



# PECUCS

Participation of European Citizens  
in the Union's Climate Strategy



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# The Council of the European Union

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DIPARTIMENTO DI GIURISPRUDENZA

# The Council

- is composed of representatives from all Member States, chosen from within their respective governments, normally with the rank of minister, depending on the subject matter being discussed.
- is composed of representatives of all Member States, chosen from within their respective governments, normally at ministerial level, depending on the subject matter.

# The Council

- The Treaty of Lisbon, while maintaining the rotation between States anchored to the six-month presidency, introduces an eighteen-month programme, a longer time frame that makes it possible to set more challenging objectives.

# The Council

- **COREPER** (Committee of Permanent Representatives of the Member States), composed of the diplomatic representatives of all Member States accredited to the Union
- is responsible for preparing the work of the Council and carrying out the tasks assigned by the Council itself.

# The Council

- COREPER:
- is an autonomous body, which also has the power to adopt procedural decisions in the cases provided for in the Rules of Procedure (Article 16(7) TEU and Article 240, n. 1 TFEU).
- It compensates for the variability of the Council's composition and mitigates the essentially international nature of this body.

# The Council

- It is a liaison structure between the Union and the Member States. COREPER coordinates the work of the many technical committees that prepare the Council's legislative activity and at the same time acts as its political filter. It is a liaison structure between the Union and the Member States.

# The Council

Pursuant to Article 16 TEU:

“The Council shall exercise, jointly with the European Parliament, legislative and budgetary functions. It shall exercise policy-making and coordinating functions under the conditions laid down in the Treaties.”

# The Council and COP 30

On October 21, 2025, it approved its conclusions for COP 30 in Belem. These outline the EU's main priorities and positions for the conference, focusing on the urgent need for global climate action and collaboration.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/it/press/press-releases/2025/10/21/cop30-council-sets-eu-position-for-the-climate-conference-in-belem/>

# The Council

- Unless otherwise specified, Council decisions are taken by a qualified majority.
- This majority is calculated with reference to the weighting of votes for each Member State, as established by Article 16 TEU and Article 238, n. 2 TFEU.

# The Council

- From 1 November 2014, subject to the provisions of the Protocol on transitional provisions, a qualified majority shall be defined as at least 55% of the members of the Council, with a minimum of fifteen, representing a number of Member States corresponding to at least 65% of the population of the Union, when the Council deliberates on a proposal from the Commission or the High Representative.

# The Council

- In this way, formal equality between States, each of which has one vote, is combined with the population criterion, in order to prevent a majority of small States alone from being able to prevail.

# The Council

- When the Council does not act on a proposal from the Commission or the High Representative, a qualified majority shall be defined as at least 72% of the members of the Council representing Member States comprising at least 65% of the population of the Union (Article 238, n. 2 TFEU).
- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/it/council-eu/voting-system/voting-calculator/>