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ERASMUS – JMO – 2025 – 2028 MODULE
UNIVERSITY OF GJIROKASTRA
EU EDUCATION FOR BETTER GOVERNANCE IN THE REGIONS OF ALBANIA

EU4EduGovRegAl

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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OPEN FORUM OVERVIEW: EU4EduGovRegAl

Academic Transformation: Strengthening European Union studies through innovative teaching, interdisciplinary approaches, and research on EU governance.

Institutional Capacity Building: Supporting the modernization of public administration by promoting European standards of transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Regional Engagement and European Awareness: Enhancing awareness of European integration and fostering cooperation among institutions, students, and regional stakeholders.

Sustainable Academic and Institutional Networks: Establishing long-term collaboration between universities, local governments, and international partners to support Albania's European integration process.

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🎯 FORUM OBJECTIVES

- 🇪🇺 Understanding EU Governance Principles
- 🏛️ Analyzing EU Institutions
- 📣 Promoting Active Citizenship
- 🤝 Connecting EU Governance with Albania
- 🏆 Applying Knowledge Practically

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION: THE ARCHITECT, EXECUTIVE AND GUARDIAN OF THE EU

NAVIGATING THE INSTITUTIONAL COMPLEXITY OF THE EU.

FOCUS: EXECUTIVE POWER, LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE, AND EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

CONTEXT: THE "ENGINE" OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

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A UNIQUE POSITION IN THE EU ARCHITECTURE

The Executive Branch: Defining the Commission as the main initiator of policies.

Cabinet-Style Governance: Operates as a collective body of Commissioners.

Institutional Mission: Promoting the general interest of the Union, independent of national governments.

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COMPOSITION AND POLITICAL LEGITIMACY

The College of Commissioners: Currently 27 members (one per Member State).

Binding Oath: Obligation to represent the EU as a whole, not national interests.

Human Capital: Supported by a civil service of approximately 32,000 European officials.

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APPOINTMENT: THE BALANCE OF POWER

Presidential Nomination: Proposed by the European Council, considering European Election results.

Parliamentary Consent: Elected by the European Parliament (EP) by an absolute majority.

The "Hearings": Rigorous parliamentary scrutiny of each Commissioner-designate to ensure competence and integrity.

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FOUR MAIN FUNCTIONS :

- Legislative initiative
- Implementation of EU policies
- Guardian of the Treaties
- International representation

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THE MONOPOLY OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

The Right of Initiative: The only body that can formally propose EU legislation.

Strategic Rationale: Ensures the coherence of EU policies

- Protects the common European interest

Institutional Dialogue: Institutional dialogue with the Council and Parliament enables initiatives that harmonize rules, preventing national fragmentation

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FROM CONCEPT TO PROPOSAL: QUALITY FILTERS

Green Papers: Discussion documents for public consultation and stakeholder engagement.

White Papers: Detailed proposals for specific EU actions.

The Principle of Subsidiarity: A critical filter—acting only when EU-level action is more effective than national-level action.

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MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION:

ENSURING EU LAW IS CORRECTLY APPLIED IN ALL 27 STATES.

The Infringement Procedure:

Formal Notice.

Reasoned Opinion.

Referral to the Court of Justice (CJEU).

Financial Sanctions: Dissuasive fines for non-compliant Member States.

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ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE: DIRECTORATES-GENERAL (DGS)

The "Ministries" of the EU: Organized by policy areas (Agriculture, Environment, Energy, etc.).
Internal Governance: Each DG is headed by a Director-General reporting to a Commissioner.
Technocratic Expertise: The professional engine behind policy development.

EU Agencies: Specialists in Safety and Innovation

Specialized Bodies: EMA (Medicines), EFSA (Food Safety), Europol (Law Enforcement).
Technical Mandate: Providing high-level scientific and technical expertise to support decision-making and citizen safety.

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FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND THE EU BUDGET

Execution of the MFF: Managing the Multiannual Financial Framework.

Key Investment Pillars: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), Cohesion Funds, and Horizon Europe (Research).

Accountability: Under the strict supervision of the European Court of Auditors.

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PROGRAMS WITH SOCIAL IMPACT

Erasmus+: The flagship program for cultural and educational exchange.

Regional Development: Funding infrastructure and reducing economic disparities.

The "European Social State": Operationalizing the Charter of Fundamental Rights through targeted funding.

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THE COMMISSION AS MARKET ARBITRATOR

- Competition Policy: Exclusive authority to block anti-competitive mergers.
- State Aid Control: Preventing illegal subsidies that distort the Single Market.
- Level Playing Field: Protecting SMEs from corporate monopolies.

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INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATION: THE EU AS A GLOBAL PLAYER

Trade Diplomacy: Negotiating on behalf of 27 states at the WTO.

Normative Power: Exporting EU standards on environment, labor rights, and consumer protection.

Climate Leadership: Driving the Paris Agreement and the Green Deal globally.

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THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE (EEAS)

High Representative: Serving as Vice-President of the Commission.

Global Presence: A network of over 140 delegations (EU Embassies) worldwide.

Humanitarian Aid (ECHO): The EU as a leading global donor in crisis response.

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ENLARGEMENT AND THE MERIT-BASED PROCESS

- The Compass for Candidates: Guiding countries like Albania and North Macedonia.
- The "Enlargement Package": Annual reports monitoring the Rule of Law and anticorruption reforms.
- Conditionality: Ensuring new members strengthen, rather than weaken, Union cohesion.

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EVOLUTION: TOWARD STRATEGIC SOVEREIGNTY

Crisis Management: Joint procurement of vaccines and energy crisis mitigation.

European Defence Fund (EDF): Coordinating defense industry innovation.

Geopolitical Shift: Transitioning from "Soft Power" to an actor focused on collective security.

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CHALLENGES: LEGITIMACY AND THE FUTURE

The Democratic Deficit: Addressing the gap between technocratic efficiency and popular will.

The Twin Transition: Navigating the Green and Digital revolutions.

Efficiency vs. Transparency: Maintaining trust through accountability to the European Parliament.

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CONCLUSION: **THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:**

The Indispensable Institution

The Guarantor of Efficiency: Without the Commission, the EU remains a fragmented bloc.

Architect of Stability: Transforming political will into tangible progress for 450 million citizens.

Final Thought: The laboratory of modern transnational governance.

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CONCLUSIONS AND QUESTIONS SUMMARY OF MAIN POINTS. SPACE FOR DISCUSSION.

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