

European Parliament

This body gives opinions on EC legislation, examines the budget and exercises democratic control over the Commission. The Single Act contains a cooperative procedure giving the European Parliament limited power to propose amendments to the legislative proposals before the Council.

Court of Justice

This forum is responsible for interpreting and applying the treaties establishing the communities, and for ensuring that EC regulations and directives conform to them. The 13 judges and six advocates-general of the Court of Justice are appointed by the member states and have renewable six-year terms of office. The Court is composed of two chambers, one of which provides first-instance recourse for administrative affairs.

Court of Auditors

The administration of the budget is controlled by this body of 12 members appointed for six years by the Council of Ministers. The Court of Auditors checks the legality and regularity of the EC's income and expenditures and oversees its financial management.