

# Quick Guide to EU Institutions

2010 Rose-  
Hulman Institute  
of Technology



# Delegation Structure

<b>Position -- Committee</b>
Prime Minister (Head of Delegation) -- <i>European Council</i>
Foreign Ministers (Deputy Head of Delegation) -- <i>General Affairs and External Relations [GAERC]</i>
Economics/Finance Minister -- <i>Economics and Finance [Ecofin]</i>
Agricultural Minister -- <i>Agriculture Committee</i>
Environment Minister -- <i>Environment Committee</i>
European Commissioner (Internal Market and Services) -- <i>European Commission</i>
Director-General (Environmental Policy) -- <i>Directorates-General [DGs]</i>
Director-General/Alternate -- <i>Directorates-General OR Fill in for any other delegate</i>

NOTE: No agriculture committee/ministers in this year's model.

# The European Council

- Consists of the heads of government (prime ministers) of member states
- Meets at bi-annual summits (June and December)
- Chaired by the President of the Council of the European Union (Herman Van Rompuy [Belgium])
- Strategic direction, resolve disputes, set common foreign and security policy (CFSP)
- Informal procedures and emphasis on consensus decision-making
- Product: Conclusions of the Presidency (document laying out basic decisions of summit)

# The European Commission

- Bureaucracy of the EU
- Both legislative (initiating directives) and executive (implementation) functions
- ‘College of Commissioners’
  - 27 Commissioners (One from each member state)
  - President of the Commission (Jose Manuel Barroso)
- Each Commissioner heads up a Directorate-General (DG; like a US federal government department)
- DG’s headed by Directors-General – permanent bureaucrat

# The European Commission

- DG's match portfolios of Commissioners, but for simulation, only cover:
  - Foreign affairs
  - Economic policy
  - Environmental policy
- Product: Discuss and Approve Laws and Policies
  - Drafts from Directors-General
  - Sent to Council of Ministers for Final Approval

# Council of the European Union

- One body with multiple configurations
- Chaired by a country that holds the Presidency of the Council (Spain)
- Foreign Affairs Council chaired by High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Lady Catherine Ashton [UK])
- For simulation, only GAERC, Ecofin, and Environment
- Decisions by consensus or Qualified Majority Vote (QMV)

Council(s) of the EU

--GAERC

--Ecofin

--Environment

(EU Foreign Minister Ashton)

Reviews and sends  
for final approval to  
appropriate...



Request for  
new laws

European  
Commission

Accepts/Rejects OR  
refers to European Council  
if unable to resolve



Provides  
strategic  
guidance

Sends draft legislation to...



European  
Council

(President Van Rompuy)

Directors-General

# General points



- All institutions emphasize consensus decision-making
- Commissioners and D-Gs represent EU, not home country
- European Council and Council of Ministers chaired by President of Council – a country (Spain)
- European Parliament and ECJ not included in the Model EU
- Follow rules of procedure in the Simulation Guide