**There are seven EU institutions :**

1. The European Council:it gives to the Union the necessary impulses for its development and it defines the general political orientations
2. The Council of the European Union (also "the Council") : the principal decision-maker of the European Union, the main legislative institution. Along with the European Parliament, it creates European laws by adopting the propositions submitted by the European Commission. It also exercises the budget function together with the European Parliament.
3. The European Commission: :is responsible for a large part of the practical tasks of the Union. It can indeed be considered as the central administrative machinery of the Community.
4. The European Parliament:
   1. [**Committees**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/parliamentary-committees.html) **-** to prepare legislation: **20** committees and two subcommittees
   2. [**Plenary sessions**](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/home.html) – to pass legislation
5. The Court of Justice of the European Union
   1. Court of Justice or European Court of Justice : preliminary rulings, annulment, appeals, reviews. It consists of one judge from each EU member country, as well as 11 advocates general.
      1. final court of appeal
   2. General Court((previously the Court of First Instance):hears applications for annulment from individuals, companies and, less commonly, national governments
   3. Civil Service Tribunal (assist General Court)
6. The Court of Auditors: is responsible for controlling the Community budget
7. [The](http://www.ecb.europa.eu/ecb/html/index.en.html) European Central Bank

These institutions are assisted by two advisory bodies :

The Economic and Social Committee (ESC)

The Committee of the Regions (CoR): its main purpose is to represent the interests of the regional and local authorities of the Member States of the European Union