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

EU4EduGovRegAl

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Lecturer: Dr. Arjan GJINI

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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 PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION:
ARCHITECT OF EXECUTIVE LEGITIMACY IN THE EU

SUBTITLE: FROM ADMINISTRATOR TO THE UNION'S DE FACTO PRIME MINISTER

KEY IDEA: THE LINK BETWEEN POLITICAL WILL AND MODERN ADMINISTRATIVE GOVERNANCE.

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LEGITIMACY AND THE "SPITZENKANDIDAT" PROCESS

Concept: The President is not merely the product of negotiations among leaders, but also reflects the citizens' electoral choice.

Mechanism: European political parties nominate their leading candidates before the European elections.

Outcome: The winning political group gains the moral authority to lead the executive branch.

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THE PRESIDENT AS THE "GENERAL OF RULES" (IMPLEMENTATION)

Mission: Transforming political will into technically sound legislation.

Tasks: Coordinating legislative proposals and supervising policy implementation.

Guarantee: Ensuring that the EU machinery produces tangible results, not merely bureaucracy.

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GUARDIAN OF THE TREATIES AND RESOURCE OPTIMIZATION

Enforcement: Monitoring Member States' compliance with directives and regulations.

Budgetary Control: Ensuring that financial instruments translate into i nnovation, infrastructure and security.

Efficiency: Guiding the administration toward results-oriented governance.

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STRUCTURE OF THE COLLEGE OF COMMISSIONERS :

Government-Like Cabinet: 27 Commissioners working collegially.

Hierarchy: President → Executive Vice-Presidents → Commissioners

Hearings: The European Parliament’s role in approving or rejecting the entire College.

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EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENTS: STRATEGIC PILLARS

KEY STRATEGIC PILLARS INCLUDE:

- CLEAN AND COMPETITIVE TRANSITION
- TECHNOLOGICAL SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY
- PROSPERITY AND INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY
- HIGH REPRESENTATIVE (FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMACY)

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SPECIFIC OPERATIONAL PORTFOLIOS

Key policy areas include:

ENLARGEMENT
DEFENCE AND SPACE
DIGITAL ECONOMY
AGRICULTURE
HEALTH

DYNAMIC ALLOCATION: PORTFOLIOS ADAPT TO EMERGING POLICY CHALLENGES.

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THE MANDATE AND POLITICAL FUNCTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Synchronization: Five-year mandate aligned with the European Parliament's legislative term.

Primus inter pares: First among equals – leadership combined with collective decision-making.

Authority: Power to request the resignation of Commissioners.

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TREATY-BASED POWERS

- Agenda Setting: Defining the general political guidelines.
- Portfolio Allocation: Authority over the distribution of policy responsibilities.
- Representation: The voice of unity in forums such as the G7 and G20.

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STRATEGIC ROLE AND THE STATE OF THE UNION (SOTEU)

- SOTEU Address: Annual speech serving as the compass of the European agenda.
- Assessment and Vision: Reporting achievements and outlining priorities for the next year.
- Mobilization: Creating unity among more than 500 million European citizens.

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INDEPENDENCE AND SUPRANATIONAL CHARACTER

- **Oath of Independence:** Commissioners must not seek or take instructions from national governments.
- **Protection of Smaller States:** EU law applies equally to all members.
- **Common Interest:** Safeguarding the Single Market above national political interests.

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ARCHITECT OF SOLIDARITY IN TIMES OF CRISIS

- Examples: COVID-19 vaccine coordination and the NextGenerationEU recovery plan.
- Leadership: Proposing solutions that individual Member States cannot implement alone.
- Action: Transforming administrative coordination into solidarity-based governance.

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INTERNAL ORGANIZATION: CLUSTERS AND DIRECTORATES

Cluster System: Executive Vice-Presidents coordinate groups of Commissioners.

Directorates-General (DGs): The EU civil service providing technical expertise.

Policy Chain: From the President's vision to enforceable legislation.

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THE PRINCIPLE OF COLLEGIALITY

- Shared Responsibility: Decisions are adopted collectively by the College.
- Institutional Unity: Each initiative reflects the authority of the entire Commission.
- Efficiency: Prevents fragmentation and institutional silos.

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THE INSTITUTIONAL TRIANGLE AND "TRILOGUES

Balance of Power: Council (Member States

Parliament (Citizens)

Commission (European Interest)

Trilogues: Negotiations on major legislative dossiers.

Honest Broker: The Commission mediates technical compromises.

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POLITICAL DIPLOMACY AND SOFT POWER

Unified Voice: Negotiating trade agreements and sanctions on behalf of the EU.

Strategic Partnerships: Relations with Washington, Beijing and Kyiv.

Global Standards: Exporting the European regulatory model.

Crisis Communication and Transparency

From Technocracy to Citizens: Direct communication during crises.

Countering Disinformation: Protecting democratic European narratives.

Symbolic Presence: Diplomatic visits demonstrating solidarity.

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ETHICS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Code of Conduct: Asset declarations and "cooling-off" periods.

Motion of Censure: The European Parliament's power to dismiss the Commission.

Integrity: Strong democratic checks on executive authority.

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CONCLUSION: **THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

Why Does the EU Need a Strong President?

- Efficiency: Rapid action in global crises.
- Accountability: A clear institutional face of responsibility.
- Geopolitical Unity: The EU as a coherent actor on the world stage.
- The President embodies the balance between technocratic efficiency and democratic legitimacy.

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

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