the entrance in operation the Treaty of Nice. The role of EP is composed in suprastatal factions, as example, from the faction of the European Popular Party and of the European Democrats (EPP-ED), that with the 279 of its deputies, represents to the current moment the most strong faction or the faction of the European Social Democrat Party (ESP), with 199 of deputies. In the same scheme you can find out how many deputies come from a certain country. An importance extremely big for the activity of EP and of its sphere of influence are the 20 of Permanent Committees. The parliamentarians, elected on a period of five years and which deploy their activity in one of the Committee, must take possession a substantial amount of information from the specialty selected area. Thus, they can follow and verify the activity of general directions of the Committee and of the different Councils of Ministries of specialty, being endowed with the power to influence this activity – in a bigger measure than seems to permit the formal competences these ones. The importance in this sense is also the relation of tight cooperation with the services of the Committee, as well as with the national and transnational associations.

## **European Council**

The European Council is an institution with important functions of management, which are founded above the three pillars, which engage them.

While the Ministries Council was specified still from the beginnings in Treaty, this thing it is not available also for the European Council. This one came into existence along with the meetings between the state and government chiefs, members of EC, which had place beginning with 1969. Its role was established with more accuracy through the European Unique Act (EUA) from the year 1986. The Maastricht treaty has taken the forecast EUA in this regard, confirming the Council in its function of motor force of European unification and of the join of some distinct areas. To the Council even with the competence to formulate lines for Occidental European Union (OEU). The European Council interferes also when, in the frame of some specific areas, the responsible ministers of these activities cannot arrive to an agreement, being thus necessary the adoption of some general "parcels"(package deals). The European council, interstate component of the European Union has grown in importance during the last decades. Its power of influence followed to become even bigger with the introduction of a new Constitution, which the passed with failure after the negative votes obtained from the referendums from France and Holland.

## **The European Court of Justice**

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) has like The European parliament (EP), a name with we are familiar from the context of similar institutions from the level of the national states. ECJ is the conductress of the communitary right observance. Among its competencies we count the settlement of the conflicts between the member states, between Union and the members states, between the organisms and institutions from the European Union, as well as between physical persons and Union. Judges from the courts of justice from the

frame of the national states address to ECJ in the case which the problem in question has tangents with the community law.

There are two methods to invoke ECJ. The first of them, by dint of such preliminary procedures, that permits to the national courts of justice to address to ECJ for the interpretation of some appearances from the frame of the community law, of which they lack in taking decisions in their cases, and the second method is by dint of the direct petitions.

The different influence of ECJ results from the activities undertaken in some specific areas. The European Court of Justice constituted a motor force of decisive importance in the direction of the super nationality, enforcing, among others, the principle of direct effect - that is for each citizen of EU, without the intermediate of the state of which this belongs - of the right EC, as well as the community right supremacy about the national law. ECJ had a different impact over the material politics, enforcing for instance, by an extraordinary decision, the principle of reciprocal recognition of the standards from the states members, that came to substitute the one of harmonization of the norms and the standards, a difficult process that lasts too much, offering such important premises for the creation of the project for an internal market.

ECJ in comparison of some national Constitutional Courts extremely influent as the Supreme Court in US or German Federal Constitutional Court, disposes of a power much stronger, giving decisive impulses for the process of integration. The role of ECJ, as well as the juridical system strong influenced by this one counts certainly, from view of the "super nationality" EC, a factor which distinguishes from the others international organizations.

### **European Court of Accounts**

Found in 1977, the European Court of Accounts had got the status of institution of EU only in 1993 (when the Amsterdam Treaty was enforced) and represents the "financial awareness" of the Union. Its role is to control the financial aspects of EU, more specific the legitimacy of the actions of the common budget and its relations with the annual program of its management. The Court makes this type of annual control and elaborates a report which is given further on to the European Parliament (and which serves to the budgetary download of the Comity). The Court of Accounts is independent regarding the other community institutions and is fully free regarding the organization and planning of its audit activities and of report. The Court is constituted of 15 members (independents and with experience in public financial audit). The Court of Accounts can't offer sanctions in the case of discovering mistakes, but only inform the competent community organs.

### **The Economic and Social Comity**

The Economic and Social Comity is a consult organ, found through the Rome Treaty (1957), which reflects the involvement of the civil society in politic life and which represents the most important groups of interest from the economic and social domain. CES is constituted of a 222 members - from union representatives to consumers and ecologists.

The role of CES is:

- to offer advising to the Parliament, council and committee in the process of taking a decision
- to assure a greater involvement of the civil society in the European initiative and to promote social dialogue
- to enforce the role of the organization associations of the civil society in the non-member countries of the UE

Through its component and domains of activity CES activates as an European forum of reflection for the organizations and associations of the civil society, being, in the same time, a bridge between CES and UE. The domains in which is CES consulted are represented by: internal market, education, consumers protection, environment, regional development and social business - the last on specific problems, like taking over the work force policy, public health, odds equality etc. As well, CES can issue opinions from self initiative.

## **The Institutions of European Union**

### ***Regions Committee***

The regions comity is the newest community institution and it was found through Maastricht Treaty (1992), as an answer to the request of the local and regional organizations to be represented in UE. CR is constituted 222 members of local and regional authorities named by European Union Council for a period of four ears and which evolve its activities exclusively on the proposal came from SM.CR is an consultative organ, which opinions are asked and taken in consideration by UE council, Parliament and 28 comity, in the domains which interferes with local and regional interests – as: education, young people problems, culture, health, economic an social solidarity. Its role had been extended when the Amsterdam Treaty was enforced, among its areas of expertise, being numerate now and the environment problems, Social Found, professional formation, over the border cooperation, and transportation. As well, CR can issue opinions from self initiative.

### ***European Bank of Investment***

Financial institution of UE, found on Roma Treaty, European Bank of Investment sponsor a project which leads to the realization of Union's objectives in Europe and all over the world.EBI is an organism with juridical personality and financial independence and has the center in Luxemburg. EBI stockholders are SM of Union, the bank being administrated by a Council of Governors, constituted of 15 chancellors of the exchequer. The responsibilities of the Council are: established the credit policy, balance approval and annual report, financial operations authorization from outside the Union and taking the decision regarding capital raise.

### ***European Central Bank***

European Central Bank - situated in Frankfurt – was found in 1998 and it is responsible for the monetary policy of UE. The main objective of ECB is assuring the price stability, so that the value of the unique coin (euro) maintains and the European Economy doesn't be affected by the inflationary process. Monetary policy has the role to support others politic objectives established on the community level.ECB is administrated by a president and an executive council, which maintain a tight cooperation with National Central Banks of SM which acceded to the Euro zone – composing the European System of Central Banks, or Euro System.

The objectives of this system are:

- defining and the implementation of monetary policy of the Euro zone
- evolve of the external operations
- keeping and administrating the member state reserve
- promoting an efficient system of payment

The European Central Bank has replaced the European Monetary Institute.

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