



New EP: more power, more responsibility

European Parliament and the Lisbon Treaty

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New EP: more power, more responsibility

The Lisbon Treaty gives the European Parliament more power to shape Europe than ever before. Along with more power, come more responsibilities for Parliament vis-à-vis citizens, national parliaments and the European Union.

Every new European Union treaty has progressively stepped up the European Parliament's legislative powers. The latest step is the Lisbon Treaty which places Parliament on equal footing with the Council of Ministers in deciding on the vast majority of EU legislative issues.

More powers

The Lisbon Treaty makes the European Parliament a **stronger lawmaker** by bringing up to 50 new fields under the "co-decision" procedure in which Parliament has equal rights with the Council. These fields include agriculture, energy security, immigration, justice and home affairs, health and structural funds.

Parliament gains bigger role in **setting budgets**, as the old distinction between "compulsory" and "non-compulsory" expenditure is abolished. Parliament will from now on decide on the entire EU budget together with the Council.

More responsibility

More power brings more areas of responsibility. With the new fields of legislative power, Parliament's decisions will, even more, directly affect the daily lives of European **citizens**. Parliament will also safeguard EU citizens' rights, in line with the Charter of Fundamental Rights enshrined in the Lisbon Treaty.

Parliament will also safeguard the right of **national parliaments** to object to legislative proposals on matters that they deem would be better handled at national level.

Parliament will have a new role in relations with the **EU and its institutions** as a whole. From now on, Parliament will elect the President of the European Commission and Parliament's consent will be required for the appointment of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Furthermore, the Lisbon Treaty gives Parliament a new right to propose treaty changes.



Lisbon Treaty and budget procedure

Parliament gains power over the agriculture budget and will be on an equal footing with the Council of Ministers in deciding all EU expenditure. In addition, the Lisbon Treaty simplifies the decision-taking procedure and makes the long-term budget plan, or "financial perspectives", legally binding.

More powers for Parliament

Today, EU expenditure is divided into compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure. **Compulsory expenditure**, accounting for about 45% of the budget, is that required by international agreements and EU treaties, most importantly agriculture spending. **Non-compulsory expenditure** is everything else.

Budget powers today	Under the Lisbon Treaty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parliament has last word on non-compulsory expenditure ▪ Council has last word on compulsory expenditure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Distinction between compulsory and non-compulsory expenditure abolished ▪ Parliament and Council decide together on whole EU budget

Long-term planning

The EU's long-term budget plan (the financial perspectives or Multiannual Financial Framework, MFF) sets long-run EU spending limits, for a period of years, for each year within that period and for each budget heading.

"Financial perspectives" today	Under the Lisbon Treaty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Politically, but not legally, binding ▪ 7 years (currently 2007-2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Legally binding, included in a regulation approved by Council with Parliament's consent ▪ at least 5 years

Parliament has suggested extending the current period to 2015 or 2016, so that the period covered by the next financial perspectives matches the mandates of Parliament and the Commission.

Decision procedure

The Lisbon Treaty abolishes the "first reading" of the annual budget, traditionally used for tactics and setting out the institutions' priorities.

Decision procedure today	Under the Lisbon Treaty
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Two readings in both Council and Parliament ▪ Conciliation committee meets in July and November 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A single reading followed by work in a conciliation committee, which has 21 days to agree ▪ If neither institution rejects the committee's text, the budget is adopted

What happens now?

Parliament and Council will, probably early 2010, adapt the budget to include the new functions created by the Lisbon Treaty.

In 2010, the institutions need to agree on new regulations and a timetable for implementing the general rules of the Lisbon Treaty. At the end of 2009, the institutions will take transitional measures to apply until all new regulations are in place.



Lisbon Treaty, Fisheries and Agriculture

Towards a viable fisheries policy

As co-legislator on an equal footing with the Council, the Parliament will be deciding on the new Common Fisheries Policy (SFP), to remedy the failings of the previous reform.

Fleet capacity that does not match the actual fishing possibilities remains a key concern, as 30% of stocks in the EU have fallen beneath biological safety limits. The existing system, which encourages short-termism in Member States and the fishing industry, will have to be changed, to protect ecosystems and take a better account of the needs of fishing communities and consumers.

Challenges such as climate change, volatile fuel costs and the impact of the economic crisis will also be addressed in the decisions. Parliament will contribute to public discussion on the reform and decide on the legislative measures due by 2012.

What future for the Common Agriculture policy?

During the current legislative term, MEPs will decide, together with the Council, on the future of the Common Agriculture policy (CAP).

Following the last reform, agreed in 2008 (the so-called "Health Check"), the CAP has been modernised by removing production restrictions and equipping it to face new challenges, such as climate change, water management and protecting biodiversity.

From this year onwards, the future of agricultural policy will have to be decided in parallel with discussion on the EU's long-term budget for the post-2013 period. As a consequence of the global rise in food prices in 2008, attention is now shifting to food security and the challenge of feeding 500 million EU citizens. Parliament will express its views on this by next summer, just before when the Commission is due to present its ideas.



Lisbon Treaty and the area of Freedom, Security and Justice

The Lisbon Treaty will make Parliament a co-legislator with the Council of Ministers in the field of **legal immigration**, including conditions of entry and residence. The Treaty also lays down a number of **new aims for the EU and general rules and principles**, such as solidarity among Member States in policies on asylum, immigration and external border controls, or the aim of facilitating access to justice.

The co-decision procedure, renamed the "ordinary legislative procedure", will apply to all areas of decision-making, including those where simple consultation of Parliament now applies or is even excluded such as the proposed **SWIFT Agreement** with the United States on the transfer of banking data.

Matters which were previously dealt with under the third pillar, such as **judicial co-operation in criminal matters and police co-operation**, will be handled under the same sorts of rules as the single market. EU and national measures in this area will also be subject to the **judicial review of the Court of Justice**.

Charter of Fundamental Rights and data protection

The Charter, which will have of the same legal value as the treaties, enshrines the right to the protection of **personal data**: fair processing for specified purposes is allowed, but only on the basis of consent or "some other legitimate basis laid down by law", and the EU would have to provide for an independent authority to ensure compliance with those rules.



Background Note

The Lisbon Treaty: more powers for the European Parliament

The Lisbon Treaty will create the legal framework and tools needed to meet Europe's most pressing challenges. By giving the directly-elected Parliament more power, it will make the EU more accountable.

More democratic accountability

With a few exceptions, it will place the European Parliament (EP) on an equal footing as lawmaker with the Council, representing EU Member States, in areas where this has not been the case so far, notably in setting the EU budget (Parliament will enjoy full parity), agriculture policy and justice and home affairs. National parliaments will gain the right to object to a proposal if they feel that a given result could be better attained at national rather than EU level.

The Commission President will be selected by EU heads of government on the basis of the European election results and approved by the EP. The appointment of the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs will also be subject to Parliament's consent.

More rights and clarity for citizens

Citizens' rights will also be strengthened. For example, the Treaty will make the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights binding upon the EU itself, thus requiring EU institutions to respect citizens' civil, political, economic or social rights. A new right of citizens' initiative will enable groups who can muster one million signatures to call upon the Commission to put forward new policy proposals, thus increasing citizens' participation in EU decision-making.

Greater effectiveness

The Treaty also aims to improve the efficiency of the EU's decision-making process by increasing the use of qualified majority voting, replacing unanimity, and thus facilitating agreements in the Council of Ministers. The new European Council President and the High Representative for foreign policy should improve the consistency of EU action.

More legislative power for the European Parliament

The Lisbon Treaty will make Parliament a co-legislator with the Council in a series of new fields. Some of these, currently dealt with only by the Council, will be handled under the co-decision procedure. Others are completely new policy areas for the EU.

Existing EU policies which would become subject to co-decision (non-exhaustive list)

- agriculture and fisheries policies
- measures concerning common policy on visas (partly already in co-decision)
- asylum (some aspects, including conditions for the reception of applicants)
- legal immigration (including conditions of entry and residence)
- judicial cooperation in criminal matters, police cooperation, Eurojust and decisions on Europol



- minimum rules on criminal sanctions in the areas of serious crimes with cross-border dimensions
- monetary policy with regard to measures necessary for the use of the Euro
- structural funds

New policy areas to be introduced by the Lisbon Treaty which will be subject to co-decision (non-exhaustive list)

- energy (internal market energy is already under co-decision)
- services of general economic interest
- personal data protection
- border checks
- immigration: combating human trafficking and promoting integration
- European intellectual property rights
- public health: measures setting high quality standards (harmonisation excluded)
- sport
- space policy
- implementation of the European research area
- tourism

18 new Members to enter Parliament

The current number of MEPs is 736, as laid down in the Nice Treaty. Under the Lisbon Treaty, the number of MEPs will be 751. 18 new Members representing 12 different countries will take up their seats in Parliament.

The number of MEPs will temporarily rise to 754, because under the Lisbon Treaty Germany will have three fewer MEPs, but these Members will keep their seats until the end of the present legislature.

Raising the number of MEPs in the middle of the legislature requires the consent of all Member States by ratification. Until this ratification procedure is completed, the 18 new Members cannot take up their full powers.

In a resolution adopted before the June 2009 elections, Parliament therefore suggested taking in the 18 new Members as observers from the moment the Lisbon Treaty has been fully ratified until the protocol temporarily raising the number of MEPs is ratified. Some of the 12 countries elected their "Lisbon MEPs" in the June 2009 European Parliament elections, but in many countries the decision on how to choose these Member(s) will be taken later.

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Broadcast material on Lisbon Treaty

Two INFOCLIPS on Lisbon Treaty with rough edited professional broadcast material can be found at the following link:

<ftp://epavideoget.mo12ssb@ftpeps01.europarl.eu.int/epavideo/LisbonTreaty>

INFOCLIP "FROM NICE TO LISBON"

EBS date 19-11-2009 0:08'43"

REF.: 20091118SHL64798

Timeline from the Nice Treaty (26-02-2001) to the Czech Republic's signature (09-10-2009). The last formal step to allow the Treaty of Lisbon to come into effect has been completed as the Czech Republic submitted its act of ratification in Rome. This clears the way for the Treaty to enter into force on 1 December 2009. An extraordinary informal summit will take place on 19 November in order to fill top EU posts created under the Treaty, namely the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

0:00'00" Title

0:00'05" Nice Treaty.- (26-02-2001). - (France) . - (6 shots). -At the end of the Nice European Council of 7–9 December 2000, the Fifteen symbolically proclaim the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and, in particular, take a stance on the European security and defence policy (ESDP), the European Social Agenda, the Statute for a European Company, maritime and food safety, sport within Europe and the reform of the Community's legal and institutional system.

0:00'35" Laeken Summit .- (15-12-2001).- (Belgium) - (3 shots). The European council of Laeken of December 14th and 15th, 2001, concerns mainly the extension of the European Union. It is at the conclusion of this Summit that they adopt the Statement on the future of the European Union and decide on the process of an agreement on the future of the Union.

0:00'56" Thessaloniki European Council .- (20-06-2003). - (Greece) - (7 shots) . On 20 June 2003, during the Thessaloniki European Council, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Chairman of the European Convention on the Future of Europe, submits the draft Constitutional Treaty to the Heads of State or Government of the Fifteen. The final version of the draft will be adopted on 10 July and presented to the President-in-Office of the European Council in Rome on 18 July 2003.

0:01'41" CIG . Intergovernmental conference .- (4-10-2003)-. (Italy) . (3 shots) . - On 4 October 2003, in Rome, the Heads of State or Government of the Fifteen and the ten EU applicant countries open the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) which is to lead to the adoption of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe in June 2004.

0:01'53" Rome Treaty .- (29-10-2004).- (Italy).- (7 shots). In the series of European Treaties, the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, signed in Rome on 29 October 2004, is the first to define the symbols of the Union.

0:02'22" Constitution for Europe .- (12-01-2005). -(France) . - (9 shots). - Strasbourg. - Hemicycle .- Applauses.- demonstrations against The Constitution.- Outside cutaways with balloons with YES and NO.

0:03'11" Signature of the Charter of Fundamental Rights. - (7-12-2007).- (France).- (6 shots).- Strasbourg. -Hemicycle.-

0:03'35" Signing of the Lisbon Treaty (13-12-2007). (Portugal) . - 6 shots. - Family Photo .-

0:04'18" Signing of the Lisbon Treaty (13-12-2007). (Portugal) . - (6 shots). Ceremony of signatures (3 countries : Sweden, Spain, France) .

0:05'38" Cutaways : - Lisbon treaty : the book. (7 shots)

0:06'06" First referendum In Ireland (12-06-2008) . - Ireland . - (7 shots) . - First referendum . - Polling station.- Voting panels (ballot papers???) .-

0:06'29" Second Referendum In Ireland (12-06-2008) . - Ireland . - (12 shots) . - Second referendum .- Polling station.- Voting panels.-

0:07'41" 9-10-2009.- President Jerzy BUZEK, Official visit to Czech Republic (Prague, 09/10/2009). - Open air views of Prague, presidential Palace, presidential flag.- Arrival of



President Vaclav KLAUS, Greetings and handshake with Jerzy BUZEK president of the European Parliament, Presidential Palace, Prague.- (3 shots)
0:08'00" Speech of President Vaclav KLAUS .- (9-10-2009) .- Cutaways.-Presidential Palace, Prague.- (5 shots)
0:08'36" European Flag. (1 shot).-
0:08'43" End

INFOCLIP "EP AND EU NOMINATIONS"

EBS date 19-11-2009 0:02'49"

REF.: 20091118SHL64800

The last formal step to allow the Treaty of Lisbon to come into effect has been completed as the Czech Republic submitted its act of ratification in Rome. This clears the way for the Treaty to enter into force on 1 December 2009. An extraordinary informal summit will take place on 19 November in order to fill top EU posts created under the Treaty, namely the President of the European Council and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Security Policy and a Secretary-General of the Council Secretariat.

0:00'00" Title
0:00'05" Informal summit of The Council . Arrival of Jerzy BUZEK (EP President). Arrival of Angela MERKEL (the current Chancellor of Germany). -(Brussels July 2009).-(2 shots).-
0:00'12" Round table with Heads of states .- Summit of the Council (Brussels .-June 2009)-(7 shots).
0:00'00" European Council (29-30 October 2009) Cutaways of Jerzy BUZEK, EP President with Javier SOLANA (Foreign affairs High Representative) and Fredrik Reinfeldt (Swedish Presidency of the EU Council).- (Brussels .-29-10-2009)-(7 shots).
0:00'42" Javier SOLANA (Foreign affairs High Representative) in Chad.- (6-05-2008).- (5 shots).
0:01'05" Meeting of Commissioners .- Round table .-(Brussels) . - (6 shots).
0:01'30" Jose Manuel BARROSO presented and debated his candidacy for a second term as President of the European Commission with all political groups in the European Parliament. - Meeting with EPP Group - Jose Manuel BARROSO arrival and shake hands with former EP President Hans-Gert PÖTTERING and Joseph DAUL, Chair of the EPP group. Ambience shots prior the meeting (08/09/09). Brussels. Belgium. (4 shots)
0:01'46" Jose Manuel BARROSO presented and debated his candidacy for a second term as President of the European Commission with all political groups in the European Parliament. - Meeting with S-D Group - Jose Manuel BARROSO arrival - Talking with Martin SCHULZ, leader of S-D Group. Ambience shots prior the meeting (09/09/09). Brussels. Belgium. (2 shots).
0:01'56" Jose Manuel BARROSO presented and debated his candidacy for a second term as President of the European Commission with all political groups in the European Parliament. - Meeting with ALDE Group - Guy VERHOFSTADT, leader of ALDE group, arrival. Jose Manuel BARROSO arrival. Ambience prior the meeting (09/09/09).- Brussels. Belgium. (4 shots).
0:02'05" Jose Manuel BARROSO presented and debated his candidacy for a second term as President of the European Commission with all political groups in the European Parliament. - Meeting with GREENS-EFA Group - Arrival of Jose Manuel BARROSO and ambience shots before and during the meeting.- (09/09/09).- Brussels. Belgium. (2 shots)
0:02'10" Hearings of new Commissioners designates.- (Brussels, 01/09/09) Hearing of Karel DE GUCHT, Commissioner designate for Development - Ambience shots before the meeting, arrival. -(5 shots).
0:02'32" Hearings of new Commissioners designates. -(Brussels, 01/09/09) Hearing of Algirdas SEMETA, Commissioner designate for Budget - Ambience shots before the meeting, arrival .- (5 shots)
0:02'49" End