

**PO5017 Graduate Seminar in Institutions and Policies
of the European Union**

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Aims and Objectives

The module is designed to familiarise students with the following issues and topics:

- Major theoretical approaches to the study of European integration and EU policy-making
- Organisational structures and internal decision-making processes of the main EU institutions
- Formal procedures and informal practices governing the interactions of EU institutions
- The relative power of different actors within and across EU institutions in legislative decision-making
- The consequences of different rule configurations, process characteristics, and power distributions amongst actors for the EU's democratic legitimacy
- Independent research on EU policy-making using news sources, archives, and databases accessible online



Signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957

Contents

The aim of this module is to develop students' understanding of how the legislative system of the European Union works. Special attention is given to the roles and organizational structures of the different institutions involved in the EU policy-making process. The first part of the module discusses theories of integration and policy-making, presents the internal organization, functions, and powers of the main EU institutions, and describes the most important inter-institutional decision-making procedures. The second part takes a closer look at EU policy-making in different policy areas. This part highlights the differences in content, rules and procedures of decision-making processes across policy fields.

Core Readings

Two to three articles or book chapters will be set as core reading for each session. The primary textbook is:

- Hix, Simon, and Bjørn Høyland (2011) *The Political System of the European Union*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.