

The European Commission

I. Basic Structure of the Commission

A. The College of Commissioners

B. The President

C. The Commission Bureaucracy

II. Responsibilities and Powers

1. Legislative Functions

2. Executive Functions

3. External Representative
and Negotiator

4. Mediator, Conciliator, and
'Conscience of the Union'



Commission Main
Meeting Room

I. Basic Structure

- A. The College of Commissioners
 - Qualifications and Selection
 - Impartiality
 - *cabinets*
- B. The President of the Commission
 - Process of Selection
- C. The Commission Bureaucracy
 - Directorates-General
 - Secretariat General
 - Services and Advisory Committees

Directorates-General

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Agriculture and Rural Development | Informatics |
| Budget | Information Society and Media |
| Competition | Internal Audit Service |
| Communication | Internal Market and Services |
| Development | Interpretation |
| Economic and Financial Affairs | Justice, Freedom and Security |
| Education and Culture | Personnel and Administration |
| Employ., Social Affairs & Equal Opp's | Regional Policy |
| Enterprise and Industry | Research |
| Environment | Taxation and Customs Union |
| External Relations | Trade |
| Fisheries and Maritime Affairs | Translation |
| Health and Consumer Protection | Transport and Energy |

II. Responsibilities and Powers

- Legislative Functions
 - Right of Initiation
 - Decision-Making Within the Commission
- Executive Function
 - Implementation
 - Managing EU Finances

Commission President Barroso
And President Bush



Types of EU 'Laws'

- **Regulations**: Binding on all member states in their entirety and does not have to be turned into national law
- **Directives**: Sets out a particular goal for policy to achieve, but leaves it to member states as to how to achieve it
- **Decisions**: also binding, but fairly specific in intent and administrative in purpose
 - 'Rule-making' – filling in the details of legislation
- **Recommendations and Opinions**: Non-binding, intended to be persuasive or offer interpretations of regulations, directives, or decisions.

EU budget 2009 in figures

| Expenditure estimates for EU policies (in billion EUR) | Budget 2009 | Change from 2008 |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sustainable growth | 60.2 | 3.2 % |
| Competitiveness | 11.8 | 6.2 % |
| Cohesion, <i>including</i> : | 48.4 | 2.5 % |
| Natural resources | 56.1 | 1.0 % |
| Citizenship, freedom, security and justice | 1.5 | 12.3% ⁽¹⁾ |
| Freedom, security and justice, including fundamental rights and justice, security and liberties, migration flows | 0.9 | 18.1 % |
| Citizenship, including culture, media, public health and consumer protection | 0.6 | 5.4 % |
| The EU as a global player | 8.1 ⁽²⁾ | 7.3 % |
| Administration | 7.7 | 5.7 % |
| Compensations to new EU countries ⁽³⁾ | 0.2 | 1.2 % |
| Total | 133.8 | 2.5 % |

⁽¹⁾ Excluding the amounts allocated in 2008 from the Solidarity Fund.

⁽²⁾ Including *emergency aid reserve*.

⁽³⁾ Amounts fixed by the accession treaties.

II. Responsibilities and Powers

- External Representative and Negotiator
 - Trade
 - Diplomatic Representation
- Mediator, Conciliator, and 'Conscience of the Union'

The Berlaymont Building
in Brussels: Home of
the European Commission

