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Information Guide

Council of the European Union

A guide to the Council of the European Union, with hyperlinks to further sources of information within European Sources Online and on external websites

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Introduction

The Council of the European Union - formerly known as the Council of Ministers - is the European Union's main legislative and decision-making body. It represents the interests of the Member States, allowing them to define policy and to discuss legislative proposals made by the European Commission. The Council brings together national ministers, who deal at a European level with the same issues for which they are responsible at home. It is supported by other representatives of national governments, including ambassadors and civil servants.

History

There was originally a separate Council for each of the European Communities: the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC). However, a joint Council was created by the Treaty Establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities (the 1965 'Merger Treaty', effective from 1 July 1967).

Previously termed the 'Council of Ministers', the institution adopted the name 'Council of the European Union' in November 1993, when the Treaty on European Union entered into force. Under the Treaty of Lisbon, it is officially referred to as 'the Council'.

The Council is not the same body as the European Council - see The European Council, The Council: Two institutions acting for Europe and ESO Information Guide: European Council.

Although the power of the Council was for many years limited by the need to act unanimously, qualified majority voting was extended by the 1986 Single European Act and since then has been further extended and modified as new Treaties have been negotiated (see 'Decision-making and voting' below).

The Treaty of Lisbon brought important changes to the Council, including the appointments of a High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with new powers and responsibilities.

Role

With the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, provisions concerning the Council are set out in both the Treaty on European Union (TEU) and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

In the Treaty on European Union, Articles 13-19 set out provisions on the EU institutions. Article 13 identifies the Council as one of the Union's institutions, and Article 16 gives more details of its composition, organisation and role. Article 16(1) states:

> The Council shall, jointly with the European Parliament, exercise legislative and budgetary functions. It shall carry out policy-making and coordinating functions as laid down in the Treaties.

Further details of the Council's role are given in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU; consolidated version), primarily in Articles 237-243.

Amongst the Council's responsibilities are:

- adopting EU legislation in the form of legally-binding Decisions, Directives and Regulations, and non-binding Opinions and Recommendations; the Council also makes political statements in the form of Declarations and Resolutions; the

legislative role is increasingly shared with the European Parliament, under the [ordinary legislative procedure](#) - previously the codecision procedure (provisions concerning the legal acts of the Union are the subject of Articles 288-299 TFEU)

- coordinating the general economic policies of the Member States (Article 5 TFEU)

- concluding international agreements (negotiated by the Commission and requiring Parliament's assent; Article 218 TFEU)

- adopting the Community budget (with the European Parliament; Article 314 TFEU)

- ensuring consistency between the different areas of its external action and between those and other policies (Article 21(3) TEU)

- framing the common foreign and security policy and taking the decisions necessary for defining and implementing it on the basis of general guidelines and strategic lines defined by the European Council (Article 26(2) TEU)

- adopting decisions when the international situation requires operational action by the EU (Article 28(1) TEU)

- determining the guidelines and conditions necessary to ensure balanced progress in all sectors concerned with the functioning of the internal market (Article 26(3) TFEU)

- fixing Common Customs Tariff duties (Article 31 TFEU)

- adopting measures concerning judicial cooperation in criminal matters and on police cooperation (Articles 82-89 TFEU).

Decision-making and voting

Depending on which Treaty Article a proposal is based on, the Council can adopt decisions on the basis of unanimity, simple majority, or qualified majority.

The Council is required to act unanimously in a number of areas, including for example on action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (Article 19 TFEU); provisions to strengthen or to add to citizens' rights (Article 25 TFEU); measures concerning family law with cross-border implications (Article 81(3) TFEU); harmonisation of legislation concerning turnover taxes, excise duties and other forms of indirect taxation in the context of the internal market (Article 113 TFEU). The requirement to act unanimously is almost always associated with decisions taken under the special legislative procedure set out in Article 289(2) TFEU. The Council will often seek [unanimity](#) even when it is not required, which can lead to slow decision-making.

Decisions are taken on the basis of a simple majority in very few cases and are confined to internal procedures, such as establishing committees (Articles 150 and 160 TFEU) and adopting the Council's Rules of Procedure (Article 240(3) TFEU). A simple majority exists when there are more votes for than against, with each Member having one vote (Article 238 TFEU).

The most widely-used form of decision-making in the Council is qualified majority voting ([QMV](#)), with each Member State having a certain number of votes according to its population. In 1986 the Single European Act introduced QMV for new responsibilities - including the internal market, social policy, and the environment - and replaced

unanimity in four existing areas: the common customs tariff, freedom to provide services, free movement of capital and the common policy on sea and air transport.

Under the 1992 Treaty on European Union, 30 articles were either moved to, or introduced as being subject to, qualified majority voting. QMV was also introduced in certain aspects of the largely intergovernmental Second and Third Pillars of the Treaty on European Union, the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Co-operation in Justice and Home Affairs (JHA).

Under the Treaty of Amsterdam of 1997, QMV was extended to 16 new and existing policy areas, including initiatives on jobs, equal opportunities for men and women, social exclusion, public health, anti-fraud measures, transparency, customs co-operation, statistics, and the framework research programme.

In order to prepare the Union for enlargement the Treaty of Nice, which entered into force in February 2003, introduced changes in the way the Council takes its decisions and introduced qualified majority voting into further areas, including incentives to combat discrimination; judicial co-operation in civil matters; visas, asylum and immigration; economic and social cohesion actions outside the Structural Funds (see Summaries of EU legislation).

Qualified majority is also required for the appointment of the President and the Members of the Commission, for the Members of the Court of Auditors, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions (see Press Release MEMO/03/23).

Following the accession of 10 Member States in 2004, a transitional system applied from 1 May 2004 until 1 November 2004. Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 and Croatia in 2013, the weighting of votes is currently:

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

The Treaty of Lisbon extended qualified majority voting to new areas, including climate change, energy security, emergency humanitarian aid, and citizens' initiatives; see also the Council Secretariat background note on The Lisbon Treaty's impact on the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Council: More co-decision and new working structures).

A qualified majority is currently 260 votes out of the 352 (i.e. 73.91%), although they must be cast by a majority of Member States (in some cases a two-thirds majority). Under a 'population safeguard' a Member State can ask for confirmation that the qualified majority represents at least 62% of the total population of the Union. If this is found not to be the case, the decision will not be adopted. In 2009, the Council made available an online voting calculator, allowing users to simulate the possible permutations of Member States' votes.

Under a Protocol on transitional provisions attached to the Treaty of Lisbon, the current system of QMV will end on 31 October 2014, with new rules applying for the period

1 November 2014 to 31 March 2017. The rules are also set out in Articles 238 and 239 of the TFEU.

From November 2014, decisions will usually need the support of 55% of Member States (currently 15 countries) representing a minimum of 65% of the Union's population. In order to prevent a very small coalition of the most populous Member States preventing a decision from being adopted, a blocking minority will have to comprise at least four Member States. In cases where the Council does not act on a proposal from the Commission or from the Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the qualified majority will be 72%, representing Member States comprising at least 65% of the EU population.

Under Article 238(4), abstentions do not prevent the adoption of acts which require unanimity.

A study published in 2005 by the European University Institute (When and Why the Council of Ministers of the EU Votes Explicitly) analysed voting at ministerial level in the Council between 1994 and 2004. The summary of the study stated that:

> The data confirm that ministers generally endorse collective decisions by consensus, even on the 70% or so cases where they could activate qualified majority voting. To the extent that voting takes place in these latter cases, it ... operates mostly at the level of officials rather than ministers.'

Structure and composition

Although reference is often made to 'The Council', there are a number of specialised Councils, each dealing with one or more topics. Provisions concerning them are broadly set out in Article 16(6) of the TEU, under which it is the General Affairs Council that is responsible for ensuring consistency in the work of the different configurations.

In June 2002 at the Seville European Council a package of reform measures was agreed concerning the structure and functioning of the Council (see Annex II). In particular it was decided that the number of Council configurations would be reduced from 16 to nine, in order to improve the consistency and coherence of the Council's work. The new configurations introduced in September 2002 saw a single General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC), with the two elements able to meet separately as required, with distinct agendas and different participating ministers. In December 2009, Council Decision 2009/878/EU established a new list of Councils, splitting the GAERC into separate General Affairs and Foreign Affairs Councils. The current 10 configurations are therefore:

1. General Affairs

2. Foreign Affairs

3. Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN; includes budget)

4. Justice and Home Affairs (JHA; includes civil protection)

5. Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO)

6. Competitiveness (internal market, industry, research and space; includes tourism)

7. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE)

8. [Agriculture and Fisheries](#)

9. [Environment](#)

10. [Education, Youth, Culture and Sport](#) (EYC; includes audiovisual affairs).

All Councils consist of a representative of each Member State, at ministerial level, 'who may commit the government of the Member State in question and cast its vote' (Article 16(2) [TEU](#)).

Article 237 of the [TFEU](#) requires that the Council meet 'when convened by its President on his own initiative or at the request of one of its Members or of the Commission'. The frequency with which Councils meet varies: those dealing with General Affairs, Economic and Financial matters and Agriculture meet monthly while others meet less frequently, sometimes just three or four times each year. Decisions taken at Council meetings are reported in Council [press releases](#) and are also published in the [RAPID](#) press releases database (under 'Search by institution/by type of document' choose 'Council of the European Union'). According to the subject under discussion, each Council meeting is chaired by the relevant Minister from the country holding the EU Presidency. Decisions are taken on legislative proposals and discussions and debates held on subjects within the responsibility of each Council.

Because of their different schedules, it is often the case that formal decisions are not taken by the 'obvious' Council - which may not meet again for some months - but by one which happens to be meeting when a decision is needed. For example, it was at a meeting of the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 30 November and 1 December 2009 that a Regulation on the Greenland halibut recovery plan was adopted (see [Press Release](#)), and the European Police College work programme for 2010 was approved by Environment Ministers on 15 March 2010 ([Press Release](#)).

Committee of Permanent Representatives

Preparatory work for the Council is undertaken by the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER; Article 240 TFEU) which comprises the ambassadors of the Member States, based in Brussels. [COREPER](#) meets every week and is itself supported by some 250 specialised committees and working parties which prepare documents for discussion by COREPER and the Council (see also Danish Folketing's [What is COREPER?](#)). The Special Committee on Agriculture handles agricultural issues and the Article 36 Committee (CATS) deals with police and judicial co-operation in criminal matters ('Article 36' is a throwback to the TEU Article which created a Committee to coordinate police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters; it has since been replaced by Article 71 TFEU - see [Article 71 Committee](#)).

Under Article 2 of [European Council Decision 2009/881/EU](#), COREPER is chaired by a representative of the Member State chairing the General Affairs Council.

Details of meetings of COREPER and other committees can be found via the Council's [Agendas of meetings](#) page.

General Secretariat

The work of the Council and the various committees and working parties is supported by a General Secretariat, which employs just over 2,500 staff based in the Justus Lipsius building in Brussels. The General Secretariat comprises a number of Directorates-General and Services:

- [Secretary-General](#)
- [Private Office](#) (Cabinet)
- [Legal Service](#)
- [DG A - Administration](#)
- [DG B - Agriculture, Fisheries, Social Affairs and Health](#)
- [DG C - Foreign Affairs, Enlargement and Civil Protection](#)
- [DG D - Justice and Home Affairs](#)
- [DG E - Environment, Education, Transport and Energy](#)
- [DG F - Communication and Transparency](#)
- [DG G - Economic Affairs and Competitiveness](#)

According to a Council [FAQ](#), the role of the General Secretariat of the Council is:

> to provide the intellectual and practical infrastructure for the Council at four levels: working party, Permanent Representatives Committee, Council of Ministers and European Council. It carries out the practical preparation for meetings and drafts reports, notes, minutes and records and prepares draft agendas. It is more particularly at the disposal of the Presidency to assist in its tasks of finding compromise solutions, coordinating work and summing up situations. It provides the continuity in Council proceedings and has custody of Council archives and acts. Its Legal Service is available to give opinions to the Council and its committees.

High Representative

In 1999 [Javier Solana](#) was appointed to the posts of Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. In the former role, he helped the Council draft and implement political decisions and represented the Council in discussions with non-EU countries. His appointment was renewed for five years, and he served until 1 December 2009, when the Treaty of Lisbon entered into force.

At an informal meeting of the European Council on 19 November 2009, EU Heads of State or Government appointed Herman Van Rompuy as the first permanent President of the European Council (see below) and [Catherine Ashton](#) to the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Although not new, the post of High Representative has changed, with Catherine Ashton exercising functions previously shared by Javier Solana, the six-monthly rotating Presidency of the Council, and the European Commissioner for External Relations. Under Articles 18 and 27 of the TEU, the High Representative is responsible for:

- conducting the Union's common foreign and security policy

- contributing to the development of that policy and ensuring that decisions are implemented

- presiding over the Foreign Affairs Council

- ensuring consistency of the Union's external action, as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Commission

- representing the Union on matters relating to the common foreign and security policy, conducting political dialogue with third parties, representing the Union's position in international organisations and at international conferences

- exercising authority over the [European External Action Service](#) and over the EU delegations to third countries and international organisations.

Presidency

Traditionally, each Council is chaired by the representative of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Union. The Presidency is responsible for organising and chairing Council meetings and for reaching compromises on difficult issues. With the advent of the Treaty of Lisbon, responsibility for chairing the Foreign Affairs Council now falls to the High Representative - see European Council Decision 2009/881/EU.

Member States take turns to preside over the Council for six-month periods (January-June, July-December) according to a pre-determined rota, which was originally based on an alphabetical list of the country names, in their own language. However, because the July-December period is disrupted by Summer and Christmas holidays, the second Presidency of each year effectively has less time to achieve its objectives (to counter this, the annual pairings were reversed between 1993 and 1998). Following the accession of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, the list of Presidencies until June 2020 was set out in Council Decision 2007/5/EC of 1 January 2007 'determining the order in which the office of President of the Council shall be held'. A list of Presidencies since 1998 is available, with links to their websites.

The Treaty of Lisbon created the post of President of the European Council, with the primary aim of ensuring greater consistency in the Union's much-criticised rotating Presidency system. However, the new system retains the rotating Presidency in the Council, with all but the Foreign Affairs configuration being chaired by the relevant Minister from the country holding the Presidency. The major change is that the European Council is now chaired by the President of the European Council, rather than by the head of state or government of the country holding the Presidency.

In order to ensure continuity within the Council, the previous, current and next Presidency countries work together in a group known as the 'Troika' or 'Trio'. To lend more coherence to the Presidency programme, the December 1993 European Council adopted the first multiannual strategic programme. Spanning 2004-2006, it was prepared by the six Member States holding the Presidencies during that time (Ireland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, United Kingdom, Austria, Finland) which were 'collectively responsible for seeing that the Council delivers on its agreed priorities up to 2006, efficiently and on time'. The multiannual programme set 'milestones and, where possible, a structured timeframe for implementing commonly agreed priorities without pre-empting the outcome of future negotiations'.

European Council Decision 2009/881/EU formalised the 'Trio Presidency' arrangement, under which:

> The Presidency of the Council, with the exception of the Foreign Affairs configuration, shall be held by pre-established groups of three Member States for a period of 18 months.

In that context, the governments of Spain, Belgium and Hungary drew up a work programme for their 18-month 'Trio' Presidency starting in January 2010. According to the Introduction to the work programme:

> The three Presidencies will exercise their respective functions on the basis of the new Treaty which entered into force on 1 December 2009. They will make every effort to ensure a smooth functioning of the new rules and provisions. This implies very close cooperation between the three Presidencies and between them and the new President of the European Council and the [High Representative] who will chair the Foreign Affairs Council.

That Trio Presidency was followed by the 2011-2012 Poland-Denmark-Cyprus Trio.

In January 2013, the Presidency passed to Ireland, which together with Lithuania and Greece comprises the Fifth Trio Presidency. In the 18 month programme of the Council (1 January 2013 - 30 June 2014) the Trio stated:

> The period of the Trio Presidency will come at the end of the current legislative cycle, with the European elections taking place in May 2014 and the current Commission concluding its mandate later the same year. As such, the legislative process will intensify in speed and a high number of proposals will be under negotiation. While the three Presidencies will advance work as much as possible in all areas, the main objective for the next 18 months will be to strengthen the Union's capacity to respond to the current economic, financial and social challenges.

Openness and transparency

The deliberations of the Council have traditionally been perceived as the most secretive of all the EU institutions, with Ministers reluctant to allow any form of public access to their discussions. In response to the demands for greater openness and transparency in all the EU institutions, the Council has, in common with the other institutions, allowed some increased public access to their activities.

From 1 January 1999, a Register of Council documents has been available to the public, including:

- the Monthly Summary of Council Acts - a listing of legislative and non-legislative acts adopted by the Council

- Timetables and Agendas for:

    o   Council of the European Union
    o   Committee of Permanent Representatives - Part 1
    o   Committee of Permanent Representatives - Part 2
    o   Special Committee on Agriculture
    o   Article 36 Committee
    o   other Council preparatory bodies

- Council Minutes (split into minutes concerning the adoption of legal acts, and Council minutes in general).

As part of a series of measures agreed at the Seville European Council in June 2002, television coverage of certain stages in the legislative process was allowed. Until the end of 2005, the Council's practice was for proceedings to be open to the public (relayed by television) only when ministers were holding a final debate on the Council's common position on a legislative proposal to be decided by Council and Parliament together under the co-decision procedure. In December 2003, a case was brought before the European Ombudsman by the German MEP Elmar Brok who argued that Council decisions were not always being taken as openly as possible. In a Special Report adopted in October 2005 the Ombudsman recommended that the Council 'review its refusal to decide to meet publicly whenever it is acting in its legislative capacity' (see Press Release EO/05/12).

At its meeting on 21 December 2005, the Council agreed to further measures designed to improve the openness and transparency of its formal meetings and to reach the widest public possible (see Conclusions p53-54, and information sheet).

'With a view to further increasing openness, transparency and accountability', the June 2006 European Council agreed 'An overall policy on transparency' (see Annex 1 to the Presidency Conclusions), which set out a number of measures, including that:

- all Council deliberations on legislative acts to be adopted by co-decision (now the ordinary legislative procedure) to be open to the public, along with the votes and the explanation of votes by Council members (with some exceptions)

- the Council's first deliberations on legislative acts other than those adopted by co-decision (now the ordinary legislative procedure) to be open to the public

- the Council to regularly hold public debates on important issues affecting the interests of the Union and its citizens

- the General Affairs and External Relations Council's deliberations on the 18-month programme (now undertaken by the General Affairs Council) to be public, together with other Council formations' deliberations on their priorities, and the Commission's presentation of its five-year programme, its annual work programme, its annual policy strategy and the ensuing debate

- all public deliberations to be broadcast in all languages through video-streaming, with an obligation for a recorded version to remain available for at least a month on the Council's website.

More recently, under the Treaty of Lisbon, Article 16(8) TEU requires the Council to meet in public when it deliberates and votes on a draft legislative act, and also allows - therefore - for each Council meeting to be 'divided into two parts, dealing respectively with deliberations on Union legislative acts and non-legislative activities'.

That requirement is echoed in Article 15 TFEU, which also sets out the general requirement that:

> Each institution, body, office or agency shall ensure that its proceedings are transparent and shall elaborate in its own Rules of Procedure specific provisions regarding access to its documents ...

It is therefore possible to:

- obtain Timetables and agendas and Background notes / Briefings
- see the Council Live
- find out how Member States voted on proposals for legislative acts adopted by the ordinary legislative procedure (details of public votes are available from 2006); the relevant Council deliberations are televised in a nearby room, and results of votes are shown 'by visual means in real time in the Council's meeting room and on a television screen which relays the voting to the Press Centre'. See, for example results of voting on a Directive to combat the sexual abuse / exploitation of children, and child pornography, on 15 November 2011, where 26 Member States cast 338 votes in favour of the proposal (Denmark did not participate; a Qualified Majority requires a minimum of 250 votes in favour to be cast by at least 14 of the participating 26 Council members).

See also the Council publications: Council Annual report on access to documents 2012, Openness in the Council, Sources of information on the European Council and the Council (September 2013).

Location

The Council usually meets in Brussels, except in April, June and October when meetings are held in Luxembourg. Informal Council Meetings also take place in the country holding the Presidency.

The Council's central contact details are:

Council of the European Union
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 175
B-1048 Brussels, Belgium
Tel: 00 322 285 61 11
Fax: 00 322 285 73 97
E-mail: public.info@consilium.eu.int

Further contact points are listed on the Council's Contacts page.

Information sources in the ESO database

Find updated and further information sources in the ESO database:

2.5 Council of the European Union [general information]
- Key Source
- Legislation
- Policy-making
- Report
- News source
- Periodical article
- Textbook, monograph or reference
- Background
2.5.a Council of the European Union: meetings
2.5.b Council of the European Union: Committees and working groups
2.5.c Council of the European Union: Personnel and organisational issues

Relevant material might also be found under:

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2.3.a Decision-making process/procedure
2.3.c Openness and transparency
2.4 European Council

Further information sources on the internet

Overview

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- o [Council Minutes](#)
- o [Monthly Summary of Council Acts](#)
- o [Register of Council documents](#)
- o [Policies](#)
- o [Common Foreign and Security Policy](#)
- o [EU Fight against terrorism](#)
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    - [Codecision procedure](#)
    - [Conciliation Committee](#)
    - [Qualified majority](#)
    - [Unanimity](#)
    - [Weighting of votes in the Council](#)
  - o EU Whoiswho
    - [Council of the European Union](#)
  - o [Countries](#) (EU Member States, candidates and other European countries)

- European Parliament
  - o Fact Sheets
    - o [The Council](#)
    - o [The European Council](#)

Law and policy making

- European Commission
  - o DG Communication
    - [Press releases](#) (RAPID database; under 'Search by institution/by type of document' choose 'Council of the European Union').

Treaty revisions and the Council

- Europa
  - o Summaries of EU legislation
    - The Amsterdam Treaty: a Comprehensive Guide: Institutional Matters: [The Council of the European Union](#)
    - Treaty of Nice: A Comprehensive Guide: Institutional Questions: [The Council of the European Union](#)
  - o Treaty of Lisbon: [Efficient and modern institutions](#)

The texts of EU legislation relating to the Council as an institution can be found in EUR-Lex:

Adopted legislation: EUR-Lex: Directory of European Union legislation in force (see section 01.40.30)
Proposed legislation: EUR-Lex: Directory of European Union legislation in preparation (see section 01.40.30)

Trace the progress of proposed legislation or other initiatives in the following databases:

- European Commission: Secretariat General: PreLex: Add subject or COM doc reference in a standard search or in an advanced search choose 'field of activity' and select 'Institutions' and/or 'Administration and Staff Regulations'.

- Court of Justice of the European Union: InfoCuria
  Homepage: in 'Names of the parties' box insert 'council'. Select dates if required. Hit 'Search' at top or bottom of page. Select dates if required. Hit 'Search' at top or bottom of page.

- European Parliament: Legislative Observatory (OEIL)
  Homepage: Carry out a Search: scroll down right-hand menu and expand 'Council configuration' and select appropriate sub-heading.

Other external websites

- Find national parliaments/governments in the ESO Information Guides (at Information Guides page, choose 'European Countries and Regions'; select sections on 'European policies and relations with the European Union' and 'Political information')

- Civitas
  The Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)

- United Kingdom: Foreign and Commonwealth Office
  UK Representation to the EU

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