

CJEU: The Court constitutes the judicial authority of the European Union, and, in cooperation with the courts and tribunals of the Member States, it ensures the uniform application and interpretation of EU law. The Court of Justice of the European Union, which has its seat in Luxembourg, consists of two courts: the Court of Justice and the General Court (created in 1988). The Court of Justice of the European Union was established in 1952 with the mission to ensure that "the law is observed" "in the interpretation and application" of the Treaties. As part of that mission, the Court of Justice of the European Union:

- Reviews the legality of the acts of the institutions of the European Union,
- Ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties and
- Interprets European Union law at the request of the national courts and tribunals.

ECHR: The European Court of Human Rights is an international court set up in 1959. It rules on individual or state applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1998, it has been a full-time court, and individuals can apply to it directly.

The Court has examined hundreds of thousands of applications since it was set up. Its judgements are binding on the countries concerned and have led governments to alter their legislation and administrative practices in a wide range of areas. The Court's case law makes the Convention a modern and powerful living instrument for meeting new challenges and consolidating the rule of law and democracy in Europe.

The Court is based in Strasbourg.

The European Commission: is part of the executive of the European Union, together with the European Council. It operates as a cabinet government, with 27 members of the Commission headed by a president.

The Commission is divided into departments known as Directorates-General (DGs) that can be likened to departments or ministries, each headed by a Director-General responsible for a Commissioner.

There is one member per member state, but members are bound by their oath of office to represent the general interest of the EU as a whole rather than their home state.

European Council: The members of the European Council are the heads of state or government of the 27 EU Member States, the European Council President, and the President of the European Commission.

The European Council defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities, traditionally by adopting conclusions. It does not negotiate or adopt EU laws.

Council of the EU: The Council is an essential EU decision-maker. It is composed of national government ministers from each member state, grouped by policy area, and it negotiates and adopts legislative acts in most cases together with the European Parliament through the ordinary legislative procedure, also known as 'codecision'.

Codecision is used for policy areas where the EU has exclusive or shared competence with the Member States. In these cases, the Council legislates on the basis of proposals submitted by the European Commission.

COREPER: Coreper stands for the 'Committee of the Permanent Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to the European Union'. Its role and different formations are explained in Article 240(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

Coreper is the Council's main preparatory body. All items to be included in the Council's agenda (except for some agricultural matters) must first be examined by Coreper, unless the Council decides otherwise.

It is not an EU decision-making body, and any agreement it reaches can be called into question by the Council, which alone has the power to make decisions.

Main tasks include:

- *Coordinates and prepares the work of the different council configurations.*
- *Ensures the consistency of the EU's policies*
- *Works out agreements and compromises, which are then submitted for adoption by the Council.*

Coreper is composed of the 'permanent representatives' from each member state, who, in effect, are their country's ambassadors to the EU. They express the position of their government. The two configurations of Coreper (Coreper I and II) meet every week.

The European Parliament: This is an important forum for political debate and decision-making at the EU level. The Members of the European Parliament are directly elected by voters in all Member States to represent people's interests with regard to EU lawmaking and to make sure other EU institutions are working democratically.

The Parliament acts as a co-legislator, sharing with the Council the power to adopt and amend legislative proposals and to decide on the EU budget. It also supervises the work of the Commission and other EU bodies and cooperates with the national parliaments of EU countries to get their input.

EUAA: The European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) is an agency of the European Union mandated with supporting Member States in applying the package of EU laws that govern asylum, international protection, and reception conditions, known as the Common European Asylum System (CEAS).

The EUAA acts as a resource for Member States in the field of international protection, with the ability to provide practical, legal, technical, advisory, and operational assistance in many formats. The Agency does not replace the national asylum or reception authorities, which are ultimately entirely responsible for their procedures and systems.

The ultimate aim of the EUAA's work is to reach a situation where the asylum practices in all EU Member States are harmonised in line with EU obligations, meaning that an application by an individual in any of the EU Member States will always receive the same result. Similarly, an applicant will always go through a similar procedure with similar conditions, no matter which Member State s/he applies to, and will enjoy the same rights, obligations, and reception conditions.

Neighbouring third countries (Turkey, Libya, etc.):

The EU works with its southern and eastern neighbours to achieve the closest possible political association and the greatest possible degree of economic integration. The European neighbourhood policy includes preferential trade relations, a stake in the EU internal market, and financial assistance.

Neighbourhood countries: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and Ukraine.