

the executive |ɪg'zɛkjʊtɪv, ɛg'zɛkjʊtɪv|

noun

(the executive) the branch of a government responsible for putting decisions or laws into effect.

How is the executive elected?



Political parties choose their leaders

via internal elections or nominations.



Europarties choose lead candidates

via internal elections or nominations.



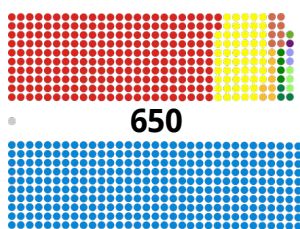
Europarties are made up of political parties from across Europe. For example the Conservatives are members of the Alliance of European Conservatives & Reformists (AECR) and Labour is a member of the Party of European Socialists (PES).

These parties are affiliated to political groups in the European Parliament.

General election*

Parties run against each other in national elections. UK citizens can vote for a Member of Parliament (MP) standing in their local area.

MPs are elected by first past the post voting system to fill 650 parliamentary seats.



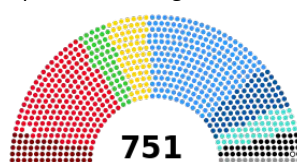
Since 2010 there are TV leader debates.



European Parliamentary elections

National parties run against each other in European Parliamentary elections. You cast a vote for a party standing in your region, and the parties are assigned a number of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) depending on their share of the vote.

The UK has 73 seats of 751. The UK divided the country into 12 regions, and assigned a number of MEPs to represent each region.



Elections are held across the entire EU using a proportional representation system. The UK doesn't require parties to state which European group they are affiliated to during these elections, however there is an EU proposal to amend this.

Some countries allow citizens to list their preferred MEP candidates that their parties put forward by order of preference. The UK has decided not to permit this.

Since 2014 there are TV leader debates, though you could only watch these online in the UK as British broadcasters chose not to show them.



Monarch appoints Prime Minister and invites them to form government

By convention this is the leader whose party has the most seats in Parliament.

If no party has a majority the Monarch appoints whichever leader manages to form a minority or coalition government.

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National leaders propose candidate for Commission President

This is done by a qualified majority vote. As of 2014, this has been the lead candidate from the Europarty whose affiliate group has the most seats. They must then try to get elected by the European Parliament.

If unsuccessful, national leaders, following discussions with the European Parliament, must propose a new candidate within one month.

Prime Minister forms government

All positions in the government no matter how junior are appointed by the Prime Minister.

The highest executive body of the government is the Cabinet, composed of the Prime Minister and 21 senior government Ministers.



The Cabinet of Ministers is chosen from the elected House of Commons and the unelected House of Lords. Major government departments require at least one junior Minister from the House of Lords to be appointed so legislation can be passed through the House of Lords.

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President-elect appoints Commissioners

Member state governments, working with the Commission President-elect, nominate one Commissioner each.



A Commissioner is an appointed politician responsible for a dedicated area of policy. Similar to Ministers in the UK government, these are appointed by national governments and approved as a whole by the EU parliament. There are 27 Commissioners and the Commission President, one position for each member state. Collectively they are known as the College of Commissioners.

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Queen's Speech

There is no formal vote in the House of Commons on the formation of the government or on individual Cabinet appointments. However, the first test of whether the government can command a majority is whether it can pass its legislative programme, outlined in the Queen's speech.

Should it fail to get the vote of a majority of MPs, the government is likely to be faced with a motion of no confidence.

Parliament approves Commission

The European Parliament must formally approve the Commission. It has the de facto power to interview and reject individual Commissioners before they are fully approved.

This step doesn't exist in the UK, although it is almost equivalent to a US Congressional Hearing of a presidential appointment. Interviews are rigorous.

EXECUTIVE ELECTED

Repeated every 5 years, unless the executive is dismissed.

How can the executive be dismissed?



UK Government

Either the opposition or government sitting in the House of Commons may table a no confidence motion. If the government loses, under the Fixed-terms Parliament Act, a 14 day period is provided to seek the creation of a new government. If no government is formed, Parliament is dissolved, and a general election is called.

*Or if the Prime Minister resigns in their role as leader of the ruling party, either voluntarily or due to a leadership challenge, convention dictates they resign as Prime Minister. The Monarch will then invite the party's new leader to form a government with no need for a general election.



EU Commission

A group of at least 76 MEPs in the European Parliament may call for a vote of censure against the European Commission, requiring a two thirds majority of all votes cast (in a vote of at least 376 members) to dismiss the entire Commission.

Member state leaders may also, by a simple majority vote in the European Council, refer individual Commissioners believed to be in breach of their obligations to the European Court of Justice who can rule they be compulsorily retired.

EXECUTIVE DISMISSED



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