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 (GAERG)
- 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