2. Institutions of the Union: composition and powers

Steiner & Woods EU Law (14th edn)
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This chapter examines the institutions within the European Union (EU), their powers and the relationship between the institutions. The main EU institutions are the European Parliament, the Council, the European Council, the Commission (including the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy), the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the Court of Auditors. There are also other bodies, including: the European Ombudsman, the Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC), the Committee of the Regions and COREPER. The chapter explains that these institutions and bodies are given different powers and are subject to important rules (for instance, the usual rule of qualified majority voting in the Council), and that they are required to work together in order to provide the checks and balances within the Union legal order, or the so-called institutional balance.

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