

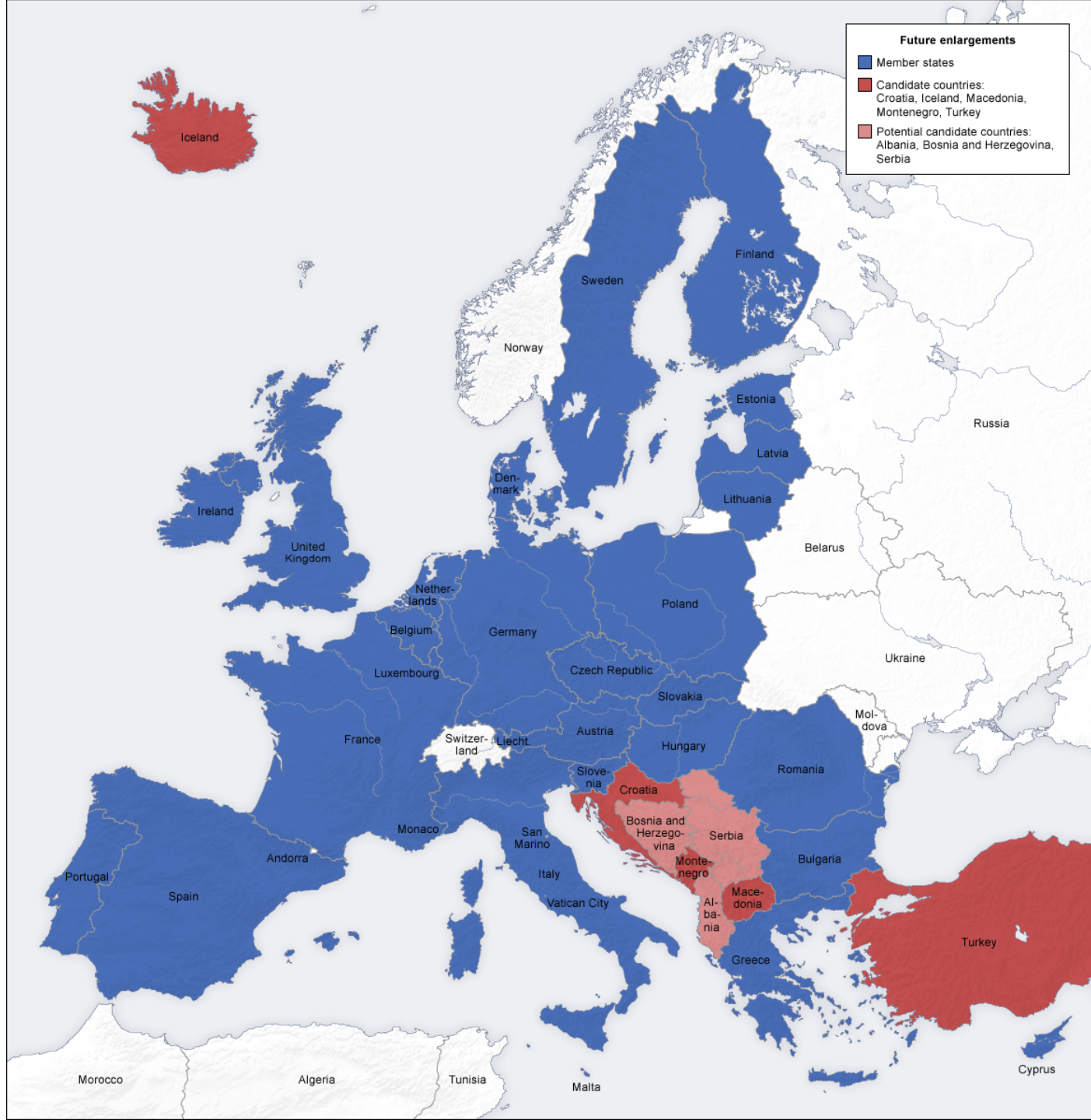
The EU institutions and decision-making process

LAF Study Tour on
Rural Development
LAF 48278

Brussels
14. – 16.5. 2012

Prof. Dr. Ralf von Ameln



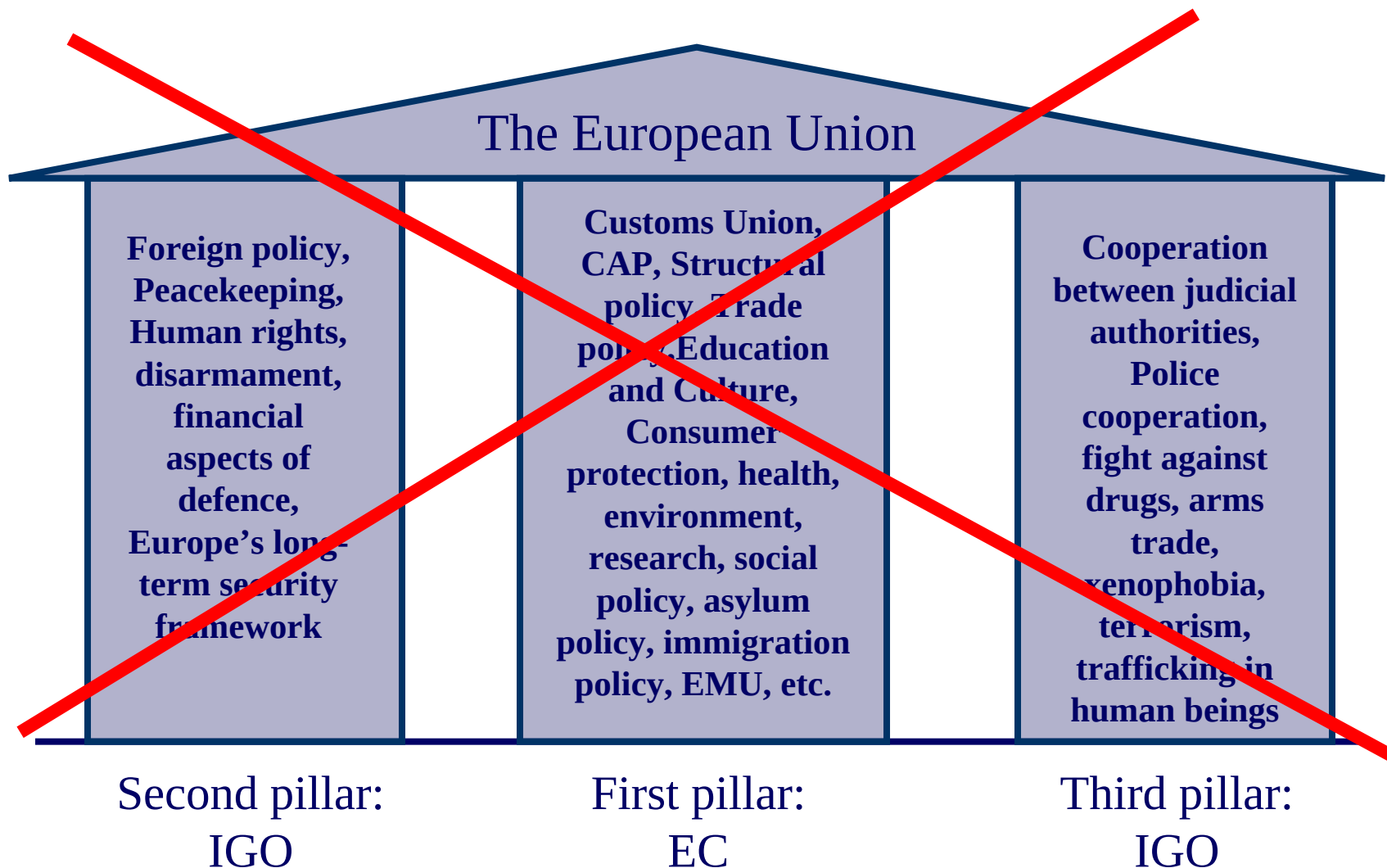




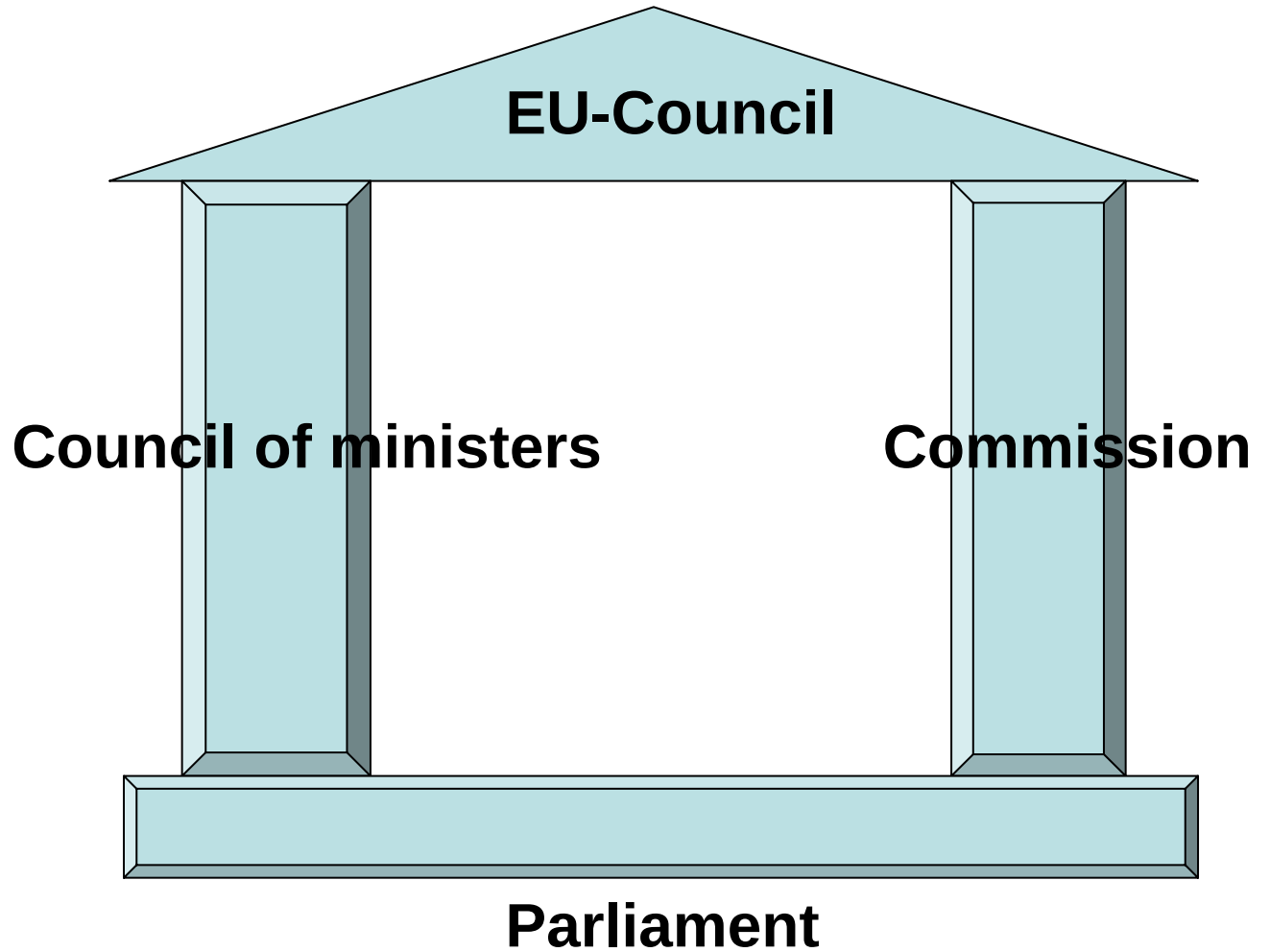
**„Nothing moves without people,
but nothing survives without institutions“**

Jean Monnet

The Pillars of the EU



NEW



NEW

EU-Treaty
+
Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
+
Euratom Treaty

Legal personality for the EU and pillar consolidation.

Full-time president for the Council

High Representative for Foreign Policy and Security Policy/
at the same time vice president of the EU Commission

European External Action Service.

Institutions/Bodies in the European Union

European Council incl. the President of the
EU Commission and the High Representative

European Economic and
Social Committee

Committee of the Regions
(CoR)

**Council of the
European Union**

**European Commission
(EC)**

**European Parliament
(EP)**

**Court of
Justice
of the EU**

**Court of
Auditors
of the EU**

Europ. Investment Bank
(EIB)
Europ. Investment Fund
(EIF)

European Central Bank

European Police Office
(EUROPOL)
Now an agency

Decentralized bodies
of the EU (agencies)

-  Institutions
-  Autonomous bodies
-  Advisory bodies

Presidency of the Council



II/2011

I/2012

II/2012

I/2013

Poland

Denmark

Cyprus

Ireland

Council Presidencies until 2020

- January-June 2008: **Slovenia**
- July-December 2008: **France**
- January-June 2009: **Czech Republic**
- July-December 2009: **Sweden**
- January-June 2010: **Spain**
- July-December 2010: **Belgium**
- January-June 2011: **Hungary**
- July-December 2011: **Poland**
- January-June 2012: **Denmark**
- July-December 2012: **Cyprus**
- January-June 2013: **Ireland**
- July-December 2013: **Lithuania**

- July-December 2014: **Italy**
- January-June 2014: **Greece**
- January-June 2015: **Latvia**
- July-December 2015: **Luxemburg**
- January-June 2016: **Netherlands**
- July-December 2016: **Slovakia**
- January-June 2017: **Malta**
- July - December 2017: **Great Britain**
- January-June 2018: **Estonia**
- July-December 2018: **Bulgaria**
- January - June 2019: **Austria**
- July-December 2019: **Romania**
- January-July 2020: **Finland**

Configurations of the Council of Ministers

General Affairs and External Relations

Economic and Financial Affairs

Cooperation in the fields of Justice and Home Affairs

Employment, Social policy, Health and Consumer Affairs

Competitiveness

Transport, Telecommunication und Energy

Agriculture and Fisheries

Environment

Education, Youth and Culture

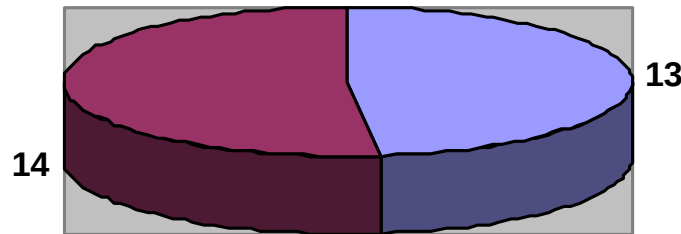
Votes in the Council **345**

Memberstate	Present votes
Germany	29
France	29
United Kingdom	29
Italy	29
Spain	27
Poland	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Greece	12
Czech Republic	12
Belgium	12
Hungary	12
Portugal	12

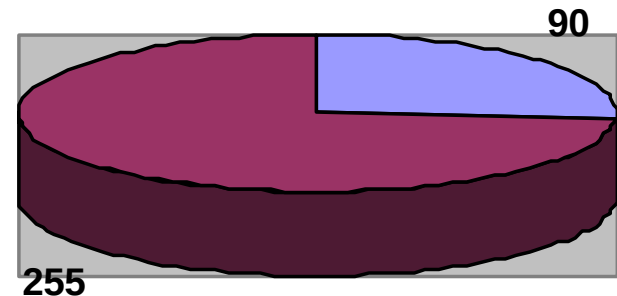
Memberstate	Present votes
Sweden	10
Bulgaria	10
Austria	10
Slovakia	7
Demark	7
Finland	7
Ireland	7
Lithuania	7
Latvia	4
Slovenia	4
Estonia	4
Cyprus	4
Luxemburg	4
Malta	3

Council voting following Treaty of Nice until 2014

countries



votes



- 1. January 2007:
 - 345 votes
- Majority = 255 votes plus majority of the member states
- On demand it has to be proven that 62% of the population are represented

NEW

Double majority in 2014

55% of the votes

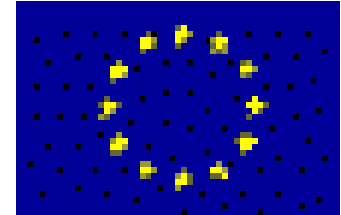


65% of the population

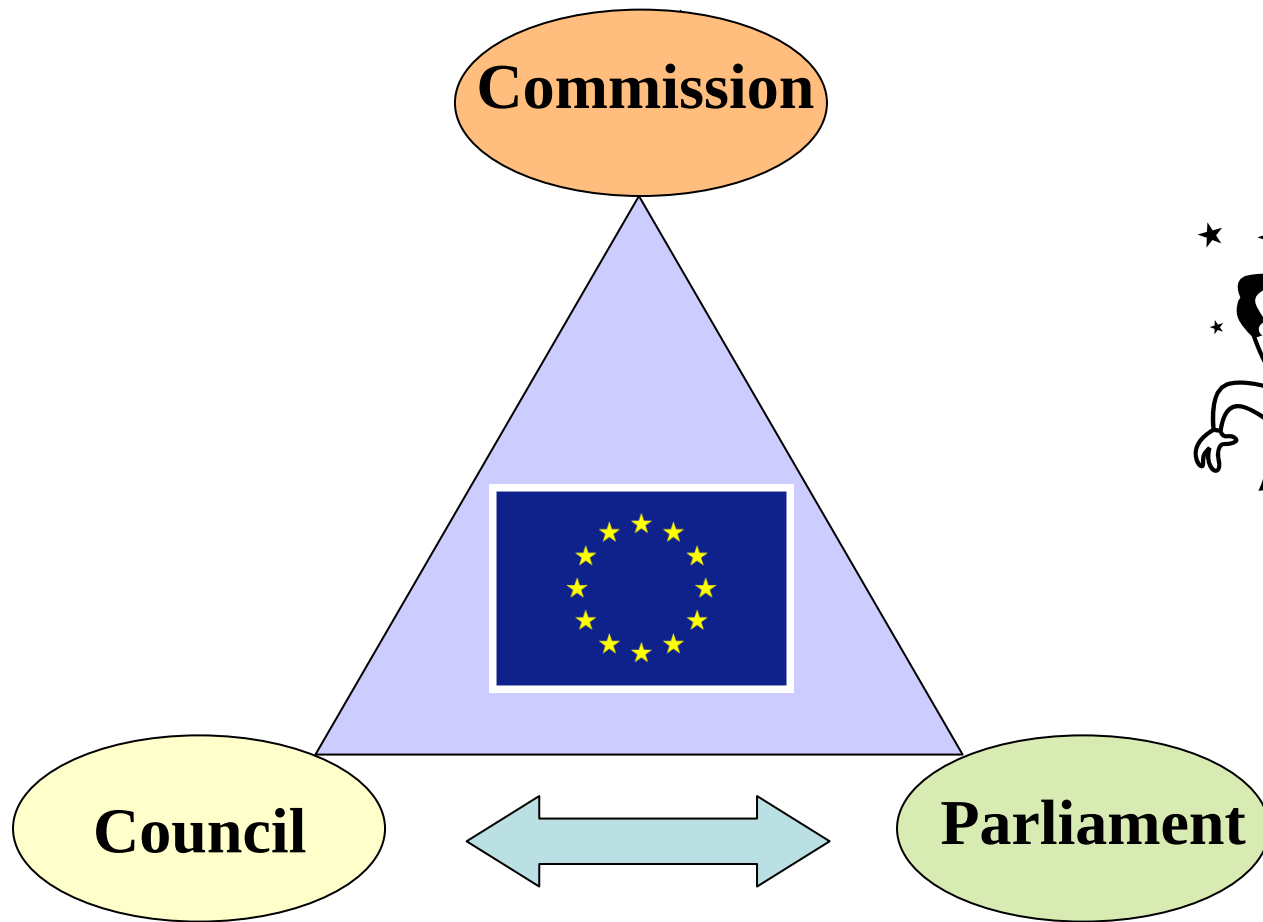


Co-operation between the institutions

- *Commission* consults, proposes, controls
- *Council* and *European Parliament* legislate
- *European Economic and Social Committee* and *Committee of the Regions* become involved
- *National Parliaments* can have their say
- *European Court of Justice* ensures that the law is observed
- *European Court of auditors* controls.



Institutional Triangle





<http://europa.eu>

[http://europa.eu/abc/
euslides/index_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/euslides/index_en.htm)

Thank you for your attention!

