

Read the information about the Institutions in the European Union to check your answers to the listening questions:

The European Commission is the European Union's executive branch which means it is responsible for proposing new laws. It has a commissioner from each member state. The European Commission is based in Brussels.

The Council of the European Union is made up of one minister (responsible for the European Union law being proposed) from each member state. For example, a law regarding agriculture would be treated by a Council composed of the national ministers for agriculture from each member state. The presidency of the council changes between member states every six months.

The European Parliament is made up of representatives elected by the citizens of the European Union. Elections take place every five years. The European Parliament meets in Strasbourg and Luxembourg. The European parliament meets to discuss the legislation proposed by the European commission.

The European Court of Justice is made up of judges from each member state. A president is elected from the judges. The European Court of Justice has the last word on Union law. European Union law is the first, and only, example of a supranational legal framework. Laws are only passed at European level when these are more effective compared to the legislation of the member states.

The European Central Bank (ECB) controls the monetary policy within the Euro Zone (the member states that adopted the Euro as their national currency). It was established in 1998 and it is based in Frankfurt, Germany.

Europol is the European Union instrument of law enforcement and fighting racism. This also includes the areas of illegal immigration and political asylum. It also helps provide criminal intelligence for member states.

Since the establishment of the European Union there have been no wars between its member countries!