

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The Commission is the politically independent institution that represents and upholds the interests of the EU as a whole. It is the driving force within the EU's institutional system: it proposes legislation, policies and programmes of action and it is responsible for implementing the decisions of Parliament and the Council.

Like the Parliament and Council, the European Commission was set up in the 1950s under the EU's founding treaties.

Who are the Commission?

The term "Commission" is used in two senses. First, it refers to the "Members of the Commission" - i.e. the team of 27 men and women appointed by the member states and Parliament to run the institution and take its decisions. Secondly, the term "Commission" refers to the institution itself and to its staff.

Informally, the Members of the Commission are known as "commissioners". They have all held political positions in their countries of origin, and many have been government ministers, but as Members of the Commission they are committed to acting in the interests of the Union as a whole and not taking instructions from national governments.

A new Commission is appointed every five years, within six months of the elections to the European Parliament. The procedure is as follows:

- The member state governments agree together on who to designate as the new Commission President.
- The Commission President-designate, in discussion with the member state governments, chooses the other 19 Members of the Commission.
- The new Parliament then interviews all members and gives its opinion on the entire "college". If approved, the new Commission can officially start work the following January.

The present Commission's term of office runs until 31 October 2014. Its President is José Manuel BARROSO.

The Commission remains politically answerable to Parliament, which has the power to dismiss it by adopting a motion of censure. The Commission attends all the sessions of Parliament, where it must clarify and justify its policies. It also replies regularly to written and oral questions posed by MEPs.

The day-to-day work of the Commission is done by its administrative officials, experts, translators, interpreters and secretarial staff. There are approximately 24 000 of these

European civil servants. That may sound a lot, but in fact it is fewer than the number of staff employed by most medium-sized city councils in Europe.

Far from being faceless bureaucrats, these people are ordinary citizens from every EU country, selected through competitive examinations and working together to build a strong and successful European Union.

Where is the Commission based?

The "seat" of the Commission is in Brussels (Belgium), but it also has offices in Luxembourg, representations in all EU countries and delegations in many capital cities around the world.

What does the Commission do?

The European Commission has four main roles:

1. to propose legislation to Parliament and the Council;
2. to manage and implement EU policies and the budget;
3. to enforce European law (jointly with the Court of Justice);
4. to represent the European Union on the international stage, for example by negotiating agreements between the EU and other countries.

1. Proposing new legislation

Under the Treaty, the Commission has the "right of initiative". In other words, the Commission alone is responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, which it presents to Parliament and the Council. These proposals must aim to defend the interests of the Union and its citizens, not those of specific countries or industries.

Before making any proposals, the Commission must be aware of new situations and problems developing in Europe and it must consider whether EU legislation is the best way to deal with them. That is why the Commission is in constant touch with a wide range of interest groups and with two advisory bodies - the Economic and Social Committee (made up of employers' and trade unions' representatives) and the Committee of the Regions (made up of representatives of local and regional authorities). It also seeks the opinions of national parliaments and governments.

The Commission will propose action at EU level only if it considers that a problem cannot be solved more efficiently by national, regional or local action. This principle of dealing with things at the lowest possible level is called the "subsidiarity principle".

If, however, the Commission concludes that EU legislation is needed, then it drafts a proposal that it believes will deal with the problem effectively and satisfy the widest possible range of

interests. To get the technical details right, the Commission consults the experts who make up its various committees and working groups.

2. Implementing EU policies and the budget

As the European Union's executive body, the Commission is responsible for managing and implementing the EU budget and the policies and programmes adopted by Parliament and the Council. Most of the actual work and spending is done by national and local authorities, but the Commission is responsible for supervising it.

One example of a policy actively managed by the Commission is competition policy: the Commission monitors cartels and mergers, and makes sure that EU countries do not subsidise their industries in such a way as to distort competition.

Examples of EU programmes managed by the Commission range from the "Interreg" and "Urban" programmes (creating cross-border partnerships between regions and helping regenerate declining urban areas) to the "Erasmus" programme of Europe-wide student exchanges.

The Commission handles the budget under the watchful eye of the Court of Auditors. Both institutions aim to ensure good financial management. Only if it is satisfied with the Court of Auditors' annual report does the European Parliament grant the Commission discharge for implementing the budget.

3. Enforcing European law

The Commission acts as "guardian of the Treaties". This means that the Commission, together with the Court of Justice, is responsible for making sure EU law is properly applied in all the member states.

If it finds that an EU country is not applying an EU law, and therefore not meeting its legal obligations, the Commission takes steps to put the situation right.

First it launches a legal process called the "infringement procedure". This involves sending the government an official letter, saying why the Commission considers this country is infringing EU law and setting it a deadline for sending the Commission a detailed reply.

If this procedure fails to put things right, the Commission must then refer the matter to the Court of Justice, which has the power to impose penalties. The Court's judgments are binding on the member states and the EU institutions.

4. Representing the EU on the international stage

The European Commission is an important mouthpiece for the European Union on the international stage. It enables the 15 member states to speak "with one voice" in international forums such as the World Trade Organisation.

The Commission also has the responsibility of negotiating international agreements on behalf of the EU. One example is the Cotonou Agreement, which sets out the terms of an important aid and trade partnership between the EU and developing countries in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.

How is the Commission's work organised?

It is up to the Commission President to decide which commissioner will be responsible for which policy area, and to reshuffle these responsibilities (if necessary) during the Commission's term of office. The President, with the Commission's approval, is also entitled to demand a commissioner's resignation.

The team of 27 commissioners (also known as "the College") meets once a week, usually on Wednesdays in Brussels. Each item on the agenda is presented by the commissioner responsible for that policy area, and the College takes a collective decision on it.

The Commission's staff is organised into several departments, known as "Directorates-General" (DGs) and "services" (such as the Legal Service).

Each DG is responsible for a particular policy area and is headed by a Director-General who is answerable to one of the commissioners.

It is the DGs that actually devise and draft the Commission's legislative proposals, but these proposals become official only when "adopted" by the College at its weekly meeting. The procedure is roughly as follows.

Suppose, for example, that the Commission sees a need for EU legislation to prevent pollution of Europe's rivers. The Directorate-General for the Environment will draw up a proposal, based on extensive consultations with European industry and farmers, with environment ministries in the member states and with environmental organisations.

The proposed legislation will then be discussed with all relevant Commission departments and amended if necessary. It will then be checked by the Legal Service and by the commissioners' "cabinets" (personal political staff).

Once the proposal is fully ready, the Secretary-General will put it on the agenda for a forthcoming Commission meeting. At this meeting, the Environment Commissioner will explain to his or her colleagues why this legislation is being proposed, and they will then discuss it. If there is agreement, the College will "adopt" the proposal and the document will be sent to Council and the European Parliament for their consideration.

If there is disagreement among the commissioners, the President will ask them to vote on it. If 11 or more are in favour, the proposal will be adopted. Thereafter it will have the unconditional support of all the Commission.

Size of the Commission

Previously there were two commissioners from each of the most heavily populated member states and one commissioner from each of the other EU countries. However, if this system were maintained after EU enlargement, the Commission would become too large to be workable.

The 2010-2014 Commission took up office on 09 February 2010, with only one Commissioner per country.

Members of the Commission 2010-2014

To view full list of Commissioners with photos [click here](#)

The Directorates-General and Services

POLICIES

[Agriculture](#)
[Competition](#)
[Economic and Financial Affairs](#)
[Education and Culture](#)
[Employment and Social Affairs](#)
[Energy and Transport](#)
[Enterprise](#)
[Environment](#)
[Fisheries](#)
[Freedom, security and justice](#)
[Health and Consumer Protection](#)
[Information Society](#)
[Internal Market](#)
[Joint Research Centre](#)
[Regional Policy](#)
[Research](#)
[Taxation and Customs Union](#)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

[Development](#)
[Enlargement](#)
[EuropeAid - Co-operation Office](#)
[External Relations](#)
[Humanitarian Aid Office - ECHO](#)
[Trade](#)

GENERAL SERVICES

[European Anti-Fraud Office](#)
[Eurostat](#)
[Budget](#)
[Press and Communication](#)
[Publications Office](#)
[Secretariat General](#)

INTERNAL SERVICES

[Financial Control](#)
[Group of Policy Advisers](#)
[Internal Audit Service](#)
[Joint Interpreting and Conference Service](#)
[Legal Service](#)
[Personnel and Administration](#)
[Translation Service](#)

Depending entities

- [Directorate A.I - International affairs I, in particular WTO negotiations](#)
- [Directorate A.II - International affairs II, in particular enlargement](#)
- [Directorate B - Relations with other institutions; communication and quality](#)
- [Directorate C - Markets in crop products](#)
- [Directorate D - Markets in livestock products; specialised crops and wine](#)
- [Directorate E - Rural development programmes](#)
- [Directorate F - Horizontal aspects of rural development; Sapard](#)
- [Directorate G - Economic analyses and evaluation](#)
- [Directorate H - Agricultural legislation](#)
- [Directorate I - Resource management](#)
- [Directorate J - Audit of agricultural expenditure](#)



Dacian CIOLOS
COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES

HIS TEAM

Georg HAEUSLER
Head of Cabinet

- Strategy and coordination
- Policy strategy (CAP policy outlook post 2013 and WTO Doha Development Agenda)
- Hebdo
- Personnel and administration
- Contact with the Director General

Sorin MOISA
Deputy Head of Cabinet

- Support the Head of Cabinet in strategy and coordination
- International relations
- External relations including Enlargement, European Neighbourhood Policy, Development, Humanitarian Aid and CFSP
- Institutional relations (and Group for Inter-institutional Relation - GRI)
- Contact with Romania
- JLS

Yves MADRE
Member of the Cabinet

- Agricultural markets
- Consultation process CAP post 2013
- AGRI Council coordination
- Simplification of CAP
- Enterprise and Industry
- Internal market

Ico VON WEDEL
Member of the Cabinet

- SAPARD, IPARD
- Audit, Budget, state aid
- Relations with the European Parliament (COCOBU, COBU)
- Discharge, OLAF
- Internal Audit Service and Audit Progress Committee, European Court of Auditors
- Competition policy
- Legal affairs in general (infringements, LS, Ombudsman, petitions)

Andrzej DYCHA
Member of the Cabinet

- Relations with EP (COMAGRI) and other stakeholders
- Direct payments
- Doha Development Agenda (under the coordination of HoC)
- Science and Research
- Information Society and Media

Alexandra CATALAO
Member of the Cabinet

- Agricultural markets
- Rural Development (programmes)
- Transport, Taxation and Customs Union
- Enlargement Agri

Alina UJUPAN
Member of the Cabinet (Adviser of the Commissioner)

- Rural Development (sustainability and quality of agriculture)
- POSEI
- Structural Funds
- ENV, SANCO, Energy, ECFIN
- Climate Change

Daniela SANDU
Personal assistant to the Commissioner

- Commissioner's agenda
- Education, Training
- Equal opportunities
- DIGIT, Staff Committee
- ESTAT, MARE

Christine FRANKE
Assistant to the Cabinet

- Council coordination (with Yves Madre)
- Agenda Planning
- Cooperation with DG AGRI
- Briefings, CAB Agri meetings
- CAB AGRI agreement
- European Parliament

Caroline KERKAERT
Assistant to the Cabinet

- Cabinet - administration and budget
- Personnel, administrative support
- Security, access to documents
- DGT, OIB, EPSO, SCIC

Marie Rosette MENGUE
Assistant to the Commissioner

Stephanie WEISS
Assistant to Georg Haeusler

Doina Roxana AVRAM
Assistant to Sorin Moisa

Ann BASSO-VENLET
Assistant to Andrzej Dycha and Ico von Wedel

Sandrine D'HORAENE
Assistant to Yves Madre and Alexandra Catalao

Eloy FERNANDEZ CARRETERO
Archives

Who is Who in the Agriculture DG

The Director-General

Director-General

Jean-Luc
DEMARTY

Assistant to the Director-General

Willi SCHULZ-
GREVE

Assistant to the Director-General

Cristina LOBILLO-
BORRERO

Deputy Director-General (responsible for Directorates A
and B)

Jerzy Bogdan
PLEWA

Deputy Director-General (responsible for Directorates C
and D)

Lars HOELGAARD

Deputy Director-General (responsible for Directorates E, F,
G and H)

Loretta DORMAL
MARINO

Deputy Director-General (responsible for Directorates I, J
and K)

Prosper DE
WINNE

Unit reporting directly to the Director-General:

01: Internal Audit

Head of Unit

Conny OVERBEEKE

Directorate A: International affairs I, in particular multilateral negotiations

Director

Nikiforos SIVENAS

A.1: World Trade Organisation (WTO)

Head of Unit

Robert NORRIS

A.2: Industrialised Countries; OECD

Head of Unit

Michael ERHART

A.3: ACP and South Africa, FAO, Food Aid

Head of Unit

Leonard MIZZI

Directorate B: International affairs II, in particular enlargement

Director

John BENSTED-
SMITH

Adviser responsible for coordination and follow-up of external aspects of geographical indications, organic farming and SPS

Isabelle PEUTZ

B.1: Latin America; Asia others than OECD members

Head of Unit

**Joao ONOFRE
ANTAS
GONCALVES**

B.2: Enlargement

Head of Unit

Dušan CHRENEK

B.3: Neighbourhood policy, EFTA

Head of Unit

Nicolas VERLET

Directorate C: Economics of agricultural markets (and CMO)

Director

**Hermanus
VERSTEIJLEN**

**Adviser "Coordination of production and economic analysis
of short-term agricultural markets"**

**Tomas GARCIA
AZCARATE**

C.1: Horizontal matters concerning the single CMO

Head of Unit

**Elizabeth
SIRACUSA**

C.2: Olive oil, horticultural products

Head of Unit

**Emmanuel
JACQUIN**

C.3: Wine, alcohol, tobacco, seeds and hops

Head of Unit

Jesus ZORRILLA

C.4: Animal products

Head of Unit

Juan Luis
FERNANDEZ
MARTIN

C.5: Arable crops, sugar, fibre plants, animal feed

Head of Unit

Bruno BUFFARIA

Directorate D: Direct support, market measures, promotion

Director

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D.1: Direct support

Head of Unit

Jean-Jacques
JAFFRELOT

D.2: Management of market measures

Head of Unit

Willy SCHOOFS

D.3: Cross compliance, food and feed legislation, POSEI

Head of Unit

Richard ETIEVANT

D.4: Promotion of agricultural products

Head of Unit

Michele OTTATI

Directorate E : Rural development programmes I

Director

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E.1: Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Netherlands

Head of Unit

Pedro TARNO

E.2: Cyprus, Greece, Éire/Ireland and United Kingdom

Head of Unit

Adelina DOS REIS

E.3: Denmark, Lithuania, Poland

Head of Unit

Mariusz Stefan
MIGAS

E.I.4: Hungary, Italy, Malta

Head of Unit

Agata
ZDANOWICZ

Directorate F: Rural development programmes II

Director

Antonis
CONSTANTINOU

F.1: Portugal, Spain,

Head of Unit

Silvia MICHELINI

F.2: Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Sweden

Head of Unit

Soeren
KISSMEYER

F.3: Austria, Germany, Slovenia

Head of Unit

Peter BOKOR

F.4: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia

Head of Unit

Irini
PAPADIMITRIOU

Directorate G: Horizontal aspects of rural development

Director

José Manuel
SOUSA UVA

G.1: Consistency of rural development

Head of Unit

Josefine LORIZ-
HOFFMANN

G.2: Financial coordination of rural development

Head of Unit

Felix LOZANO
GALLEGO

G.3: European Network and monitoring of rural development policy

Head of Unit

Rob PETERS

G.4: Pre-accession assistance to agriculture and rural development

Head of Unit

Kaj MORTENSEN

Directorate H: Sustainability and quality of agriculture and rural development

Director

Maria Angeles
BENITEZ SALAS

H.1: Environment, GMO and genetic resources

Head of Unit

Martin SCHEELE

H.2: Agricultural product quality policy

Head of Unit

Keijo HYVONEN

H.3: Organic farming

Head of Unit

Jean-François
HULOT

H.4: Bioenergy, biomass, forestry and climatic change

Head of Unit

Hiikka SUMMA

Directorate I : Management of resources

Director

Aldo LONGO

Adviser "Accountancy"

Bernard
VANDERHAEGHEN

I.1: Budget management

Head of Unit

Christina
BORCHMANN

I.2: Assistance and central financial control

Head of Unit

Yves HERIN

I.3: Information technology

Head of Unit

Javier Juan PUIG
SAQUES

I.4: Financial management of the EAGF

Head of Unit

Owen JONES

I.5: Personnel and administration

Head of Unit

Markus HOLZER

I.6: Management by activities; relations with the Court of Auditors

Head of Unit

Georg HAEUSLER

Directorate J: Audit of agricultural expenditure

Director

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Adviser responsible for the secretariat of the Conciliation
Body

Emmanuel
CREMERS

J.1: Coordination of horizontal questions concerning the clearance of
accounts

Head of Unit

Michael NIEJAHR

J.2: Audit of expenditure on market measures

Head of Unit

Malcolm SLADE

J.3: Audit of direct aid

Head of Unit

Susanne
NIKOLAJSEN

J.4: Audit of rural development expenditure and Ipard

Head of Unit

Bruno CHAUVIN

J.5: Financial Audit

Head of Unit

Anders EGONSON

Directorate K: Relations with other Institutions, communication and documentation

Director

Mario MILOUCHEV

K.1: Internal and external communication

Head of Unit

Hans-Erwin
BARTH

K.2: Document management; security; protection of personal data

Head of Unit

Maciej KUCZYNSKI

K.3: Relations with other Community Institutions and agricultural NGO's

Head of Unit

Gerard KIELY

Directorate L: Economic analysis, perspectives and evaluations

Director

Anastassios
HANIOTIS

Adviser responsible for sustainable development

Notis LEBESSIS

L.1: Agriculture policy analysis and perspectives

Head of Unit

Pierre BASCOU

L.2: Economic analyses of EU agriculture

Head of Unit

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L.3: Microeconomic analyses of EU agricultural holdings

Head of Unit

Alexander
BARTOVIC

L.4: Evaluation of measures applicable to agriculture; studies

Head of Unit

Leo MAIER

L.5: Agricultural trade policy analysis

Head of Unit

Flavio COTURNI

Directorate M: Agricultural legislation

Director

Rudolf MOEGELE

M.1: Agricultural law: simplification

Head of Unit

Nathalie SAUZE-
VANDEVYVER

M.2: Competition

Head of Unit

Susanna
MARAZUELA-
ASPIROZ

M.3: Monitoring of application of agricultural legislation, infringements and complaints

Head of Unit

**Kristine
LILJEBERG**

M.4: Coordination of procedures and joint secretariat of management committees

Head of Unit

Gereon THIELE