**European Commission**
- College of 27 Commissioners (politicised) + administrative body with 33 Directorate General (DGs) and 23,000 administrators (technocrat)
  - The **only institution** that can propose new legislation
  - proposes legislation to Parliament and the Council;
  - EU executive: implements EU policies and the budget;
  - Guardian of the Treaty - enforces European law (with the Court of Justice jointly); e.g. can impose fines on companies that break EU competition law;
  - represents the EU the international stage.

**European Parliament (EP)**
- directly elected 750+1 MEPs for 5 years, grouped in European political groups,
- MEPs work mainly in committees (like EYP!), there is no coalition vs. opposition
  - Legislative: passes EU laws jointly with the Council;
  - Budgetary: shares authority over the budget with the Council.
  - Supervisory: exercises democratic supervision, Commission and Council regularly report to EP.

**The Council (Council of Ministers, Council of the EU)**
- works in formations of ministers from MS for a given topic: e.g. Environment, Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN) etc
- rotating Presidency: for 6 months the meetings of a given formation are chaired by the relevant Minister from the MS holding presidency. Presidencies cooperate in trios (currently: IE – LT – GR)
  - Legislative: passes EU laws jointly with the Parliament;
  - Budgetary: adopts EU budget jointly with the Parliament;
  - Coordination: coordinates economic policies of member states; develops foreign and security policy
  - concludes agreements between the EU and one or more states, international organisations.

**Outside the Triangle**

**European Council**
- Heads of States and Governments + President of the Commission + President of the European Council + (High Representative)
- It’s meetings (at least 4 times a year) are the ‘Summits’ you hear about in the news
  - Defines EU priorities, and the political direction, e.g. decides about extra-ordinary crisis solutions;
  - Finalises EU Treaties and big EU reforms,
  - Leads in foreign policy as a collective Head of State

**European Central Bank**
- Independent Central Bank, based in Frankfurt
  - Responsible for the single monetary policy (eurozone), single goal of price stability,
  - Currently also involved in the crisis resolutions, e.g. bailout funds, with IMF and European Commission

**Court of Justice of the European Union (Luxembourg)**
  - ensures compliance with the law in the interpretation and application of the European Treaties of the European Union

**NOT EU!**

**Council of Europe** – An international organisation in Strasbourg, 47 countries of Europe. It was set up to promote democracy and protect human rights and the rule of law in Europe.
EU Institutional Triangle

EYP CAT Handout, updated 20.02.2013

ANNEX I

EUROPEAN COMMISSION: Directorates General (DGs)

1. Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)
2. Budget (BUDG)
3. Climate Action (CLIMA)
4. Communication (COMM)
5. Communications Networks, Content and Technology (CNECT)
6. Competition (COMP)
7. Economic and Financial Affairs (ECFIN)
8. Education and Culture (EAC)
9. Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (EMPL)
10. Energy (ENER)
11. Enlargement (ELARG)
12. Enterprise and Industry (ENTR)
13. Environment (ENV)
14. EuropeAid Development & Cooperation (DEVCO)
15. Eurostat (ESTAT)
16. Health and Consumers (SANCO)
17. Home Affairs (HOME)
18. Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)
19. Human Resources and Security (HR)
20. Informatics (DIGIT)
21. Internal Market and Services (MARKT)
22. Interpretation (SCIC)
23. Joint Research Centre (JRC)
24. Justice (JUST)
25. Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MARE)
26. Mobility and Transport (MOVE)
27. Regional Policy (REGIO)
28. Research and Innovation (RTD)
29. Secretariat-General (SG)
30. Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI)
31. Taxation and Customs Union (TAXUD)
32. Trade (TRADE)
33. Translation (DGT)

ANNEX II

THE COUNCIL: Configurations

1. General Affairs
2. Foreign Affairs – chaired by High Representative (not by Presidency)
3. Economic and Financial Affairs
4. Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)
5. Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
6. Competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space)
7. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
8. Agriculture and Fisheries
9. Environment
10. Education, youth, culture and sport