

## Glossary of English EU Terminology

The glossary was compiled on the basis of the specialised vocabulary of the units. All of the terms and abbreviations were brought into line with the standard EU terminology including spelling and the equivalent terms.

### EU abbreviations

<b>AP</b>	= accession partnership	<b>ESCB</b>	= European System of Central Banks
<b>CAP</b>	= Common Agricultural Policy	<b>EU-SILC</b>	= EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions
<b>CFSP</b>	= Common Foreign and Security Policy	<b>Euratom</b>	= European Atomic Energy Community
<b>CoR</b>	= Committee of the Regions	<b>EURES</b>	= EUROpean Employment Services
<b>CORDIS</b>	= Community Research and Development Information Service	<b>EUR-Lex</b>	= EUR-Lex
<b>COREPER (Fr.)</b>	= Permanent Representatives Committee	<b>Eurojust</b>	= European Judicial Cooperation Unit
<b>CSDP</b>	= Common Security and Defence Policy	<b>Europol</b>	= European Police Office
<b>DG</b>	= Directorate-General	<b>Eurostat</b>	= Statistical Office of the European Union
<b>EAS</b>	= European Administrative School	<b>FP7</b>	= Seventh Framework Programme
<b>ECB</b>	= European Central Bank	<b>IATE</b>	= Interactive Terminology for Europe
<b>ECOFIN</b>	= Economic and Financial Affairs Council	<b>IGC</b>	= Intergovernmental Conference
<b>ECSC</b>	= European Coal and Steel Community	<b>ILLP</b>	= Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme
<b>EDPS</b>	= European Data Protection Supervisor	<b>JRC</b>	= Joint Research Center
<b>EEA</b>	= European Economic Area	<b>MEP</b>	= Member of the European Parliament
<b>EEC</b>	= European Economic Community	<b>OJ</b>	= Official Journal
<b>EESC</b>	= European Economic and Social Committee	<b>OLAF (Fr.)</b>	= European Anti-Fraud Office
<b>EIB</b>	= European Investment Bank	<b>OMC</b>	= open method of coordination
<b>EIF</b>	= European Investment Fund	<b>OPOCE (Fr.)</b>	= Publications Office of the European Union
<b>EJN</b>	= European Judicial Network	<b>QMV</b>	= qualified majority voting
<b>EMU</b>	= Economic and Monetary Union	<b>SAA</b>	= stabilisation and association agreement
<b>EP</b>	= European Parliament	<b>SCIC (Fr.)</b>	= Directorate-General for Interpretation
<b>EPSO</b>	= European Personnel Selection Office	<b>SEA</b>	= Single European Act

### Other abbreviations

<b>EFTA</b>	= European Free Trade Association
<b>GDP</b>	= Gross Domestic Product
<b>GNI</b>	= Gross National Income
<b>GNP</b>	= Gross National Product
<b>NGO</b>	= Non-Governmental Organisation
<b>VAT</b>	= Value Added Tax
<b>SME</b>	= Small and Medium Sized Enterprise

accessing country → **BOX 1**

accession country → **BOX 1**

**accession criteria** = The accession criteria contain the economic, political, institutional and legal requirements which countries have to meet if they want to join the EU. The criteria were laid down by the →European Council held in June 1993, in Copenhagen.

*Syn.* Copenhagen criteria

**accession negotiations** = Accession negotiations may start after the →Council has adopted the country's application for EU membership by →unanimity on the basis of the opinion received from the →European Commission. In the preliminary phase of negotiations, the →acquis communautaire is being screened chapter by chapter (→acquis screening). Once screening is completed, the actual negotiations may start, within the framework of an →Intergovernmental Conference.

**accession partnership (AP)** = The term 'accession partnership' refers to a pre-accession strategy instrument which was established in 1998 for the →candidate countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It provides a single framework for guidance and financial support during preparations for EU membership.

**accession treaty** = The accession treaty can be signed after the →accession negotiations have been closed, and the →European Parliament has given its consent. Once the treaty is signed, it has to be ratified by both →the acceding country and the representatives of all of the →Member States.

**acquis communautaire** (Fr.) [aki: kɔmynotɛ:ʁ] = The term 'acquis communautaire' refers to the body of EU law including the →founding treaties, their amendments (→amending treaties), the legal acts adopted on the basis of the treaties, and any other binding and non-binding legal acts, decisions, opinions, declarations, conventions, principles and practices. It is available on the →EUR-Lex portal.

!Although the term 'communautaire' originally referred to the →first pillar of the EU, that is, the →European Communities, the term '*acquis*' now includes the entire body of EU law, and is usually written in italics.

**acquis screening** = The term 'acquis screening' refers to the preliminary phase of →accession negotiations. The →acquis communautaire is split into chapters and is examined (screened) chapter by chapter in order to determine how well the →candidate country is prepared for EU membership. Screening is carried out between the candidate country and the →European Commission. Once screening is completed, the actual negotiations may start, within the framework of an →Intergovernmental Conference.

actions for annulment → **Court of Justice**

actions for failure to act → **Court of Justice**

actions for failure to fulfil an obligation → **Court of Justice**

actions for infringement of EU law → **Court of Justice**

advisory body → **institutions**

**Advocate-General** = The Advocate-General is a permanent member of the →Court of Justice, who supports the Court's work by providing it with legal advice. He or she is responsible for preparing a reasoned opinion on the cases brought before the Court.

agencies → **institutions**

#### BOX 1

##### From potential candidate to Member State

**potential candidate country** = Potential candidate countries do not enjoy a full candidate status yet, but have been offered the prospect of EU membership, without a precise date for accession.

**applicant country** = Applicant countries have already submitted their application for EU membership to the →Council, but no decision has yet been taken.

**accession country** = Accession countries are countries which have started →accession negotiations with the EU.

**acceding country** = Acceding countries are countries which completed the →accession negotiations with the EU and signed the →accession treaty. They may participate as an observer in the EU's decision-making procedures.

**Member State** = Member States enjoy 'full member' status in the EU.

✍ In EU terminology, this term is written in capital letters.

**amending treaties** = The term 'amending treaties' refers to all of the treaties which amended the →founding treaties. They include treaties, such as the →accession treaties, the →Merger Treaty, the →Single European Act, the →Treaty of Maastricht, the →Treaty of Amsterdam, the →Treaty of Nice and, the most recent, the →Treaty of Lisbon.

*See also* →Treaties

appeals → **Court of Justice**

applicant country → **BOX 1**

assent procedure → **special legislative procedure**

best practices → **open method of coordination**

binding → **regulation**; → **directive**; → **decision**

**blocking minority** = Blocking minority represents the minimum number of votes in → **qualified majority voting**, needed to hinder the adoption of decisions in the → **Council**.

bodies → **institutions**

**budgetary authority** = The term 'budgetary authority' refers to both the → **Council** and the → **European Parliament** since they share the power to adopt the EU's annual budget, within the framework of the → **budgetary procedure**.

**budgetary procedure** = The budgetary procedure is a → **special legislative procedure** which provides a single framework for adopting the EU's annual budget. The → **European Commission** submits a proposal (draft) for the annual budget, on the basis of the institutions' estimates and the → **multiannual financial framework**. The annual 'draft budget' has to be adopted jointly by the → **budgetary authority**, that is, the → **Council** and the → **European Parliament**. If the Council does not accept the amendments proposed by the European Parliament, a → **Conciliation Committee** may be set up.

☞ Due to the changes introduced by the → **Treaty of Lisbon**, the distinction between 'compulsory' and 'non-compulsory expenditure' has been abolished. As a result, the European Parliament now has the final say on both items, that is, on the entire EU budget. The Conciliation Committee is also a new element introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon.

**Bureau** = The Bureau is one of the two leading bodies of the → **European Parliament**. It consists of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the → **Quaestors** of the European Parliament (the latter being in a consultative capacity). It is responsible for matters related to the budget, organisation, administration and staff of the Parliament.

See also → **Conference of Presidents**

candidate country → **BOX 1**

Certificate Supplement → **Europass**

chapter → **acquis screening**

chef de cabinet (Fr.) [ʃɛf də kabine:] → **head of cabinet**

chef d'Etat (Fr.) [ʃɛf deta] → **Heads of State or Government**

**Civil Service Tribunal** = The Civil Service Tribunal is a specialised tribunal of the → **Court of Justice of the European Union**. It was established in 2004 in order to settle legal disputes between EU institutions and their civil servants.

See also → **Court of Justice**; → **General Court**

codecision procedure → **ordinary legislative procedure**

**Cohesion Fund** = The Cohesion Fund is a structural instrument which is aimed at strengthening economic and social cohesion in the EU and reducing disparities between regions. It finances projects mainly in the field of environment and trans-European transport networks, in line with the 'convergence objective' of the budget period 2007-2013. Eligible are the least prosperous Member States of the EU, whose gross national product (GNP) per capita is below 90% of the EU-average.

See also → **Structural Funds**

co-legislator → **ordinary legislative procedure**

**College of Commissioners** = The College of Commissioners is composed of the members of the → **European Commission**, i.e. the → **commissioners**. In line with the principle of 'one Member State – one commissioner', there are as many commissioners as there are Member States.

☞ The → **Treaty of Lisbon** wished to abandon the principle of 'one Member State – one commissioner' by reducing the number of commissioners to two thirds of the number of Member States and introducing a rotating system, which was supposed to take effect from 1 November 2014. However, the → **European Council** of June 2009 decided that, after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, a decision would be taken in order to revert to the principle of 'one Member State – one commissioner'.

**comitology** = The term 'comitology' refers to a procedure which, prior to the → **Treaty of Lisbon**, allowed the → **Council** (along with the → **European Parliament**) to monitor how the → **European Commission** implements legislation, i.e. how it exercises the implementing powers conferred on it. The name 'comitology' originates from the various committees comprising the representatives (experts) of the Member States.

Syn. committee procedure

☞ The → **Treaty of Lisbon** abolished the system of comitology by allowing the legislator (the European Parliament and/or the Council) to delegate the power to the European Commission to adopt so called 'non-legislative acts' (delegated acts' and 'implementing acts'). As a result, implementation is to be carried out by non-legislative acts (i.e. not by the comitology system). However, comitology will still apply to legislation adopted before the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Commission → **European Commission**

**commissioner** = A commissioner is a member of the → **European Commission**, who is responsible, similarly to the ministers at national level, for a specific portfolio. Commissioners carry out their tasks independently of national governments or the → **Council**. The number of commissioners equals the number of Member States.

Syn. Member of the European Commission

☞ The → **Treaty of Lisbon** abandoned the principle of

'one Member State – one commissioner' by reducing the number of commissioners to two thirds of the number of Member States and introducing a rotating system, which was supposed to take effect from 1 November 2014. However, the →European Council of June 2009 decided that, after the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, a decision would be taken in order to revert to the principle of 'one Member State – one commissioner'.

**Committee of the Regions (CoR)** = The Committee of the Regions is an advisory body of the EU. It allows representatives of regional and local bodies to express their views on EU affairs, and participate in the EU's decision-making process. It was established by the →Treaty of Maastricht.

@ cor.europa.eu

See also →European Economic and Social Committee

committee procedure → **comitology**

**Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** = The objectives of a common agricultural policy were defined by the →Treaty of Rome in 1957. The CAP came into force in 1962. It is one of the policy areas where the EU has →shared competence with the Member States, except for the conservation of marine biological resources, in which the EU has →exclusive competence.

☞ Due to the changes introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon, the policy area of agriculture (and the term 'agriculture') now includes fisheries, as well.

**Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)** = The Common Foreign and Security Policy was created by the →Treaty of Maastricht, and was usually referred to as the →second pillar of the EU. It is now conducted by the →High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as created by the →Treaty of Lisbon.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the areas of →intergovernmental and →supranational cooperation into a single framework. However, the CFSP remains an intergovernmental field of cooperation, with →unanimity as the main decision-making procedure.

**Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)** = The Common Security and Defence Policy (formerly called 'European Security and Defence Policy') is a major element of the EU's →Common Foreign and Security Policy. It provides the EU with an operational capacity (with civilian and military assets provided by the Member States) used for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security. It also includes the progressive framing of a common EU defence policy.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon turned the 'European Security and Defence Policy' into the 'Common Security and Defence Policy'.

common strategies → **second pillar**

**communication** = The term 'communication' refers to a document without legal force issued by the →European Commission in order to inform other EU institutions about a new strategy, a policy area or a planned measure.

## BOX 2

### Competences at EU level

The →Treaty of Lisbon defined the distribution of competences at EU level by introducing the following three categories of competence:

**exclusive competence** = If the EU has exclusive competence in a specific area, only the EU may adopt legally binding acts. Exclusive competence applies in the areas of the customs union, the establishment of competition rules, monetary policy for the →euro area, the conservation of marine biological resources under the common fisheries policy, the common commercial policy and, if needed, the conclusion of international agreements.

**shared competence** = If the EU and the Member States share competence in a specific area, both the EU and the Member States may adopt legally binding acts. Shared competence applies in the areas of the internal market, social policy, economic, social and territorial cohesion, agriculture and fisheries (excluding the conservation of marine biological resources), environment, consumer protection, transport, trans-European networks, energy, the area of freedom, security and justice, common safety concerns in public health matters, research, technological development and space, development cooperation and humanitarian aid.

**supporting competence** = If the EU has supporting competence in a specific area, it may support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the Member States. Supporting competence applies in the areas of the protection and improvement of human health, industry, culture, tourism, education, youth, sport and vocational training, civil protection (disaster prevention) and administrative cooperation.

**Community method** = Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, the term 'Community method' referred to the functioning mode of the →first pillar of the EU, that is, the →European Communities (hence the name 'Community method'). As opposed to the →intergovernmental method (used in the former →second and →third pillars), it was characterised by the general use of →qualified majority voting in the Council, the European Commission's →exclusive right of initiative, the active role of the →European Parliament as co-legislator and the role of the →Court of Justice in ensuring the uniform interpretation of Community law.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure

of the EU by merging the areas of → intergovernmental and → supranational cooperation under the name 'European Union'. As a result, the term 'Community method' is no longer used, except in historical references. It has become the standard functioning mode of the EU (the 'EU method'), except for the → Common Foreign and Security Policy, which remains intergovernmental.

Community pillar → **first pillar**

**Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)** = CORDIS is an on-line EU portal which provides free access to the calls for proposal of FP7 (→ Seventh Framework Programme) and to other useful information on research and development.

@ cordis.europa.eu

competences → **BOX 2**

**Conciliation Committee** =

1. (ordinary legislative procedure)

A Conciliation Committee may be set up under the → ordinary legislative procedure if the → Council does not accept the amendments of the → European Parliament after the second reading of a proposal. The Committee is composed of an equal number of representatives of both the European Parliament and the Council. Its task is to reach agreement on a joint text which is acceptable to both parties.

2. (budgetary procedure)

Due to the changes introduced by the → Treaty of Lisbon, a Conciliation Committee may be set up under the → budgetary procedure if the → Council does not accept the amendments proposed by the → European Parliament.

**conclusions** = The 'conclusions' of the → Council and the → European Council contain the commitments, opinions and statements adopted at the meetings of the Council and the European Council. They are not legally binding, but may have a strong political impact.

concoirs (Fr.) [kɔ̃ku:ʁ] → **open competition**

**Conference of Presidents** = The Conference of Presidents is one of the two leading bodies of the → European Parliament. It consists of the President and the chairmen of the political groups. It is responsible for matters related to the organisation of the Parliament's work, legislative planning and relations with other institutions and bodies.

See also → Bureau

configuration → **Council**

consent → **special legislative procedure**

**Constitutional Treaty** = The Constitutional Treaty was intended to create a new basis for the European Union by not

only amending, but also replacing the existing → Treaties. It was drafted by the → European Convention within the framework of an → Intergovernmental Conference, and signed in June 2004 by the then 25 Member States. However, it failed to be ratified, as required, by all of the Member States, due to its rejection in the French and Dutch referendums. As a compromise, a new, so-called 'Reform Treaty' was drafted and signed on 13 December 2007, in Lisbon (→ Treaty of Lisbon).

Syn. Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe

consultation procedure → **special legislative procedure**

convention → **third pillar**

**convergence criteria** = The convergence criteria contain the requirements (for government debt, government deficit, long-term interest rates, inflation rate and exchange rate) a Member State must meet if it intends to enter the third stage of the → Economic and Monetary Union, i.e. to introduce the euro as its currency. The criteria were laid down by the → Treaty of Maastricht. (Hence the name 'Maastricht criteria').

Syn. Maastricht criteria

Copenhagen criteria → **accession criteria**

cooperation procedure → **special legislative procedure**

**Council** → **BOX 3**

**Council of Europe** → **BOX 3**

Council of Ministers → **Council** → **BOX 3**

Council of the European Union → **Council** → **BOX 3**

**Council Presidency** = The Council Presidency is held by each Member State for a period of six months, based on a rotation system. The Member State holding the Presidency presides over the → Council and the other bodies related to it, such as COREPER (→ Permanent Representatives Committee). By setting the agenda and chairing the meetings, it may have a significant role in the decision-making process.

See also → Trio Presidency

Court of First Instance → **General Court**

**Court of Justice** = The Court of Justice is a court of the → Court of Justice of the European Union, established in 1952. Its main task is to ensure the uniform application and interpretation of EU law (→ *acquis communautaire*). The Court has competence in the following proceedings: references for → preliminary ruling; actions for failure to fulfil obligations; actions for infringement of EU law; actions for annulment; actions for failure to act; appeals; reviews.

Syn. European Court of Justice

See also → General Court; → Civil Service Tribunal

## BOX 3

**Council, Council and again Council**

**Council** = The Council is an EU institution, one of the EU's legislative bodies (the other being →the European Parliament) and a component of the →institutional triangle. Functioning mainly on an →intergovernmental basis, it is the institution which represents the interests of Member States. It may take decisions by →unanimity, →simple majority or →qualified majority, the latter being the standard voting procedure. The Council meets in different configurations by bringing together the ministers of Member States responsible for a specific portfolio. ECOFIN (→Economic and Financial Affairs Council), for instance, is one of the configurations of the Council. Based on a rotation system, Member States preside over the various Council configurations for a period of 6 months (→Council Presidency), except for the Foreign Affairs Council, which is chaired by the →High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (created by the →Treaty of Lisbon). In 2007, the system of →Trio Presidency was also introduced in order to ensure the continuity of Presidencies. Council meetings and decisions are prepared by COREPER (→Permanent Representatives Committee).

*Syn.* Council of the European Union; Council of Ministers

**European Council** = The European Council is an EU institution which defines the general political guidelines of the EU, meeting at least four times a year. It has no legislative power. It is composed of the Member States' →Heads of State or Government, the president of the →European Commission along with its own President, who is elected for a two-and-a-half-year term.

⇒ The →Treaty of Lisbon gave the European Council the status of an EU institution, and created the permanent, full-time post of 'President'.

⇒ In Eurojargon, European Council meetings are often referred to as **EU summits** due to the huge media attention which usually follows these meetings.

**Council of Europe** = The Council of Europe is an international organisation which functions entirely on an intergovernmental basis. It was founded in 1949, and today has more than 40 member states. It is headquartered in Strasbourg. Although bearing a similar name to the institutions of the European Union, it is a separate organisation, and, as such, has nothing to do with the institutions of the EU.

**Court of Justice of the European Union** = The Court of Justice of the European Union is an EU institution, seated in Luxembourg. It was originally established as the 'Court of Justice of the →European Coal and Steel Community' in 1952

(called, as of 1958, the 'Court of Justice of the →European Communities'). At present, it consists of three courts: the →Court of Justice, the →General Court (formerly known as the 'Court of First Instance') and the →Civil Service Tribunal.  
@ curia.europa.eu

**decision** → **BOX 7**

delegated acts → **comitology**

Diploma Supplement → **Europass**

**directive** → **BOX 7**

directly applicable → **regulation**

**Directorate-General (DG)** = The Directorate-General is a branch of the →European Commission's administrative organisation covering a specific policy area or service. It may be compared to the ministries of →Member States, although they have different tasks (drafting and supporting legislative proposals rather than executing them). Directorates-General are headed by the →commissioners.

**Directorate-General for Interpretation** = The Directorate-General for Interpretation is the →European Commission's interpreting service and conference organiser. It also offers interpreting services for other EU institutions and bodies, except for the →European Parliament and the →Court of Justice, which have their own interpreting services.

⇒ In Eurojargon, the French abbreviation **SCIC** (Service Commun Interprétation-Conférences) is commonly used to refer to this DG.

@ ec.europa.eu/dgs/scic

direct universal suffrage → **Member of the European Parliament**

double majority → **qualified majority voting**

**Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)** = The Economic and Financial Affairs Council is one of the oldest configurations of the →Council, which is composed of the ministers of Member States responsible for financial and/or economic affairs. In addition, the finance ministers of Member States whose currency is the euro also meet in a smaller group, called →Eurogroup.

**Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)** = The Economic and Monetary Union is an advanced stage of the European integration process. It is based on the →single market and also involves the harmonisation of the Member States' economic and monetary policies. In line with the →Treaty of Maastricht, the last stage of the EMU was launched by the introduction of the →euro on 1 January 1999. Some Member States, however, decided not to take part in the EMU, and obtained an →opt-out.

ECSC Treaty → **Treaty of Paris**

EC Treaty → **Treaty of Maastricht**

EEC Treaty → **Treaty of Rome**

**EU citizenship** = The concept of EU citizenship was introduced by the →Treaty of Maastricht in 1992. Every citizen holding the nationality of a Member State is a citizen of the EU, as well. EU citizenship does not replace, but complements national citizenship by providing additional rights for EU citizens, such as the right to move and reside freely within the EU, to vote and stand in local and European elections, to diplomatic and consular protection and to petition the →European Parliament.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon further developed the concept of EU citizenship by introducing the so called 'citizens' initiative'. EU citizens now also have the right to ask the →European Commission to take a specific initiative by submitting at least one million signatures from a significant number of Member States. It is, however, not binding on the Commission.

EU executive → **European Commission**

Euratom Treaty → **Treaty of Rome**

**EUR-Lex** = EUR-Lex is an official EU-portal which provides free access to EU law (→*acquis communautaire*), the →Official Journal of the EU and other useful information on EU legislation in all of the EU's →official and working languages.  
@ eur-lex.europa.eu

euro area → **BOX 5**

Eurogroup → **BOX 5**

**Europass** = Europass provides a single framework for making the qualifications and competences of individuals more transparent in order to contribute to the mobility of students and workers in the EU. It is composed of five documents: Europass CV, Language Passport, Europass Mobility, Certificate Supplement and Diploma Supplement.

Europass CV → **Europass**

Europass Mobility → **Europass**

**European Administrative School (EAS)** = The European Administrative School has been offering trainings and courses for the civil servants of EU institutions since 2005.

**European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF)** = The European Anti-Fraud Office was established in 1999 in order to combat fraud and corruption. It is a →Directorate-General of the European Commission, but operates in full independence.

! In EU terminology, the French abbreviation 'OLAF'

(Office européen de lutte anti-fraude) is accepted as the official abbreviation of the term in all of the EU's official and working languages.

**European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)** = The European Atomic Energy Community is one of the organisations that constituted the →European Communities. It was founded by the →Treaty of Rome (along with the →European Economic Community) in 1957, with a view to ensuring energy supply and the peaceful use of nuclear power.

☞ Although the →Treaty of Lisbon changed certain provisions of the Euratom Treaty (via a protocol attached to the Treaty of Lisbon), Euratom has not been merged with the EU, and retains its separate legal personality.

**European Central Bank (ECB)** = The European Central Bank is the central bank of the EU responsible for defining and implementing the monetary policy of the →euro area and to maintain price stability. It started operating on 1 June 1998, with headquarters in Frankfurt. It holds a key position in the →European System of Central Banks and the →Eurosysteem. Its main bodies are the Governing Council, the Executive Board and the General Council.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon gave the European Central Bank the status of being an EU institution.

@ www.ecb.int

**European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** = The European Coal and Steel Community was one of the organisations that constituted the →European Communities. It was founded in 1951 by the →Treaty of Paris in order to establish a common market for coal and steel. The Treaty expired in 2002, but most of its provisions were incorporated into the framework of the →European Community (the then →first pillar of the EU).

☞ In certain cases, the term *Montanunion* may also be used, especially in texts of German origin.

**European Commission** =

1. (institution) The European Commission is one of the EU's →supranational institutions which represents general EU interests. It is a component of the →institutional triangle. It is responsible for proposing legislation (→exclusive right of initiative), preparing and executing the EU budget, and managing EU programs. As the →guardian of the Treaties, it also ensures that EU law is properly applied. The administrative body of the institution is split up into various departments called →Directorates-General.

☞ In Eurojargon, the term *EU-executive* is often used to refer to the European Commission, especially by the media, emphasising its executive role, which is similar to that of national governments.

2. (commissioners) The term 'European Commission' may also refer to the leading body of the institution, that is, the →College of Commissioners.

*Syn.* Commission

@ ec.europa.eu

**European Communities** → **BOX 4**

**European Community** → **BOX 4**

**European Convention** = The European Convention was responsible for producing a draft →Constitutional Treaty and preparing the Intergovernmental Conference of 2003-2004. It was convened between February 2002 and July 2003. Its members included representatives of the →European Parliament and the →European Commission, along with representatives of the →Heads of State and Government and the national parliaments of both the Member States and the then →candidate countries. It was chaired by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

*Syn.* Convention on the future of the European Union

**BOX 4****Community or Communities?**

**European Community** = The term 'European Community' was introduced by the →Treaty of Maastricht by turning the 'European Economic Community' into the 'European Community'. It reflected the Member States' wish to expand the Community's powers to non-economic areas, as well.

! Along with 'European Communities', the term 'European Community' was also used to refer to the →first pillar of the EU since it included, as from 2002, only Euratom and the European Community.  
 ☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the 'communities' and other areas of cooperation under the name 'European Union'.

**European Communities** = The term 'European Communities' was used from 1967 (the adoption of the →Merger Treaty) to refer to the then three 'communities' of the European integration process: the →European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the →European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and the →European Economic Community (EEC), which was renamed by the Treaty of Maastricht the →'European Community'. As from 1992, they formed the →first pillar of the EU. Since the ECSC Treaty expired in 2002, the term 'European Communities' was generally used to refer to the remaining two communities: Euratom and the European Community.

! Since the term 'European Communities' only included Euratom and the European Community (as from 2002), both the singular ('European Community') and the plural ('European Communities') forms were used to refer to the →first pillar of the EU.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the 'communities' and other areas of cooperation under the name 'European Union'. As a result, the term 'European Communities' has been replaced by 'European Union'.

**European Council** → **BOX 3**

**European Court of Auditors** = The European Court of Auditors is an EU institution which carries out the audit of EU finances as the EU's external auditor in order to ensure accountability and transparency. It started operating in 1977.

*Syn.* Court of Auditors of the European Union; Court of Auditors

@ [eca.europa.eu](http://eca.europa.eu)

**European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)** = The European Data Protection Supervisor's main task is to ensure that the EU institutions and bodies respect the right to privacy while processing personal data.

**European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)** = The European Economic and Social Committee is an advisory body of the EU. It allows economic and social interest groups (representatives of employers, employees and other parties of civil society) to express their views on EU affairs and participate in the EU's decision-making procedures.

*See also* →Committee of the Regions

**European Economic Area (EEA)** = The European Economic Area is composed of the Member States of the EU and the members of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). The EEA is based on the same →four freedoms as the EU, allowing EFTA countries to participate in the EU's →single market without joining the EU.

**European Economic Community (EEC)** = The European Economic Community was one of organisations which constituted the →European Communities. It was founded by the →Treaty of Rome with the objective of creating a common market. It was renamed by the →Treaty of Maastricht →'European Community', which reflected the Member States' commitment to expanding the Community's powers to non-economic areas, as well.

**European Employment Services (EURES)** = The European Employment Services is a cooperation network, set up in 1993 between the →European Commission and the public employment services of the Member States of the →European Economic Area and Switzerland. Its main task is to foster mobility on the European labour market. One element of it is the European Job Mobility Portal.

@ The European Job Mobility Portal is available at [eures.europa.eu](http://eures.europa.eu).

**European Investment Bank (EIB)** = The European Investment Bank was founded in 1958 under the →Treaty of Rome, as the long-term lending bank of the EU. Owned by the Member States, its main task is to contribute to integration, balanced development and economic and social cohesion in the Member States by offering long-term loans for projects.

@ [www.eib.org](http://www.eib.org)



**European Investment Fund (EIF)** = The European Investment Fund was founded in 1994 in order to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It is owned by the →European Investment Bank.

European Job Mobility Portal → **EUROpean Employment Services**

**European Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust)** = The European Judicial Cooperation Unit was created in 2002. Its main task is to improve the co-ordination of investigations and prosecutions between national judicial authorities on an →inter-governmental basis. It also co-operates with the →European Judicial Network, the →European Police Office (Europol) and the →European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

!The abbreviation 'Eurojust' is commonly used in many of the EU's official and working languages.

@ eurojust.europa.eu

**European Judicial Network (EJN)** = The European Judicial Network was founded in 1998. As a network of national contact points, it aims to improve judicial cooperation between Member States in criminal matters, i.e. in combating serious crime, such as organised crime, corruption, drug trafficking and terrorism. In 2001, a similar network was established for supporting cooperation in civil and commercial matters.

**European Ombudsman** = The institution of the European Ombudsman was introduced by the →Treaty of Maastricht. His or her main task is to investigate maladministration (discrimination, failure to reply, unnecessary delay, etc.) in the institutions of the European Union, either on his/her own initiative or upon complaints received from individuals, businesses or other bodies. The Ombudsman is elected by the →European Parliament. The first Ombudsman was elected in 1995.

*Syn.* Ombudsman

**European Parliament (EP)** = The European Parliament is the only EU institution which is elected directly by the citizens of the EU. Elected once every five years, the assembly represents the interests of EU citizens. Over the years, the Parliament's powers have been extended considerably. In most cases, it shares legislative power (as co-legislator) with the →Council through the →ordinary legislative procedure (formerly known as 'codecision procedure'). It also shares budgetary power with the Council through the →budgetary procedure. Unlike national parliaments, however, it has no legislative initiative. This right belongs solely to the →European Commission, which has the →exclusive right of initiative in the area of legislation.

*Syn.* Parliament

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon granted the Parliament powers over the entire EU budget (→budgetary procedure), and made the Parliament's legislative powers equal to that of the →Council in nearly all areas of cooperation.

@ europarl.europa.eu

## The euro and its groupings

**euro** (€; EUR) = The euro is the single currency (legal tender) of the →Economic and Monetary Union. It was introduced as an accounting currency on 1 January 1999, replacing the former European Currency Unit (ECU), and entered into circulation as banknotes and coins on January 2002.

✍ In EU legal texts, the spelling of 'euro' must be identical in all EU official languages, although different alphabets are taken into account and plural forms are accepted. At national level (in non-EU texts), other spellings may be used, as well.

**euro area** = The euro area is composed of the Member States whose currency is the →euro.

*Syn.* eurozone

**Eurosystem** = The Eurosystem is composed of the →European Central Bank and the national banks of the Member States whose currency is the →euro. Its primary objective is to maintain price stability in the →euro area.

**European System of Central Banks (ESCB)** = The European System of Central Banks is composed of the →European Central Bank and the national banks of all of the Member States (whether they have adopted the →euro or not).

**Eurogroup** = Eurogroup is composed of the finance ministers of the →euro area. It also has a permanent president elected for two and a half years. It usually meets before ECOFIN (→Economic and Financial Affairs Council) to discuss questions related to the →euro area.

☞ Under the →Treaty of Lisbon, Eurogroup and its president have been given a legal base for the first time.

European Currency Unit (ECU) → **euro** → **BOX 5**

**European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO)** = The European Personnel Selection Office is the common recruitment service of the EU, which offers a unified staff selection service and a range of other HR-related services for EU institutions and bodies. As part of these tasks, it organises open competitions for citizens wanting to work for an EU institution. It is the single contact point for citizens wishing to start an EU career. EU institutions and bodies recruit staff from among the candidates selected by EPSO.

!The English abbreviation 'EPSO' is accepted as the official abbreviation of the term in all of the EU's official and working languages.

@ europa.eu/epso

**European Police Office (Europol)** = The European Police Office is an EU agency which aims to improve the effective-

ness, cooperation and exchange of information between the competent police and customs authorities in the →Member States to prevent and combat international organised crime, within the framework of an →intergovernmental cooperation.

! The abbreviation 'Europol' is commonly used in many of the EU's official and working languages.

@ www.europol.europa.eu

European Regional Development Fund → **Structural Funds**

European Research Area → **Seventh Framework Programme**

**European Research Council** = The European Research Council is a body set up within the framework of the 'Ideas' sub-program of the →Seventh Framework Programme. Its main objective is to fund projects in so-called 'frontier research', and to strengthen the European research system.

European Security and Defence Policy → **Common Security and Defence Policy**

European Social Fund → **Structural Funds**

European System of Central Banks → **BOX 5**

Eurosystem → **BOX 5**

eurozone → **euro area** → **BOX 5**

**EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions (EU-SILC)** = EU Statistics on Income and Living Conditions is an instrument for policy monitoring at EU level within the framework of the →open method of coordination. It contains comparable micro-data on income, poverty, social exclusion and living conditions coordinated by Eurostat (→Statistical Office of the European Union).

EU summit → **European Council** → **BOX 3**

EU Treaty → **Treaty of Maastricht**

exclusive competence → **BOX 2**

**exclusive right of initiative** = The exclusive right of initiative refers to the exclusive right of the →European Commission to make proposals for EU legislation. In other words, the European Commission alone has legislative initiative in the EU while the →European Parliament and the →Council may only request the Commission to draft legislative proposals.

☞ Due to the changes introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon regarding the concept of →EU citizenship, EU citizens are also able to request the →European Commission to draft a legislative proposal if they can submit a petition carrying one million signatures (citizens' initiative). This is, however, not binding on the Commission.

Executive Board → **European Central Bank**

External Action Service → **High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**

financial perspectives → **financial framework**

**first pillar** = The term 'first pillar' referred to the areas and competences of the →European Communities between 1993 (as introduced by the →Treaty of Maastricht) and 2009 (as abolished by the →Treaty of Lisbon). The first pillar was characterised by →supranational cooperation, by the so-called →Community method, and it was the only pillar with legal personality.

*Syn.* Community pillar

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the areas of →supranational and →intergovernmental cooperation under the name 'European Union' and giving the EU a legal personality. The legal acts of the first pillar (→regulation, →directive, →decision, →opinion and →recommendation) have been retained as the →legal acts of the EU.

*See also* →second pillar; →third pillar

**flexicurity** = Flexicurity is the combination of the terms 'flexibility' and 'security'. Originally, it is a Scandinavian social and labour market model which ensures both flexibility and security on the labour market at the same time. The model was adopted as a cornerstone of the EU's employment policy and the revised →Lisbon strategy. Member States have been called on to draw up national flexicurity strategies (pathways).

**founding treaties** = The term 'founding treaties' refers to the treaties which the European integration process is based on: the →Treaty of Paris establishing the →European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), the →Treaties of Rome establishing the →European Economic Community (EEC) along with the →European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), and the →Treaty of Maastricht establishing the →European Union. The founding treaties have been modified several times by the so-called →amending treaties.

*See also* →Treaties

**four freedoms** = The term 'four freedoms' refers to the free movement of goods, persons, capital and services in the EU. It is a fundamental condition for the completion of the →single market.

framework decision → **third pillar**

General Council → **European Central Bank**

**General Court** = The General Court (known as the 'Court of First Instance' prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon) is a court of the →Court of Justice of the European Union. It was established in 1988 in order to relieve the workload of the →Court of Justice.

☞ →The Treaty of Lisbon renamed the 'Court of First Instance' the 'General Court'.

See also →Court of Justice; →Civil Service Tribunal

Governing Council → **European Central Bank**

**green paper** = The term 'green paper' refers to a discussion document published by the →European Commission. It is released in order to launch a consultation process at EU level on a given topic. Individuals and organisations are invited to express their views and opinions on the ideas presented in the green paper. It may be followed by the production of a →white paper, which contains specific proposals for legislation and EU actions.

See also →white paper

**guardian of the Treaties** = The term 'guardian of the Treaties' refers to the →European Commission. In this role, the Commission permanently monitors and ensures that EU law is followed and properly applied. In performing this role, it also has the power to launch infringement proceedings and impose sanctions (fines or penalties) on Member States or companies if they fail to comply with EU law.

**head of cabinet** = The head of cabinet is a position in the administration of the →European Commission. The head of cabinet is responsible for leading the cabinet of the →commissioner.

☞ In Eurojargon, the French term *chef de cabinet* is often used to refer to the head of cabinet.

**Heads of State or Government** = Heads of State or Government represent the Member States at the meetings of the →European Council. Depending on the constitutional model of the Member State, either the head of government or the head of state may represent the Member State in the European Council.

☞ In Eurojargon, the term *chef d'Etat* is often used to refer to the head of state.

**High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy** = The person holding the post of the High Representative is responsible for conducting the EU's →Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and ensuring consistency in the EU's external actions. The High Representative presides over the Foreign Affairs Council (a configuration of the →Council), and is also one of the Vice-Presidents of the →European Commission. In other words, the post is 'double-hatted': as for the Council, the High Representative chairs the meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and is responsible for the CFSP; as for the Commission, he or she is one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission, responsible for coordinating the Commission's external actions. The High Representative will also be in charge of the so-called External Action Service (including diplomatic corps for the EU).

Syn. High Representative

☞ Although not an official term, the title *EU foreign minister* is often used by the media to describe the post of the High Representative.

☞ This post was created by the →Treaty of Lisbon by extending the functions of the former 'High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy' (previously held by the Secretary-General of the Council).

implementing acts → **comitology**

**institutional triangle** = The institutional triangle is composed of the three EU →institutions which play a crucial role in the EU's decision-making process: the →European Commission (representing EU interests), the →European Parliament (representing EU citizens) and the →Council (representing →Member State interests).

**institutions** = The institutions of the European Union are the →European Parliament, the →European Council, the →Council, the →European Commission, the →Court of Justice of the European Union, the →European Central Bank and the →Court of Auditors, listed in this order by the →Treaty on European Union (as modified by the →Treaty of Lisbon). Apart from the institutions, there are various other bodies, offices and agencies of the EU: advisory bodies, such as the →European Economic and Social Committee and the →Committee of the Regions; financial bodies, such as the →European Investment Bank; and other offices and agencies, such as the →European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO), the →Publications Office, the →European Police Office (Europol) and the →European Judicial Cooperation Unit (Eurojust), just to name a few.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon extended the number of EU institutions by giving official status to the →European Council and the →European Central Bank. It also made an explicit reference to offices and agencies by replacing 'institutions and/or bodies' by 'institutions, bodies, offices and agencies'.

**Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme (ILLP)** = The Integrated Lifelong Learning Programme is a financial instrument of the EU for the budget period (→financial framework) 2007-2013 which aims at supporting projects in public education (Comenius programme), higher education (Erasmus programme), vocational training (Leonardo da Vinci programme), adult education (Grundtvig programme), language teaching, information and communication technologies, and other cooperation and dissemination projects (transversal projects).

**Interactive Terminology for Europe (IATE)** = Interactive Terminology for Europe is the on-line terminology database of the EU. It merged and unified the previous databases of the EU institutions, and made the new database available to the general public.

@ iate.europa.eu

intergovernmental → **BOX 6**

## BOX 6

**Intergovernmental or supranational?****intergovernmental =**

1. (cooperation) Intergovernmental cooperation is a traditional form of international cooperation between states in which participating states do not confer powers upon supranational institutions. The →Council of Europe, for instance, works on an entirely intergovernmental basis. It is important to point out that the EU combines elements of both intergovernmental and supranational cooperation.

2. (EU-pillar) Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, the EU's →second pillar and →third pillar were characterised by intergovernmental cooperation. The →European Commission, the →European Parliament and the →Court of Justice had only limited powers in these pillars.

☞ Although the →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU, the →Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (the former →second pillar) remains mainly intergovernmental, with →unanimity as the main decision-making procedure.

3. (EU-institution) The →European Council and the Council can be considered as the EU's intergovernmental institutions, allowing Member States' interests to be represented.

**supranational =**

1. (cooperation) Supranational cooperation means that participating states confer some of their decision-making powers upon supranational institutions they have created. The EU combines elements of intergovernmental and supranational cooperation.

2. (EU-pillar) Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, supranational cooperation was strongest in the →first pillar, characterised by the so-called →Community method, with →qualified majority voting as the main decision-making procedure.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging areas of →supranational and →intergovernmental cooperation into a single framework. However, the →Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) retains its exceptional position, and remains an area of intergovernmental cooperation.

3. (EU-institution) The →European Commission, the →European Parliament and the →Court of Justice of the European Union can be considered as the EU's supranational institutions, which represent mainly EU interests.

**Intergovernmental Conference (IGC)** = The term 'Intergovernmental Conference' refers to the formal procedure for negotiating amendments to the →founding treaties. It is composed of the representatives of the governments of the →Member States. It is convened when Member States in-

tend to amend the founding treaties, either to enhance cooperation between them or to receive new Member States in the EU. →Accession negotiations, for instance, are carried out within the framework of an Intergovernmental Conference. The amending Treaties, such as the →Treaty of Amsterdam or the →Treaty of Lisbon are also results of Intergovernmental Conferences.

*Syn.* Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States

internal market → **single market**

joint actions → **second pillar**

**Joint Research Centre (JRC)** = The Joint Research Centre is a →Directorate-General of the European Commission. As the EU's scientific and research service, it provides independent technical and scientific advice both for the →European Commission and the Member States of the EU, in support of developing and implementing EU policies. It has several scientific institutes across Europe.

Justice and Home Affairs → **third pillar**

Language Passport → **Europass**

legal acts → **BOX 7**

legal tender → **euro** → **BOX 5**

legislative acts → **comitology**; → **BOX 7**

**Lisbon strategy** → **BOX 9**

Lisbon targets → **Lisbon strategy** → **BOX 9**

Lisbon Treaty → **Treaty of Lisbon** → **BOX 9**

Maastricht criteria → **convergence criteria**

Maastricht Treaty → **Treaty of Maastricht**

maladministration → **European Ombudsman**

Member of the European Commission → **commissioner**

**Member of the European Parliament (MEP)** = A Member of the European Parliament is a person who has been elected to the →European Parliament for a term of five years. Since 1979, MEPs have been elected by direct universal suffrage, which means that they are elected directly by EU citizens.

! The abbreviation 'MEP' also serves to distinguish Members of the European Parliament from their equivalents in national parliaments, who are usually referred to as 'MPs'.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon limited the number of MEPs to 750, reduced their maximum number per Member

State from 99 to 96, and increased their minimum number from 5 to 6.

## Member State → BOX 1

**Merger Treaty** = The Merger Treaty is an →amending treaty which merged the institutions of the then three communities (the →European Coal and Steel Community, the →European Economic Community and →the European Atomic Energy Community) into a single institutional framework by establishing the →Council and the →European Commission. The Merger Treaty was signed in 1965, and entered into force on 1 July 1967. Since then, the term →'European Communities' has been used to describe the three communities founded in 1951 and 1957.

*Syn.* Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities

## BOX 7

### Legal acts of the EU

The Treaty of Lisbon introduced significant changes to the system of legal instruments. A distinction has been made between 'legislative acts' (adopted under the →ordinary and →special legislative procedures) and 'non-legislative acts' (where no legislative procedure is required, see →comitology). Legal acts resulting from these procedures can appear in a number of forms (instruments). The Treaty of Lisbon retained the instruments of the former →first pillar, as follows:

**regulation** = A regulation is binding in its entirety in all of the Member States and is directly applicable. Contrary to directives, regulations do not need to be transposed into national legislation, i.e. they become automatically part of national legislation the moment they enter into force, and do not require implementing measures.

**directive** = A directive is binding upon the Member States to which it is addressed, and only as regards the result to be achieved. Member States may choose the forms and measures by which to achieve this result. Contrary to regulations, directives need to be transposed into national legislation.

**decision** = A decision is binding in its entirety. However, if a decision specifies those to whom it is addressed, it is binding only on them.

**opinion** = An opinion is a non-binding legal act which contains the views of a given institution on a specific subject matter.

**recommendation** = A recommendation is a non-binding legal act which formulates a certain expectation or guidance for Member States.

**multiannual financial framework** = The multiannual financial framework is the EU's multiannual budget package which sets a maximum volume for EU expenditure for a period of at least five years. The annual EU budgets have to comply with the multiannual financial framework. It has to be laid down in a →regulation adopted by the →Council by →unanimity, after obtaining the consent of the →European Parliament in a →special legislative procedure.

! Between 1988 and 2007, the term 'financial perspectives' was used to refer to the EU's multiannual budget.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon established the practice of adopting multiannual financial frameworks/financial perspectives by making them compulsory (legally binding) and by regulating their adoption, as indicated above.

## multilingualism → BOX 8

non-legislative acts → **comitology**; → **BOX 7**

offices → **institutions**

**official and working languages** = The number and equality of official and working languages was laid down by the →Council in its first regulation, in 1958. The regulation makes no distinction between 'official' and 'working' languages, so in most cases the term 'official languages' is used. According to the regulation, EU institutions may define in their →rules of procedure the languages they use in their internal communication. These languages are often referred to as 'procedural languages' or simply 'working languages'.

**Official Journal (OJ)** = It is in the Official Journal that EU legal acts, along with public procurement notices and other official documents, are published. The OJ is the principal source of →EUR-Lex, published by the →Publications Office, on every working day, in all of the official and working languages of the EU.

@ eur-lex.europa.eu

**open competition** = The term 'open competition' refers to a unified EU staff selection procedure provided by the →European Personnel Selection Office (EPSO) on behalf of the EU institutions. EU citizens who wish to land a job at an EU institution have to participate in an open competition launched by EPSO. As from 2010, it includes the following stages: on-line registration, computer based testing and an assessment centre. Successful candidates are placed in a database (on a so-called reserve-list), from which EU institutions may choose candidates and invite them for an interview before offering them a position.

☞ In Eurojargon, the French term *concours* is commonly used to refer to open competitions.

**open method of coordination (OMC)** = The open method of coordination was introduced by the →Lisbon strategy as an instrument for cooperation. It allows coordination also in

areas which fall within the competence of the →Member States (such as education or employment). Under the open method of coordination, Member States jointly adopt objectives to be achieved, establish instruments to measure results, compare the Member States' performances and exchange best practices (benchmarking).

**opinion** → **BOX 7**

**opt-out** = Opt-out is an exemption which allows a Member State to refrain from taking part in a specific area of EU cooperation, or to join it later if it wishes to do so. For instance, some Member States that did not intend to take part in the third stage of the →Economic and Monetary Union (i.e. to introduce the →euro), or to take over the →Schengen acquis in its entirety, have been granted an opt-out.

**ordinary legislative procedure** = The term 'ordinary legislative procedure' refers to the joint adoption of legal acts by the →European Parliament and the →Council. It was introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon by renaming the former 'codecision procedure' and making it the ordinary legislative procedure of the EU, and by extending it to additional areas, such as agriculture and most of the former →third pillar. It allows the European Parliament to act as a co-legislator, along with the Council, in almost all areas of EU legislation. The procedure may comprise three readings. After the second reading, a so-called →Conciliation Committee may be set up in order to settle disagreements between the two institutions (i.e. the Parliament and the Council).

☞ The term was introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon by renaming the term 'codecision procedure' 'ordinary legislative procedure'.

See also →special legislative procedure

#### BOX 8

### Multilingualism or plurilingualism?

**multilingualism** =

1. (EU) In EU terminology, the term 'multilingualism' refers to both the diversity of the languages spoken by an individual (individual level) and the diversity of the languages or dialects spoken in a geographical area (society level).

2. (CoE) In the terminology of the →Council of Europe, the term 'multilingualism' refers only to the diversity of the languages or dialects spoken in a geographical area (society level). The variety of the languages spoken by an individual is referred to as →plurilingualism.

**plurilingualism** =

(CoE) In the terminology of the →Council of Europe, the term 'plurilingualism' refers to the multilingual competence of an individual (individual level).

! In EU terminology, the term 'plurilingualism' is not used.

Parliament → **European Parliament**

**permanent representation to the EU** = The term 'permanent representation to the EU' refers to the representations of the EU Member States in Brussels. The ambassador of the representation is a member of COREPER II while his or her deputy is a member of COREPER I (→Permanent Representatives Committee).

**Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER)** = The Permanent Representatives Committee comprises the ambassadors (COREPER II) and their deputies (COREPER I) of the Member States' permanent representations to the EU. It meets once a week, and is chaired by the Member State which holds the →Council Presidency. It is responsible for preparing the work of the →Council of the European Union and providing a forum for dialogue for national governments and EU institutions.

! The French abbreviation 'COREPER' (Comité des Représentants Permanents) is accepted as the official abbreviation of the term.

pillars → **first**; → **second**; → **third pillar**

**plurilingualism** → **BOX 8**

**police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters** = Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, 'police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters' (originally called 'Justice and Home Affairs') was referred to as the →third pillar of the EU, i.e. an area of →intergovernmental cooperation in the fight against crime.

☞ Since the →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU, this area has been incorporated into a single EU framework.

**potential candidate country** → **BOX 1**

**preliminary ruling** = A 'preliminary ruling' is a procedure which contributes to the uniform interpretation and application of EU law, and the cooperation between the national courts of the Member States and the →Court of Justice. The procedure allows any national court to question the Court of Justice about the interpretation or validation of EU law in a given case. The Court's response (ruling) is binding not only on the national court which submitted the question, but on all of the national courts of the Member States, as well.

President → **Bureau**

principles and general guidelines → **second pillar**

procedural languages → **official and working languages**

**proportionality** = Proportionality is one of the basic principles which govern the functioning of and the exercise of powers by the EU. According to the principle of propor-

tionality, any action taken at EU level may not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the → Treaties.

See also → subsidiarity

**Publications Office of the European Union** = The Publications Office of the European Union issues the publications of EU institutions. It also provides on-line access to the official portals → EUR-Lex, CORDIS (→ Community Research and Development Information Service) and the → Official Journal of the European Union.

Syn. Publications Office

☞ In Eurojargon, the French abbreviation **OPOCE** (Office des publications officielles des Communautés européennes) is commonly used to refer to the Publications Office.

@ publications.europa.eu

**Quaestors** = Quaestors are officials of the → European Parliament who carry out financial and administrative tasks directly related to the → Members of the European Parliament, in line with the guidelines laid down by the → Bureau.

**qualified majority voting (QMV)** = Qualified majority voting is a voting procedure within the → Council. Qualified majority means that the number of votes allocated to each Member State are weighted according to the population of the state and as a result of political agreements. In order to prevent the adoption of a decision by qualified majority, a → blocking minority is needed.

☞ According to the → Treaty of Lisbon, the present QMV system, as laid down by the Treaty of Nice, will only apply until 31 October 2014. After that period, the definition of qualified majority will change: at least 55 % of all of the Member States representing at least 65 % of the EU's population (called 'double majority') will be required for the adoption of a decision.

See also → unanimity; → simple majority

**rapporteur** (Fr.) [ʁapɔʁtœʁ] = A rapporteur is a → Member of the European Parliament who, in this capacity, is in charge of reporting on a particular subject. When a committee of the → European Parliament is assigned to draft up a report, a rapporteur is elected, who is responsible for writing the report. The fact that some reports are known by the name of the rapporteur reflects the importance of this role in the European Parliament.

reading (first, second, third) → **ordinary legislative procedure**

recommendation → **BOX 7**

Reform Treaty → **Treaty of Lisbon**

regulation → **BOX 7**

reserve-list → **open competition**

rotating Presidency → **Council Presidency**

**rules of procedure** = The term 'rules of procedure' refers to a document which contains the rules governing the internal functioning and organisation of a given EU institution or body.

**Schengen acquis** = The Schengen acquis consists of the → Schengen Agreement, the → Schengen Convention and other related legislative acts. It was integrated into the institutional and legal framework of the EU by the → Treaty of Amsterdam, and has formed, since then, an integral part of the → *acquis communautaire*. As a result, countries wishing to join the EU have to adopt the Schengen acquis, as well.

**Schengen Agreement** = The Schengen Agreement was signed by France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in 1985. Its main objective was to remove personal controls at their common, internal borders. The Agreement was soon followed by the → Schengen Convention, which supplements the Agreement and contains provisions for the implementation of the Agreement's objectives.

**Schengen area** = The term 'Schengen area' refers to the borderless zone of countries which adopted the → Schengen acquis. It includes most of the EU Member States and some non-EU countries, as well. Some EU Member States which did not want to adopt the Schengen acquis have been given an → opt-out.

**Schengen Convention** = The Schengen Convention was signed in 1990. Its main objective was to lay down arrangements and safeguards for the implementation of the → Schengen Agreement. Apart from removing internal controls at the borders of the signatory states, it strengthened external borders and enhanced the cooperation of police and judicial organs. Both the Convention and the Agreement came into force in 1995.

screening → **acquis screening**

**second pillar** = Prior to the → Treaty of Lisbon, the term 'second pillar' referred to the → Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), which was introduced by the → Treaty of Maastricht. Similarly to the → third pillar, it was also characterised by → intergovernmental cooperation.

☞ The → Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the areas of → supranational and → intergovernmental cooperation into a single EU structure. However, the → Common Foreign and Security Policy (the former second pillar) retained its exceptional position, and remained intergovernmental. The legal acts (principles and general guidelines, common strategies, joint actions, common positions) of the former second pillar have been renamed and amended.

See also → first pillar; → third pillar

**Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)** = The Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) is the EU's chief instrument for financing technology, research and development in the budget

period (→financial framework) 2007-2013 and furthering the creation of a European Research Area. It funds cooperation in research, the establishment of networks of excellence, virtual research centres and other research projects. Calls for proposal are available at the →Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS), the official portal of the Programme.

*Syn.* Seventh framework programme for research and technological development

**shared competence** → **BOX 2**

**simple majority** = Simple majority is a voting procedure within the →Council which requires more than half of the Member States to be in agreement for the adoption of a decision.

*See also* →qualified majority voting; →unanimity

**Single European Act (SEA)** = The Single European Act is an →amending Treaty which introduced significant changes in the →founding Treaties. It set a deadline (31 December 1992) for completing the →single market, and introduced measures and actions in order to achieve this objective. It came into force on 1 July 1987.

**single market** = The single market is an area without internal frontiers, where the →four freedoms, i.e. the free movement of goods, persons, capital and services is ensured. The deadline for completing the single market (31 December 1992) was set by the →Single European Act.

*Syn.* internal market

**special legislative procedure** = The term 'special legislative procedure' was introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon. It covers specific cases for adopting legal acts, either by the →European Parliament with the participation of the →Council or vice-versa (but not jointly). As opposed to the →ordinary legislative procedure (i.e. joint adoption by the two institutions), this procedure is only applied in a few areas, such as the budget (→budgetary procedure), taxation and certain aspects of other policy areas. Basically, it covers the former 'assent procedure' and 'consultation procedure', except for the 'cooperation procedure', which was abandoned by the Treaty of Lisbon.

☞ The term 'special legislative procedure' was introduced by the Treaty of Lisbon. Furthermore, 'assent' has been renamed 'consent' throughout the Treaties.

*See also* →ordinary legislative procedure

**stabilisation and association agreement (SAA)** = Stabilisation and association agreements are intended to determine mutual rights and obligations (e.g. free trade area, political dialogue) between →potential candidate countries of the Western Balkans and the EU.

**Stability and Growth Pact** = The Stability and Growth Pact is intended to ensure monetary stability in the →euro area. It

requires Member States to meet the so-called →convergence criteria (needed for the adoption of the →euro) even after they introduced the EU's single currency. In response to criticism on grounds of not being sufficiently flexible, the Pact was reformed in 2005.

stage (Fr.) [sta:ʒ] → **traineeship**

stagiaire (Fr.) [staʒjɛ:ʁ] → **trainee**

**Statistical Office of the European Union (Eurostat)** = Eurostat was established in 1953 (at the time of the →European Coal and Steel Community) and became a →Directorate-General of the European Commission in 1958 (after the →European Communities had been founded). Its key role is to provide EU institutions with a high-quality statistical information service.

@ epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu

**Structural Funds** = Structural Funds are financial instruments of the EU's regional policy which aim to reduce disparities between regions and Member States in order to strengthen economic and social cohesion. In the budget period (→financial framework) 2007-2013, there are two Structural Funds: the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund. The two Funds, along with the →Cohesion Fund, are used to support and finance the objectives of convergence, regional competitiveness and employment, as well as European territorial cooperation.

*See also* →Cohesion Fund

**subsidiarity** = The term 'subsidiarity' refers to one of the basic principles which govern the functioning of and the exercise of powers by the EU. It is intended to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to European citizens. In other words, the EU may only act if the planned actions can be better achieved at EU than at Member State, regional or local level (except in the areas which fall within the EU's →exclusive competence).

*See also* →proportionality

**supporting competence** → **BOX 2**

**supranational** → **BOX 6**

**third pillar** = Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, the term 'third pillar' referred to the area of →'police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters'. It was introduced by the →Treaty of Maastricht in 1992, originally covering the area of 'Justice and Home Affairs'. After the →Treaty of Amsterdam had transferred some of the areas to the →first pillar, the areas remaining in the third pillar were generally referred to as 'police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters'.

☞ The →Treaty of Lisbon abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the areas of →supranational and →intergovernmental cooperation into a single EU framework, except for the →Common Foreign and Se-



curity Policy (CFSP). The legal acts of the former third pillar (common position, framework decision, decision, convention) were eliminated.

See also →first pillar; →second pillar

**trainee** = A trainee is a person who is completing a →traineeship in one of the EU institutions or bodies.

☞ In Eurojargon, the French term *stagiaire* is commonly used to refer to a trainee.

**traineeship** = A traineeship is an in-service training provided by EU institutions and bodies. It gives →trainees the opportunity to acquire first-hand experience and knowledge of the institutions' and bodies' day-to-day work.

☞ In Eurojargon, the French term *stage* is commonly used to refer to an EU traineeship.

**Treaties** = The term 'Treaties' refer to both the →founding Treaties and the treaties amending them. Since the →amending Treaties overwrite the founding treaties, it is always the founding treaties' latest amended version that is in force. Consequently, the term 'Treaties' refer to all of the treaties which are in force at a given moment. Treaties are the result of negotiations between Member States, within the framework of →Intergovernmental Conferences.

Treaties of Rome → **Treaty of Rome**

Treaty establishing the European Community → **Treaty of Maastricht**

Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community → **Treaty of Rome**

Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community → **Treaty of Paris**

Treaty establishing the European Economic Community → **Treaty of Rome**

**Treaty of Amsterdam** = The Treaty of Amsterdam is an →amending treaty. It introduced significant changes in the →second and →third pillar of the EU, and extended the powers of the →European Parliament significantly. It was signed in 1997, in Amsterdam, and entered into force on 1 May 1999.

*Syn.* Treaty of Amsterdam amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts

**Treaty of Lisbon** → **BOX 9**

Treaty on the functioning of the European Union → **Treaty of Lisbon** → **BOX 9**

**Treaty of Maastricht** = The Treaty of Maastricht is a →founding treaty which established the →European Union, and also an →amending treaty which amended the "Treaty establishing the

European Economic Community' by turning it into the →'European Community'. It was signed in 1992, in Maastricht, and entered into force on 1 November 1993. It created the so-called pillar structure of the EU (→first, →second and →third pillar).

*Syn.* Treaty on European Union; EU Treaty

**Treaty of Nice** = The Treaty of Nice is an →amending treaty. It introduced significant changes in the institutional and decision-making system of the EU, with a view to meeting the requirements of the upcoming Eastern enlargement. It was signed in 2001, in Nizza, and entered into force on 1 February 2003.

*Syn.* Treaty of Nice amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties establishing the European Communities and certain related acts

**Treaty of Paris** = The Treaty of Paris is a →founding treaty which established the →European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). It was signed by the six founding countries in 1951, in Paris, and entered into force on 23 July 1952. Since it was concluded for a period of 50 years, the Treaty expired in 2002. However, most of its provisions were integrated into the framework of the →European Community (the →first pillar of the EU prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon).

*Syn.* Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community; ECSC Treaty

## BOX 9

### Lisbon: treaty or strategy?

**Treaty of Lisbon** = The Treaty of Lisbon (initially known as the 'Reform Treaty') is an →amending treaty. It is divided into two parts: the 'Treaty on European Union' and the 'Treaty on the functioning of the European Union' (formerly known as the 'Treaty establishing the European Community'). It was signed in December 2007, in Lisbon, and entered into force on 1 December 2009. It was drafted as a replacement of the →Constitutional Treaty, the ratification of which failed in 2005. Contrary to the Constitutional Treaty, the Treaty of Lisbon did not intend to replace, but only to amend the →founding treaties. It abolished the pillar structure of the EU by merging the areas of →supranational and →intergovernmental cooperation under the name 'European Union', and gave the EU a legal personality.

*Syn.* Treaty of Lisbon amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community; Reform Treaty

**Lisbon strategy** = The Lisbon strategy was launched by the →European Council in March 2000, with the aim of making the EU the most competitive and knowledge-based society in the world by 2010. The aims set out in the strategy are generally referred to as 'Lisbon targets'. Contrary to the →Treaty of Lisbon, the Lisbon strategy is not a treaty but a strategic document. Therefore, the two terms must not be confused.

**Treaty of Rome** = The Treaty of Rome is a →founding treaty which was signed by the six founding countries in 1957, in Rome, and entered into force on 1 January 1958. It may refer to any of the two treaties establishing:

1. the →European Economic Community (EEC) and  
*Syn.* Treaty establishing the European Economic Community; EEC Treaty
2. the →European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)  
*Syn.* Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community; Euratom Treaty  
! Signed on the same day, the two documents are also referred to as the 'Treaties of Rome'.

Treaty on European Union → **Treaty of Maastricht**

**troika** = Prior to the →Treaty of Lisbon, the term 'troika' referred to a group of persons intended to ensure the representation of the EU in external relations. At the highest level, it was composed by the President of the →European Council, the Secretary-General of the Council (being also the High Representative of the Common Foreign and Security Policy) and the President of the →European Commission. At a lower level, it comprised the President of the →Council, the commissioner responsible for external affairs and, similarly to the highest level, the Secretary-General of the Council.

☞ Due to the changes introduced by the →Treaty of Lisbon, the formation of 'troika' has been incorporated into the post of the →High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

! Prior to the introduction of →Trio Presidencies, the term 'troika' also referred to the countries holding the previous, current and next Council Presidencies, with a view to ensuring the continuity of the rotating Presidency system. Since 2007, this role has been taken over by the system of Trio Presidencies.

*See also* →Trio Presidency; →High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

**Trio Presidency** = The term 'Trio Presidency' refers to a group of three successive Member States due to hold the six-month →Council Presidencies in the upcoming 18 months.

In close cooperation with the →European Commission, the group prepares and submits a joint programme for that period in order to enhance the continuity of the rotating six-month Presidencies. Within the group, the holders of the next and previous Presidencies assist the holder of the current Presidency in all its responsibilities, on the basis of the joint programme. The first Trio Presidency was formed by Germany, Portugal and Slovenia between January 2007 and June 2008.

*Syn.* three-Presidency team

*See also* →troika

**unanimity** = The term 'unanimity' refers to a voting procedure within the →Council which requires all of the Member States to be in agreement for the adoption of a decision. In other words, Member States have a right of veto in this case.

☞ Although the →Treaty of Lisbon extended the areas where decisions are to be taken by qualified majority voting, certain areas (such as taxation, finances of the EU, citizenship, EU membership) remain subject to unanimity.

*See also* →qualified majority voting; →simple majority

**United in diversity** = 'United in diversity' is the motto of the European Union. According to the →European Commission, it means that Europeans are united in working together for peace and prosperity, and the diversity of European cultures, languages and traditions is a positive asset for Europe.

veto right → **unanimity**

Vice-President → **Bureau**

**white paper** = A white paper is a document published by the →European Commission. It contains proposals for legislation and EU actions in a specific area, often followed by a →green paper, which is issued to launch a consultation process. If favourably received by the →Council, the proposals outlined in the white paper may lead to specific EU actions.

*See also* →green paper