

A stylized flame logo consisting of several curved, overlapping lines that form a flame shape, positioned centrally above the title text.

Lisbon Treaty

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The Lisbon Treaty

- amends and updates earlier EU treaties
- strengthens the role of the European Parliament and gives new powers to national parliaments
- helps the EU to speak with a single voice in the world
- introduces new measures to tackle pressing issues that affect our quality of life, like climate change, cross border crime and energy.
- it protects the rights of each Member State, especially in sensitive areas such as taxation and defence

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Citizens Initiative one million people - out of the EU's population of 500 million - from a number of Member States can petition the European Commission to bring forward new policy proposals

The **European Parliament** shares decision making with the **Council of Ministers (co-decision in general use)**-> **role of MEPs** in lawmaking and the EU Budget= double legitimacy of the people

A new **early warning system** gives national parliaments the right to comment on draft laws and to check that the EU does not overstep its authority by involving itself in matters best dealt with nationally or locally

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- **Qualified Majority voting** in the Council of Ministers will be extended except such as taxation and defence (from 2014, decisions of the Council of Ministers will need the support of 55% of the Member States, representing at least 65% of the European population)
- A new position of **High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy/ Vice –President of the Commission** (appointed by the European Council)
- **President of the European Council** will be "elected" by the European Parliament, on proposal from the European Council

The Lisbon Treaty

- The EU has exclusive charge over areas such as competition rules, monetary policy of the Euro area and the common commercial policy
- Member States have primary responsibility in fields such as health, education, industry (sport)
- The EU and the Member States share competence in areas such as the internal market, agriculture, transport and energy.
- **respect for the equality of the Member States** and their national identities, including local and regional autonomy (protection of Europe's diverse cultures and languages)
- The EU's decisions must be taken as closely to the citizens as possible (**subsidiarity**)

EU institutions

