

## **Lisbon Treaty Changes** **- Summary for lazybones**

### **Institutional changes I**

- European Council as singular EU institution
- Introduction of European Council President, replacing rotating presidency (partly) and representing EU externally
- Council of Ministers now also officially chaired by triple presidency (the past, the current the future rotating presiding country)
- Introduction of High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Affairs, merging the previous External Relations Commissioner and the CFSP High Representative, chairing the Foreign Affairs Council and being Commission Vice-President
- EU External Action Service (= Diplomatic corps)
- European Central Bank with status of EU institution
- Institutional re-organisation of the European Court of Justice
- EU Public Prosecutor foreseen

### **Institutional changes II**

- EU with legal personality – now she can sign treaties
- Secession or exit clause – member states can now leave the EU
- € official currency of EU
- Legally binding Charter of Fundamental Rights (with exceptions for UK, PL, CZ)
- Solidarity clause: natural or man-made disaster or attack on one member state triggers support by all other member states
- Combating climate change states as objective
- Defence policy available for enhanced co-operation, so that a few member states can co-operate in moving integration forward
- Qualified majority voting (QMV) in police and judicial affairs (opt-out UK, IE)

### **Democracy, accountability**

- Council of Ministers' legislative meetings to be held in public
- European Parliament with co-decision rights in most policy areas
- European Parliament with stronger budget rights
- European Parliament with 750+1 seats, easier re-distribution via European Council
- Double majority voting replacing unanimity voting in most policy areas
- New qualified majority voting (QMV) definition from 2014 onwards: 55% of member states representing 65% of citizens
- Decision to move a policy area towards QMV and co-decision now possible without treaty change
- National parliaments with more scrutiny rights for legislation (subsidiarity yellow card)
- National parliaments can compel Commission to review or withdraw legislation
- Citizens' initiative: 1 million citizens can ask Commission to act