Decision making process on EU level, bodies and structure of the EU

**President of the European Council**
- Coordinates
- Setting of general political direction

**European Council**
- Heads of State
- Heads of Government
- President of the European Council
- President of the EU Commission
- Suggests

**Council of the European Union**
- From 2014 “double majority voting” will be introduced
- High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- European External Action Service
- Elects

**European Parliament**
- 751 members incl. President
- Legislative ("lower house")
- Elects

**Court of Justice of the European Union**
- Judicial

**Court of Auditors**
- Spending Control
- Elects

**European Central Bank**
- Economic & Monetary Policy
- Elects

**Citizens of the member states**
- Elections in a 5 year rhythm

**European Commission**
- President
- Vice-President
- Executive
- 27 members (one member per member state incl. President and Vice-President)
- Election of the President

**Source:** Richter-publizistik
Source: http://europa.eu/about-eu/institutions-bodies/index_en.htm
Legislative process within EU

Pre-legislative process within the EU Commission (EU-COM)
Prior to the publication of recommendations, EU-COM often consults experts through either formal consultation processes or informal talks with key stakeholder groups.

EU-COM initiates draft law

Council of the European Union (Council)
- Negotiations of member states
- Discussion of compromises by COREPER²
- Discussion of general approach by ECOFIN³

European Parliament (EP)
- Appointment of rapporteur
- Discussion of draft among MEPs
- Revision process
- Presentation of final report

ECOFIN passes general concept

Vote in ECON an in Plenum

Final compromise reached in Trilogue (EU-COM, Council, EP)

Adoption through ECOFIN or other ministers

Second reading in EP

Publication in the Official Journal of the European Union

EU-Com initiates Technical Standards

Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS)

Implementing Technical Standards (IST)

National Implementation