

Comparing Governments

	UNITED STATES	EUROPEAN UNION
<i>Executive Branch</i>	PRESIDENT Head of State; serves for four years	EUROPEAN COUNCIL Heads of State or of Government; each member state has a six-month presidency of the Council
	CABINET Heads of executive departments appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to provide advice to the President in specific areas; cabinet members do not play a formal role in the legislative process	COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION Made up of Ministers from each member state to enact laws; membership changes according to the issue under discussion; if there is a unanimous agreement, the Council can alter the Commission legislative proposals EUROPEAN COMMISSION Members; proposes legislation; monitors compliance with European Union rules; manages the budget
<i>Legislative Branch</i>	CONGRESS House of Representatives (435 members) and Senate (100 members); legislation may originate in House; system of checks and balances applies	EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT Members; cannot enact laws but can veto legislation in certain policy areas
<i>Judicial Branch</i>	SUPREME COURT 9 justices serve for life; resolves disputes involving Constitutional issues	COURT OF JUSTICE Judges serve 6-year terms; monitor compliance with European Union policies