

European Union.

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## EU Presidents – who does what?

The 3 main institutions of the EU are each headed by a president:

- [President of the European Parliament](#)
- [President of the European Council](#)
- [President of the European Commission](#)
- [Presidency of the Council of the EU](#)

### European Parliament president – Martin Schulz



**Term:** August 2014 - January 2017

**Elected by:** Members of the European Parliament

**Role:**

- Ensures parliamentary procedures are properly followed
- Oversees Parliament's various activities and committees
- Represents Parliament in all legal matters and in its international relations
- Gives final assent to the EU budget

[More on the President of the European Parliament's job](#)

[More on the European Parliament](#)

## European Council president – Donald Tusk



**Term:** December 2014 - May 2017

**Appointed by:** national leaders (heads of state or government of EU countries).

**Role:**

- Leads the European Council's work in setting the EU's general political direction and priorities – in cooperation with the Commission
- Promotes cohesion and consensus within the European Council
- Represents the EU externally on foreign and security issues

[More on the President of the European Council's job](#)

[More on the European Council](#)

## European Commission president – Jean-Claude Juncker



**Term:** November 2014 - October 2019

**Appointed by:** national leaders (heads of state or government of EU countries), with the approval of the European Parliament.

**Role:**

- Gives political guidance to the Commission
- Calls and chairs meetings of the college of the Commissioners

- Leads the Commission's work in implementing EU policies
- Takes part in G7 meetings
- Contributes to major debates both in the European Parliament and between EU governments in the [Council of the European Union](#)

[More on the Commission President's job](#)

[More on the European Commission](#)

[More on how Commissioners are appointed](#)

## Presidency of the Council of the EU

The Council of the EU - where national ministers discuss EU legislation - doesn't have a permanent, single-person president. Its work is led by the country holding the Council presidency, which rotates every 6 months. For example, representatives from the presidency country chair its meetings.

[More about the Council of the EU](#)