

Classification of European organisations

Caption: Table classifying the European organisations according to various key criteria: composition, constituent instrument, aim, organisational structure, seat, etc. (situation on 1 September 2010).

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	European Union	Council of Europe	OSCE	EFTA	WEU
Classification by composition	Regional organisation	Regional organisation	Regional organisation	Regional organisation	Regional organisation
Number of Member States	27	47	56	4	10
Member States	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom	Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Holy See (Vatican City State), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain,	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, United Kingdom

			Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan		
Founding States	Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands	Belgium, Denmark, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Federal Republic of Germany, Finland, France, German Democratic Republic, Greece, Holy See (Vatican City State), Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Soviet Union, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, Yugoslavia	Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom	Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, United Kingdom
Constitutive Act	ECSC Treaty (Signed: Paris, 18 April 1951; entry into force: 23 September 1952, expiry: 23 July 2002) EAEC or	Statute of the Council of Europe (Signed: London, 5 May 1949; entry into force: 3 August 1949)	Helsinki Final Act (Signature: 1 August 1975) Charter of Paris for a new Europe (Signature: 21 November 1990)	Stockholm Convention (Signed: 4 January 1960; entry into force: 3 May 1960)	Brussels Treaty (Signed: 17 March 1948; entry into force: 25 August 1948) Modified Brussels Treaty (Protocol signed:

	<p>Euratom Treaty (Signed: Rome, 25 March 1957; entry into force: 1 January 1958)</p> <p>EEC Treaty (Signed: Rome, 25 March 1957; entry into force: 1 January 1958), renamed EC Treaty (by the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht) then TFEU* (by the 2007 Treaty of Lisbon)</p> <p>EU Treaty (Signed: Maastricht, 7 February 1992; entry into force: 1 November 1993)</p>				Paris, 23 October 1954; entry into force: 6 May 1955)
Nature of the Constitutive Act	International legal agreement	International legal agreement	Policy commitment	International legal agreement	International legal agreement
Organisational structure	<p>Institutions: European Parliament, European Council, Council, European Commission, Court of Justice of the EU, European Central Bank, Court of Auditors</p> <p>Organs: Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions,</p>	<p>Political bodies: Committee of Ministers, Parliamentary Assembly</p> <p>Assisted by: Secretariat</p>	<p>Decision-making bodies: Summits, Ministerial Council, Permanent Council, Senior Council, Forum for Security Co-operation</p> <p>Assisted by: Chairman-in-Office, Secretary-General, Parliamentary Assembly</p>	<p>Decision-making body: Council</p> <p>Assisted by: Secretariat</p>	<p>Statutory bodies: Council, Secretariat-General, Assembly</p>

	European Investment Bank				
Seat	Brussels (Council, Commission) Strasbourg (Parliament) Luxembourg (Court of Justice, Court of Auditors) Frankfurt (Central Bank)	Strasbourg	Vienna (Secretariat)	Geneva (Secretariat)	Brussels (Council, Secretariat-General) Paris (Assembly)
Juridical personality	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Classification by field of activity	EAEC: Sectoral economic integration organisation EU: Economic and political organisation	Political organisation	Security organisation	Economic organisation	Security organisation
Kind of objective	General	General	Specific	Specific	Specific
Objective	European union	European unification (protection of human rights, pluralist democracy, the rule of law)	Security (particularly preventive diplomacy and crisis management)	Free-trade area (suppression of customs barriers between those Member States without common customs tariffs)	European defence (collective assistance in case of attack)
Classification by tasks	Regulatory organisation (adoption of rules that are common to the Member States) (Legal order with direct applicability and primacy over Member State law)	Conciliatory organisation (harmonisation of positions taken by Member States)	Conciliatory organisation (harmonisation of positions taken by Member States) and management (provides services to Member States)	Conciliatory organisation (harmonisation of positions taken by Member States)	Administrative organisation (provides services to Member States)
Means	Supranational integration	Intergovernmental cooperation	Intergovernmental cooperation	Intergovernmental cooperation	Intergovernmental cooperation

	(upholding the intergovernmental nature of the CFSP)				
Type of cooperation		Cooperation on standards (drawing up multilateral agreements) (European legal system for the protection of human rights within the framework of the ECHR)	Operational cooperation (joint actions within the framework of operations)	Cooperation on standards [international agreements: - with EU Member States (EEA agreement) - with non-Member States of the EU (Free Trade Agreements with 20 countries)]	Operational cooperation (joint actions within the framework of operations)
* Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union					