Rules of Procedure

1.) Chair. The Chair of the Council will be the President. 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.
   - It will be left to the President to determine the flow and tempo of Council meetings, but he/she should be fair, efficient, and courteous, avoid being partisan, and ensure that every delegate is given the opportunity to speak.
   - The order of business at all meetings will be determined by the Chair in consultation with other members of the European Council.

2.) Speakers. During plenary sessions, only heads of government will normally address the Council.
   - When present, foreign ministers may confer with heads of government, and may be given the floor at the discretion of their head of government to address an issue on which they may have specialist knowledge.
   - They may also deputize for their head of government if he/she must leave the chamber.

Rules of Procedure

3) Voting procedure. The Council requires unanimity for all its key votes,
   - but does not normally take formal votes, instead trying to reach its decisions through consensus: a general agreement on a topic which those opposing - or unable fully to support - are prepared to allow the Council to adopt without recourse to a vote. Reservations and objections may be recorded, but the Council as a whole will agree to proceed.
   
   A device known as a tour de table may also be used, at the discretion of the President.
   - The President asks each head of government in turn to give a short summary (up to 2 minutes) of their thinking on the matter under discussion, thus ensuring that every member state is able to outline its position, and allowing the President to determine whether a compromise is possible. However, it can be time-consuming.

4) Workflow. The European Council will operate in isolation from all other committees at EU-Midwest,
   - except when its members have informal meetings with their delegations.
   - It may request clarification or expert testimony from the Commission, the Council of Ministers, or from an individual Commissioner or minister; and it may encourage the Commission (via the directors-general) to develop a new law or policy.
   - With these exceptions, it will normally have little or no direct contact with the other committees.
Summary

- Consists of heads of government of the member states (meeting sometimes with the foreign ministers)
- Focuses on overall strategic direction of European integration
- Informal rules of procedure
- Emphasis on consensus decision-making
- Chaired by an appointed President
- Goal: to agree on a set of Conclusions

Format and Goals

Heads of government and foreign ministers of member states will be seated in no specific order, with the President of the Council seated at the head of the table.

MAJOR GOAL: to discuss and debate the views, ideas and proposals of Council members with the goal of agreeing a formal set of Conclusions. Suggestions for the content of the Conclusions should be discussed and drafted on Days One and Two, and the final Conclusions should be agreed by the Council at its second plenary session on the afternoon of Day Three.

Background

The European Council is the forum in which the leaders of the EU member states meet to:

- provide strategic direction and consistency to the EU by discussing and deciding the overall character and goals of the Union (i.e., to act as a "political dynamo"),
- resolve problems which the Council of Ministers and the Commission have been unable to resolve (i.e., to act as the "supreme arbitrator", or court of last resort),
- provide political impetus to the EU by developing and promoting new initiatives,
- develop a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). Council Conclusions almost always include a statement of positions on key foreign policy issues.

The European Council alone has the power and authority to resolve major issues and reach key decisions. At EU-Midwest, the Council consists of the heads of government of the EU member states, meeting occasionally as needed with their respective foreign ministers.

Preparation

Each delegate should do as much advance preparation as possible on the member state they are representing, the personal and political background of the leader they are role-playing, and the positions on European policy taken by that leader and his/her government.

They should also be clear on the role of the European Council in the policy-making process, and should come to EU-Midwest with specific policy proposals and objectives in mind.

At the simulation, delegates role-playing heads of government should make their decisions in the context of the political forces and pressures currently active in EU member states, and the national interests of the states they are representing.