



1.1. OVERVIEW OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND THE ENLARGEMENT POLICY

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Online presentation for students within the Project "Learning and living EU"
Center for European Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32601

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Few words about me...

- ❑ 15 years of experience as civil servant in various Ministries in Croatia
- ❑ Scholar of Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia (2009) – Master of EU studies and International Relations from CIFE Nice/Berlin
- ❑ Diplomat and chair of the Intermodal Working group in the Council of EU for Croatia presidency 2020 in Bruxelles (2018 – 2020)
- ❑ Worked for 1,5 years (2020 – 2021) in International organization in Belgrade (Transport Community)
- ❑ Soon to start to work as Policy Officer in European Commission as Seconded National Expert (SNE)

Methodology and concept of my lectures...

- ❑ Telling a story...
- ❑ Accession process/enlargement as the overarching objective , Croatia – the newest EU Member state as a case study on various elements/areas
- ❑ Practical experiences of EU policies and functioning
- ❑ De-mystifying the processes of EU functioning and decision making with practical examples
- ❑ Scrutiny in policy creation and implications to member states and citizens

1. INTRODUCTION TO ACCESSION PROCESS AND ITS EVOLUTION

1.1. OVERVIEW OF THE EU INSTITUTIONS AND THE ENLARGEMENT POLICY - 8/30/22

1.2. EU ENLARGEMENT PHASES AND IMPACT - 9/6/22

1.3. WHY IS EU ENLARGEMENT (STILL) ATTRACTIVE? - 9/13/22



2. THE SPECIFIC CASE OF CROATIA'S ACCESSION PROCESS

2.1. CROATIA'S HISTORY AND APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP - 9/20/22

2.2. FROM POSITIVE AVIS TO FULLY FLEDGED EU MEMBERSHIP - 9/27/22

2.3. STRINGS ATTACHED OF EU MEMBERSHIP - IMPLICATION TO NATIONAL POLICIES - 10/4/22



3. THE FUTURE OF THE EU ENLARGMENT PROCESS WITH THE FOCUS ON WESTERN BALKANS AND UKRAINE

3.1. WESTERN BALKANS ON EU PATH - 10/11/22

3.2. STATUS OF UKRAINE AFTER RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AND POTENTIALS FOR EU MEMBERSHIP - 10/18/22

3.3. EU NEIGHBORHOOD POLICY AND POTENTIALS FOR FUTURE ENLARGMENTS (EASTERN PARTNERSHIP) - 10/25/22



4. THE EU AS A GLOBAL ACTOR

4.1. ENLARGMENT AS TOOL OF FOREIGN POLICY - 11/1/22

4.2. IMPACTS OF EU ENLARGMENT (PAST AND FUTURE) - 11/8/22

4.3. GLOBAL GATEWAY AS NEW EU GLOBAL STRATEGY 11/15/22



5. THE EXPERIENCE OF CROATIA IN THE EU INCLUDING OF HOLDING THE EU PRESIDENCY

5.1. 10 YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP AND IMPACT OF EU REGIONAL POLICY TO CROATIA - 11/22/22

5.2. ROLE OF THE COUNCIL AND NATIONAL POSITIONS - 11/29/22

5.3. EU COUNCIL PRESIDENCY - CASE OF CROATIA - 12/6/22
(In person in Florida University)

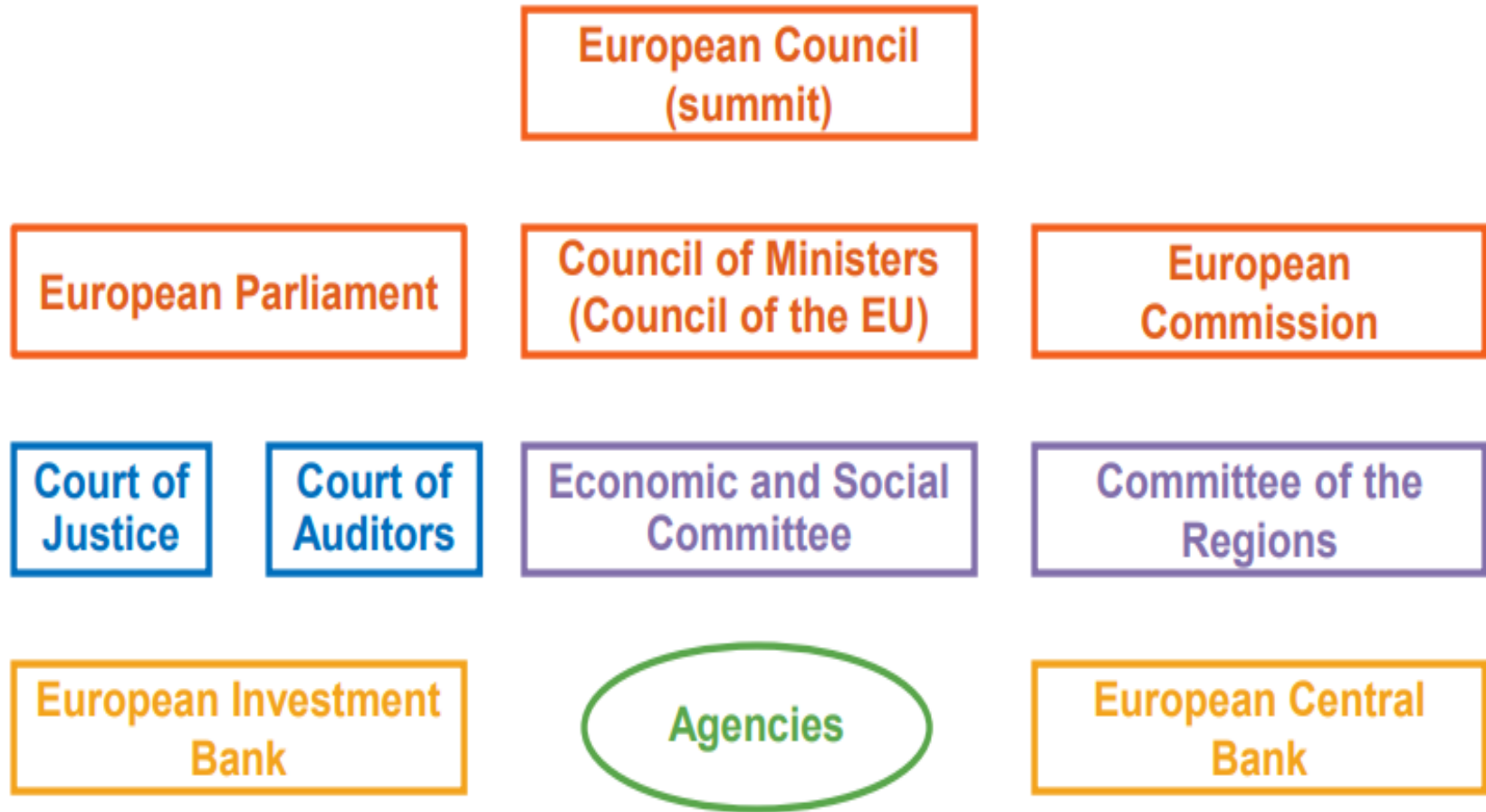
Content of today's lecture...

- ❑ General introduction on the main institutions of the EU and their roles in enlargement process
- ❑ Discussion, Q&A

Historical overview of the treaties ..



(MAIN) EU INSTITUTIONS OVERVIEW...



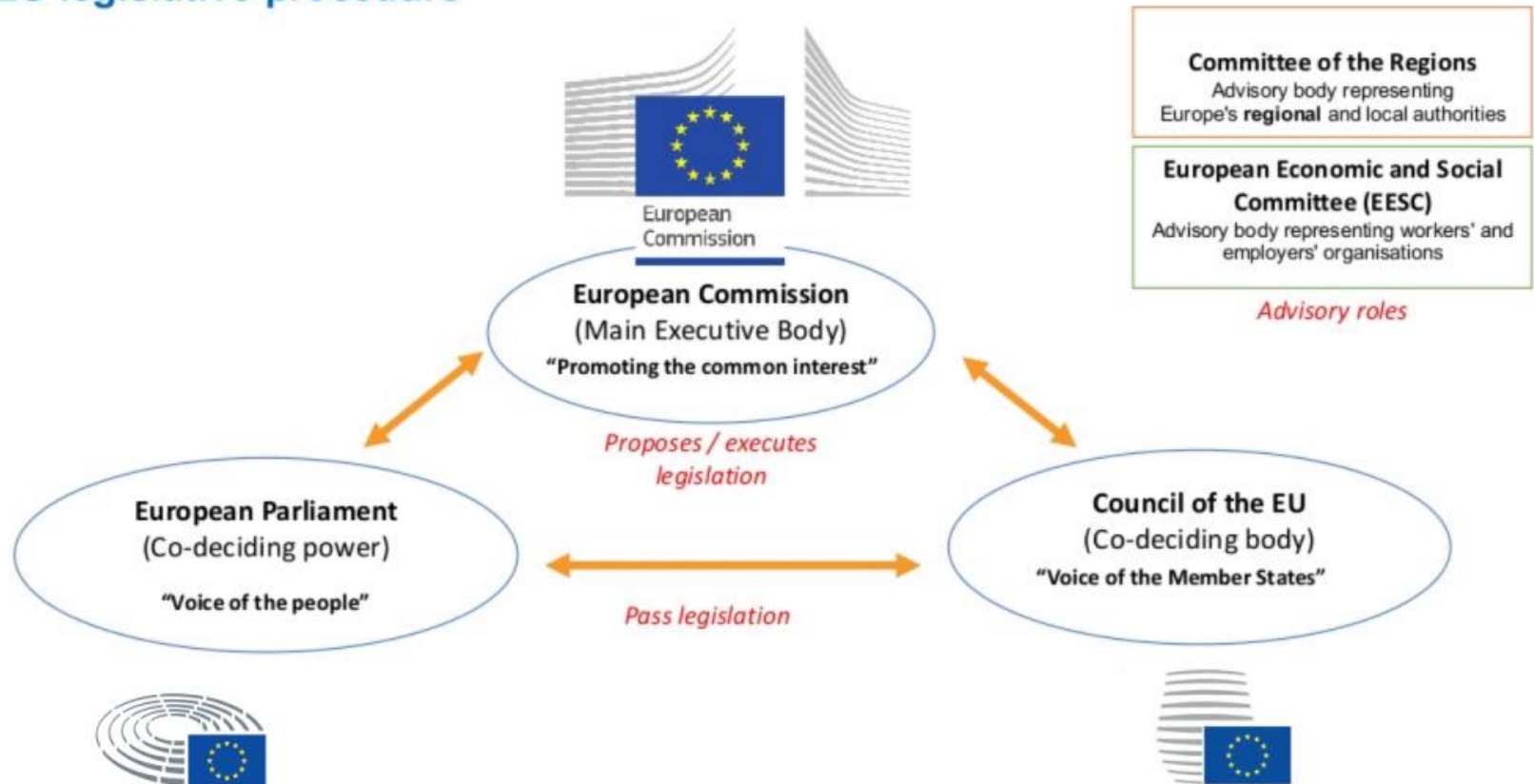
Key actors

- The European Parliament -voice of the people
- The European Council - voice of the Member States (Heads of States or Governments)
- The Council of EU (the Council of Ministers)
voice of the Member States
- European Commission -promoting the Common interest
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



EU INSTITUTIONS DECISION MAKING PROCESS

EU legislative procedure



EUROPEAN COUNCIL ...

- ❑ Summit of heads of state or government of all EU countries
- ❑ Composed by: - the heads of states/governments - the Commission President - the European Council President, and - the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- ❑ Meets for summits up to four times a year Discusses EU policy and any controversial issues



COUNCIL OF EU



Working parties made of officials from national administrations to support the COREPER



COREPER composed by the Heads of MS's permanent representations



Secretariat General – assists the Presidency and ensures the smooth functioning of the Council's works

Voting In THE COUNCIL OF EU – QMV



“Qualified majority” achieved if: **55% (at least 15) of the Member States, and 65% of the population are in favour**

The blocking minority must include at least four Council members representing more than 35% of the EU population.

An abstention under qualified majority voting counts as a vote against. Abstention is not the same as not participating in the vote. Any member can abstain at any time.

80 % or more of the technical details agreed on the Working group level

COREPER meetings further streamline and polish the positions, show potential red lines and prepare the meeting for the Council (of Ministers) – usually twice a year

Role of the Council in the Enlargement Process

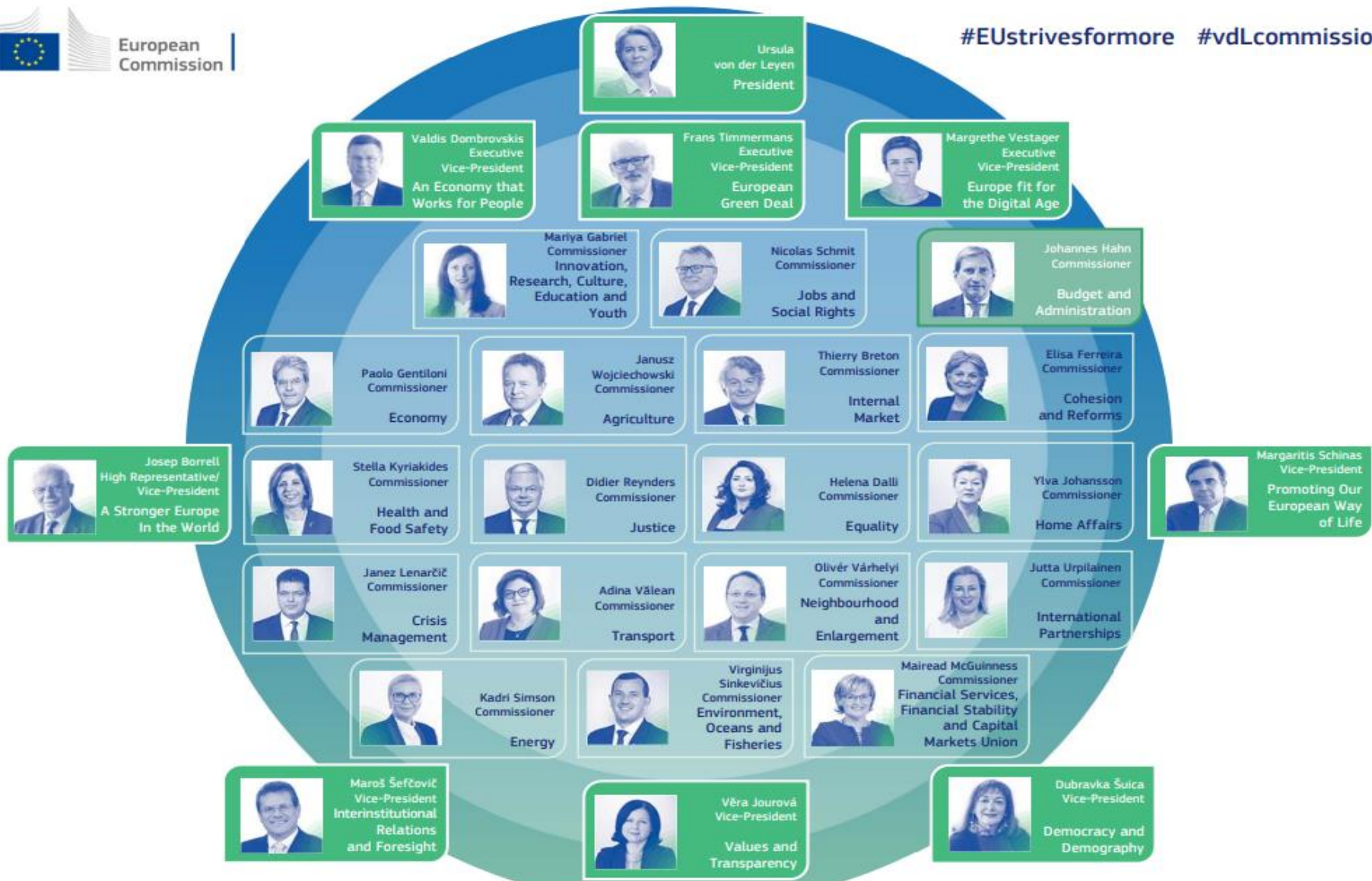


- Through the General Affairs Council configuration, Council establishes and supervises the EU enlargement process and the accession negotiations.
- Tasks the commission to make specific reports on the status of progress of a particular candidate
- On matters related to the enlargement policy, the Council operates by way of **unanimous agreement between all the EU member states**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION



#EUstrivesformore #vdLcommission



A New Push for European Democracy

European Commission from inside...

Departments (DGs)

- [Agriculture and Rural Development \(AGRI\)](#)
- [Budget \(BUDG\)](#)
- [Climate Action \(CLIMA\)](#)
- [Communication \(COMM\)](#)
- [Communications Networks, Content and Technology \(CNECT\)](#)
- [Competition \(COMP\)](#)
- [Economic and Financial Affairs \(ECFIN\)](#)
- [Education and Culture \(EAC\)](#)
- [Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion \(EMPL\)](#)
- [Energy \(ENER\)](#)
- [Environment \(ENV\)](#)
- [Eurostat \(ESTAT\)](#)
- [Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union \(FISMA\)](#)
- [Health and Food Safety \(SANTE\)](#)
- [Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection \(ECHO\)](#)
- [Human Resources and Security \(HR\)](#)
- [Informatics \(DIGIT\)](#)
- [Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs \(GROW\)](#)
- [International Cooperation and Development \(DEVCO\)](#)
- [Interpretation \(SCIC\)](#)
- [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#)
- [Justice and Consumers \(JUST\)](#)
- [Maritime Affairs and Fisheries \(MARE\)](#)
- [Migration and Home Affairs \(HOME\)](#)
- [Mobility and Transport \(MOVE\)](#)
- [Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations \(NEAR\)](#)
- [Regional and urban Policy \(REGIO\)](#)
- [Research and Innovation \(RTD\)](#)
- [Secretariat-General \(SG\)](#)
- [Service for Foreign Policy Instruments \(FP1\)](#)
- [Taxation and Customs Union \(TAXUD\)](#)
- [Trade \(TRADE\)](#)
- [Translation \(DGT\)](#)

Services

- [Central Library](#)
- [European Anti-Fraud Office \(OLAF\)](#)
- [European Commission Data Protection Officer](#)

DG's for particular policy area Services

- for general administrative issues or
- with specific mandate

Director-General

Permanent Civil servants & Temporary or contract workers

- Selected by open competitions
- Come from all EU countries
- Salaries decided by law
- EU administration costs €15 per EU citizen per year

Role of the Commission in the Enlargement Process



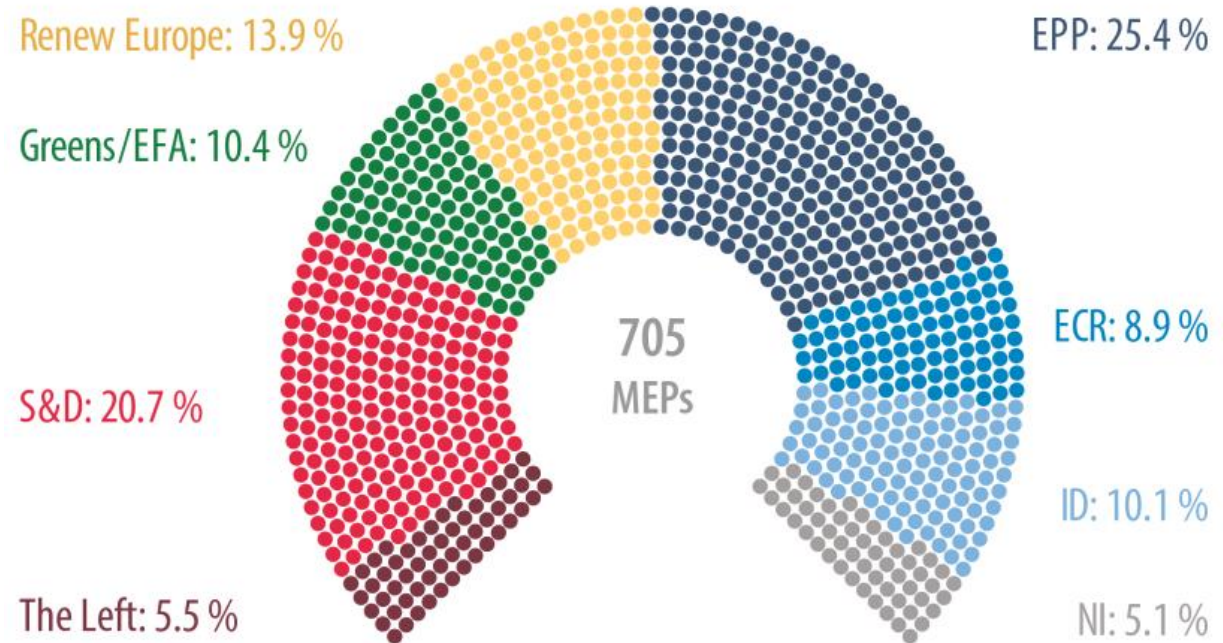
- The Commission helps countries wishing to join the EU to meet the necessary criteria for membership, and supports them in implementing the related economic and democratic reforms.
- EC has to give a “favorable opinion” in order that the Council gives the country a candidate status
- Different levels of various Committees and sub-committees are used e.g. SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- Commission gives recommendations to ensure coherence between relevant sectoral documents, follows progress on benchmarks, drafts individual country Reports
- The EU delegations in the (potential) candidate countries play a big role
- Results of reforms must be solid, sustainable and irreversible

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT...



- ❑ The European Parliament is made up of 705 Members elected in the 27 Member States of the European Union.
- ❑ Since 1979 MEPs have been elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year period.

Proportion of Members in each political group



Data source: EPRS.

EPRS | European Parliamentary Research Service

Role of the Parliament in the Enlargement Process



- EP's primary task at the end of any accession negotiations is to ratify the Accession Treaties with the applicant countries
- Committee on Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy - responsible for matters relating to "opening, monitoring and concluding negotiations concerning the accession of European States to the Union" and for "opening, monitoring and concluding of Association Agreements and other international agreements of mainly political nature"
- Bilateral dialogue: The Joint Parliamentary Committees
- Multilateral dialogue: regular meetings of the Presidents of Parliaments
- Administrative cooperation - staff exchange programme, training programmes, information visits etc.

Thank you for your attention!

My contacts:

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send me an email, discuss, debate.....

Questions for discussion

- ☐ Which institution in your opinion plays the crucial role in enlargement process?
- ☐ Should unanimity be replaced with QMV for enlargement in the Council?
- ☐ Is EU enlargement a successful policy of EU ? If yes, why?
- ☐ Can EU function with 30 + member states? What is the optimum size of EU?