

Northern Ireland and the European Union

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European Institutions

Law Making

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the European Union (Ministers)

Other important

- Court of Justice
- Court of Auditors

Other roles

- Committee of the Regions
- Economic and Social Committee

The European Commission

- Right of initiative
- Produces Policy
- Proposes EU Law
- Ensures implementation of Law

The European Commission

- President José Manuel Barroso
- Political Heads – 28 Commissioners
- Linked to departments or Directorate Generals (DG) (the EU civil service)

The European Parliament

- Directly elected in 28 Member states
- President Martin Schultz
- 766 MEPs (751 in 2014)

Northern Ireland MEPs

- Martina Anderson SF- European United left -Nordic Green Left
- Diane Dodds DUP -Non attached
- Jim Nicholson UUP –European Conservatives and Reformists-

The European Parliament

- Work done in Committees usually Brussels
- Final vote taken in plenary usually Strasbourg
- Open institution – much lobbying

The Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)

- 28 National Governments
- 12 Policy Formations
- Chaired by country holding Presidency
- Meets in working groups, COREPER and Council
- Co-legislator with European Parliament

Making EU Law

COMMISSION

Publishes a Proposal for a Directive or Regulation

PARLIAMENT

COUNCIL

Committee

Working Groups
COREPER & SCA

Plenary session

Council

(if necessary)
Conciliation

Directive or Regulation comes into force

Transposition or implementation in Member States

The European Council

- National and EU Leaders
- Sets EU's political Direction
- Led by President Herman Van Rompuy
- Meets at least every 6 months
- No powers to pass laws

The European Commission at Work

Strategic Planning and Programming Cycle (SPP)

The European Commission at Work

- Five year strategic objectives
- Annual Policy Strategy (political priorities and key initiatives coupled with resources becomes the Commission work programme)
- Annual Management Plan for each DG (activity based management)
- Annual Activity Report (monitoring by each DG)
- Synthesis report (for total Commission)

The European Commission at Work

- Commission Work Programme
- Know what is being planned
- Can influence before
- Should be no surprises

Nothern Ireland Representation in Brussels

To assist Departments to contribute to EU policy development and implementation on relevant policy issues

The Northern Ireland Act

Legal Document setting out the
devolution arrangements

defines

- Excepted Matter
- Reserved Matter
- Transferred Matter

European Policy Formulation

- European Policy ‘Excepted matter’ under devolution
- UK Govt position developed in London by Whitehall Depts
- Ni Depts input policy contribution to Whitehall Depts
- Whitehall Depts/UKREP represent UK position in Brussels

European Policy Formulation

- Analysis and reports to NI Depts policy issues before and during the legislative process
- Representing NI Depts at Council, Council working groups, attending European Parliament sessions
- Supporting Ministers and senior staff at meetings in Brussels
- Maintaining contacts with key Commission staff, Whitehall/ UKREP staff, Scots/Welsh counterparts and Irish Perm Rep

European Policy Implementation

European Policy Implementation

- Ni Depts have 'devolved responsibility' for implementing many policy areas in Northern Ireland.
- Depts often have to seek clarification.
- Avoiding infraction by correct and timely implementation.



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