



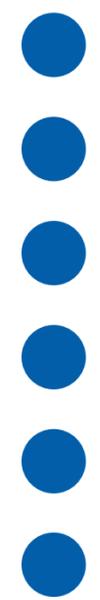
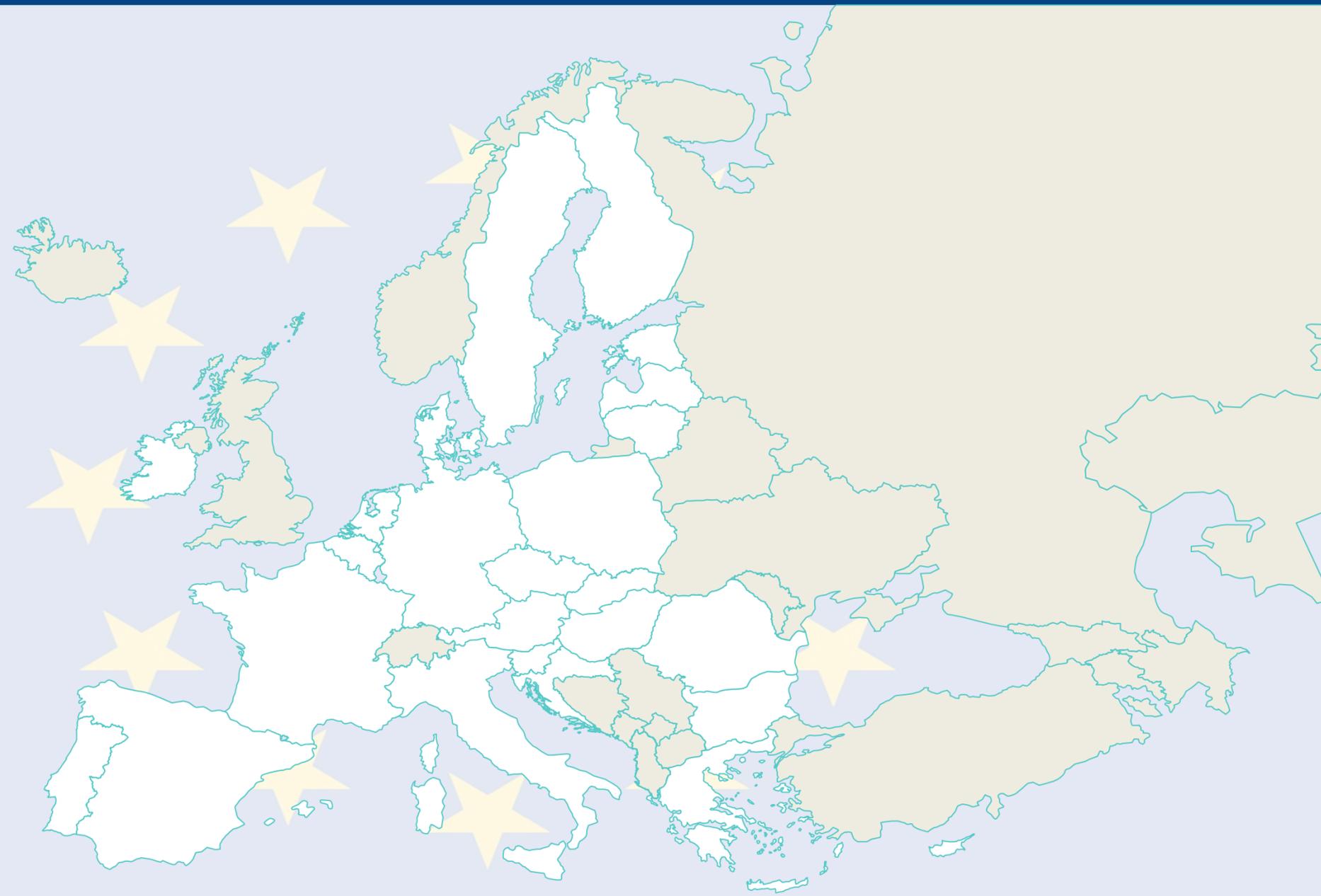
Public Affairs Council

Public Affairs in the European Union

Institutional Overview

12 February, 2026
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Defining the context – What is “the European level?”



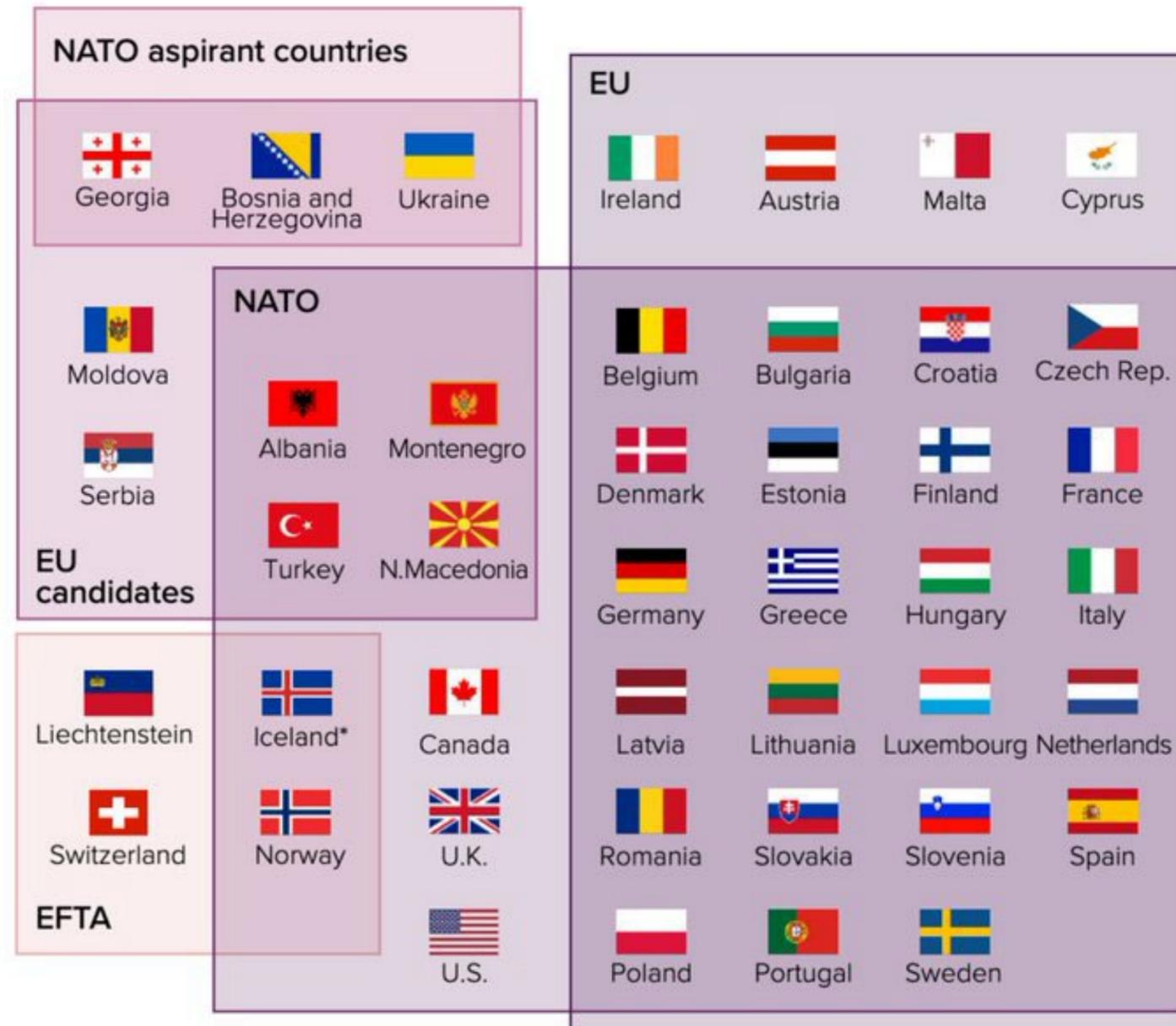
The European Union

- 27 Member States. Population: 450 million
- 24 Official Languages
- € Zone: 21 Member States + 6 non-EU
- Schengen Area: 25 EU Member States + EFTA (Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland)



SWEDEN JOINS NATO CLUB

Sweden has officially become the Western military alliance's 32nd member. That leaves only four EU member countries now out of the club — Ireland, Malta, Austria and Cyprus.



*Iceland has not officially withdrawn its EU application, but in 2015 its government requested that "Iceland should not be regarded as a candidate country for EU membership."

SOURCE: POLITICO research, European Union, NATO, EFTA

By Arnau Busquets Guàrdia and Lucia Mackenzie

Source: POLITICO, last update March 2024

POLITICO

The European Commission

Executive Body of the EU

1 Commissioner per Member State

Initiates and Fiscalizes EU Legislation

President:

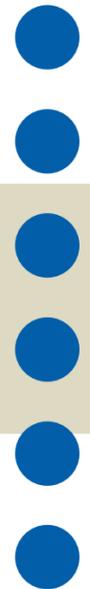
Elected by EU Parliament

Currently: **Ursula Von der Leyen (DE)**

As an organization: 33 DGs, 6 agencies

> 32.000 employees





77
renew
europe.

188
epp

53
THE GREENS/EFA
in the European Parliament

78
ECR
GROUP

136
S&D

720
seats

84
Patriots
for Europe

25
ESN

46
THE LEFT

32
NI

Non-attached



The European Parliament

8 Political Groups
of Members (MEPs)
per country = Population
24 Committees
Monthly Plenaries in
Brussels / Strasbourg
President elected by
MEPs. Currently **Roberta
Metsola (MT, EPP)**



How many **Parliament** members
will each EU country elect **this June**?

DE 96	CZ 13	IE 14
FR 13	SE 13	HR 12
IT 13	PT 13	LT 11
ES 13	HU 13	SI 9
PL 13	AT 13	LV 9
RO 13	BG 13	EE 7
NL 13	DK 13	CY 6
BE 13	FI 13	LU 6
EL 13	SK 13	MT 6



European Parliament 2024-2029

Constitutive session
as of 16 July 2024

The Council of the EU vs. European Council

- **Council of the European Union:**
- Highest Political Institution of the Union
- Forum for negotiation of 27 Governments
- Dozens of thematic Working Groups
- **Presidency** rotates every 6 months. Currently Cyprus



CY20
26.EU

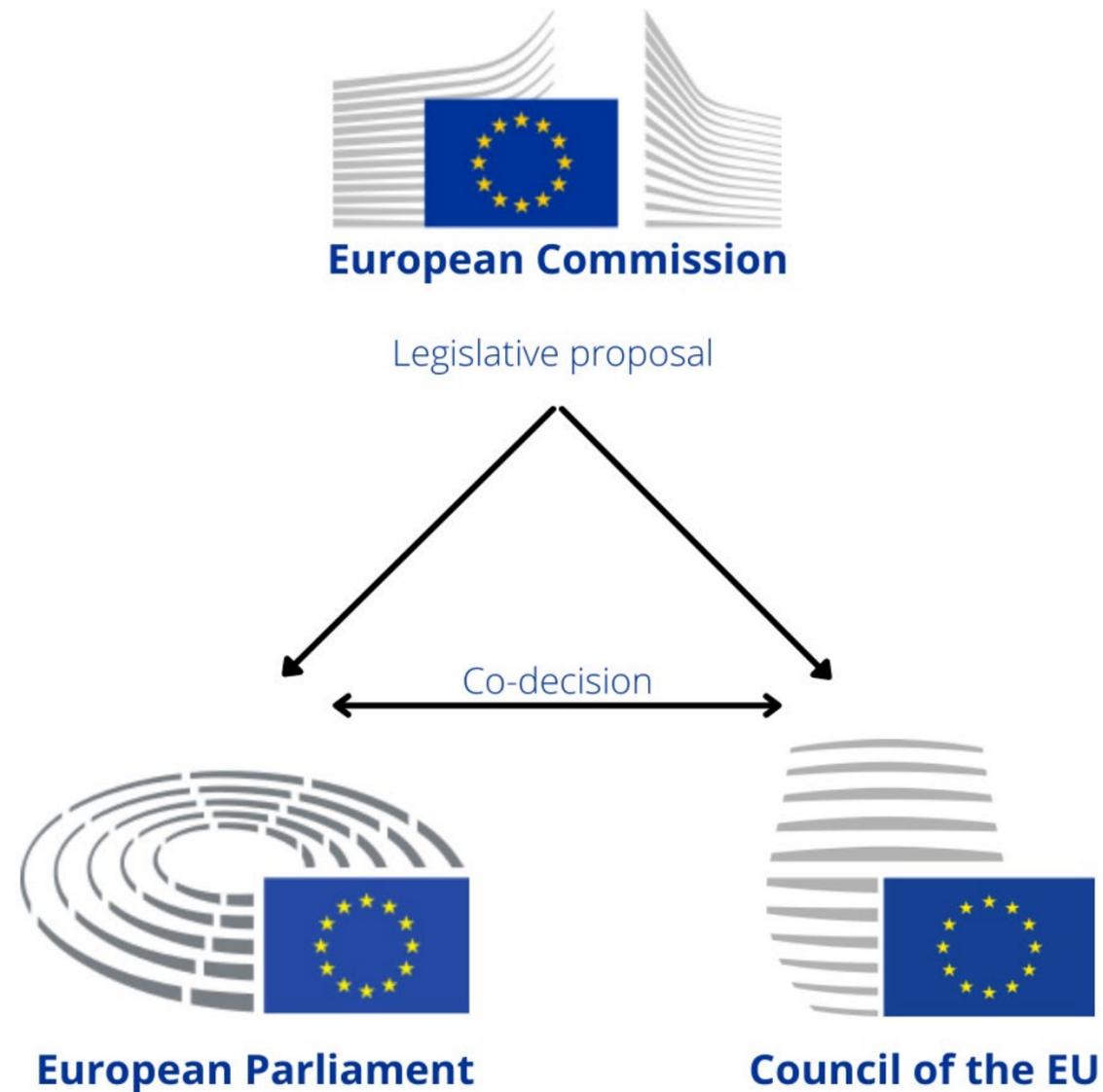
European Council : Periodic Official Meeting of the
27 Heads of State + Parliament & Commission Presidents

President 2.5 Years renewable once.

Currently **António Costa (PT)**



Decision-making in the EU Institutions



Decision-making in the EU Institutions

Power of initiative by Commission

Sent to Parliament and Council, who:

➤ Adopt without changes;

➤ Amend the proposal and adopt it;

➤ Reject proposal



Legislative proposal



European Parliament



Council of the EU

Co-decision

Council and Parliament may:

➤ Adopt official

recommendations

➤ Ask the Commission for a

proposal on a given topic

➤ Shape the mandate of a

new Commission

Main EU Stakeholders

Mind the Transparency Rules!

[Transparency Register](#)

[GDPR and Privacy](#)

[Code of conduct and appropriate behavior](#)

[Access to Documents](#)

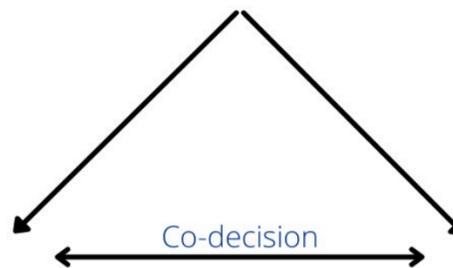
MEPs leading Committees/Groups

Rapporteurs

APAs – Policy Assistants



Legislative proposal



European Parliament



Council of the EU

Commissioners

Heads of Unit/ Sector /Directors

Policy Officers

Ministers

Ambassadors

National attachés



Brussels Study Tour 2026

how-to's • best practices • networking • open discussion



Study Tour

The Brussels Study Tour offers public affairs professionals an in-depth, practical immersion into the EU policy and decision-making environment. Over two days in Brussels, participants engage directly with EU institutions, industry associations, and experienced practitioners to better understand how EU policies are shaped in practice and how organizations can engage effectively. The program combines institutional briefings with applied perspectives, focusing on real-world processes, interinstitutional dynamics, and stakeholder engagement. Designed for professionals working on EU and global public affairs, the study tour provides structured insight, peer exchange, and direct exposure to Brussels-based policy actors.

June 25–26, 2025
Brussels



LET'S CONNECT!

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