



TRAINING INITIATIVES FOR
NEUROLOGY ADVOCATES

EU ADVOCACY FOR THE BRAIN, MIND AND PAIN COMMUNITY

AN INTRODUCTION FOR PATIENT ADVOCATES

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTIONS
ACTIVITY WORKSHEET



DECISION-MAKING AT EUROPEAN UNION (EU) LEVEL

TESTING YOUR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE EU WORKS, THE ROLE OF EACH INSTITUTION AND HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THEM

EU institutional overview

1. As explained in the e-learning module, the three institutions of the EU are the European Commission, European Parliament and the Council of the EU. Below you will see 3 boxes describing the roles of each of these institutions, based on the information provided to you please fill in the following blanks with the appropriate EU Institution:

The _____
is the institution representing the interests of the Member States. It is supported by COREPER which is responsible for preparing their work.

The _____
represents the citizens of the European Union and, together with the Council of the EU, it adopts European legislation on the proposal of the European Commission.

The _____
has the exclusive right of legislative initiative and is the only institution that can propose legislation.

2. In the e-learning module you were given a brief overview of the best way to influence the different levels of the EU institutions. Below you will see pictures of each of the institutions, please match the institutional picture with the correct description of how to influence it, found on the right-hand side:



European Commission



European Parliament



The European Council

- An early start
- Identify key influencers
- Engage members of relevant Committees
- Provide positive political engagements

- Manage coordinated action at:
 - The national level
 - COREPER level
 - The Presidency
- Understand the national policy agenda and the coalition between Member States delegation

- Early involvement
- Top-down approach in the College
- Engaging with Leading DG
- Leverage all possibilities that exist within other DG's
- Influence through alliance
- Maintain contacts

Legislative Cycle

3. The European Union uses a range of legal instruments to implement policy that can be divided into soft and hard instruments. Using the words provided to you, please use the options below to fill in the blanks in the sentences.



_____ are reflection documents that intend to stimulate debate and launch a process of consultation on a particular topic at an EU level.

_____ communicates a decided Commission policy or approach on a particular issue.

_____ sets out a Commission action plan or provides information on the state of affairs in relation to a certain issue.

_____ is immediately applicable and binding in all EU Member States, no legislation is required at national level in order to enforce implementation.

_____ is a legislative act that sets out a goal that all the EU countries must achieve, the Member States must transpose it into national law and decide on how to implement it.

_____ acts are legally binding and enable the Commission to set conditions regarding the implementation of main legislative initiative to ensure that EU laws are applied uniformly.