

# The Council of Ministers

## I. Basic Structure of the Council

A. Council(s) of Ministers

B. Committee of Permanent Representatives  
(COREPER)

C. Presidency of the Council

D. General Secretariat

## II. Operation of the Council

A. Decision-Making Process

B. The Council and the Parliament

## III. The EU, the Council and Intergovernmentalism



# I. Basic Structure of the Council

- Council(s) of Ministers
  - Multiple configurations and membership
- Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER)
- President of the Council
  - Rotates among member states every six months
  - Duties and Responsibilities
  - Individual President under new Constitution
- General Secretariat
  - High Representative for CFSP

# ‘Configurations’ of the Council of Ministers

- General Affairs and External Relations (GAERC)
- Economic and Financial Affairs (Ecofin)
- Agriculture and Fisheries
- Competitiveness
- Justice and Home Affairs
- Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
- Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
- Environment
- Education, Youth and Culture

A meeting of the  
Council of Ministers



## II. The Operation of the Council

- Policy Initiation
- Review by Working Parties and Standing Committees
- Review by COREPER
- Review by the Council
  - “A Items” and “B Items”
  - Voting Procedures (Majority, Unanimity and QMV)
- The Council and the Parliament
  - Consultation, Co-decision, and Assent

# III. The EU, the Council and Intergovernmentalism

- Council best understood in as an intergovernmental body
  - National representatives bargaining to advance national interests
- Dominant decision-making body in the EU
- Still some supranational traits
  - Deal with issues that touch directly on domestic control/sovereignty
  - Dominant ethos is consensus and cooperation