

# Laws and Treaties

- Lisbon Treaty signed on 2007, came into force in 2009. Earlier treaties are incorporated into the current consolidated version.
- EU has **exclusive competence**. Ex: customs, competition rules, monetary policy for the euro area and the conservation of fish and trade.

# Regulation

- A regulation is a law that is applicable and binding in all Member States directly. It does not need to be passed into national law by the Member States although national laws may need to be changed to avoid conflicting with the regulation.

# Directive

- A directive is a law that binds the Member States, or a group of Member States, to achieve a particular objective. Usually, directives must be transposed into national law to become effective.
- Significantly, a directive specifies the result to be achieved: It is up to the Member States individually to decide how this is done

# Decision

- A decision can be addressed to Member States, groups of people, or even individuals. It is binding in its entirety. Decisions are used, for example, to rule on proposed mergers between companies.

- **European Parliament**
- **Council**
- **European Commission**
- **Court of Justice**
- European Central Bank
- European Investment Bank
- European Court of Auditors
- European Economic and Social Committee
- European Ombudsman

# Decision Making

- Ordinary Legislative Procedure/Co-decision procedure
- **Consultation Procedure:** the Council is required to consult Parliament on a proposal from the Commission, but is not required to accept Parliament's advice. Example: internal market exemptions and competition law.
- **Consent Procedure:** Parliament may accept or reject a proposal, but may not propose amendments. Ex: Approval of an int.agreement

# The EU institutions





European Parliament

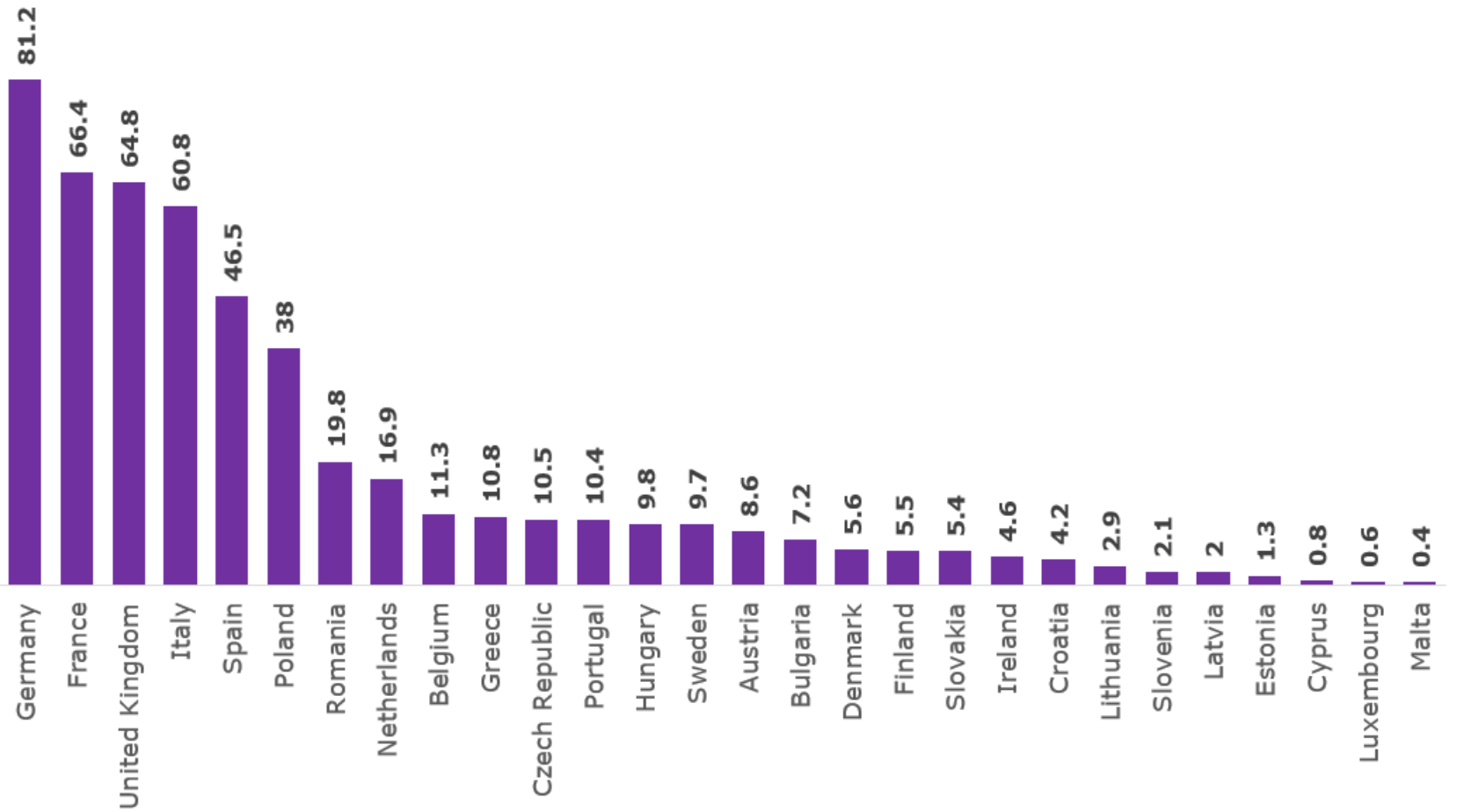
# European Parliament

- Represents the EU's citizens and is directly elected by them
- 751 Members from 28 member states
- 5 year elections
- The seats allocated on the basis of the MS population



## Population in millions (2015)

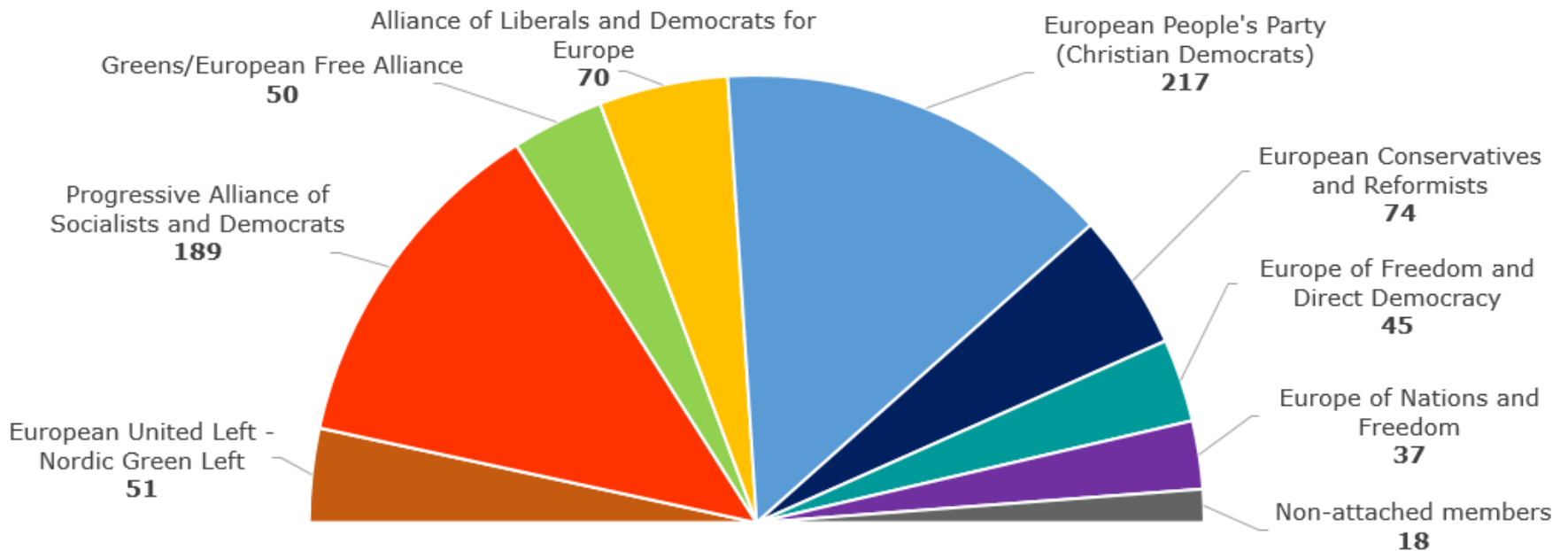
508 million in total



## NUMBER OF MEPS PER MEMBER STATE IN 2013

Member State	Number of MEPs	Member State	Number of MEPs
Austria	19	Italy	73
Belgium	22	Latvia	9
Bulgaria	18	Lithuania	12
Croatia	12	Luxembourg	6
Cyprus	6	Malta	6
Czech Republic	22	Netherlands	26
Denmark	13	Poland	51
Estonia	6	Portugal	22
Finland	13	Romania	33
France	74	Slovakia	13
Germany	99	Slovenia	8
Greece	22	Spain	54
Hungary	22	Sweden	20
Ireland	12	United Kingdom	73
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>766</b>

## Number of seats in the European Parliament per political group (July 2015)



Total: **751**



European Parliament

# European Parliament

## Three main roles:

1. It shares with the Council the power to legislate to pass laws
2. Democratic supervision over all EU institutions
3. Authority with the Council over the EU budget

# The Council/Council of Ministers

- Represents the governments of the EU Member States
- Negotiates and adopts legislative acts
- Ministers of EU Member States meet to discuss EU matters, take decisions and pass laws. Essential EU decision-maker.
- The Presidency of the Council rotates between the Member States every six months

Malta	January-June	2017
Estonia	July-December	2017
Bulgaria	January-June	2018

# The Council

The Council has five key responsibilities:

1. To pass European laws. In most fields, it legislates jointly with the European Parliament.
2. To coordinate the Member States' policies, for example, in the economic field.
3. To develop the EU's common foreign and security policy, based on guidelines set by the European Council.
4. To conclude international agreements between the EU and one or more states or international organisations.
5. To adopt the EU's budget, jointly with the European Parliament.

## VOTES PER COUNTRY IN THE COUNCIL

Germany, France, Italy, United Kingdom	29
Spain, Poland	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal	12
Bulgaria, Austria, Sweden	10
Denmark, Ireland, Croatia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Finland	7
Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia	4
Malta	3
Total	352
Number of votes required for qualified majority	260

# Qualified Majority Voting

2 conditions required:

- **55% of member states vote in favour** - in practice this means 16 out of 28
- The proposal is supported by member states representing **at least 65% of the total EU population**



# Blocking Minority

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

# European Council

- Consists of the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States, European Commission President, High Representative for Foreign Affairs & Security Policy
- **Defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities.** Sets the EU's policy agenda. It is not one of the EU's legislating institutions, so does not negotiate or adopt EU laws.
- Usually meets **4 times a year**

# Summit at the European Council

## Summit of heads of state and government of all EU countries

- Held at least 4 times a year
- Sets the overall guidelines for EU policies
- President: Donald Tusk



# European Commission

- Represents the interests of the EU as a whole.
- Legislative process starts with the Commission
- It launches a proposal. It is also the executive body to implement policies
- 1 Commissioner from each EU country. In total 28 Commissioners
- Negotiates international agreements for the EU.

# Reference

- [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies_en)