

The European Council in the Institutional Architecture of the European Union

Points of Discussion

- General Characterisation of the European Council
- Multiple Approaches for Understanding a Contested Institution: Three Models
- Towards a New Institutional Balance? Trends in Inter-Institutional Relations

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General Characterisation of the European Council

- Supreme Political Institution (Giscard d'Estaing)
- Provisional European Government (Monnet)
- European Government (Fischer)
- Post Democratic Executive Federalism (Habermas)

Article 13 (TEU)

(1) The Union shall have an institutional framework which shall aim to promote its values, advance its objectives, serve its interests, those of its citizens and those of the Member States, and ensure the consistency, effectiveness and continuity of its policies and actions.

The Union's institutions shall be:

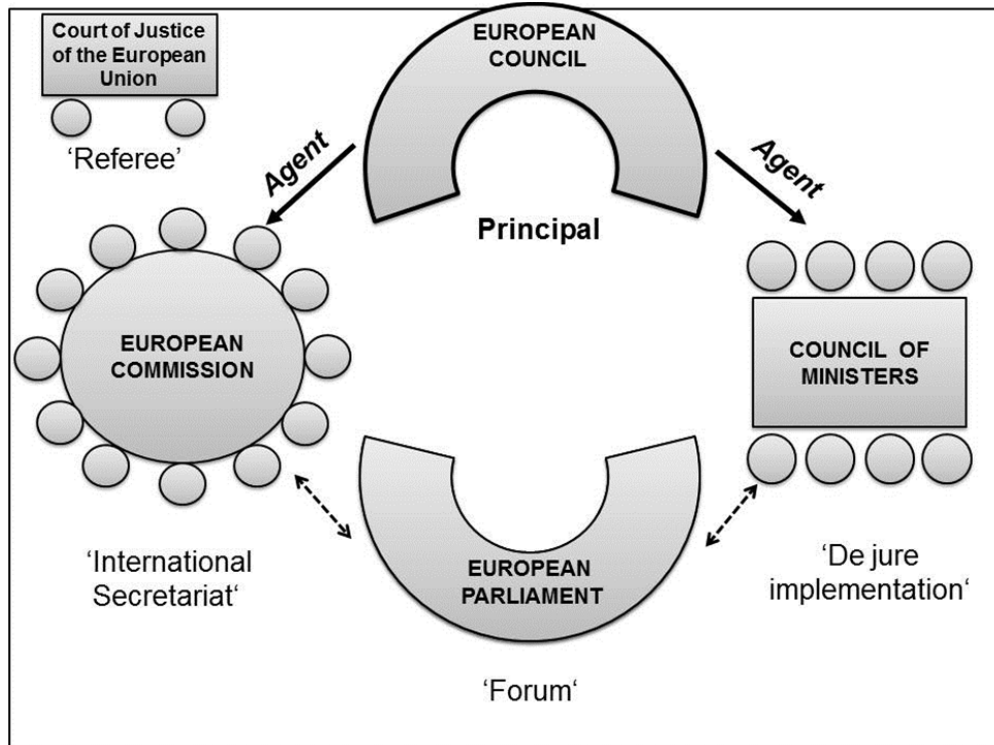
- the European Parliament,
- the European Council,
- the Council,
- the European Commission (hereinafter referred to as „the Commission“),
- the Court of Justice of the European Union,
- the European Central Bank,
- The Court of Auditors

Article 13 (TEU)

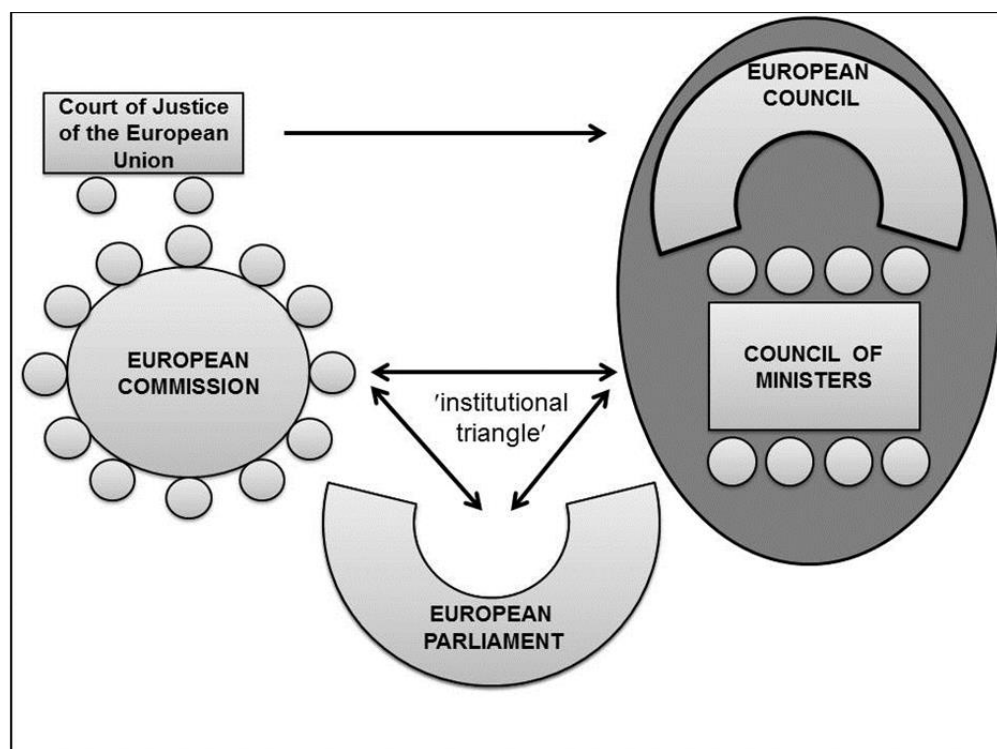
(2) Each institution shall act within the limits of the powers conferred on it in the Treaties, and in conformity with the procedures, conditions and objectives set out in them. The institutions shall practice mutual sincere cooperation.

Multiple Approaches for Understanding a Contested Institution: Three Models

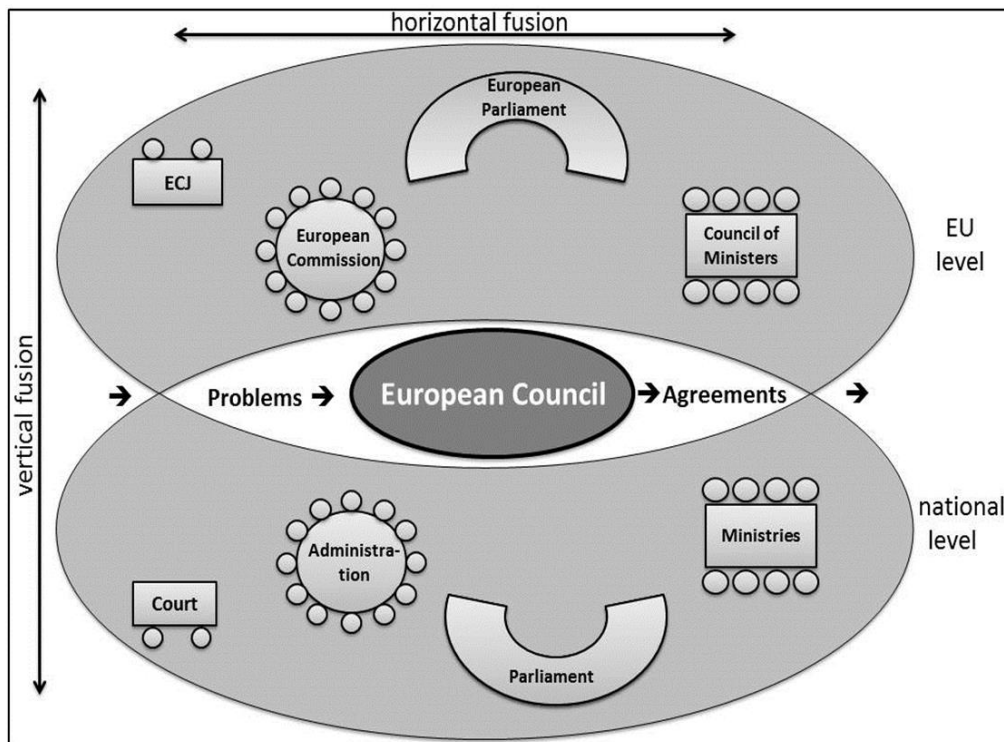
The Institutional Architecture of the Presidency Model



The Institutional Architecture of the Council Model



The Institutional Architecture of the Fusion Model



Towards a New Institutional Balance? Trends in Inter-Institutional Relations

- Trends in procedural provisions: the extension of the Community method
- The European Parliament: rival and partner
- The Council: in the shadow of political hierarchy
- The Commission: more than a secretariat?
- The Court: shaping a new constitutional system of checks and balances
- The European Central Bank: new forms of dialogue

Literature

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Against the background of the existing research and teaching gap concerning the European Council, SUMMIT aims to contribute to the promotion of European Union studies by providing the latest research-based knowledge of this key institution. The project seeks to disseminate research and teaching experience as well as in-depth knowledge of the European Council by addressing academia, the general public and the educational sector. Concretely and particularly, in the course of SUMMIT, the project team will produce online learning material, and organise various transnational seminars for Master students, a public roundtable series all over Europe and two conferences. The project's lifetime is from September 2015 to February 2017.

Imprint

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