

Glossary: Council of the European Union

Statistics Explained

The **Council of the European Union**, also known as the **EU Council** or **Council of Ministers** (or simply the **Council** or **Consilium** in Latin), is the main decision-making body of the [European Union \(EU\)](#).

It should not be confused with:

- the [European Council](#), the regular meeting of EU heads of state or government;
- the [Council of Europe](#), a non-EU organisation of nearly all European countries.

The Council, which has both executive and legislative powers, is composed of national ministers, one for each Member State. The specific composition of the Council depends on the topic at hand. For example, finance ministers discuss fiscal policies while agriculture ministers discuss agricultural subsidies. The Council presidency, responsible for organising and chairing all ministerial meetings, rotates between Member State governments every six months.

Related concepts

- [European Commission \(EC\)](#)
- [European Parliament \(EP\)](#)
- [European Union \(EU\)](#)