



SIMULATION GAME 2023

General Instructions

Learning goals:

Through taking part in this simulation, participants will:

- Deepen their understanding of the European Union and its decision-making processes
- Understand the dynamics of negotiation and alliance-building within the Council of the European Union
- Experience the pathways to deciding an agenda item discussed at a Council of the EU meeting; and
- Apply negotiation skills in a multi-party setting

Simulation synopsis:

The simulation is a multi-party negotiation at a meeting of the Council of the EU (Foreign Affairs Council – Trade) to determine the mandate (‘negotiating directives’ as it is called by the European Union) that the Council of the EU will give to the European Commission to negotiate a free trade agreement (FTA) on behalf of the EU with the fictional country of Tradeland. Tradeland is a close ally of the European Union and one of the EU’s largest trading partners. Participants are tasked with designing a mandate for the Commission. This is a currently a ‘hot’ topic on the EU agenda and is likely to remain so for the foreseeable future. Participants are not tasked to negotiate with Tradeland, but rather to represent the interests of their country in the negotiations taking place within the Council of the EU regarding what should be included in the negotiation mandate given to the European Commission.

Council of the European Union

The Council of the EU is the institution representing the Member states at ministerial level. It is where national ministers from each EU country meet to adopt laws and coordinate policies. The Council of the EU is an inter-governmental institution. The

Council of the EU, together with the European Parliament, form the legislative branch of the European Union and its budgetary authority. The Council meets in ten configurations, with ministers from each of the 27 Member states represented on each of the councils.

The Council of the EU negotiates, drafts, and adopts EU laws; coordinates Member state policies such as economic and fiscal policies, education, culture, youth and sport policies, and employment policy; develops the EU's common foreign and security policy; concludes international agreements; and adopts the EU budget. The Council of the European Union (distinct from the European Council), is the equivalent of an "upper house" of the EU legislature (with the European Parliament, filling the role of the "lower house").

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is responsible for the functioning of the Council.

EU Trade Policy

The EU has set up a customs union and a common trade policy in the late 1950s. The European Commission negotiates trade agreements on behalf of the EU based on a mandate agreed upon by Member states (by qualified majority except for issues related to services, commercial aspects of intellectual property, foreign direct investments, trade in cultural and audiovisual services, trade in social, education and health services). The European Commission reports back on trade negotiations regularly to the Council of the EU and the European Parliament. Member states can no longer conclude trade agreements on their own, since this is an exclusive competence of the EU. Over the years, the EU has become one of the world's largest trading blocks, representing a market of 500 million Europeans and 27 developed countries.

Voting system

Ultimately, the decision making mechanism in the Council of the EU for the purposes of this simulation is reaching an agreement through qualified majority voting, following the rules laid down by the EU. A qualified majority is reached if two conditions are simultaneously met:

- **55% of member states** vote in favour - in practice this means 5 out of 8 (PT) and 9 out of 15 (FT)

- the proposal is supported by member states representing at least **65% of the total EU population**

For the conduct of the vote, the following percentages of each member state's population are determined in relation to the total population of the EU-8 (PT) or the EU-15 (FT).

- Part Time

GERMANY	24,3%
FRANCE	20,5%
ITALY	17,8%
SPAIN	14,0%
POLAND	11,0%
ROMANIA	5,8%
HUNGARY	3,3%
SWEDEN	3,3%

- Full Time

GERMANY	22,0%
FRANCE	18,0%
ITALY	16,1%
SPAIN	12,7%
POLAND	10,0%
ROMANIA	5,0%
CZECH	2,8%
HUNGARY	2,6%
SWEDEN	2,6%
AUSTRIA	2,2%

BULGARIA	1,9%
DENMARK	1,6%
SLOVAKIA	1,3%
LITHUANIA	0,8%
ESTONIA	0,4%