



GOMUN 2026 OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

Rules of Procedure

The Council of the European Union

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APPLICATION OF THE GENERAL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Unless otherwise specified in this document, [the GOMUN 2026 Rules of Procedure](#) shall apply to the Council of the European Union.

In case of a conflict between the general GOMUN Rules of Procedure and these Rules of Procedure, the provisions of these Rules shall take priority.

Rules concerning debate, caucuses, points, motions, yielding the floor and other procedural matters shall therefore follow the general GOMUN Rules of Procedure unless specifically modified by this document.

KEY TERMS

European Union (EU) – The European Union is a political and economic union consisting of 27 Member States.

Council of the European Union (Council / Council of the EU) – The EU institution **simulated by this committee**. It consists of government ministers representing the Member States and takes part in adopting EU legislation and coordinating EU policies.

European Council – The institution composed primarily of the Heads of State or Government of the Member States. It establishes the general political direction and priorities of the EU. **It is not simulated by this committee.**

European Commission – The EU institution which, among other responsibilities, prepares and submits most proposals for new EU legislation. For the purposes of this simulation, proposals normally originating from the Commission shall be prepared and introduced by the Chairboard.

European Parliament (EP) – The directly elected EU institution which acts together with the Council as co-legislator in most areas of EU law. It shall not be separately simulated.

Member State – A state which is a member of the European Union. Each delegation represents one Member State.

Presidency of the Council – The Member State holding the Presidency normally chairs most Council meetings, organises its work and acts as an honest broker between Member States and the European Commission. In this simulation these functions are exercised by the Chairboard. In reality, the Presidency rotates every six months.

Proposal – The initial text submitted to the Council for debate, amendment and adoption.

Regulation – An EU legal act which is binding in its entirety and Member States are obligated to word and apply to their national legislature in a satisfactory manner.

Directive (EU) – A binding EU legal act which establishes a result that Member States must achieve while leaving national authorities the choice of form and methods. An EU Directive is not the same as a GOMUN Committee Directive.

Decision – A binding EU legal act. Where it specifies those to whom it is addressed, it is binding only on them.

Amendment – A proposed change to a piece of EU Law under consideration.

Qualified Majority Voting (QMV) – 55% of Member States representing 65% of EU population.

Blocking Minority – At least 4 Member States representing at least 35 % (35.1) of EU population.

Unanimity – No Member State votes against.

Abstention – A Member State does not vote in favour or against. Under QMV, an abstention does not contribute towards reaching the qualified majority.

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) – The framework through which the EU conducts its common foreign and security policy. Most CFSP decisions require unanimity.

Exception / Derogation – Approved special treatment for a Member State or group of Member States in order to reach a qualified majority.

Compromise Text — Revised text introduced by the Chairboard to help reach agreement.

COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL

Each delegation shall represent one Member State of the European Union.

Each Member State shall cast one vote.

Where Qualified Majority Voting applies, the result shall depend on both:

- the number of Member States supporting the proposal; and
- the population represented by those Member States.

The population does not give a Member State additional votes. Instead, it forms the second part of the qualified-majority calculation.

PRESIDENCY AND CHAIRBOARD

For the purposes of this simulation, the **Chairboard shall exercise the functions of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.**

The Member State holding the real Presidency of the Council shall participate as an ordinary delegation and shall have no additional procedural powers.

The Chairboard shall also prepare and introduce proposals that would normally originate from the European Commission.

Delegates shall **debate, negotiate and amend these proposals** rather than draft a standard MUN resolution from scratch.

PROPOSALS BEFORE THE COUNCIL

The Chairboard shall announce the type of document being discussed, such as a:

- Regulation,
- Directive,
- Decision,
- Compromise text;

An **EU Directive is not the same as a GOMUN Committee Directive.**

VOTING

Qualified Majority Voting

Qualified Majority Voting shall be the standard voting method for substantive matters.

A proposal passes if:

at least 55% of Member States vote in favour

AND

Those Member States represent at least 65% of the EU population.

With **all 27 Member States participating**, at least **15 Member States** must vote in favour.

A blocking minority must include **at least four Member States**. Therefore, 3 member states having more than 35 % of the EU population (ex.: Germany + France + Spain) **cannot block** a proposal without another state voting against. However, in such specific case, it would be **strongly advised** (and would also happen in the real Council of the EU) **to renegotiate the discussed proposal**, as a lack of support from these “economic powerhouses” of the Union would make the proposal **almost impossible to implement**.

Abstentions **do not** count in favour.

"Pass" is permitted during QMV roll calls.

The Chairboard may use [the official Council voting calculator](#) to determine the result.

Simple majority

A simple majority is reached if **at least 14 of the 27 member states** vote in favour.

The Council decides by simple majority:

- on **procedural matters**, such as adopting its own rules of procedure and organising its General Secretariat
- to **request the Commission** to undertake studies or submit proposals

Unanimity

Certain sensitive matters, especially those concerning the **Common Foreign and Security Policy**, taxation and other areas requiring unanimity under EU rules, shall require unanimous approval.

A vote-against prevents adoption.

An abstention does **not** prevent unanimity.

The Chairboard shall announce before the vote whether QMV or unanimity applies.

Final Vote

After all amendments, compromise texts and exceptions have been decided, the Council shall vote on the document as a whole.

The Chairboard shall announce whether the final vote requires:

- Qualified Majority;
- Unanimity.

Population shall always be taken into account where QMV applies.

If the final document fails, all amendments and exceptions adopted during its negotiation shall also fail with it.

It is worth noting that since the EU Commissioners are appointed by each member state's government, it would be highly unlikely for a document to fail as a whole. It would rather be heavily amended and/or exceptions for some member states would be lobbied out between them and the presidency.

COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

Where the Council considers a matter falling under the **Common Foreign and Security Policy**, unanimity shall normally apply.

Where EU law provides for a clearly defined exception allowing Qualified Majority Voting, the Chairboard may announce that QMV applies instead.

AMENDMENTS AND COMPROMISE TEXTS

Amendments **do not follow the general 1/2 majority rule**, but rather QMV, simple majority, or unanimity depending on the proposal.

The Chairboard may introduce **Compromise Texts** during negotiations.

Compromise Texts shall also be subject to substantive voting.

EXCEPTIONS

Delegations may request an **Exception or Derogation** from a specific part of the proposal.

An exception must clearly state:

- the Member State or Member States to which it applies;
- the provision from which the exception is requested;
- the exact scope of the exception;
- whether the exception is temporary or permanent within the simulation;
- and any conditions attached to it.

Exceptions must be approved by the Council using the voting method QMV, unless said otherwise by the chairboard.

Approved exceptions shall be listed at the end of the final document under:

EXCEPTIONS AND DEROGATIONS

Member State(s):

Relevant Article/Clause:

Exception:

Conditions or Duration:

An exception shall **never arise automatically merely because a delegation requests it.**

Effect of an Exception

An adopted exception applies only to:

- the Member State or Member States named in it; and
- the specific provision identified in it.

An exception **shall not automatically exempt the Member State from the entire adopted document.**

A Member State benefiting from an exception shall **still participate in the final vote** on the document unless the Chairboard determines that EU law or the nature of the simulation requires otherwise.

BIBLIOGRAPHY / REFERENCES

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2. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/how-does-the-council-vote/voting-calculator/>
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