

The European Council and Other Institutions

I. The European Council

A. Structure and Purpose

B. The European Council and Other EU Institutions



II. The Economic and Social Council

III. The Committee of the Regions

IV. The European Central Bank

I. The European Council

- Membership
 - Heads of State or Government plus Commission President
 - Chaired by President of the Council of Ministers
- Setting the Agenda
- Purpose of the European Council
- Procedures of Summits
 - Presidency Conclusions



I. The European Council

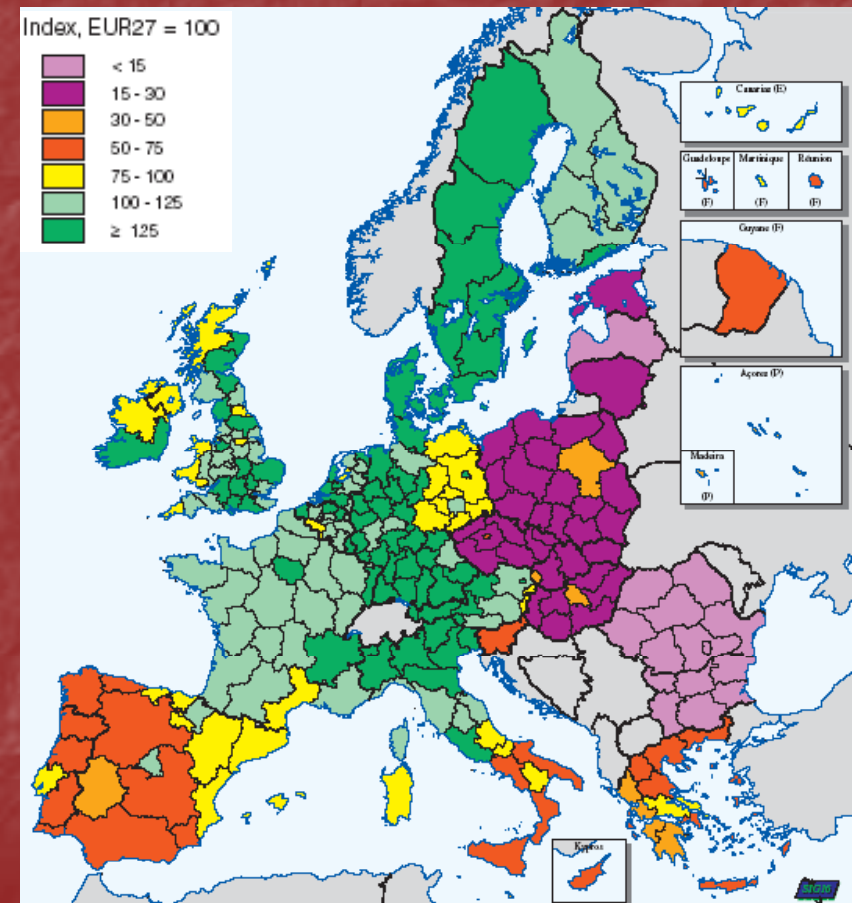
- Main Concerns of European Councils
 - General Evolution of the EU
 - Specific Constitutional and Institutional Matters
 - Economic and Monetary Policies
 - External Relations
 - Specific Internal Policy Issues
- The European Council and Other EU Institutions
- Reinforces Intergovernmentalism

II. The Economic and Social Committee

- The ESC as an example of *corporatism*
- Organization
 - Group I (Employers)
 - Group II (Labor)
 - Group III (Various Interests [agro., consumer, etc.])
- Functions
 - Issue Reports
 - Mandatory Consultation (in some areas)
- Influence – LIMITED

III. The Committee of the Regions

- Regional Variations within the EU
- Organization
 - Same as ESC with local or regional politicians
- Function
 - Issue Reports
 - Mandatory Consultation
 - Promote Subsidiarity
- Influence -- LIMITED



EU Regional GDP/Person
(EU Average = 100)

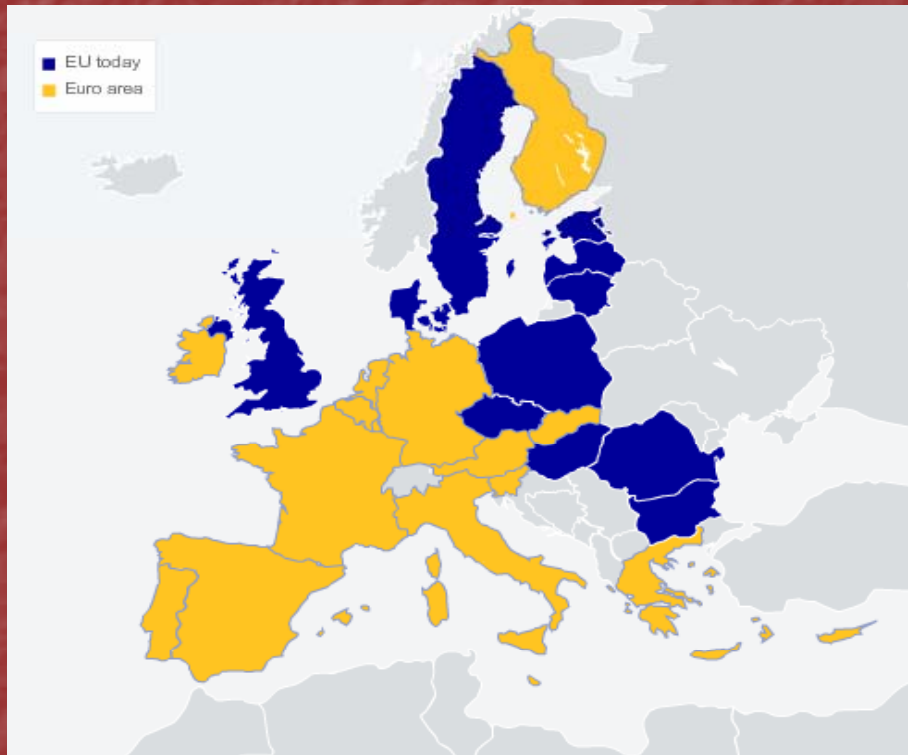
IV. The European Central Bank

- Developed for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
- ECB Independence
- Governing Council and Executive Board
- Functions
 - Monetary policy (money supply and interest rates)
 - Emphasis on price stability
 - Difficulties for economic management

The Eurotower, Frankfurt



Eurozone and Euro-Dollar Exchange Rate



Trans-Atlantic Volatility

The euro-dollar exchange rate in the decade since the euro was launched on Jan. 1, 1999



Source: Thomson Datastream/WSJ Market Data Group

Low: €1 = \$0.82 (Oct. 2000)

High: €1 = \$1.60 (July 2008)

Current €1 = \$1.32 (Jan. 2009)