



IT'S ABOUT THE
**FUTURE
OF EUROPE**
Let's talk

What is the role of the EU in supporting a more equal society?

CITIZEN'S DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS

MARCH 2019 – CORK, GALWAY, DUBLIN



EU VALUES

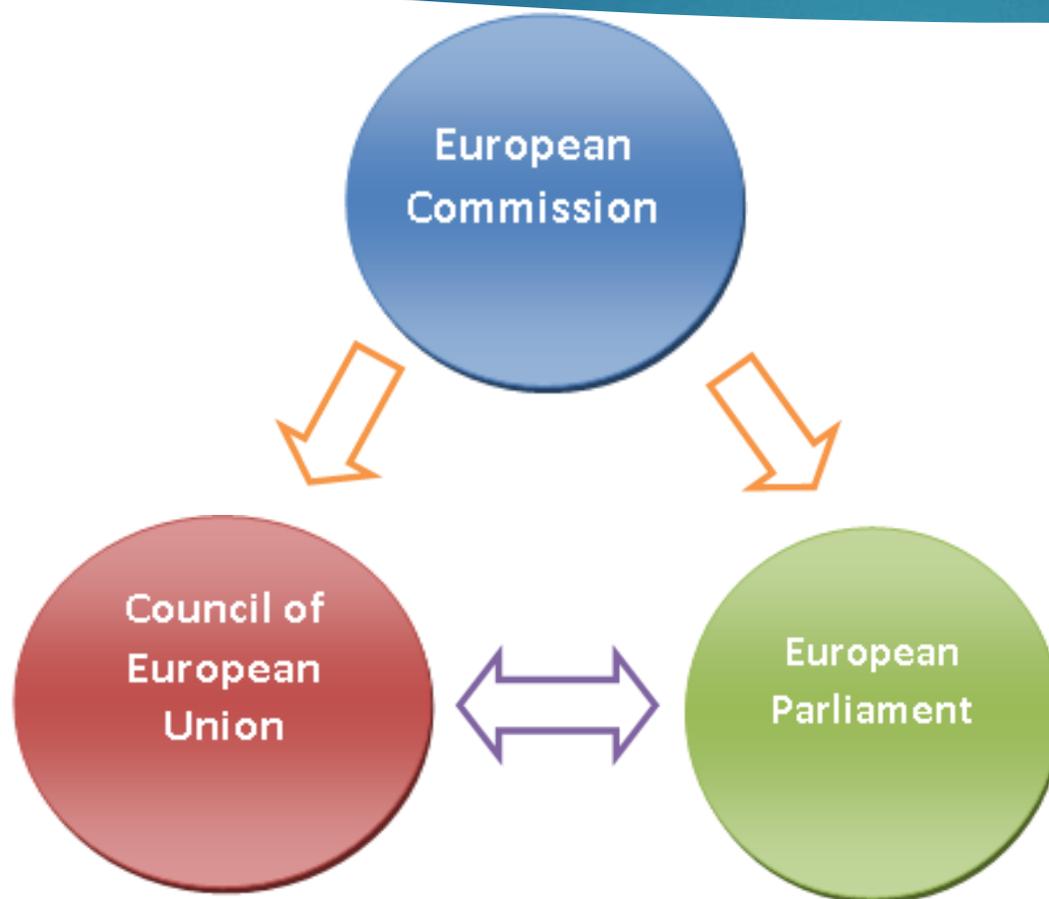
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*“The Union is founded on the values of **respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.** These values are common to the Member States in a society in which **pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.**”*

Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union

Decision Making in the EU

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1. Commission proposes policy and legislation
2. Parliament and Council jointly make legislation (in most areas)
3. The Commission is then responsible for implementing EU laws and policy and ensuring they are respected.

Building a Social Europe

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- ▶ Treaty limits EU role in social areas – Some countries fear it will weaken and other strengthen their social policy – Trust?
- ▶ HARD Economic Law and mainly SOFT social approach (Coordination)
 - ▶ But
 - Areas of employment e.g. anti-discrimination and gender equality
 - Anti-discrimination outside employment
 - EU Charter of Fundamental Rights

Poverty levels and commitments

- ▶ In EU 113 million people in 2017 (22.4%) at risk of poverty and social exclusion – Target is 16 million fewer by 2020.
- ▶ 321,000 people (6.7% of the population) in consistent poverty in Ireland in 2017 – Target 2% or less by 2020.
- ▶ Pillar of Social Rights – New Opportunity?



Citizen's Consultation on Future of Europe

Priorities from Irish participants

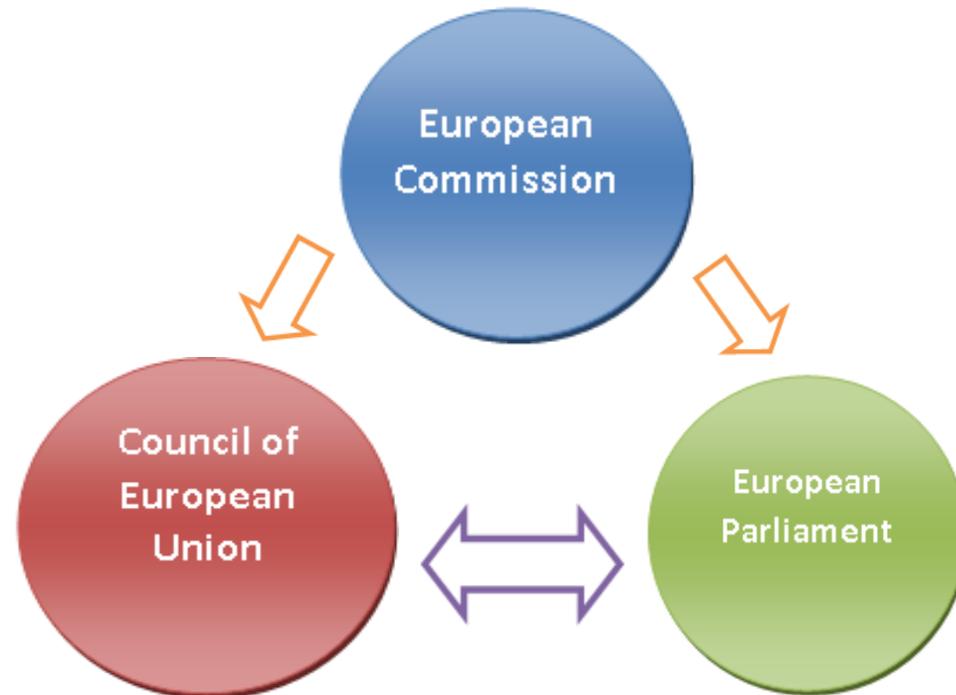
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- ▶ To be part of a Union that lives up to its **values** and is ready to meet new challenges.
- ▶ **Cooperate on challenges like climate change, migration,** cybersecurity, terrorism and cross-border crime.
- ▶ **Overarching desire for fairness**
Fairness in opportunities available to citizens, between generations, between Member States, in Europe's dealings with the rest of the world and towards the environment.
- ▶ The EU to **continue to do what it does well.**
Common Agricultural Policy, regional development and Erasmus+ but more investment in young people, in education, training and innovation.
- ▶ **To tackle social exclusion and stronger interventions at a European level to combat discrimination, integrate migrants and improve access to services.**

Back to Decision Makers in the EU

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NB: Who we elect (or appoint) and their values





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