INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

agreements concluded by the European Union and third countries within the sphere of competence of the EU

Art. 216 TFEU

«1. The Union may conclude an agreement with one or more third countries or international organisations where the Treaties so provide or where the conclusion of an agreement is necessary in order to achieve, within the framework of the Union’s policies, one of the objectives referred to in the Treaties, or is provided for in a legally binding Union act or is likely to affect common rules or alter their scope.

2. Agreements concluded by the Union are binding upon the institutions of the Union and on its Member States».

Art. 217 TFEU

«The Union may conclude with one or more third countries or international organisations agreements establishing an association involving reciprocal rights and obligations, common action and special procedure».

Art. 218 TFEU

Procedure for negotiating and concluding international agreements, involving Council, European Parliament (possibly, the ECJ)
SECONDARY LAW

- TYPICAL ACTS – Art. 288 TFEU
  - REGULATIONS | DIRECTIVES | DECISIONS (hard law)
  - OPINIONS | RECOMMENDATIONS (soft law)

- ATYPICAL ACTS
  - communications | resolutions | white papers | green papers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECONDARY LAW</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REGULATION</strong></td>
<td><strong>DIRECTIVE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binding in its entirety</td>
<td>binding as to the result to be achieved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>directly applicable in all Member States</td>
<td>IMPLEMENTATION IN MS = the choice of form and methods to achieve the result lies with the national authorities</td>
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<tr>
<td>*decision which specifies those to whom it is addressed shall be binding only on the addressees</td>
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INSTITUTIONS OF THE EU

ART. 13 TEU

- EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
- EUROPEAN COUNCIL
- COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (Council)
- EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EU
- EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
- COURT OF AUDITORS
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- max 750 members = MEPs (currently 705)
  every MS has a different number of MEPs according to its population

- 5 years’ term

- since 1979 directly elected by EU citizens
  representing citizens’ interests (not MS)

- groups formed according to affinities in political parties (not upon nationality)

- Strasbourg  |  Brussels  |  Luxembourg
 FUNCTIONS

➢ LEGISLATIVE
one of the legislative chambers of the EU

➢ BUDGETARY
monitoring on the expenditures

➢ SUPERVISORY
on the activities of other EU Institutions – general report
  ➢ question the Commission
  ➢ investigate (temporary Committees of Inquiry)
  ➢ receive petitions by EU citizens
  ➢ election of Ombudsman = civil mediator

➢ ELECTIVE
President of the EU Commission (proposed by the Council)
EU Commissioners (proposed by the Commission’s President)
European Council

27 Heads of State and Governments

President elected for a 2.5 years’ term

No legislative function, but

guideline function (objectives in CFSP + EU external action; broad guidelines on economic policies)

It can intervene in some areas foreseen by Treaties

Conclusions

Council (Council of the EU)

One representative for each MS, able to commit the government of that State and cast its vote → interests of the Governments

Different configurations (GA, FA, Economic and financial, Environment, JHA, …)

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTION (one chamber)

Supervisory functions on other institutions