

**THE IEUSS GUIDE TO THE  
SATURDAY SUNY MODEL EUROPEAN UNION**



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**Editors**

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## IEUSS GUIDE TO SATURDAY SUNY MODEL EUROPEAN UNION



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## About Saturday SUNYMEU

The SUNY Model European Union (SUNYEU) was founded in 1987 by the State University of New York (SUNY). SUNYMEU simulates policymaking at the ministerial and head of government levels in the European Union.

The Saturday (Fall) SUNYMEU is a one-day event. Saturday SUNYMEU simulates a European Council summit during the Presidency. With the EU facing a succession of crises in recent years “special” summits of European Councils occur much more often now than at the beginning/end of the Council Presidency with the European Council meeting on average seven times per year at the [Europa Building](#) in Brussels.

The overall purpose of Saturday SUNYMEU is to provide a framework for a partial simulation of the decision-making process of the European Union. The advance preparations and the simulation should give all participants a better understanding of the EU; of international and supranational organizations in general; of the EU Member States, their peoples, politics, and policies; and of major current issues of international relations. Also, the simulation should provide the participants with opportunities to develop their skills and techniques at negotiation and conflict resolution, public speaking, debate, expository writing, logic and reasoning, small-group dynamics, leadership, and problem-solving.

### SUNYMEU is a Student Activity

SUNYMEU can be listed as a student activity on your resume. Suggested entry: “Participated in the intercollegiate SUNY Model European Union, Fall 2023, a student-led and student-run simulation and leadership activity. SUNY Fredonia – Represented INSERT COUNTRY NAME.”

### Location

SUNY Fredonia hosts Saturday SUNYMEU in the Williams Student Center. Park in Lots 9A-C.

### Meetings

Saturday SUNYMEU has two meetings taking place simultaneously: European Council (HOGs) and the Foreign Affairs Council (foreign ministers). The European Council President chairs the European Council meeting, working in close cooperation with the delegation playing the Spanish Presidency of the Council (formerly called the “Council of Ministers”), which is in place from 1 July – 31 December 2023. The High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy chairs the FAC, assisted by the Spanish Foreign Minister. The “output” of the simulation will take the form of “**Statement of the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union**” and “**Statement by the European Council regarding progress in African Union-European Union Partnership.**” The agenda items are edited via google drive, with the final document agreed through a unanimous vote conducted by the respective chairs. The statements will be posted to the SUNYMEU website to enable all participants to download and print for inclusion in their dossiers.

# Saturday SUNYMEU Program

November 4, 2023  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
SUNY Fredonia University  
Williams Center

- 9:45-10:00 a.m.                    **Check-in (Williams Center - Lobby)**  
Coffee & Pastries Service
- 10:00 – 10:15 p.m.                **Spanish Presidency Opens SUNYMEU**  
Williams Center - Second Floor
- 10:15-11:45 a.m.                **Functional Meetings: Morning Session**  
European Council –Second Floor  
Foreign Affairs Council –Second Floor
- 12:00-1:00 p.m.                 **LUNCH**  
**Cranston Dining Hall**
- Professor Rushboldt will distribute lunch tickets
- 1:15-2:45 p.m.                    **Functional Meetings: Afternoon Session 1**  
European Council –Second Floor  
Foreign Affairs Council –Second Floor
- 2:45-3:00 p.m.                    **Certificates of Completion and Photos**

## **Tips for Preparation**

Students preparing to participate in SUNYMEU should concentrate their efforts on these activities:

- Gaining an understanding of the structure and dynamics of the European Union, especially those institutions that are included in the simulation in which the student is participating.
- Learning as much as possible about the policies currently of concern to the European Union and its Member States.
- Acquiring an understanding of the domestic and international concerns of the Member State to be represented.
- Improving their skills at negotiating, conflict resolution, parliamentary procedure, parliamentary prose, public speaking, debate, and logic and reasoning.
- Learning about the specific person to be represented, i.e., the alter ego of the student-participant.

The EU is widely studied and reported. The IEUSS maintains a website with resources for learning about and staying current about the EU. The visitor will find links to the official website of the European Union, thinktanks, current periodicals, report depositories and so forth. Please bookmark: <https://ieuss.buffalostate.edu/resources>

### Agenda Items

(see bibliography in the agenda document)

### **Africa-EU Partnership**

[AU-EU Summits](#)

[Europe-Africa Relations in a Multi-Crisis World](#)

### **Israel-Hamas Conflict**

Watch PBS Frontline [Shattered Dreams of Peace/Israeli-Palestinian Relations](#)

(1:54) Revisit FRONTLINE's seminal documentary on how the Israeli-Palestinian peace process begun at Oslo was derailed and ultimately undone by the dynamics of politics and violence on both sides. (aired 2002)

### **Opening Accession Negotiations with Ukraine**

European Commission. (2022). Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council and the Council. [Commission Opinion on Ukraine's application for membership of the European Union](#). COM (2022) 407 Final.

## Alter Egos

A complete list of country delegation assignments is available on the Saturday SUNYMEU webpage.

### **Saturday SUNYMEU simulates the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union and the European Council.**

Each Member State will be represented by a **head of government** (prime minister, chancellor or president), who acts as head of their delegation and a **foreign minister**. See Table 3 for a list of the EU's institutions.

### **European Council**

The European Council is a gathering of “the big shots” of the European Union, i.e., the Heads of State or Government of the member states.<sup>1</sup> (The term “Heads of State *or* Government” is used because in semi-presidential or presidential systems—examples include Cyprus, France, and Poland—the Head of State is also the Head of Government.) The Heads of Government (HOGS)<sup>2</sup> meet in the European Council (often called “EU summits”). The European Council makes declarations, acting as a “board of directors,” that it expects the Commission and/or Council to act on in the near future. So, while the Commission drafts legislation and the Council and the European Parliament revise and pass legislation, the European Council meets in summits to discuss longer-range issues and issue policy statements. It sets the overall direction of the EU in these policy statements, especially in its “Conclusions,” at the end of an EU Presidency. This means that its policies should be as clear as possible so that the institutions (Commission, Parliament, and Council) draft (Commission) and revise and pass (Council and Parliament are co-legislative bodies) the supporting legislation.

Under the Lisbon Treaty, only Heads of State or Government, the European Council President, and the Commission President are European Council members, although the latter two cannot vote. The European Council thus has a membership of 29. Virtually all European Council decisions are taken by unanimous agreement of the member states. The European Council is required by treaty to meet at least four times per year.

**European Council meetings are chaired by the President of the European Council**, who is elected by qualified majority of the members of the European Council for a 2½ year term, renewable once. In practice, both first two Presidents – Herman van Rompuy (2009-14), who was the Belgian Prime Minister at the time of his appointment, and Donald Tusk (2014-19), who was the Polish Prime Minister, served five-year terms. The third President, Charles

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<sup>1</sup>A guide to the European Council is available at: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/members/>

<sup>2</sup> Participants should be mindful of the distinction between head of government and head of state. In constitutional monarchies the prime minister is head of government and the monarch is head of state. In parliamentary republics, the HOG is the prime minister or chancellor and the head of state is typically called “president.”

Michel, who was the Belgian Prime Minister at the time of his appointment in July 2019, served his initial term of office from December 2019 until May 31, 2022. On March 24, 2022, Michel was re-elected President for a second term. The powers of the President are defined only vaguely (in Article 15 TEU), but they are enough to give this individual the potential to exercise important policy roles.

## **Council of the European Union**

(Commonly referred to just as “the Council”)

Ministers represent their national governments through the EU institution called “the Council.” All ministers act, in effect, as the representatives of the interests of their Member States in the policy areas for which they are responsible. As nearly as is possible in the European Union today, ministers are charged to look after their national interests rather than a vague European-wide interest, though they try to bring these two interests together. So, they are the guardians of the national interest. All ministers are active politicians in the partisan politics of their home countries, which gives them specific partisan and ideological orientations as well. They endeavour to ensure that nothing is decided that will undermine their respective national policies.

The Council meets in ten configurations (see Box 1), with ministers from each of the member states represented on each of the councils.<sup>3</sup> While the Council sits in ten different configurations, its decisions are made in the name of “the Council.” The Council’s seat is in Brussels with some meetings taking place in Luxembourg. For students who are familiar with federal systems, one might think of the Council as the chamber representing regions, but one which sits in committees rather than in plenary. Indeed, it has sometimes been observed that while the Council is undoubtedly a legislative body, it is the only legislative body in democratic system that deliberates and legislates in committees rather than in the whole.

### *Foreign Ministers*

This formation of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Foreign Ministers, who deal with all aspects of foreign policy, meet in the Foreign Affairs Council. Foreign Ministers also often make up the composition of the General Affairs Council (GAC), especially when there are particularly important matters on the agenda. The GAC is chaired by the rotating Council Presidency.

SUNYMEU foreign ministers should learn about the political and ideological orientation of their alter egos. It is important to keep in mind that in coalition governments a minister’s political party may differ from that of their HOG.

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<sup>3</sup> See <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/configurations/> for links to each Council configuration.



## Box 1 Configurations, Council of the European Union

General Affairs <sup>4</sup>
<b>Foreign Affairs</b> (Saturday SUNYMEU)
Economic and Financial Affairs (Ecofin)
Justice and Home Affairs
Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs
Competitiveness (Internal Market, Industry, Research)
Transport, Telecommunications and Energy
Agriculture and Fisheries
Environment
Education, Youth, Culture and Sport

### Council Presidency

The Council Presidency rotates between states on a six-monthly basis. **SPAIN HOLDS THE PRESIDENCY DURING SATURDAY SUNYMEU.**

The Presidency chairs all Council meetings **except** meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC), which are chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. The foreign minister of Spain will chair FAC when the High Rep is unavailable.

The Council Presidency is a key device for organizing and carrying out the work of the Council over the six-month period. While member states bring one or two priorities that they hope will leave a positive legacy—"during the Swedish Presidency the EU achieved..."—real world (unexpected) events can sometimes derail proposed plans. .  
[Information](#) about how the Council Presidency functions.

### The High Representative/Vice President of the Commission and the EEAS

In effect, the HR/VP is the "Union Minister for Foreign Affairs," but this "symbolically charged" title (in the failed Constitutional Treaty) was dropped and replaced with the more cumbersome title of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

The HR's institutional position is complex, with the incumbent having a base in both the Commission and the Council. In the Commission, the HR/VP is the Commissioner for External Relations. In the Council, the HR/VP chairs the Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) – more on the FAC, below. The HR also heads the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's diplomatic corps created in the Lisbon treaty (in a responsibility that parallels the

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<sup>4</sup>The General Affairs Council (GAC) deals with policies that cut across several policy areas such as enlargement and preparation of the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The GAC also coordinates the preparation and follow-up of European Council meetings. Its members can be foreign ministers, permanent representatives, European Affairs ministers—the choice of representative depends upon the policy area under consideration and the judgment of the member state.

foreign minister's management function in national governments).

The HR's roles are established in the TEU as being ones of proposer, promoter, facilitator, and implementer. The HR is not a major independent decision-maker: the making of key policy decisions is left to the European Council and the Council of Ministers.

It was hoped by many observers that the HR would be able to give the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) a significant external boost, not least by giving it a "human face." But the TEU built in uncertainty in this regard with Article 15, which covers the responsibilities of the European Council President: "The President of the European Council shall, at his level and in that capacity, ensure the external representation of the Union on issues concerning its common foreign and security policy, without prejudice to the powers of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy."

### Council Voting

Unanimity is required areas that are highly sensitive, such as in the Commons Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). **Thus, unanimity is used for voting during Saturday SUNYMEU due to the nature of the topics under debate.**

Statements made by the European Council usually provide **broad policy outlines**, with details and arrangements for their implementation being left to the Council (of Ministers) and the European Commission. Most major policy matters of concern to the EU are required to be at least passed through the European Council. In some policy areas, such as enlargement, treaty reform, and withdrawals from the EU, the European Council takes **final decisions**. In many other policy areas – from the identification of major foreign policy goals to considering which Member States should be permitted to join the euro system – the European Council sets out policy statements that act as guidelines other EU institutions must then follow.

## **Saturday SUNYMEU Seating Order**

### **1. European Council seating order.**

The Presidencies and the European Commission president take the central position in circular formation or sit at the head of the room. The member states' representatives sit according to the official EU listing order<sup>5</sup>, which is by Presidency rather than alphabetical order and rotate counter-clockwise around the table.

Hence, starting from the member holding the rotating presidency (Spain for Saturday SUNYMEU 2023), the seating order is as follows: Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Denmark, Cyprus, Ireland, Lithuania, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Slovakia, Malta, Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria, Romania, Finland, Croatia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, France, Czechia, Sweden.

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<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2016/07/26/council-rotating-presidencies-revised-order/>

## 2. **Foreign Affairs Council** Seating Order.

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) follows the same seating order rules as above but is chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (rather than the foreign minister holding from the EU member state holding the EU's presidency).

### **Conduct of Meetings**

All participants should be familiar with Roberts' Rules of Order (parliamentary procedure). Participants should also review the proper forms for addressing chairs. For those readers who have never participated in a meeting that uses parliamentary procedure, this [video](#) offers a good introduction.

With **smaller meetings** the chair should attempt to use "Rules for Debate in Small Committees." Chairs should use their discretion whether to use Roberts' Rules of Order (parliamentary procedure) or rules for debate in small committees.

### **Rules for Debate in Small Committees**

The rules for small committee meetings are different from the rules (parliamentary procedure) that apply to large meetings of assemblies or plenary bodies.

1. Members are not required to obtain the floor before making motions or speaking, which they can do while seated.
2. There is no limit to the number of times a member can speak to a question, and motions to close or limit debate generally are not allowed. (Note: In practice, even these motions are in fact usually allowed.)
3. Informal discussion of a subject is permitted while no motion is pending.
4. Sometimes, when a proposal is perfectly clear to all present, a vote can be taken without a motion having been introduced. Unless agreed by general consent, however, all proposed actions of a committee must be approved by vote under the same rules as an assembly.

### **Parliamentary Procedure (Roberts' Rules of Order)**

These should be used for larger meetings that cannot be run more informally. How formal meetings should be is a matter for the chair to decide based on progress achieved. If the small committee rules are not allowing the business to progress, the chair should consider using Robert's Rules of Order.

### *Basic Principles of Parliamentary Procedure*

1. Parliamentary procedure exists to facilitate the transaction of business and to promote cooperation and harmony.
2. All members have equal rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. The majority has the right to decide.
4. The minority has rights which must be protected.
5. A quorum must be present for the group to act. Full and free discussion of every motion considered is a basic right.
6. Only one question at a time can be considered at any given time.
7. Members have the right to always know what the immediately pending question is, and to have it restated before a vote is taken.
8. No member can speak until recognized by the chair.
9. No one can speak a second time on the same question if another wants to speak a first time.
10. The chair should be strictly impartial.

### *Rules Governing Parliamentary Debate<sup>6</sup>*

1. A member may not speak until recognized by the chair.
2. When no special rule relating to the length of speeches is adopted by the group, a member can speak no longer than ten minutes unless the consent of the group is obtained.
3. Rights in debate are not transferable. A member cannot yield an unexpired portion of their time to another member (the chair controls who speaks) or reserve any portion of time for later.
4. No member may be allowed to speak more than twice to the same question on the same day.
5. Proper decorum in debate must be observed:
6. Remarks must be germane to the question before the group.
7. Speakers should speak loudly and clearly.
8. Speakers should refrain from attacking another member's motives.
9. Remarks should be addressed through the chair.
10. Speakers should stand when speaking.
11. If any member objects, a speaker has no right to read from or to have the secretary read from any paper or book as part of his/her speech, without permission of the assembly.

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<sup>6</sup> The term “debate” applies to the discussion on the merits of a pending question.

Table 1 Frequent Things You Want to Do

<b>Objective</b>	<b>Appropriate Motion</b>
Present an idea for consideration or action	Main motion or Resolution; Consider subject informally
Improve a pending motion	Amend; Division of the question
Regulate or cut-off debate	Limit or extend debate; Previous question (vote immediately)
Delay a decision	Refer to committee; Postpone definitely; Postpone indefinitely (kills motion)
Suppress a proposal	Object to consideration; Postpone indefinitely; Withdraw a motion
Meet an emergency	Question of privilege; Suspend rules; Lay on the table
Gain information on a pending motion	Parliamentary inquiry; Request for information; Question of privilege; Request to ask member a
Question the decision of the chair	Point of order; Appeal from decision of the chair
Enforce rights and privileges	Division of assembly; Division of question; Parliamentary inquiry;
Point of order	Appeal from decision of chair
Consider a question again	Resume consideration; Reconsider; Rescind
Change an action already taken	Reconsider; Rescind; Amend motion previously adopted
Terminate a meeting	Adjourn; Recess

*Handling a Motion*

Three steps by which a motion is brought before the group:

- Step 1: A member makes a motion.
- Step 2: Another member seconds the motion.
- Step 3: The chair states the question on the motion.

Three steps in the consideration of a motion:

- Step 1: The members debate the motion (unless no member claims the floor for that purpose).
- Step 2: The chair puts the question to a vote.
- Step 3: The chair restates the question.

The chair takes the vote:

- "All in favor of the motion, say aye."
- "Those opposed, say no."

The chair announces the result of a vote. A complete announcement should include:

- Report on the voting itself, stating which side prevailed (and giving the count if a count prevailed).
- Declaration that the motion is adopted or lost.
- Statement indicating the effect of the vote or ordering its execution.

-Where applicable, announcement of the next item of business or stating the question of the next motion that consequently comes up for a vote.

## Box 2 Terms use in Parliamentary Procedure

### **Terms used in Parliamentary Procedure**

#### *Point of Order*

If a member feels the rules are not being followed, he uses this motion. It requires the chair to make a ruling and enforce the rules. Avoid overuse; save it for when someone's rights are being violated.

#### *Point of Personal Privilege*

Another phrase used for a *Question of Privilege*. An urgent request or motion relating to the privileges of a member of the assembly. This is used if a participant wishes to raise a question, leave the room for an extended time, or make a request to personal comfort.

#### *Point of information*

A nonparliamentary question about business at hand. This is used when a participant seeks clarification on a matter.

## **Chairing Meetings**

Effective chairing is crucial for an enjoyable experience in SUNYMEU. All chairs should practice chairing meetings prior to SUNYMEU using both procedures for small meetings and parliamentary procedure.

### *Who Chairs & Facilitates Meetings?*

- The President of the European Council chairs the European Council meeting.
- The President of the European Council may ask the HOG of the Presidency team to co-chair, which may make keeping track of procedure and minutes easier.
- The Foreign Affairs Council is chaired by the High Representative. The High Rep is assisted by the foreign minister holding the Council Presidency (Spain). Spain will chair FAC in the High Rep's absence.

### *Chair's Powers*

The Chair will decide on the closure of debate, but a participant must move for closure, and be given a maximum of one minute to explain their rationale. If at least two other participants second the motion, it will immediately be put to a vote, and requires the support of at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the participants to be successful. The Chair will declare the debate closed if the vote is successful. The same rules apply for closure of debate.

### Box 3 Checklist for Meeting Chairs

#### **Checklist for Meeting Chairs**

1. Be brief.
2. Exercise leadership.
3. Speak with authority.
4. Stand above petty differences.
5. Maintain an orderly meeting.
6. To control others, control yourself.
7. Keep the assembly informed.
8. Be modest.
9. Be patient.
10. Show interest.
11. Retain objectivity.
12. Seek to understand people.
13. Be alert.
14. Analyze.
15. Synthesize.
16. Be ready to phrase and rephrase remarks.
17. Be judicious in your power as Chair.

## Brief Primer on the European Union

We recommend that readers who are new to EU studies view this video, “[How does the EU work?](#)” (Other videos such as the EU’s history and the Eurozone can be found on the [IEUSS Resources](#) webpage.) Table 2 contains key information on the EU’s 27 member states.

### EU Member States & the EU’s Neighbours

The European Union was established as the European Economic Community (EEC) with the Treaty of Rome (1957). The six founding states were: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Italy, and West Germany (now Germany). States that wish to be considered for EU membership must be European and satisfy the Copenhagen Criteria.<sup>7</sup> Membership of the EU is preceded by lengthy accession negotiations. There have been several “enlargement rounds” in the European Community’s/EU’s history, which has resulted in states joining the EU in the following years as listed in Box 4.

#### Box 4 Enlargement Rounds

1973	Denmark, Ireland, the U.K. (the UK left the EU January 31, 2020)
1981	Greece
1986	Portugal and Spain
1995	Austria, Finland, and Sweden
2004	Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovenia, Estonia, Cyprus, Malta
2007	Bulgaria and Romania
2013	Croatia

Membership in the European Union is formally recognized in **accession treaties**. There are currently eight countries seeking EU membership, as listed in Box 5:

#### Box 5 Candidates and Potential Candidates for EU Membership

- Montenegro (negotiations underway)
- Serbia (negotiations underway)
- Turkey (negotiations underway)
- Albania (European Council approved the opening of accession talks in March 2020)
- The Republic of North Macedonia (European Council approved the opening of accession talks in March 2020)
- Moldova (European Council granted candidacy status, June 2022)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (European Council granted candidacy status, December 2022)
- Ukraine (European Council granted Ukraine’s candidacy application, June 2022)
- Kosovo (promised prospect of joining)

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<sup>7</sup> Applicants must: have market economies; have democracies maintaining the highest standards for civil rights and civil liberties; and be capable of applying EU laws and policies (the *acquis*).



Three other European countries—Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland—are not EU members, although they clearly qualify for membership.<sup>8</sup>

Table 2 Key Information on EU Member States

Member State (listed by population size)	2018 Population (millions)	% of Pop	Euro per capita	Surface Area (1000 sq.km)	Size of GDP (million euro)	Euro Member	Schengen Member
Germany	82,850,000	16.18	39,600	357	3,277,340	X	X
France	67,221,943	13.12	34,200	551	2,291,705	X	X
Italy	60,483,973	11.84	28,500	302	1,724,955	X	X
Spain	46,659,302	9.10	25,100	506	1,166,319	X	X
Poland	37,976,687	7.43	12,200	312	467,167		X
Romania	19,523,621	3.82	9,500	238	187,517		
Netherlands	17,118,084	3.37	43,000	42	737,048	X	X
Belgium	11,413,058	2.24	38,700	31	439,052	X	X
Greece	10,738,868	2.10	16,700	130	180,218	X	X
Czechia	10,610,055	2.07	18,100	79	191,643		X
Portugal	10,291,027	2.01	18,900	92	467,167	X	X
Sweden	10,120,242	1.98	47,200	438	475,224		X
Hungary	9,778,371	1.91	12,700	93	124,050		X
Austria	8,822,267	1.74	42,100	83	369,899	X	X
Bulgaria	7,050,034	1.38	7,300	110	51,663		
Denmark	5,781,190	1.12	50,800	43	292,806		X
Finland	5,513,130	1.08	40,600	338	223,843	X	X
Slovakia	5,443,120	1.06	15,600	49	84,850	X	X
Ireland	4,838,259	0.93	61,200	70	23,615	X	
Croatia	4,105,493	0.81	11,800	57	48,990	X	X
Lithuania	2,808,901	0.56	14,900	65	42,191	X	X
Slovenia	2,066,880	0.40	20,800	20	43,000	X	X
Latvia	1,934,379	0.38	13,900	64	27,033	X	X
Estonia	1,319,133	0.26	18,000	45	23,615	X	X
Cyprus	864,236	0.17	22,800	0.9	19,570	X	
Luxembourg	602,005	0.12	92,600	0.3	55,299	X	X
Malta	475,701	0.09	24,100	0.3	11,295	X	X
TOTAL	446,409,959	100.0	30,000	4,358	15,377,371		

Most EU member states are linked to some neighbouring European states by what is known as the **Schengen Convention**, which provides for passport-free travel between the 27 signatory states. Croatia, the EU’s newest member is also the most recent EU member state

<sup>8</sup> [Latest information regarding candidate and potential candidates for EU membership](#)

to join the Schengen Area (January 1, 2023). Not all EU members have agreed to take part in the Schengen Agreement, but only certain countries that belonged to the EU prior to 2004 have the right to “opt-out” of Schengen. (Similar arrangements apply in respect of the adoption of the Euro, a subject to be covered under “policies.”) Ireland, although not a member of the passport-free zone, participates in some of the judicial and police aspects of the Schengen area. Three non-EU states are permitted to participate in the Schengen area—namely, Iceland, Norway, and Switzerland. Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania have not yet implemented Schengen, but are expected to do so once they have modernized border policing.

## **EU Treaties**

The EU is governed by treaties (rather than a constitution). Nevertheless, the treaties are interpreted and enforced (e.g., the levying of fines to constituent units in breach of treaty obligations) in a similar fashion as that of a federal constitution in federal states. Unlike the “anarchic” international system, the EU takes the form of a quasi-federal political system (though not a quasi-federal state). Until recently, a new treaty was negotiated every four or five years. The treaties are not stand-alone treaties but rather are reforming treaties that amend and build on the existing treaties. The latest reforming treaty is the Lisbon Treaty that came into effect in December 2009. Because the Lisbon Treaty was very difficult to ratify in some member states, there is now no great enthusiasm for further treaty reforms, even though after the crises of recent years reforms are perhaps necessary.

Since the founding treaties of the 1950s, later treaties have thus consisted primarily of making amendments and additions to earlier treaties. Inevitably, as new treaty articles have been created and old treaty articles have been removed, the treaty system has become unwieldy, and virtually incomprehensible to the layperson. The key point to know is that there are two main treaties: **The Treaty on European Union** and **The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union**. Together, the TEU and the TFEU form the legal basis for governance in the European Union. The TEU contains 55 articles and the TFEU 358.<sup>9</sup>

The broad distinction between the two treaties is that:

the [TEU](#) establishes the broad principles and operating structures of the European Union.

the [TFEU](#) deals mainly with the policies of the EU and with the details of how policies are made.

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<sup>9</sup> [Consolidated versions of the two treaties](#)

Table 3 EU Institutions (Shaded – the institutions we are simulating in Saturday SUNYMEU)

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Number of Members</b>	<b>Who are they?</b>	<b>Role</b>
European Commission	27	One per member state. Most are former national ministers	Several duties, including drafting legislation and overseeing policy implementation
Council (of Ministers)	27	Ministers of the member states plus the High Representative	Final decision-maker (increasingly with the EP) in respect of EU policies and legislation
European Parliament	751	Direct election (MEPs elected by country allotment)	Consultative & legislative powers depending upon “pillar”
European Council	29	Heads of government + the President of the Commission + the European Council President	Sets agenda/priorities. Makes some final (political, not legal) decisions.
European Court of Justice	27	One appointee per member state	Interprets the laws and treaties
Economic and Social Committee	329	Interest groups	Consultative
Committee of the Regions	350	Reps of local and regional governments	Consultative
Court of Auditors	27	One per member state	Examine EU revenues and expenses
European Ombudsman	1	Elected by European Parliament	Uncovers “maladministration”
Decentralized Agencies (approx. 30)		Independent legal entities under EU public law	Specialized policy areas such as food safety, environment, fisheries, energy regulators, border control, banking
Defence Agencies (3)			Defence, police & judicial cooperation
Financial Bodies (2)			European Central Bank European Investment Bank