

The EU in brief

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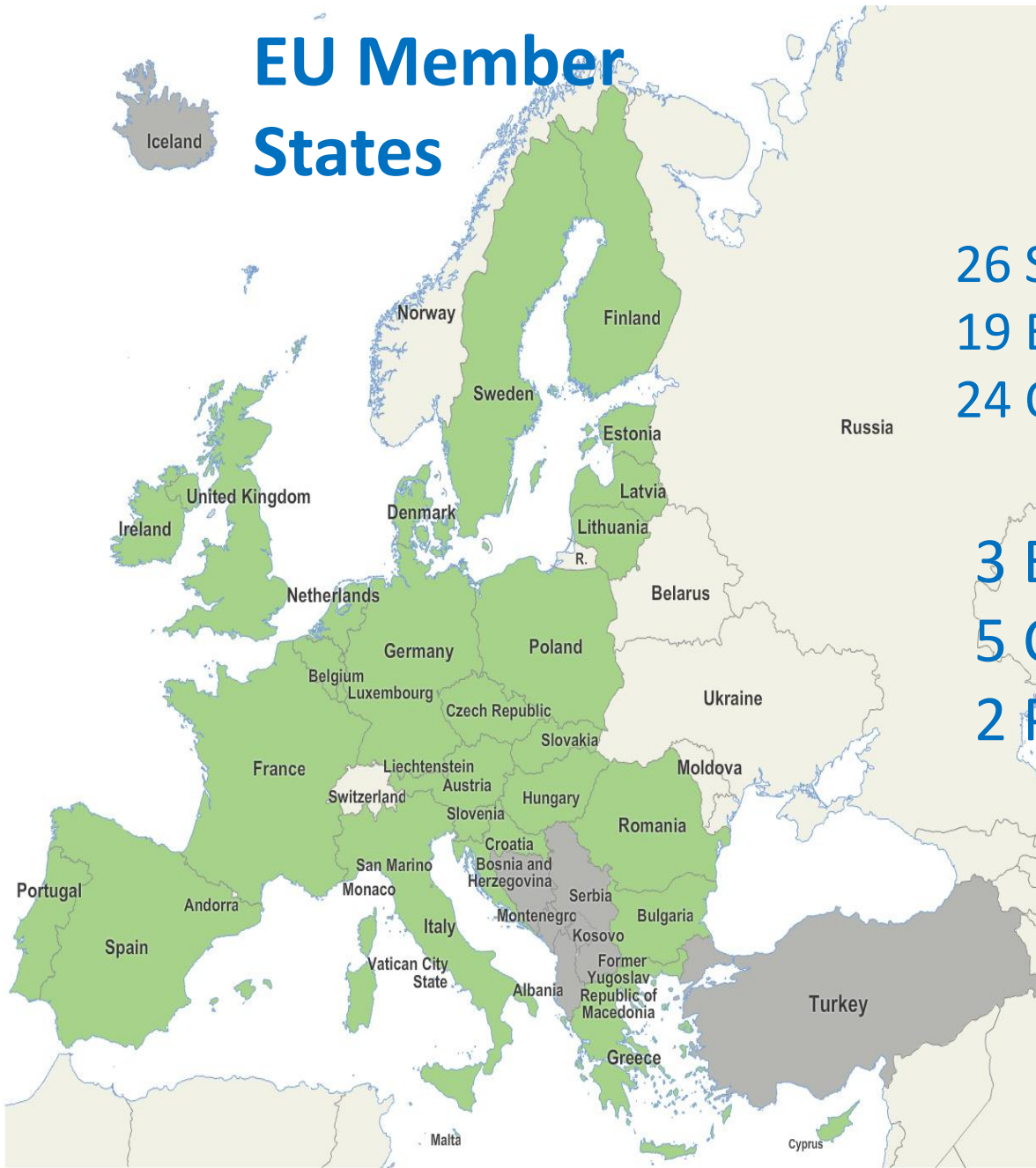
Further development of chemicals and biocides products management in the Republic of Serbia

The Twinning project is financed
by the European Union



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EU Member States



26 Schengen countries

19 Euro countries

24 Official languages

3 EEA countries

5 Candidate countries

2 Potential candidates



How did it start?

- 9 May 1950 first proposal by FM Schumann
- 1951, the European Coal and Steel Community
- 1957, the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community by 6 countries:
 - Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands
- 1973 Denmark, Ireland and UK joined
- 1981 Greece
- 1986 Spain and Portugal
- 1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden
- 2004 (1 May) Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
- 2007 Bulgaria, Romania
- 2013 (1 July) Croatia



Primary Legislation - Treaties

- Are the basis or ground rules for all EU action
- Are negotiated and agreed by all MS and ratified by parliaments or by referendum
 - The treaty of Paris
 -Rome
 - Amsterdam
 -Maastricht – The union was formed
 -Nice
 -Lisbon came into force 2009



The Lisbon Treaty

- Simplified working methods and voting rules
- Created a President of the European Council
- The EEAS (the European External Action Service) was created and a position as A High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Diplomatic representation) HRVP
- More power to the European Parliament
- Commission can adopt “delegated acts”



Secondary legislation

- Commission proposes a new legislation
 - May be preceded by discussion with the MS and stakeholders and a White paper
 - Internally discussed and adopted by the college
- Proposal sent to the Council and the EP
- It is discussed in WPs or Committees and amendments are proposed.
- COM may amend its proposal
- If Council and EP in agreement then the proposal is adopted in the **First reading**
- If not it is discussed again, **Second reading**, can adopted then – if not
- Conciliation procedure between Council and EP with COM attending
 - Adopted by the Commission; a legislative act must be drawn up explicitly delegating power to the Commission for this purpose. The objectives, content, scope and duration of the delegation of power are explicitly defined in the legislative act concerned.
 - This delegation of power can be revoked by the Council or the European Parliament at any time. A delegated act may enter into force only if no objection has been raised by the European Parliament or the Council within a period set by the legislative act (Article 290 TFEU) - scrutiny.



Secondary legislation

- Regulations, Directives, Decisions
- REACH, CLP, PIC are now regulations, previous legislation were directives
- COM adopts implementing (eg. Test methods) and delegated (amendments legislation to REACH
- COM adopts delegated acts to the PIC regulation



Examples of Commission acts

- **COMMISSION *IMPLEMENTING REGULATION* (EU) 2016/9** of 5 January 2016 on joint submission of data and data-sharing in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) (Text with EEA relevance)
- **COMMISSION *DELEGATED REGULATION* (EU) 2015/2229** of 29 September 2015 amending Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of hazardous chemicals (Text with EEA relevance)



The Institutions

- The European Parliament
 - Represents the EU Citizens and is directly elected by them (every 5th year)
- The European Council
 - Heads of state of Governments
- The Council of the European Union
 - Represents the governments of the EU MS
- The European Commission
 - Represents the EU as a whole



The Council of the EU

The Council has five key responsibilities:

1. to pass European laws — in most fields, it legislates jointly with the European Parliament;
2. to coordinate the Member States' policies, for example, in the economic field;
3. to develop the EU's common foreign and security policy, based on guidelines set by the European Council;
4. to conclude international agreements between the EU and one or more states or international organisations;
5. to adopt the EU's budget, jointly with the European Parliament.



The Council of the EU (cont.)

There are 10 different Council configurations:

- Chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy:
 - *Foreign Affairs*
- Chaired by the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council:
 - *General Affairs*
 - *Economic and Financial Affairs*
 - *Justice and Home Affairs*
 - *Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs*
 - *Competitiveness (Internal Market, **Industry, Research and Space**)*
 - *Transport, Telecommunications and Energy*
 - ***Agriculture and Fisheries***
 - *Environment*
 - *Education, Youth, Culture and Sport*



The European Parliament

- The Parliament has three main roles:
 - It shares with the Council the power to legislate — to pass laws.
 - It exercises democratic supervision over all EU institutions, and in particular the Commission. It has the power to approve or reject the nomination of the President of the Commission and Commissioners, and the right to censure the Commission as a whole.
 - It shares authority with the Council over the EU budget and can therefore influence EU spending. At the end of the budget procedure, it adopts or rejects the budget in its entirety.
- EP has 20 different committees
 - Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee
 - Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee



The European Parliament (contd)

The Parliament takes part in the legislative work of the EU in two ways.

1. Via 'co-decision', which is the ordinary legislative procedure, Parliament shares equal responsibility with the Council for legislating in all policy areas that require a 'qualified majority' vote in the Council. Since the Lisbon Treaty came into force, these areas cover about 95 % of EU legislation. Council and Parliament can reach an agreement as soon as the first reading. If they cannot agree after two readings, the proposal is brought before a conciliation committee.
2. Via the 'assent' procedure, Parliament must ratify the EU's international agreements (negotiated by the Commission), including any new treaty enlarging the EU
3. Scrutiny in certain cases, as for delegated acts



The Commission

The European Commission has four main roles:

1. to propose legislation to the Parliament and the Council –
The Right of Initiative (if a policy area is not cited in a treaty, the Commission cannot propose a law in that area)
2. to manage and implement EU policies and the budget;
3. to enforce European law (jointly with the Court of Justice);
4. to represent the Union around the world.

Exclusive competence

Shared competence



The Commission (cont.)

Commission means 2 different things:

- a College of 28 Commissioners led by the Commission President – politically appointed every 5 years, after EP election, must be approved by the EP and can thus be dismissed as well by the EP
- The Directorates – General (DGs) 33 at present, led by a Director General
 - **DG Growth**, Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
 - **DG ENV**, Environment
 - **DG SANTE**, Health and Food Safety



Other institutions

- the Court of Justice of the European Union,
- the European Central Bank,
- the Court of Auditors.
- The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission shall be assisted by an
 - An Economic and Social Committee and
 - A Committee of the Regions acting in an advisory capacity.





Legislative procedure

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Legislative procedure -The Council

Meetings at all levels chaired by MS on a 6 month rotating scheme

- A proposal from COM is discussed in a working party
 - WPE, WPIEI, WP Chemicals (Internal Market Council)
- 
- Is sent to "Coreper I" (Permanent representatives committee)
- 
- Adopted by the Council of Ministers
 - As an A-point (no discussion any set of ministers can adopt it) or
 - An B-point with discussion in the relevant Council

Supported by a General Secretariat



Legislative procedure – European Parliament

- Discussion in Committees, rapporteurs
- Amendments are proposed
 - Agreed by party group
- Voting in Committees
- Voting in Plenary
 - Hundreds of amendments at the same time – easy to get it wrong

- Heavy lobbying esp. Towards MEPs