

How is it run?

These are some of the main parts of the EU:

The European Parliament

This makes laws and helps to decide how much money the EU should spend. It also checks that all the other parts of the EU are working fairly.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are elected every five years. Anyone over 18 from a member country may vote.

Council of the European Union

This is where the EU's big decisions are normally made.

It's like a school council, but instead of people from each year there are people from each country.

Who turns up depends on what the council is talking about. If they are talking about farms then the 25 ministers for farming would go along, one from the government of each country.

The European Commission

The European Commission does the day-to-day work of running the EU.

It does things like making sure that the laws the European Parliament passes are used properly.

The Presidency

Every six months a different country gets the presidency of the EU. With 27 members the Spain's turn only comes round every 13 and a half years.

Questions:

1. What are the 4 main parts of the European Union?

2. What is the role of the European Parliament?

3. What are MEP's ?

4. How long is the term of office for a MEP?

5. Where are the 'big decisions' made?

6. What is the role of the European Commission?

7. How many countries make up the EU?

8. Name six of them:

9. For how long does each country hold the presidency of the EU?

10. This happens once every _____ years.