

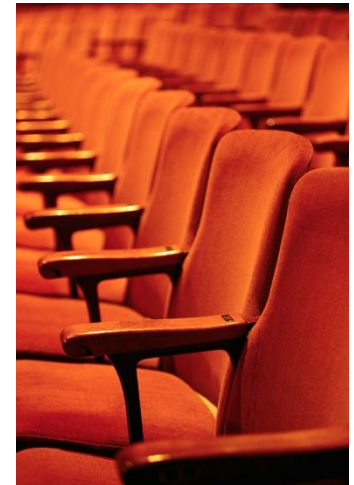
Working at the EU level

An Introduction to EU
policy-making and
decision-making
process

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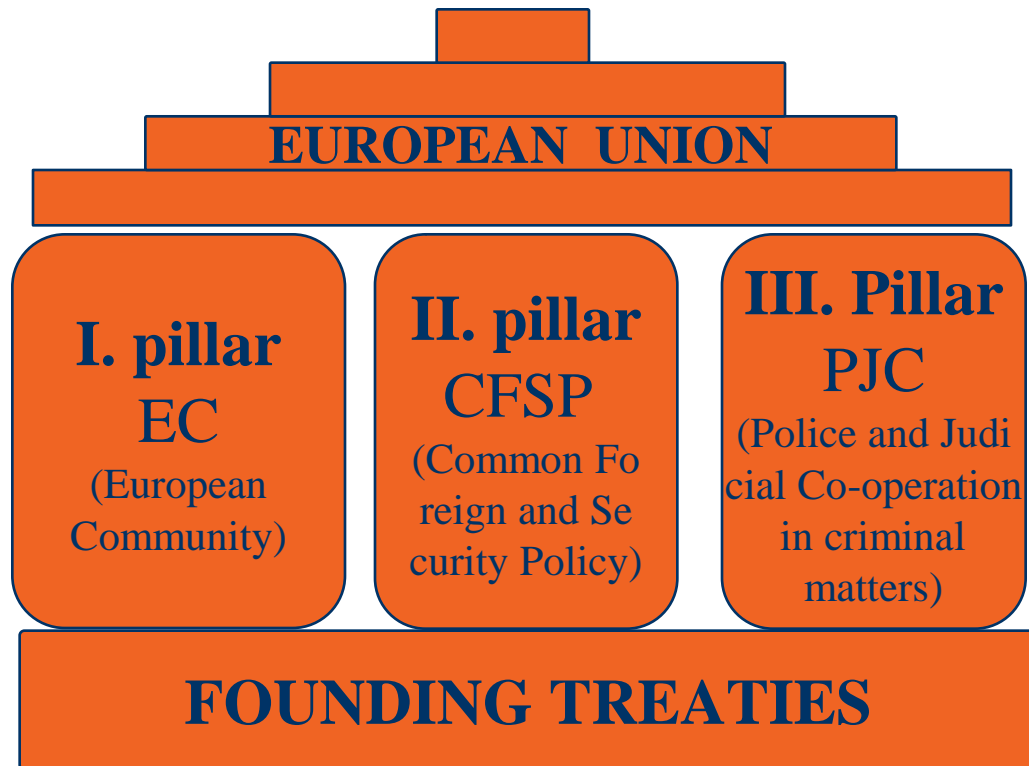
Council of the European Union

- „Council of Ministers“ or „Council“ (Consilium)
- Main decision-making body
- Represents 27 member states
- Founded by Treaties in 1958
- Meeting place: Brussels or Luxembourg
- Current presiding country: France



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Three pillars



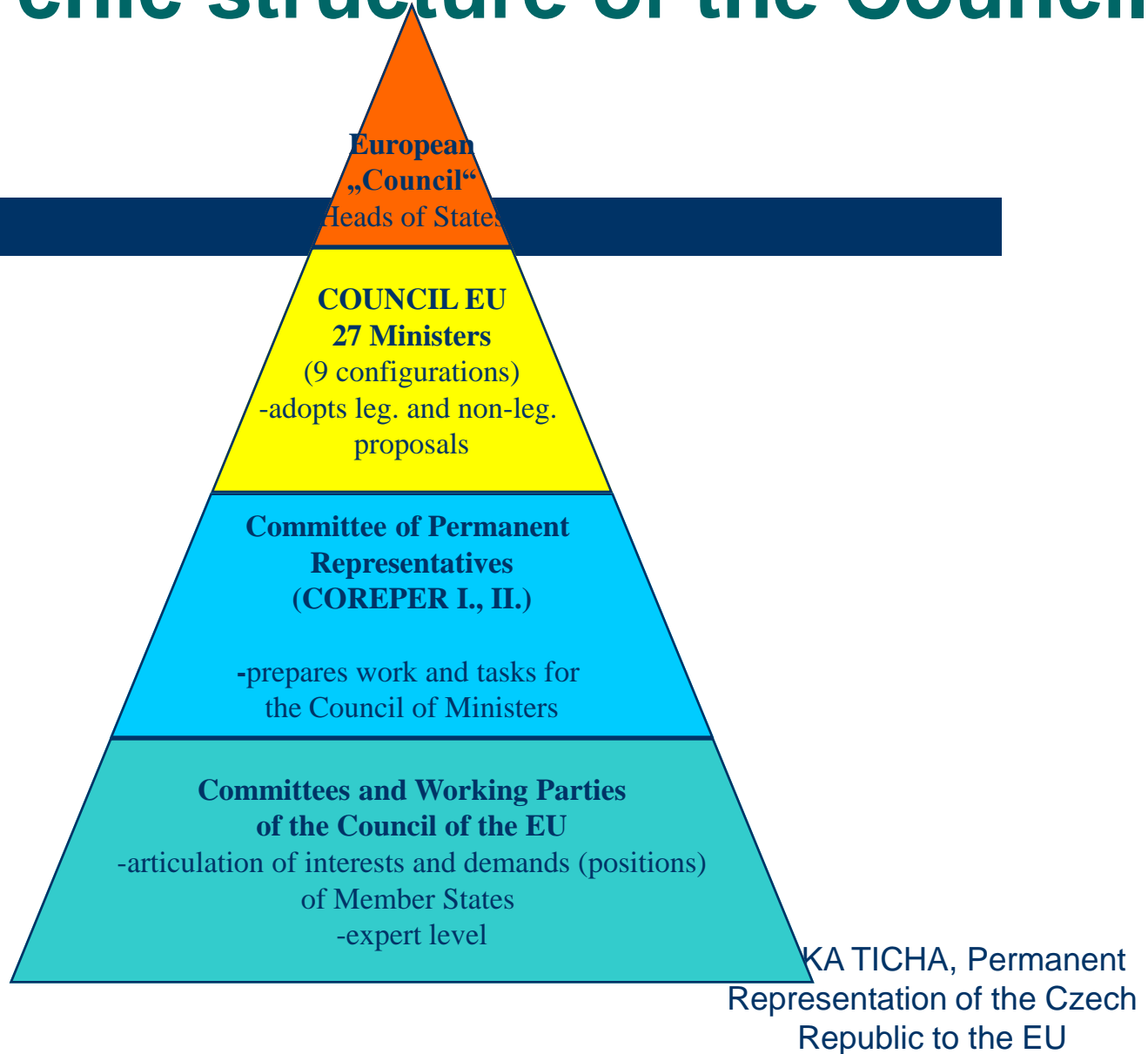
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9 configurations of Council EU

1. General Affairs and External Relations (GAERC, CAGRE)
2. Economic and Financial Affairs (ECOFIN)
3. Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)
4. **Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO)**
5. Competitiveness (COCOM)
6. Transport, Telecommunications and Energy (TTE)
7. Agriculture and Fisheries
8. Environment (ENVI)
9. Education, Youth and Culture (EYC)

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Hierarchic structure of the Council



I. pillar : Public Health, Medicines

- Acts adopted by CODECISION procedure
- 2 readings + conciliation
- Qualified majority
- Regulations, Directives, Recommendations, Council conclusions, Green Books...
- Art. 152 TEC – „Community action in the field of public health shall fully respect the responsibilities of the MS for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care“

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Presidency of the Council EU

- Rotating system (every 6 months)
- 18 months program (since 2007)
- Administrative and political role (organise work of the Council + deal with political situation, mediates in Council)
- General Secretariat of the Council – ensure continuity, help to Presidency-in-office
- **PRESIDENCY IS NEUTRAL**

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Europe Without Barriers: Czech EU Priorities

- Three E's: **Economy, Energy, External Relations**
- *A Competitive Europe (Economy)*
- *Tackling Energy and Climate Change (Energy)*
- *An Open and Secure Europe (External relations).*

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Priorities in Health

- **eHealth for Individuals, Society and Economy**
(conference on ministerial level, 18.-20.2.2009)
- **The Microbial Threat to Patient Safety in Europe** (conference on ministerial level 15.-16.4.2009)
- **Financial Sustainability of health Systems**
(conference on high-level 10.-12.5.2009)

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Priorities in Social Inclusion

- Free movement of workers
- Increasing employment and flexibility of the labour market
- Horizontal support to family within the community policies
- Social protection of the most vulnerable persons in EU
- Equality, equal opportunities

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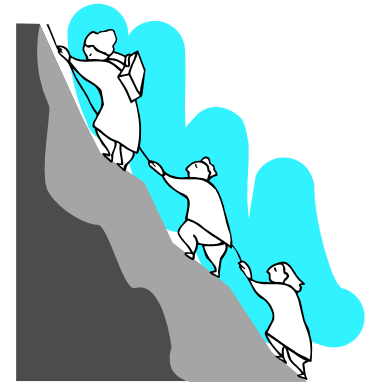
Priorities in Education

- Conception of the long-term European strategy beyond 2010
- Partnership between the sphere of education and employers/enterprises
- Progress in higher education - quality and openness

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Trio-presidency FR-CZ-SE

- 18months programme (1.7.2008 - 31.12.2009)
- Close co-operation on each level
- Co-operation process started 1 year before 1.7.2008



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Involvement of patients' organizations?

- YES
- Priority must be a topic in which MS can contribute added value to European level
- Kind of political decision
- Priorities are approved by government
- MS starts work on priorities 1 year before PRES at latest!
- NGO should be in close contact with Ministries even earlier

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How to become a part of the process??

START SOON!

PROPOSE CONCRETE PROPOSAL!

BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH MINISTRIES!

GOOD LUCK!



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