

Rules of Procedure

1.) **Chair.** *The Chair of the Commission will be the President.*

- The President will appoint a Commissioner responsible for conveying legislative proposals to the relevant Council of Ministers.
- The President will have the sole and final power to open and close sessions, recognize speakers, place limits on floor times, control discussion and debate, caution or remove observers, and- if necessary - clear the room of everyone except faculty advisors and members of the Secretariat.
- The President is allowed to take positions and to promote his/her own views and agenda.

NOTE 1: The High Representative (HR) of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is a member of both the Commission and the Council of Ministers. At EU-Midwest this role will be played by two people, one sitting in each forum.

NOTE 2: The Commission is not expected to seek nor to take instructions from any other quarter. Commissioners should be careful to keep a diplomatic distance from members of their delegations.

2.) **Speakers.** *During sessions, only Commissioners will be allowed to speak, and then only at the discretion of the President. Speakers do not need to address each other through the Chair.*

Rules of Procedure

3.) **Voting procedure.** *All decisions must be taken unanimously if possible. If unanimity is not reached, decisions will be taken either by consensus or by a simple majority vote (each Commissioner having 1 vote), at the discretion of the President.*

4.) **Workflow.** *The College works primarily with its directors-general and with the Council of Ministers.*

- It can be asked by the European Council to ask the directors-general to develop new laws and policies, but it should send these to the relevant Council of Ministers for final decision, not to the European Council.
- **Day 1:** The College should spend some time familiarizing itself with the pre-agreed proposals that will already have been sent to the Council of Ministers.
- **Days 2 & 3:** The College will receive further proposals from the directors-general, as well as amendments to existing proposals. It should concentrate on working through these proposals (one at a time) with a view to sending them on to the relevant Council of Ministers for a decision.
- While Commissioners should devote adequate time to their discussions of each proposal, it is also critical that they relay their conclusions to the relevant Council of Ministers on an ongoing basis. Please do not allow proposals upon which decisions have been made to become backed up.



MIDWEST MODEL EUROPEAN UNION

The European Commission *Guidelines and Procedure*

Summary

- Consists of *Commissioners*, each responsible for specific policy portfolios
- Function something like a *cabinet*, and head the bureaucracy of the EU
- *Informal rules* of procedure
- Emphasis on *consensus decision-making*, but may take votes
- Chaired by an *appointed President* (directors-general)

Format and Goals

Commissioners will be seated in no specific order, except that the President of the Commission will sit at the head of the table and be flanked by the Commission's Vice-Presidents.

MAJOR GOAL: to discuss new proposals for policies and legislation (generated by the directors-general), in the fields of economic and financial affairs, foreign policy, and environment. If a proposal is adopted, it should be sent to the relevant Council of Ministers for discussion and decision. If it is rejected, it should be sent back to the directors-general for further deliberation.

Background

*The **European Commission** is the executive/bureaucratic arm of the Union.*

- It has the sole right to initiate EU law and policies.
- It is responsible for ensuring that member states implement those laws and policies.
- It is legally obliged to make sure that the principles of the EU treaties are turned into practical laws and policies.
- It acts as a supranational balance to the Council of Ministers, which is mainly intergovernmental.

The Commission is headed by a College of Commissioners (one from each EU member state).

- Each Commissioner is appointed by his/her home government for five-year, renewable terms.
- Each is given a specific policy portfolio and set of responsibilities.
- Commissioners represent EU interests, are sworn to work for the common good of the Union and to abandon national allegiances, and are under no obligation to the member states.

Typically, EU Midwest restricts itself to Councils of Ministers dealing with foreign, economic, agricultural, and environmental policy, but the Commission and the directors-general may consider proposals in other policy areas.

Preparation

Each delegate should do *as much advance preparation as possible* on the political background and portfolio of the Commissioner they are role-playing, should be clear on the role of the Commission in the EU policy-making process, and should come to EU-Midwest with specific policy and legislative proposals in mind.

In the course of the simulation, delegates role-playing Commissioners should make their decisions in the context of the political forces and pressures currently active in the EU, and - most important - *should remember that they are not national representatives.*

