

**EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

**Theme:** European Commission

Professor: Student:

Doc. dr. Petra Kleindienst

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**INTRODUCTION**

The topic of this seminar is the European Commission. Primarily, I will talk about the institutions of the European Union. What is the European Commission, its competencies, how it works, representatives, structure… During the seminar I will look at European priorities and what it strives for.

**INSTITUTIONS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The institutions of the European Commission are:

1. **The Council of the European Union** (It is in Brussels, established in 1958. as Council of the European Economic Community. Lead role is adopting EU laws and EU policy coordination);
2. **The European Parliament** (The assembly meets in Strasbourg, the secretariat is in Luxembourg and committee in Brussels, established in 1952. It is legislature of the European Union);
3. **The European Commission** (Established in 1958. It is executive of the European Union);
4. **The European Court of Justice** (It is in Luxembourg, interprets the provisions of the founding treaties and resolves disputes).

**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

The European Commission is executive of the European Union, it is based in Brussels, commission is a supranational body, and its goals are:

* ensures the successful functioning of the common market;
* protection of community interest;
* representing the community on the international stage.

The mandate of the commission lasts five years. The members of the commission are elected in a certain way:

* the governments of the EU member states propose a new president of the European Commission, then the European Parliament appoints the president of the European Commission, because until he allows the president he can't start performing his duty. After the chairman of the commission is elected, he, together with the governments of the member states, elects the other members of the commission, and they are called **commissioners**.
* The Council of the European Union adopts the list of candidates for the European Commission by a qualified majority and is then adopted by the European Parliament. By voting in parliament for the proposed members of the European Commission, it is considered that it has been formally appointed.

The term “Commission” is used in two senses. First, it refers to the “members of the Commission”, i.e. the team of 20 men and women appointed by the member states and the Parliament to run the institution and take its decisions. Second, the term “Commission” refers to the institution itself and to its staff. Informally, the Members of the Commission are known as “Commissioners”.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The first president of the European Commission was **Walter Hallstein** in period 1958. – 1967. After him, twelve presidents were replaced, including today's president **Ursula von der Leyen** who was proclaimed president of 1st December 2019.

It is interesting to note that 23,000 people work in the European Commission.

**COMPETENCE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

There are several competencies of the European Commission, and they are:

• it is in charge of implementing measures and contracts issued by the authorities in accordance with the law;

• initiative to propose secondary legislation, then formulate recommendations and give opinions on issues related to the regulation of the EU treaty, but only when provided for in the treaty or at the request of the Commission;

• independent participation and decision-making, as well as the preparation of measures adopted by the European Council or the European Parliament;

• the exercise of the powers delegated to it by the European Council and these are delegated powers.

**ROLE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

The European Commission has four main roles:

* proposes laws to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union;
* implements European Union policy and manages the budget;
* it is responsible for taking care of the application of European law itself, and it does so together with the European Court of Justice;
* the last role, but no less important, is that the European Commission represents the European Union on the international stage.

**ORGANIZATION OF WORK EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

First of all, the European Commission makes a decision on which commissioner is in charge of a certain area. The president has the right to resign from the commissioners, but before that he must get the consent of the European Commission. The commission meets once a week and its team consists of 20 commissioners who are called "the College", and the meeting takes place on Wednesday.

In order for the European Commission to function effectively, it is necessary to have a directorate-general, general and internal services. It is the DGs that actually devise and draft the Commission’s legislative proposals, but these proposals become official only when ‘adopted’ by the College at its weekly meeting.[[2]](#footnote-2)

If the commission sees the need to create a law, the directorate-general drafts the law in consultation with member states and services whose work is relevant to a particular area. After that, the proposed law is discussed and amended if necessary. After the discussion, there is a check by the legal service and by the Commissioners ‘cabinets’. After all checks, the Secretary General puts the bill on the agenda of the commission session. If everyone agrees, the College adopts the proposal and it is sent as a document to the Council and the European Parliament for consideration. If they accept, the law is passed. However, if certain disagreements arise, the president asks the commissioner to vote. In order for the law to be adopted, 11 or more members must vote.

**PRIORITIES OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

The European Commission has 6 priorities that it strives to implement in the period from 2019-2024. Those are:

1. European Green Agreement;
2. Europe ready for the digital age;
3. Economics for people;
4. Stronger Europe in the world;
5. Promoting the European way of life;
6. A new impetus for European democracy.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Europe and the whole world is faced with many environmental concerns. The key problem is climate change and then just environmental pollution. Therefore, Europe wants to prevent such problems in the best possible way, the European Green Agreement will bring many changes in this regard, first of all, zero net greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, economic growth will be separated from the use of resources, no man and no place they will not be ignored. This agreement will also contribute to the solution of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The European Green Agreement will improve the well-being and health of citizens and future generations by ensuring:

1. fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and biodiversity;
2. renovated, energy efficient buildings;
3. healthy and affordable food;
4. more public transportation;
5. cleaner energy and state-of-the-art clean technological innovations;
6. more durable products that can be repaired, recycled and reused future-oriented jobs and training for transformation;
7. globally competitive and resilient industry.[[4]](#footnote-4)

Advances in technology are also changing people's way of life. That is why the EU must look at this area as well, it strives for digital transformation to help both citizens and businesses, the whole population, so that everyone can progress.

Europe needs to strengthen its digital sovereignty and set standards instead of following the standards of others. In her political guidelines, president Ursula von der Leyen emphasized that Europe must be at the forefront of the transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world. In this regard, in the first 100 days of her tenure, she launched a debate on ethical artificial intelligence and the use of big data to create wealth for companies and enterprises.[[5]](#footnote-5)

It is very important that Europe has an efficient and stable economy, so the EU is striving to achieve that. The EU economy is actually stable, but there is always something to do, look at small and medium enterprises that are very important for economic development itself. Economic development and progress will reduce poverty and citizens will be satisfied, which is the main goal.

Multilateralism and the world order are areas where the European Commission and the EU in general are involved. In order to strengthen itself, the EU must make sure it has a business-friendly market. This includes regular cooperation with neighbors and partners, the development of a comprehensive strategy for Africa and the reaffirmation of the European perspective for the Western Balkans.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The European Union strives to protect its citizens and the institutions themselves, the rule of law as a key thesis of union equality. The European Union strives for economic, political and social justice.

As the data show, the 2019. elections recorded a record turnout, which is proof that European democracy is "vital". To protect democracy from outside influence, a common approach and common standards for solving problems such as misinformation and hate speech online are needed.

The Commission will seek to consolidate the partnership with the European Parliament, which is the voice of the citizens, by ensuring its participation in all phases of international negotiations. It will also ensure transparency and integrity during the legislative process.[[7]](#footnote-7)

**CONCLUSION**

Through this seminar paper I have presented that the commission performs many tasks. I started with the institutions of the European Union, the Commission's competences, its role and organization of work, and finally ended with the key objectives of the European Commission today. The Commission for the first time strengthen and managed to look good today, with all the competencies and roles, thanks to the Lisbon Treaty (2007.) and the creation of agencies. Primarily, the conclusion is that the commission has an independent and neutral status and therefore its competencies are mostly political in nature, because of this status very important for the EU. Because of the European Commission and other institution, the European Union is as it is today, as Ursula von der Leyen said: *“For the generation of my parents, Europe was an aspiration of peace in a continent too long divided. For my generation, Europe was an aspiration of peace, prosperity and unity that we brought to life through our single currency, free movement and enlargement. For the generation of my children, Europe is a unique aspiration. It is an aspiration of living in a natural and healthy continent. Of living in a society where you can be who you are, live where you like, love who you want and aim as high as you want. It is an aspiration of a world full of new technologies and age-old values.”[[8]](#footnote-8)*

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