The European Parliament is the only parliamentary institution of the European Union that is directly elected by EU citizens.

The European Commission is the institution responsible for proposing legislation and implementing decisions.

EU Agencies help the European Commission take decisions and implement policies. Agency committees contribute to setting the agency's position. Member State officials working in these committees can have conflicts of interest related to side activities or former jobs.

Comitology is a series of committees, run by the European Commission, where EU Member States input into how the EU policies are implemented, and can strongly influence the details of agreed rules.

The Commission has 750 expert groups composed of representatives from every Member State, giving advice in the preparation of new EU policies.

Member State officials working in Permanent Representations to the EU prepare national positions for the negotiations in the Council. Perm. Reps. are not subject to EU rules regarding lobby transparency, access to documents, or revolving doors and conflicts of interest.

Member States are key actors in the European Union's policy-making process, along with the European Commission and the European Parliament. For corporate lobbyists, they are primary targets to influence EU laws and policies.