What is this section about?

This section of the resource provides an insight into the institutional process of Europe, the role the Irish play within that process as well as examining the functions of the European Parliament.

Investigating the European Union I

Having Your Say in the European Union

Your aim

To research the variety of ways in which the citizens of Europe can have a voice in Europe on an issue that is of concern to them.

Time

This research activity should take you approximately five hours.

By the end of this activity

By the end of this activity you will be able to identify 7 different routes which can be taken by yourself or others to voice concern or make a complaint or petition to the EU.

What you need

- Access to the internet

European Commission:
http://europa.eu.int/yourvoice

European Parliament Petitions:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu

Contact you MEP:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/

European Parliament Mailbox:
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/

The European Ombudsman:
http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu

Solvit:
http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/

Europe Direct:
http://ec.europa.eu/europedirect/

How you will present your findings

The findings of this research activity will become part of your portfolio and a sample presentation sheet is provided.

Potential Partner Activity

Hold a video conference with your partner school to examine the kind of issues which are of concern to them and find one concern which you both share. You could then decide together to use one of the mechanisms you investigated to address your agreed issue.

Sample Portfolio Presentation

Findings

Sample Table

Mechanism	Issues/Concerns	How it works