

# The European Parliament

I. Basic Structure of the Parliament

II. How the Parliament Works

III. Weaknesses of the European Parliament

IV. Improving the European Parliament



# I. Basic Structure

- Location, Location, Location (Strasbourg, Brussels, and Luxembourg)
- Leadership
  - President and Vice Presidents (Bureau)
  - Conference of Presidents
  - Conference of Committee Chairs
- Committees
- Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)

# Location, Location.....



The European Parliament Building and Chamber in Strasbourg, France



...and the Administrative Secretariat is in Luxembourg

# ...Location.



The European Parliament Building and Chamber in Brussels, Belgium

## II. How the Parliament Works

- The Isoglucose Case
- First, Second, and Third Readings
- Types of Decision-Making Procedures
  - Consultation Procedure
  - Cooperation Procedure
  - Codecision Procedure
  - Assent Procedure
- Control over Budget and Commission

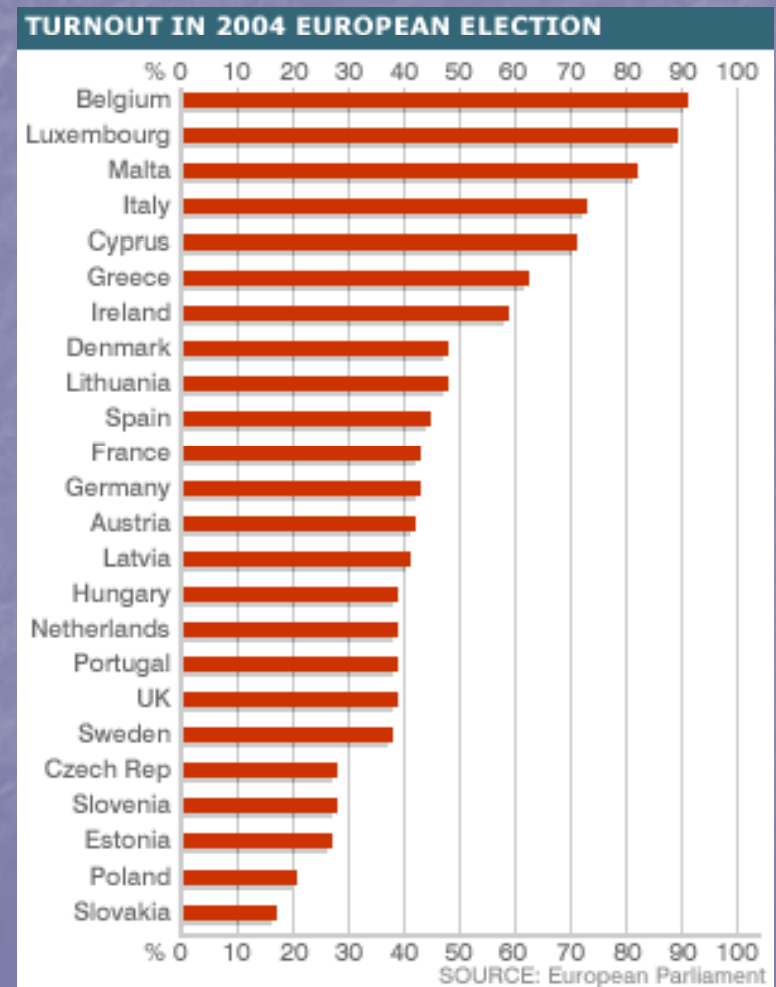
**TABLE 7.4 Procedures and Policies (Selected)**

<i>Consultation Procedure Applies to</i>	<i>Codecision Procedure Applies to:</i>	<i>Assent Procedure Applies to:</i>
Agriculture	Consumer protection	Enlargement
Competition	Culture	EP election procedure
Discrimination	Customs cooperation	European Central Bank
Economic policy	Education	International agreements
EU citizenship	Employment	Structural funds
Police and judicial cooperation	Environment	
Transport	European Social Fund	
Treaty revision	Health	
Visas, asylum, immigration	Research	
	Single market	
	Social exclusion	
	Trans-European networks	
	Transparency	
	Vocational training	

# III. Weaknesses of the European Parliament

- Limited legislative powers
- Limited oversight authority
  - Some over Commission, less over Council of Ministers, none over European Council
  - No single, clear executive authority
  - Executive action outside of EU
- Weak public support
  - Low turnout in elections

# Turnout in EP Elections





# IV. Improving the European Parliament

- More influence & control over legislation (right of initiation)
- More (and real) checks and balances
- Organized, disciplined and 'European' Parties
- Increased popular support
- Stop being nomads!!!