

A stylized map of Europe is shown in light blue against a darker blue background. The map is composed of several overlapping, angular shapes that form the continent's outline. Scattered across the background are several white, five-pointed stars of varying sizes, some of which are positioned over the map's outline. A yellow horizontal bar is located in the lower right quadrant of the image, containing the text 'Part III Investigating the EU'.

Part III
Investigating the EU

Investigating the European Union II

The Irish in Europe

NOTE TO TEACHERS: IF STUDENTS ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE BASIC EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS USE LESSON 8 IN PART I: EXPLORING EUROPE TO TEACH THEM ABOUT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS.



Your aim

Your aim is to develop your knowledge of how Ireland is represented on some of the key European institutions and committees.



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 distinguish some of the European bodies, have a greater knowledge of Ireland's role and responsibilities within each and be able to present your findings in a clear and coherent manner.



What you need

- » Access to the internet
- » Accompanying Research Task Sheet



How you will present your findings

The findings of this research activity will become part of your portfolio.



Potential Partner Activity

Design the information sheet on your computer (using MS Publisher if available) to inform your partner school about Ireland's representation. This might mean translating it, making sure it is 'user friendly' and that students of your own age can read and understand it. Ask your partner school to do the same for you with regard to their representation in Europe.

The Irish in Europe

The European Parliament

www.europarl.ie

1. How many constituencies are there in Ireland for European Parliament elections?

2. Name each constituency and the number of MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) representing it.

Constituency Name	Number of MEPs

3. Which European constituency do you live in?

4. Name the MEPs for your constituency, and the Irish Political Party to which they belong.

Constituency Name	Number of MEPs

5. Select one of the MEPs you have named above to investigate more.

Name

To which political group in the European Parliament does he/she belong?

Which committee(s) of the Parliament does he/she serve on?

What is the e-mail address of your chosen MEP?

Check out if your MEP has her/his own web-site. If so, what is the web-address of this site?

Use this web-site to list some of the issues which your MEP feels strongly about.

6. The European Parliament does much of its work in Committees. Name five of these committees and any Irish MEP which serves on that committee (including reserves).

Committee	Irish MEPs on this committee
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

The Council of the European Union

www.consilium.europa.eu

7. Which country currently hosts the Presidency of the Council?

8. When did Ireland last host the Presidency?

9. Which country will be the next host of the Presidency?

The European Commission

<http://europa.eu>

10. Is the current President of the European Commission Irish, if not what is his/her nationality?

11. Who is the current Irish Commissioner?

12. What is his/her portfolio (area of responsibility)?

13. Name three other European Commissioners and what they are responsible for.

Name	Responsible for
1	
2	
3	

14. The Secretary-General is the most senior civil servant in the European Commission. Find out her/his name and nationality.

Other Institutions of the European Union

15. Who is the Irish member of the European Court of Justice?

<http://curia.eu.int/>

16. Who is the Irish member of the European Court of Auditors?

<http://eca.europa.eu/>

17. Is the current EU Ombudsman Irish and if not what is his/her nationality?

<http://www.euro-ombudsman.eu.int>

18. Are there any Irish members on the Committee of the Regions?
If, so choose one and answer the questions below:

Name

Why do you think this person is on this committee?

<http://www.cor.europa.eu/>

19. Are there any Irish members on the European Economic and Social Committee?
If so, choose one and answer the questions below:

Name

Why do you think this person is on this committee?

<http://eesc.europa.eu/>

Investigating the European Union III

The Parliament



Your aim

Your aim is to develop your understanding of how Europe works through researching the main political groupings.



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 distinguish between the different political groups in the European parliament. You will have identified available resources, integrated information from different sources and presented your findings in a clear and coherent manner.



What you need

- » Access to the internet
The following web sites can be consulted for information:
The Parliament – www.europarl.eu
The political groups of the Parliament – www.europarl.eu.int/groups



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.

Sample Portfolio Presentation

Findings

Sample Table

Name of Political Group	Abbreviation	Key issues	Key politicians
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats	PPE-DE		
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	ALDE		
Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance	Verts/ALE		
Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left	GUE/NGL		
Independence/Democracy Group	IND/DEM		
Union for Europe of the Nations Group	UEN		
Non-attached Members	NI		