

A stylized torch logo is centered in the background. It features a semi-circular base with a vertical stem and a flame-like top composed of several curved, overlapping shapes. The entire logo is rendered in a light blue color against a darker blue background of pebbles.

The European Council/The Council

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The European Council

The European Council

- Prime Ministers and Presidents with executive powers.
- It gives the EU its political direction and sets its priorities.
- the European Council becomes a full EU institution and its role is clearly defined.
- A new position of President of the European Council is created.
- The President of the European Council will be elected by the members of the European Council and can serve for a maximum of 5 years.
- He or she will chair Council meetings, drive forward its work on a continuous basis and represent the EU internationally at the highest level.
- This marks a change from the present system where Member States, holding the 6-month EU Presidency, also chair the European Council.
- The new President of the European Council will make the EU's actions more visible and consistent.

The Council/The Council of Ministers/The Council of the European Union

- is made up of 27 government ministers representing each of the Member States.
- is a key decision making body that coordinates the EU's economic policies and plays a central role in foreign and security policy.
- shares lawmaking and budgetary powers with the European Parliament.
- A system known as 'double majority' will be introduced from 2014: Council decisions will need the support of 55% of the Member States, representing at least 65% of the European population.
- The Council of Foreign Ministers will be chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the Commission.
- In other areas such as agriculture, finance and energy, the Council will continue to be chaired by the Minister of the country holding the rotating 6-month EU Presidency.

First official meeting of the EU's 27 sports ministers May 10, 2010

Treaty of Lisbon: added specific EU competence for cooperation on sports issues.

EU action

- clear added value respecting the subsidiary principle and the specific nature of sport
- suggested the following areas for possible EU action:
 - Social and educational functions of sport, e.g. social inclusion through sport and health enhancing physical activity, dual careers for athletes;
 - Sport structures, in particular those based on voluntary activity;
 - Fairness and openness in sport, including the fight against racism, discrimination and violence;
 - Physical and moral integrity of sportsmen and sportswomen, especially the fight against doping and the protection of minors;
 - Dialogue and close cooperation with the sports movement.
- Ministers agreed that a possible EU financial programme supporting sports activities for the years 2012 to 2013 ought to have a limited number of priorities.

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/114361.pdf