

European Labour Law

Institutions and their Competencies

JUDr. Jana Komendová, Ph.D.

1. General Institutions

- European Parliament
- European Council
- Commission
- Council of the European Union
- European Court of Justice
- European Central Bank
- Committee of Auditors

European Parliament

- Represents the interests of the EU citizens
- **Seat:** Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg
- **Composition:** representatives of peoples of Member States elected every five years (754 members in total, the Czech Republic has 22 representatives)
- EP acts by an absolute majority of the votes except of cases stated in the Treaty

Main Competencies of the EP

- Passes the laws (jointly with the Council)
– co-decision procedure
- Consultative role – e.g. migration policy
- Exercise of democratic supervision over the other EU institutions
- Approves the EU budget jointly with the Commission.

European Council

- Represents the interests of the EU Member States
- **Seat:** usually Brussels
- **Composition:** Heads of States or Heads of Governments of the Member States, the President and the President of the Commission
- **President.** Herman Van Rompuy
- **Role:** provides the Union with the necessary impetus for its development, defines general political directions and priorities

Council of the European Union

- Main decision making body
- Represents the Member States
- **Composition:** one minister from each Member State responsible for the related agenda

Main Competencies of the Council of the EU

- Passing laws
 - Passing laws jointly with the European Parliament
- regulations, directives - on a proposal of the Commission, opinions, recommendations
- Approves the EU budget jointly with the European Parliament
 - Co-ordinating the policies of the Member States

European Commission

- Represents the interests of the Union
- Independent of national governments
- **Seat:** Brussels
- **Composition:** commissioners one from each Member State
- Appointed every five years
- **President:** José Manuel Barroso (Portugal)

Main Competencies of the Commission

- Drafts proposals for new European laws (directives, regulations) the right to initiative)
- Implements EU policies
- Enforces European law (jointly with the Court of Justice)

Court of Justice of the EU

- Main judiciary body of the EU
- **Seat:** Luxembourg
- **Composition:** Court of Justice,
General Court
Specialised Courts – Civil Service Tribunal
- Court of Justice - one judge from each Member State appointed by Governments for six years
- Advocates General (8 in total) state their opinions before the Court's decision

Competencies of the ECJ

- Reviews the legality of the acts of the institutions of the European Union
- Ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties (the Commission can start the proceedings against the Member State)
- Provides interpretation of European Union law at the request of the national courts and tribunals (preliminary ruling)

Institutions Acting in the Field of the Social Policy

Institutions Based on Treaties

European Economic and Social Committee

Committee of Regions

Standing Committee on Employment

European Social Fund

Institutions Established by an Act of Secondary Law

- European Agency for Health and Safety at Work
- European Centre for Development of Vocational Training
- European Foundation for Improvement of Living and Working Conditions