



Module 2 - EUFest Teachers Training Programme

Module 2 – Simulation: How EU laws are made



Simulation: How EU laws are made

Duration: 40-45 minutes

Group Size: Small groups of 3–5 participants

Learning Purpose

This simulation introduces participants to the Ordinary Legislative Procedure by allowing them to represent the main EU institutions involved in adopting legislation. Rather than memorising institutional roles, participants experience how negotiation, compromise and cooperation shape EU decision-making. By the end of the activity participants will be able to:

- identify the responsibilities of the European Commission, European Parliament and Council of the European Union;
- explain the main stages of the Ordinary Legislative Procedure;
- recognise the importance of negotiation and compromise in EU decision-making.

Group Organisation

Divide participants into four groups:

1. European Commission
2. European Parliament
3. Council of the European Union
4. Journalists

Suggested Scenario: Reducing Plastic Waste in Schools

The European Commission proposes an EU law requiring all schools to reduce single-use plastic packaging by 50% before 2035. (You can replace this scenario with another contemporary EU topic.)

Simulation Steps

Step 1	Commission prepares proposal • The Commission prepares and presents its proposal. • Participants complete Part 2 of the worksheet.
Step 2	Parliament debate • The Parliament discusses the proposal. • Participants decide: – support or oppose – propose amendments – justify their decisions
Step 3	Council position • Each Council member represents a different Member State • Participants discuss whether their country agrees with Parliament. • If necessary they propose modifications.
Step 4	Negotiation • Commission, Parliament and Council negotiate. • Objective: Reach a compromise acceptable to everyone.
Step 5	Vote • Parliament votes • Council votes. • Law adopted?
Step 6	Journalists • Journalists interview institutions and prepare a short report.

Scenario Card

A. A European Law to Reduce Plastic Waste in Schools

The European Commission has identified increasing plastic waste generated by schools across Europe. Single-use bottles, food containers and plastic packaging contribute significantly to environmental pollution.

The Commission proposes legislation requiring all schools in the European Union to reduce single-use plastic packaging by 50% before 2035.

Possible measures include:

- reusable lunch containers
- water refill stations
- reducing disposable packaging
- awareness campaigns

Other scenario options:

- A. Digital safety education should become compulsory in all schools.**
- B. Every secondary school student should participate in one EU-funded mobility experience before graduation**

Your task: Can the institutions reach agreement?

Your role: Discover your role by selecting one of the role cards available.

Worksheet for Simulation: How EU laws are made

Topic: Passing a Simple EU Law

This activity simulates decision-making process through the ordinary legislative procedure. You will take on the role of an EU institution or a journalist reporting on the process and outcome.

PART 1 – Your Role (mark your role)

Commission ☐

Parliament ☐

Council ☐

Journalist ☐

PART 2 – The Proposal (Commission only)

Title of the law

What is the problem? Why is the law needed? (1–2 sentences)

Proposed solution (law):



PART 3 – Parliament Debate

Your opinion (support / oppose):

Your argument (why?):

Amendment (change to the law):

PART 4 – Council Position

Your country's position (as a member of the Council you represent a specific EU country):

Do you agree with Parliament? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, what changes do you suggest?

PART 5 – Negotiation (Trilog)

Compromise proposal:

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PART 6 – Final Vote

Parliament vote: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Council vote: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Result: ☐ Law adopted ☐ Law rejected

PART 7 – Journalist Report

Write a short news report: what was proposed, main disagreement, final decision (3–4 sentences):

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PART 8 – Reflection

Was it easy to reach agreement? Why / why not?

What was the biggest challenge? Who had the most power?

What did you learn about EU decision-making?



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