

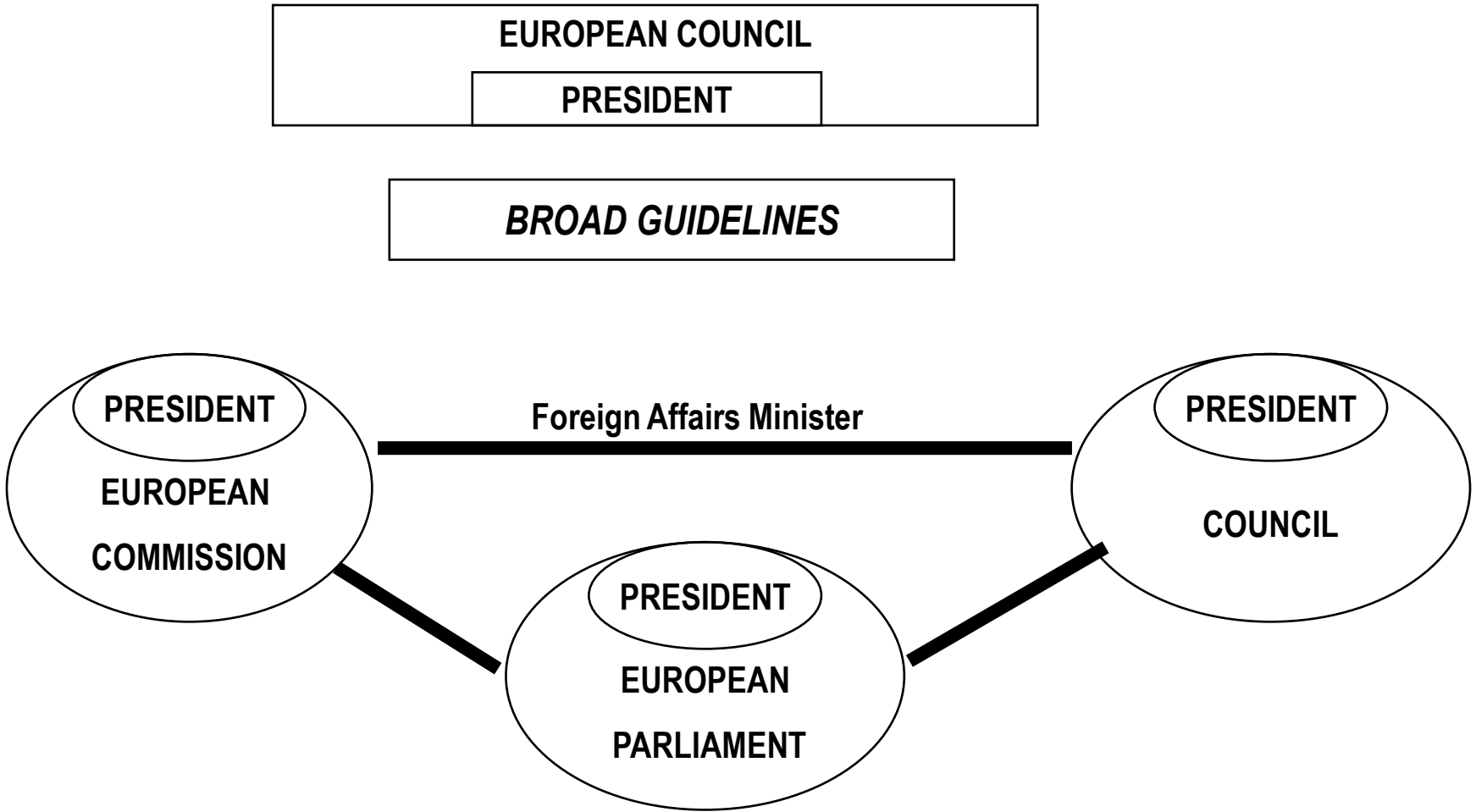
# *International Organisations and Development*

## The Policies of the European Union Lesson IX

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# The EU Institutional Framework Between Supranationalism and Intergovernmentalism



# The policy Pendulum

- Depending on time, context, capacity, interests and motivations the European policy can swing more toward
  - An intergovernmental pole
  - A supranational pole

# Trade policy

- There are no customs duties between EU member states. Also, imports from developing countries are duty-free or the duties are lowered.
- Common tariffs with third countries.
- The European Union holds an important position in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- Trade relations are maintained, in particular, with the Mediterranean countries, Russia, the United States and China.
- Member states may also sign bilateral trade agreements with other countries as long as they are not in conflict with the EU laws and agreements.

# Economic policy

- The main objective is to create a stable and prosperous euro zone.
- A common currency improves companies' competitiveness and increases economic stability.
- The European Central Bank regulates the interest rates and is able to control inflation and exchange rates.
- The European Union pays member states various subsidies, for example for development projects.

# Agricultural policy

- The main objective of Europe's agricultural policy is to develop the countryside.
- The quality of food, package labelling and plant protection are controlled, the objective is to ensure that the products produced in the various parts of Europe are safe, clean and of high quality.
- Efficient regulation limits over-production but ensures the capacity to increase production whenever necessary.

# Environmental policy

- The environmental requirements of the European Union are the strictest in the world.
- Endangered species and their habitats are protected.
- Natural resources need to be used efficiently, companies are asked to respect the environment in their operations.
- Environment-friendly products and operations are supported.
- Energy-saving is encouraged and
- recycling increased.

# Foreign policy

- As cooperation between countries increases and in the face of global problems, small European nations can express their opinions more effectively through the Union. This is why cooperation in the field of foreign policy was increased by the Treaty of Lisbon.
- A Foreign Minister for the European Union can take part in international conferences.
- Not so much an integrated policy, national interests tend to prevail.



# Security policy

- The European Union's security policy focuses on Europe's internal affairs. The European Union has founded a common European law enforcement agency called **Europol**.
- Through Europol the police authorities of the various countries can cooperate and solve international crimes. Europol specialises in the prevention of drug traffic, illegal immigration, human trafficking and money laundering.
- Cooperation between law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, judges and police is promoted by **Eurojust** (Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation). It concentrates on organised cross-border crime. Its goal is to bring criminals to justice as quickly as possible.
- A new development in the security sector is the possibility of a common defence policy. In particular, cooperation is being planned to prevent acts of terrorism. The idea is to create a Rapid Reaction Force for the European Union that can be sent to control emergencies. The Rapid Reaction Force consists of the troops of the member state armies, and so it is not a question of a separate 'Euro army'. The European Union sends troops on various peace-keeping missions.