

# EU-INSTITUTIONS AND THEIR REACTION ON THE MAASTRICHT TREATIES

## **The Maastricht Summit and European Narratives**

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# INTRODUCTION

# TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

- Shift of legislation power for the European Union
  - Co-Decision making for the EP & Council of the EU - Incremental change

Research question:

How did the EU institutions react on the institutional changes for the European Parliament in case of the Co-decision making caused by the Maastricht Treaty?

# TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION

## Assumption:

Advantages for the European Parliament, like co-decision making with the Council in certain policy fields

→ positive reactions of the EP on institutional changes,  
negative reactions of the other institutions because of a  
loss of competences



# CHANGE OF COMPETENCES

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## 1. Right of initiative

“The Maastricht Treaty gave the Parliament the right of legislative initiative, but it was limited to asking the Commission to put forward a proposal. [...]”

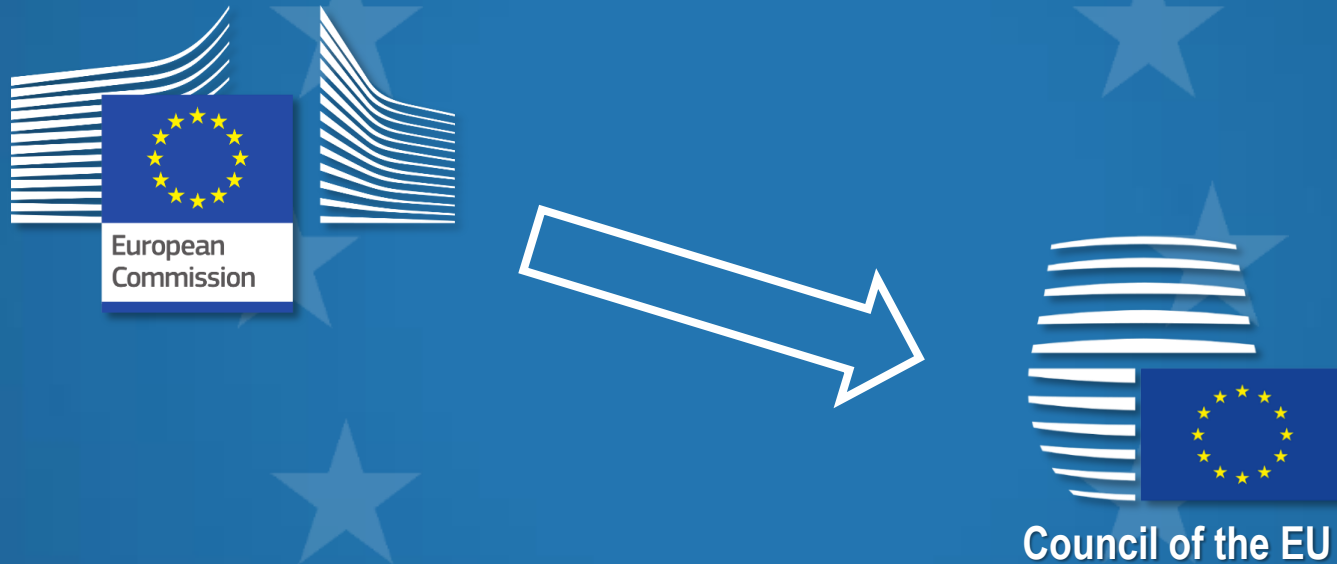
## 2. Investiture over the executive

“[...] it was only when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1992 that its approval was required before the Member States could appoint the President and Members of the Commission as a collegiate body.”

Source: [europarl.europa.eu](http://europarl.europa.eu)

# CHANGE OF COMPETENCES

## 3. Co-Decision Making

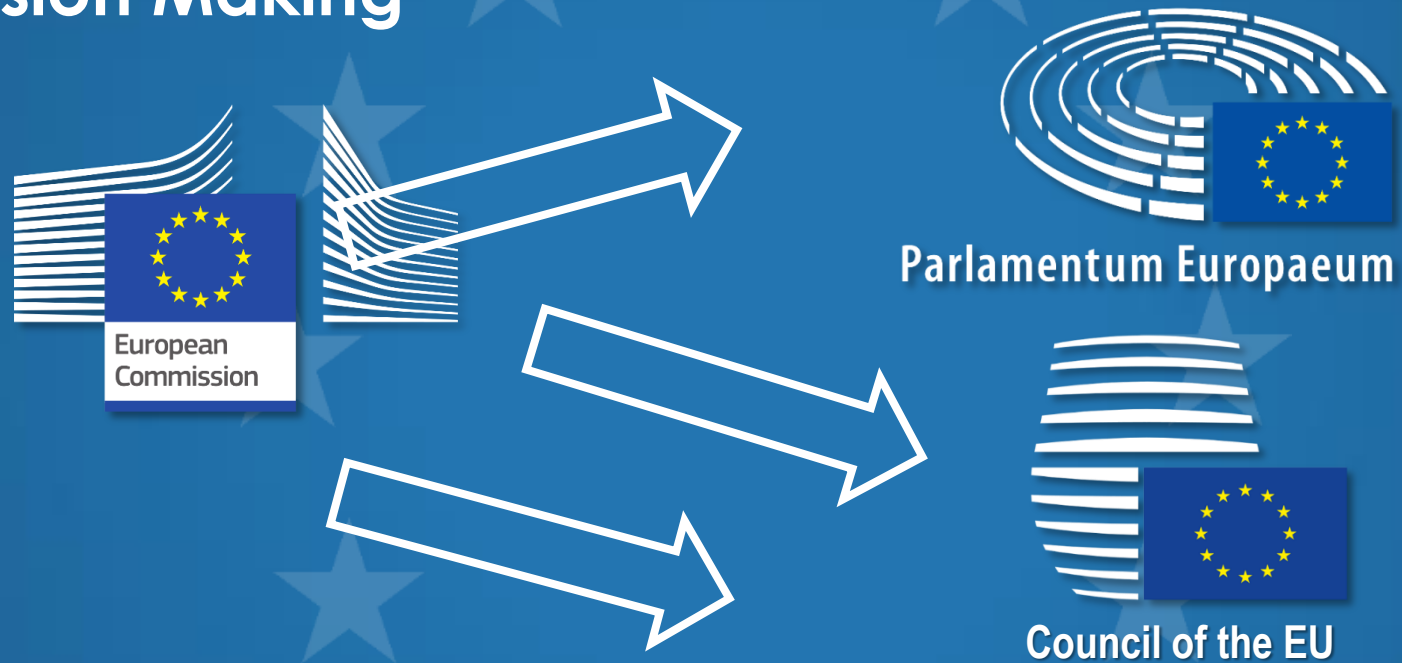


Before the treaty



# CHANGE OF COMPETENCES

## 3. Co-Decision Making



After the treaty



# REACTIONS OF THE EU-INSTITUTIONS

# REACTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT



Parlamentum Europaeum

## Before the Maastricht Treaty:

- “Stresses, moreover, that at European Community level the right of joint decision accorded to the European Parliament is too limited.”

*(Resolution on the democratic deficit in the European Community, 17 June 1988)*

- “The Union's legitimacy shall be based on institutions directly or indirectly elected by the people and in particular on a legislative and budgetary power consisting of the European Parliament and the Council.”

*(Resolution on the European Parliament's guidelines for a draft constitution for the European Union, 11 July 1990)*

# REACTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENT



Parlamentum Europaeum

## After the Maastricht Treaty:

- “Federalism and co-decision: the British and Danish Governments react to these words with the same outraged sensitivities as a Victorian girls' boarding school to a four-letter word.”

*(Hänsch (S&D): 14 October 1992)*

- “We can build on this basis, even if it is fragile. But we must take matters further. That is the lesson of these last few months: more transparency, more democracy.”

*(Jean-Pierre Cot (S&D): 14 October 1992)*

# REACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION



## After the Maastricht Treaty

“The Commission is delighted that the Union's democratic legitimacy has been strengthened. Making the Commission's appointment subject to Parliament's approval has been an important step in the right direction. The increase in Parliament's legislative powers is another welcome development.”

*(Report of the preparation for the intergovernmental conference of 1996)*

Source: europa.eu

# REACTIONS OF THE COMMISSION



## After the Maastricht Treaty

“But as decision-making has become more democratic, it has also become complex to an almost unacceptable degree. The twenty or so procedures in use at present should be reduced to three - the assent procedure, a simplified co-decision procedure, and consultation. We must put an end to the inconsistencies and ambiguities which have so often sparked conflicts over procedural matters.”

*(Report of the preparation for the intergovernmental conference of 1996)*

# REACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL



## Before the Maastricht Treaty:

- “Achieving a consensus on the principle of a co-decision procedure will be an important political part of the final agreement.”

*(Luxembourg, June 1991)*

- “The European Council welcomed all the contacts which had been established with the European Parliament during the preparation of the drafts [...]”

*(Maastricht, December 1991)*

Source: [consilium.europa.eu](http://consilium.europa.eu)

# REACTIONS OF THE COUNCIL



## After the Maastricht Treaty:

- “The European Council underlined the importance of making the best possible use of the new role of the EP while fully respecting the institutional balance set out in the Maastricht Treaty.”
- “It welcomed the growing contacts between national Parliaments and the European Parliament.”

*(Copenhagen, June 1993)*

Source: [consilium.europa.eu](http://consilium.europa.eu)





# CONCLUSION

# CONCLUSION

	European Commission	European Parliament	European Council
<b>Change towards extended competences</b> <i>(desirable)</i>	<i>Introduced competences for the EP desirable but risk of making the process too complex</i>	<i>Further competences: yes, competences treaty sufficient: no</i>	<i>share of decision-making with the EP: positive</i>

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# DISCUSSION

- Was the Maastricht treaty and the changes that were included for the EP from the today point of view still a milestone and a starting point on the path towards more competences for the EP?
- If yes, how would you assess the further development on the EU-decision making? Will that path be followed or are the actual difficulties (asylum policy, foreign and security policy) a step towards a shift of competences?



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**