

**First Training Session,
“WHAT IS THE EU INTEGRATION?”
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TRAINING COURSE OUTLINE

□ **PART I: ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION**

- Topic - 1: Origins of the European Integration Project
- Topic - 2: Evolution of the European Community, 1958-1984
- Topic - 3: Institutional design by Intergovernmental Conferences and Treaties 1985-2008

□ **PART II: EU INTEGRATION IN BRIEF**

- Topic - 4: Significance of European integration
- Topic - 5: European Economic Integration
- Topic- 6: European Political Integration
- Topic- 7: Widening – Enlargement

□ **PART III: CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EU POLITICS**

- Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?
- Topic - 9: Civil Society Dialogue & Enlargement

PART I: ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION

Topic - 1: Origins of the European Integration Project

- ❑ Co-operative endeavor between the Member States.
- ❑ EU is a **unique international organization**
 - give powers and decision making authority to the EU
 - remaining sovereign independent states.
 - Individual vs. collective action at international stage
- ❑ The EU: a political, economic and social union
- ❑ **History of EU**
 - Aim: ending the wars
 - After end of WW-2 - reordering the European political map.
 - New balance of power: United States and the Soviet Union.
 - ❑ 1950s: dominated by a cold war
 - ❑ Purpose: Uniting European countries economically and politically.
 - ❑ European Union as guarantee for peace and stability

Topic - 2: Evolution of the European Community, 1958-1984

- Schuman and Monnet - “chief architects of the EU”
- 1st step: speech given by the French Foreign Minister, Robert Schuman, inspired by Monnet
- Plan for pooling European coal and steel production under common “high authority”.
 - Plan - initiated by the French government attracted the approval of Konrad Adenauer
 - contributing to economic recovery, developing the rapprochement btw France and Germany.
 - Controlling the coal and steel: raw materials of war - contribute to the peace in Europe.
- **The Treaty of Paris** 1952 – ECSC
 - The Six signature states were: France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg.
- **1957 Rome treaty** - EEC and EURATOM
 - The aim of European Economic Community was to establish “an ever closer union” of the peoples of Europe
 - Policies in a wide range of fields to this end.

Topic - 3: Institutional design 1985-1990s

- ❑ New states joined to original 6 founders
- ❑ The initial focus: economic integration, aim of "common market."
- ❑ Single European Act in 1986
 - institutional reform
 - paved the way for the completion of the Single Market
 - removing the barriers to free movement of capital, labour, goods and services.
 - huge step to the **economic integration**.
- ❑ The Common Single Market
 - greater mobility between the member states,
 - common commercial and agricultural policies,
 - common external tariffs on imports from other countries.

Topic - 3: Institutional design 1990s

- 1990s - fall of Berlin Wall & the collapse of the Soviet Union
 - changes in the political map of Europe + the power balances.
 - End of cold war - significant steps in European Integration.
- 1993, Treaty on European Union - **Treaty of Maastricht**
 - concept of the European Community (EC) replaced EEC
 - “European Union” notion as we used today, was born.
- Evolution of the European integration - intergovernmental treaties between the member states.
 - EU as a system of treaties and IGCs
- Evolution of the European integration - intergovernmental treaties between the member states.
 - **The Treaties**
 - define the EU's powers,
 - Set out how institutions work,
 - form the legal basis for EU legislation.

EU integration & institutions

□ **Main Treaties of the European integration are:**

- 1. The Single European Act**
- 2. Maastricht Treaty**
- 3. Treaty of Amsterdam**
- 4. Treaty of Nice**
- 5. Treaty of Lisbon (plus rejected Constitutional Treaty)**

The Single European Act:

- 1st Intergovernmental Conference - Single European Act (SEA) of 1987.
 - Removed artificial trade barriers between states.
 - Aim: to ensure that goods, capital and services could move.
 - Limited to the trade goods
 - extended to the free movement of people, as well.
- SEA & Common Market principles, the citizens of the European Community could move, live and work freely in any EU State.
- At the policy level, the Single European Act set the further objectives of co-ordinated action on the
 - environment,
 - research and
 - technological development.
- It also increased economic and social cohesion, and the further development of the Economic Monetary System (EMS).

The Maastricht Treaty:

- 1990s:
 - the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe
 - the outlook of German East-West reunification
 - a commitment to reinforce the Community's international position.
 - need for a deeper political Union at this new global context.
- At internal level: desire to augment the progress of Single European Act with other reforms.
- Maastricht Treaty signed and entered into force in 1993.
 - Formally established the 'European Union'
 - bring European Community and intergovernmental activities in one treaty framework
 - Community clearly went beyond its original economic objective.
 - political ambitions came to the fore.
- complicated structure: three pillars of the European Union competence areas

The 3 pillars of Maastricht:

□ These three “Pillars” are:

1. the European Community (EC) as the first Pillar:

- which oversees the Single Market, co-operation on economic and monetary matters, as well as the environment, research, education, and training.

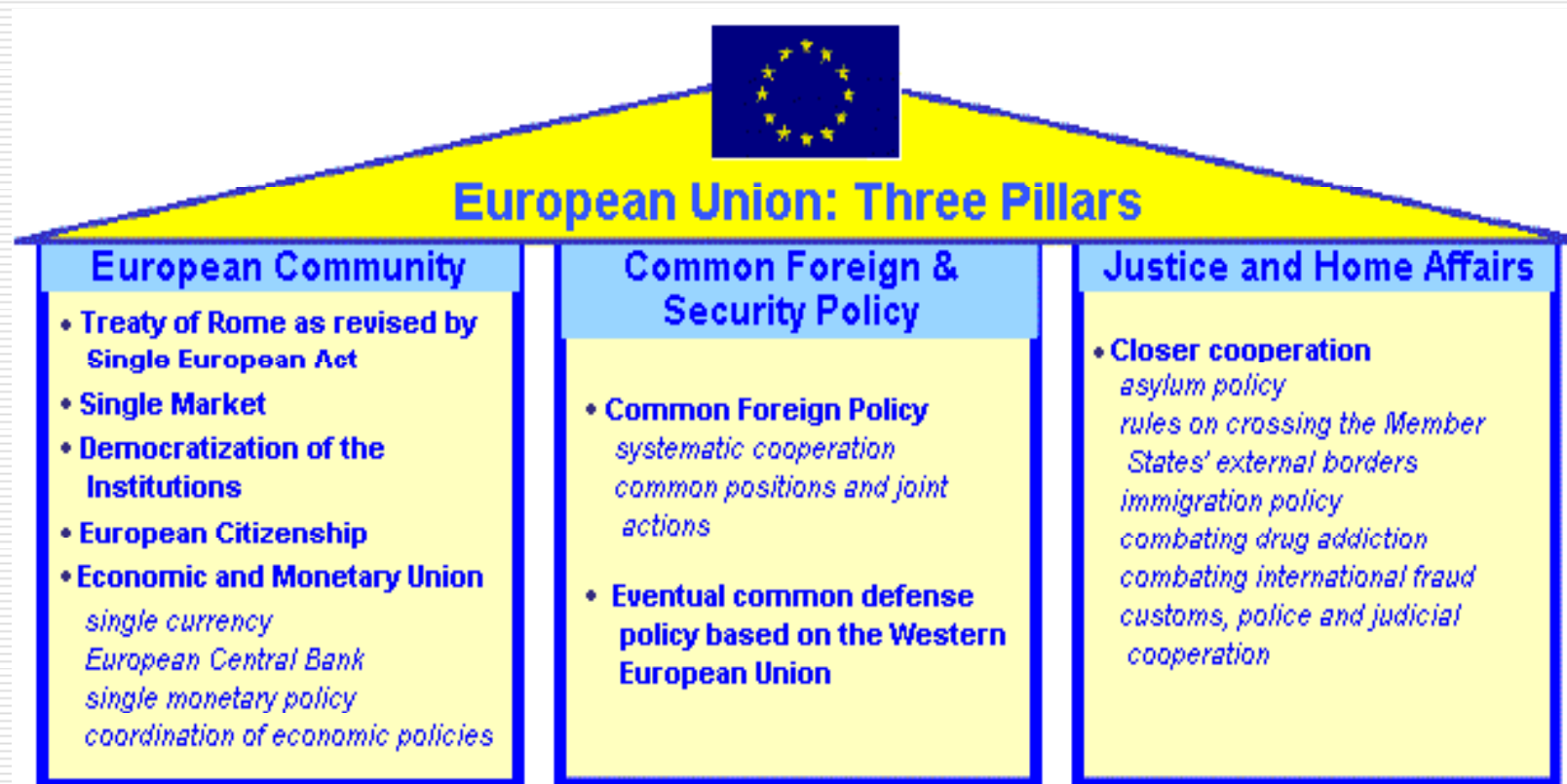
2. the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) as the second Pillar:

- which makes it possible for the Union to cooperate in foreign and security affairs.

3. the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) policy as the third Pillar:

- dealing with asylum, immigration, judicial cooperation in civil and criminal matters, and customs and police cooperation against terrorism, drug trafficking and other forms of serious international crime, and fraud.

The 3 pillar system:



The Maastricht Treaty:

- ❑ **The European Community (EC) as the first Pillar:** Laws are formed and agreed by the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council acting together.
- ❑ **Second and Third Pillars:** decisions are made co-operatively between governments. “intergovernmental” compare to the supranational first pillar.
- ❑ **Economic and Monetary Union:** The Maastricht Treaty created the timetable for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and for the introduction of the single currency, namely Euro.
 - EURO in 1999.
 - Euro notes and coins on 1 January 2002.
 - The UK, Sweden, Denmark, do not currently participate.
- ❑ Maastricht Treaty created a Cohesion Fund for the four poorest Member States

The Maastricht Treaty:

- The Treaty established in six new areas to the EU policies
 1. trans-European networks;
 2. industrial policy;
 3. consumer protection;
 4. education and vocational training;
 5. youth;
 6. culture.
- Maastricht Treaty represents a key stage in European political integration.
 - By establishing the European Union,
 - by creating an economic and monetary union and
 - by extending European integration to new areas, the Community has acquired a political dimension.

The Treaty of Amsterdam:

- Signed after two years of discussion and negotiation in IGC
- The main concerns and goals of this IGC were:
 - the role of the European Union on the international stage,
 - improvements in the working of the institutions, and
 - the prospect of enlargement
- Agreed that
 - more decisions would be taken by qualified majority instead of unanimity.
 - increased the supranational dimension of the EU.
 - allows individual Member States to cooperate more closely with each other in certain areas (Pillar I – economic, and Pillar III – justice and home affairs), where they choose to do so.
 - This is a process known as “enhanced co-operation.”

The Treaty of Nice:

- ❑ The Treaty of Nice of 2003 introduced necessary changes to prepare for the accession of new coming ten Member States.
- ❑ It re-distributed the number of votes allocated to Member States in the Council to take greater account of factors such as the population of the Member States.
- ❑ The number of seats in the European Parliament was also changed to reflect the new, increased membership.
- ❑ The Treaty streamlined the size and structure of the European Commission in order to make it more efficient.
- ❑ Enhanced cooperation was redesigned with the agreement of fewer states needed to reach a decision.

The Constitutional Treaty:

- ❑ 1,5 years of “Convention on the Future of Europe” work
- ❑ 2004, leaders of the EU's Member States signed the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.
- ❑ The Constitutional Treaty
 - consolidates and simplifies the EU's structure
 - merges the EC and EU treaties into one text.
 - The powers, rights and duties of the EU.
 - Institutions more transparent, more efficient and better able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- ❑ Introduces new institutional roles
 - the full-time President of the European Council
 - the EU Minister for Foreign Affairs
- ❑ Amends the number of votes allocated to each Member State: reflect factors such as population.

Rejection of the Constitutional Treaty:

- ❑ For the Treaty to come into force, all Member States must ratify it.
- ❑ Some member states opted for the public referendum vote in order to approve the Constitution for EU at their national parliaments.
- ❑ Treaty has been approved by: Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.
- ❑ Referenda in France and the Netherlands resulted in majority votes against ratification of the Treaty.
- ❑ At the European Council in June 2004, Heads of State and Government recognised the need for a period of reflection
- ❑ Member States agreed to come back to the matter in the first half of 2006 to agree on how to proceed.

Treaty of Lisbon:

- The **Treaty of Lisbon** the **Reform Treaty**
 - to streamline the workings of the European Union (EU)
 - amendments to the Treaty on European Union (TEU, Maastricht) and the Treaty establishing the European Community (TEC, Rome)
- Prominent changes:
 - more qualified majority voting in the EU Council,
 - Strengthening of European Parliament in the legislative process
 - reduction of the number of Commissioners from 27 to 18
 - eliminating the pillar system
 - the creation of a President of the European Council and a High Representative for Foreign Affairs

PART II: EU INTEGRATION IN BRIEF

Topic - 4: Significance of European integration

- ❑ So far, we analyzed how the European Union, as a Union uniting states and citizens was formed and redesigned over the half century.
- ❑ What is now we call the European Union is the most advanced form of regional international economic (and political) integration achieved to date.
- ❑ During half a century, the European Union has pursued ever-deeper integration while taking in new members.

Topic - 4: Significance of European integration

□ A pertinent question hereby can be asking how EU integration takes place.

1- Integration is social process because it goes slowly. It is not done at once. For example Internal Market of the EU was created over 35 years.

2- Integration a process of increasing interaction between states. At the EU, this interaction is both Supranational and Intergovernmental.

Supranational interaction pools powers of member states at the “EU bodies”, whereas intergovernmental policies need the final approval from the member states.

- Cooperation is intergovernmental
- Integration (in principal) is supranational

Topic - 4: Significance of European integration:

	Intergovernmental	Supranational
Sovereignty	No transfer	Transfer
Decision making	Unanimity	Majority
Application capability	Indirect application	Direct application

Topic - 4: Significance of European integration

How EU integration takes place:

3- Integration requires a conviction, a belief that your own interest is better served by working together than alone.

□ Yet, integration is not only altruistic, it is also egoistic; I integrate because I see my advantage. It is also based on self interest.

4- You can not have Integration without creation of a new Power centre to manage interactions between states to make the goals clear a power centre should be based on the principle of supranationality which is above state. Brussels is the centre of the EU in that regard.

5- You need a shift of loyalties, from people away from old centre to the new power centre because you will need legitimacy.

□ Because of these reasons, member states have been integrating under the umbrella of the EU.

Topic – 5: European Economic Integration

- The economic dimension of the European integration process is - most sophisticated area of cooperation
 - the common market
 - the common currency.
- To achieve economic integration, the founding treaties provided for **common policies** in trade, agriculture, competition, and transport.
- Member States agreed to add new sectors - research and technology, energy, the environment, education, and training.
- The EU is also addressing policy in sectors such as telecommunications and the **information society**.
- National economies are interlinked in a variety of ways in a number of political economy areas.
- Several economic policy areas are no longer exclusively in the hands of these member states.

Topic – 5: European Economic Integration

Main Types of Economic Integration 2. Stage of Economic Integration

Summary	No visible trade restriction	Common external trade restriction	No invisible trade restriction	Free mobility of factors of production and assets	Harmonization of national policies	Unification of monetary, fiscal and social policies
Free trade area	X					
Custom unions	X	X				
Internal commodity market	X	X	X			
Common market	X	X	X	X		
Economic union	X	X	X	X	X	
Total Economic integration	X	X	X	X	X	X

Topic – 6: European Political Integration

- Theory of “spill over”
 - the economic integration of the EU went hand in hand with the political integration.
- Political integration - slower than the economic integration
 - the strong presence of member states in political issues.
- Political integration - member states pooling their **sovereignties** to new central organs of the EU.
- process of intensifying political cooperation in Europe and the development of common political institutions.
- The European Union is ultimately the most appropriate **response to globalisation** and the globalisation of economic, political and social problems.
- This deepening success of the EU also led the way to the widening success.

Topic – 7: Enlargement / Widening of the EU

- ❑ Enlargement - among EU's most powerful policy tools.
- ❑ Today's EU, 27 Member States and 500 million people
 - safer
 - more prosperous
 - stronger
 - more influential than the original EU of 50 years ago, with its 6 members and population of less than 200 million.
- ❑ EU, a community of values- peace and freedom, democracy and the rule of law, tolerance and solidarity
- ❑ World's largest economic zone.
- ❑ The wider internal market and new economic opportunities
 - prosperity and competitiveness.
 - secure vital transport and energy routes.
- ❑ Enlargement - EU's strategic interests in stability, security, and conflict prevention.

Topic – 7: Enlargement / Widening of the EU

- The present enlargement agenda covers the Western Balkans and Turkey - perspective of becoming EU members once they fulfill the necessary conditions.
- More competitive and responding globalisation.
 - Enlargement enhanced the EU's weight in the world. Enlargement is central to Europe's response to globalisation.
 - Previous enlargement experiences show it is the best instrument to resist the challenge of globalisation.
- The 10 new Member States' economies are growing at a rapid pace - bridge the gap with their better off neighbours.
- Enlargement increased the volume of European trade, EU GDP, and created jobs. Enlarging and uniting has made EU stronger.
- Modernisation in the EU as a whole
 - a timely force given the sudden emergence of China and India on the World scene.
 - Enlargement produces the inner dynamics for the reforms which also served the EU to face the challenges brought by the international developments.

PART III: CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE EUROPEAN POLITICS

Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

- The notion of “civil society” - interest to the European Union - popularity in EU politics because of its close attachment to the key concerns of the EU political arena:
 - **the democratic gap**
 - **the legitimacy problem.**
- decision making mainly dominated by Brussels political elite. – delivering EU acquis
- EU decision making has concrete achievements / it has been criticized for separated from issues of democracy and legitimacy. - There is a so-called ‘democratic deficit’ of EU institutions.
- perception of a legitimacy crisis has gained wide acceptance among the EU public, Member States and academia.
- need to understand the definition of the Union itself; **The EU is more than an Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) and less than a state.**

Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

- EU's legitimacy and democratic deficit - **lack of full apparatus of representative democracy**,
 - EU wide political parties,
 - elections which could change a government,
 - local level participatory politics,
 - EU wide public space and EU.
- EU **lacks a "general public"; the citizens are not politically mobilised by EU affairs.**
- **EU decision-making is widely criticized as to be eurocratic / elitist and too much Brussels-driven.**
- The capacity of institutions to arouse the sense of fidelity has been criticized of being weak.
- Although the European Parliament is directly elected by the EU citizens, EU is confronted by the problem of **weak participation of citizens to the European Parliament elections.**

Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

- ❑ In an increasing manner, **EU institutions have had recourse to participation of civil society in the decision making process.**
- ❑ Two of the EU institutions have taken a leading role in the endeavour on the improved legitimacy through civil society participation: the Commission and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).
- ❑ **Civil society** - tool to make European politics more legitimate by strengthening Union's democratic structures and processes .
- ❑ Thus, civil society is expected to play a prominent role.
- ❑ The actual understanding of the Civil Society started to be shaped with the **reflection process on the role of the interest groups in the EU** in the beginning of 1990s.
- ❑ During this reflection period the term "civil society" replaced the interest groups.
- ❑ As the consequence of the consultation that lasted during the 90's, the participation of civil society in decision-making processes has become a political imperative at the European Union level.

Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

- ❑ This long process of consultation on “civil society” has come into a conclusion with the publication of the **White Paper on European governance** in July 2001.
- ❑ The White Paper described a reinforced role for civil society and fits in the objectives to make decision making process more open and transparent.
- ❑ In that regard, the further involvement of the civil society within the Union’s policy making is seen as a way to lessening the gap between EU citizens and the EU itself.
- ❑ The European Commission’s 2001 White Paper on Governance focused on the role that ‘civil society’ could and should play in the process of further democratizing decision-making in the European Union.
- ❑ The White Paper identifies the main principles of good governance as the “**openness, participation, accountability, effectiveness and coherence**”.
- ❑ Moreover the White Paper stated that the inclusive civil society definition elaborated by the EESC is recommended.

Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

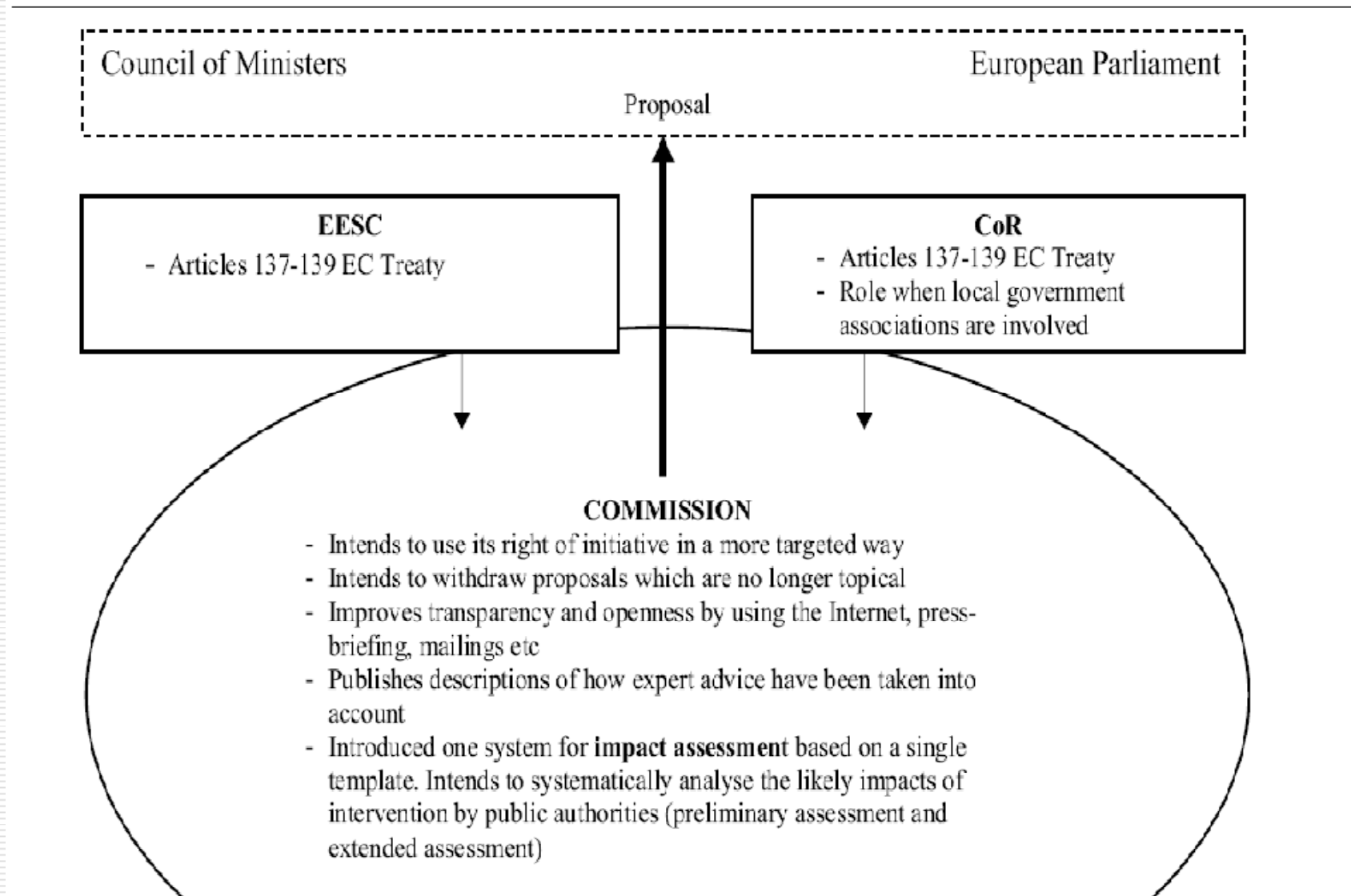
In that regard:

- *The civil society can be defined only loosely, as a society that embraces democracy. Civil society is a collective term for all types of social action, by individuals or groups that do not emanate from the state and are not run by it.*
- *"The organized civil society includes in particular the `actors of the labour market', i.e. the two sides of industry, representative organizations of the socio-economic sector in a larger sense, which are not the two sides of industry, NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), etc.*
- From the point of the Commission, an important aspect of the debate on the role of the civil society is the need for civil society organizations to behave as representative and accountable democratic bodies participating in the policy making process.

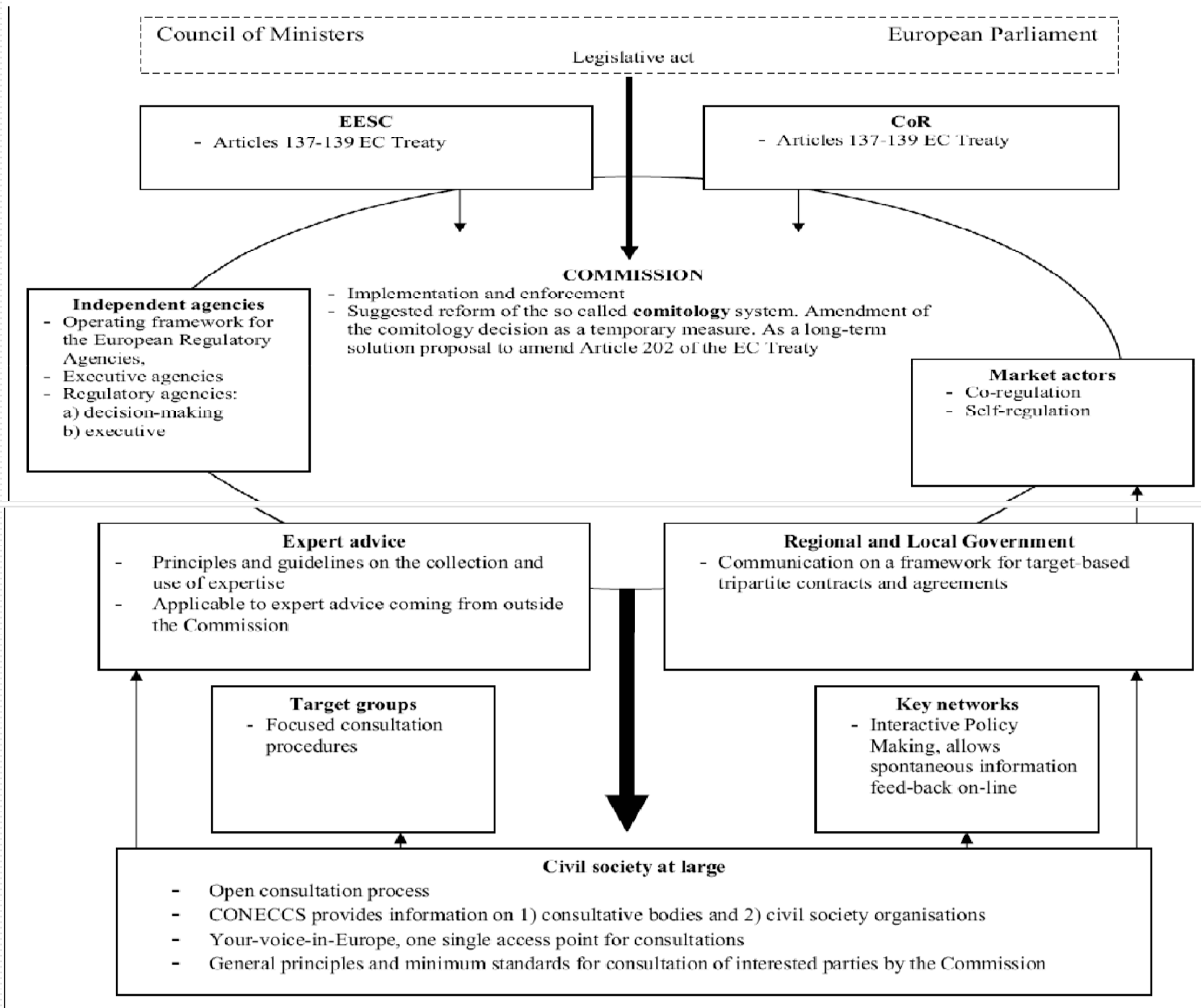
Topic - 8: What is the role of the civil society organization in European Integration?

- ❑ Commission: almost all Commission Directorates-General have contacts with the civil society and other interested parties
- ❑ The Commission - decentralised manner - dialogue and consultation.
- ❑ Wide consultation among relevant stakeholders is one of the duties of the Commission according to the Treaties.
- ❑ European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - specific consultation framework
- ❑ "Social dialogue" by which the Commission consults the social partners at European level.
- ❑ According to the model proposed by the European Commission, participatory democracy is conceived as a bottom-up model.
- ❑ At this bottom-up model, civil society is enabled to make inputs in order to shape and influence the political processes and outcomes.

Table 2
Phase One - The Governance Reform and Shaping of Policy



Phase Two – The Governance Reform and Implementation of Policy



Topic - 9: Civil Society Dialogue & Enlargement

- Commission developed a **civil society dialogue** between the EU and the all candidate countries.
- The official EU documents - any future enlargement of the EU needs a strong, deep and sustained dialogue between the societies of the candidate countries and the EU Member States, as well as with the EU institutions.
- **'Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges'** document: the European Union, Member States and candidate countries need to intensify their efforts to foster mutual knowledge and understanding, as well as to develop ownership of the common European project.
- **To bridge the information gap**, achieve better mutual knowledge and bring citizens and different cultures, political and economic systems closer together
 - ensuring a stronger awareness of the **opportunities** as well as the **challenges** of future accessions.

Topic - 9: Civil Society Dialogue & Enlargement

- The document sets the objective of civil society dialogue as follows:
 - strengthen contacts and mutual **exchange of experience** between all sectors of civil society in the Member States and Candidate Countries;
 - ensure a better knowledge and **understanding of the Candidate Countries** concerned within the European Union, including their history and culture, thus allowing a better awareness of the opportunities and challenges of future enlargement;
 - Ensure a better knowledge and understanding of the European Union within the candidate countries, including the values on which it is founded, **its functioning and its policies.**
- To support the further **development of a vibrant civil society in enlargement country**, which is a key to the **consolidation of democracy**, in line with the fulfilment of political criteria for accession.

Topic - 9: Civil Society Dialogue & Enlargement

- ❑ The document presents Civil Society Dialogue established with candidate country should be further developed.
- ❑ The Commission intends to extend this dialogue to further sectors of society and economy.
- ❑ It will broaden the dialogue in collaboration with the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions as well as with other bodies active in the field.
- ❑ It is important to involve the citizens in this dialogue and to address anxieties and misapprehensions.
- ❑ The document reaffirms Commission's support towards greater transparency as a means to bring the enlargement process closer to the citizens.

Topic - 9: Civil Society Dialogue & Enlargement

- ❑ The civil society development is a major area to be supported by IPA.
- ❑ civil society initiatives help to make the participating BROs
 - more efficient and effective in representing their members' interest and
 - strengthened the contribution they are able to make to policy-making, nationally and at European level.
- ❑ Civil society dialogue - EU acquis has to be applied by a wide variety of organisations and economic operators at business and civil level in the candidate and new member countries in addition to their national administrative bodies.
- ❑ the BSP programme and current ICTtrain project is an attempt to this civil society dialogue.
- ❑ To augment institution building facility assisting the operation of BROs and spreading their acquaintance on the acquis.

THANK YOU

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