



LATVIA'S INFLUENCE IN EUROPE. EUROPE'S INFLUENCE IN LATVIA.



How does the Saeima influence decision making of the European Union?



How do the decisions adopted in the European Union affect us?



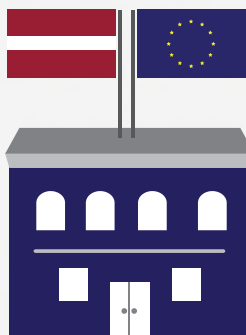
The European Union consists of 28 member states which can participate in decision making of the European Union

The Treaty of Lisbon entered into force five years ago

It enables national parliaments to take part in law making of the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION LEGISLATION



The Saeima participates in decision making of the European Union through its European Affairs Committee

INFLUENCE OF THE SAEIMA ON DECISION MAKING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

PRINCIPLE OF SUBSIDIARITY

The Saeima conducts a subsidiarity check of legislative proposals of the European Union

POLITICAL DIALOGUE

During the decision-making process, the Saeima maintains political dialogue with the institutions of the European Union, thus directly lobbying its interests

MANDATE TO DEFEND LATVIA'S INTERESTS

Latvia's position is indirectly represented in the Council of the Ministers

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WEEKS

to assess any legislative proposal of the European Union



CORRESPONDENCE

The European Affairs Committee of the Saeima corresponds with the European Commission detailing its position on various issues



The European Affairs Committee of the Saeima adopts Latvia's national position on different matters



The Saeima sends its opinion to the European Commission, the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament



NEGOTIATIONS

If the agenda of the European Union includes items that are important to Latvia, members of the Saeima attend meetings on different levels held at the European Union institutions



The European Affairs Committee of the Saeima gives mandate to ministers and other government representatives to present Latvia's position in the European Union institutions and member states



If one-third of national parliaments are against the legislative proposal, the European Commission must reconsider its necessity



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LEGISLATIVE ACTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

REGULATION

Fully binding and directly applicable in all member states

DIRECTIVE

Specifies goals and deadlines, leaving the means and methods to meet them at member states' discretion

DECISION

Fully binding on its addressees

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendations and opinions are non-binding and draw attention to particular issues