



The European Commission



[The Von der Leyen Commission](#)

The European Commission is the body that initiates policies according to the general instructions given by the European Council. The Commission has its roots in the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community. After working with three different commissions for about a decade after the Rome Treaty, the Merger Treaty consolidated these Commissions into the Commission of the European Communities, which later became the European Commission. The power of this very powerful body has been reduced by the Council of the EU, European Council and European Parliament becoming more powerful. After the Lisbon Treaty, the Commission is still very powerful, but it is more balanced and democratic than before.



Composition

The European Commission consists of 27 Commissioners, one per member state. These commissioners get nominated for five years through individual hearings by the European Parliament, after which they are formally inaugurated by the European Council. The Parliament may also hold a vote of no confidence for the entire European Commission.

The President of the Commission, currently Ursula von der Leyen, is suggested by the European Council and elected by the European Parliament.

As one can see, the Parliament is the most important body in the composing process of the European Commission. This shows how important it is to go out and vote for the European Parliament, as you are by extension also voting for the Commission.

Powers and functions

The Commission has very important powers. It initiates policies by proposing them to the Council and Parliament. It also serves as the political executive, and as the guardian of the treaties.

Decision making

The commission meets every week and adopts proposals through internal discourse. In addition to the weekly meetings, the President of the Commission can also call for extraordinary Commission meetings, when circumstances require. While specific Commissioners have their own areas of expertise, each Commissioner is consulted for each decision made, guaranteeing that all voices are heard. No Commissioner is more important than the rest in the decision-making process.