

# **EUROPEAN UNION LAW – THE LEGISLATIVE QUAGMIRE**

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# Introduction

Overview of EU processes

Need for simplification

How to make EU law more accessible

Need for a new independent entity

# EU legislative authority

## European Parliament

751 MEPs, transnational groups

Committees, rapporteurs

## Council of the EU

28 Member States

Working Parties, COREPER

# European Commission

Fully independent

Monopoly of the legislative initiative

Unanimity needed to amend the  
Commission's proposal

Commission may amend its proposal at  
any time before adoption

# Court of Justice of the EU

Jurisdiction to annul EU legislation

Jurisdiction to give preliminary ruling  
declaring EU legislation invalid

Interpretation:

24 language versions equally authentic

Purpose and context

# Need for simplification

60 years of piecemeal growth

Calls for simplification:

Edinburgh (1992), Madrid (1995), Lisbon (2000)

Amsterdam IGC (1997)

Sutherland, Davidson, Koopmans,  
Molitor, Mandelkern, Lamfalussy

Acquis



# A new independent entity?

Three independent institutions with quite different interests

European Commission is ever more political, rather than technocratic

Variety of joint arrangements at present

Technical aspects of EU regulation

[http://ials.sas.ac.uk/news/IALS\\_Think\\_Tank\\_Robinson\\_Report.htm](http://ials.sas.ac.uk/news/IALS_Think_Tank_Robinson_Report.htm)

<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/news/docs/OutlineOfAgreementOnEURregulation.0.2.pdf>



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