

Chapter 5

5. EU Institutions

Learning Objectives

In this unit, you will

- design a table with official and abbreviated names of the EU institutions
- translate the names of the EU institutions and add the Czech equivalents to the table
- learn to distinguish between three Councils
- read about the database Pre-Lex
- complete a translation cloze with names of EU institutions

Keywords

- EU institutions, bodies and agencies
- European Council
- Council of the European Union
- Council of Europe
- Pre-Lex

Names of Institutions, Bodies and Agencies

When drafting, writing, or translating any document for the EU, it is important to use the correct form of the official as well as abbreviated names of the institutions, bodies, and agencies of the EU. In this unit, you will work with those. You will create a reference table with the EU institutions' names and translations.

Task

Go to the Interinstitutional style guide again. Its chapter 9.5. is devoted to the

[Names of institutions, bodies and agencies of the European Union](#)

You can use the following link to access the webpage:

<http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-390500.html>

Your task is to make a table with the English names of the EU institutions and their Czech equivalents. It is also advisable to include the abbreviations in both languages.

Now you have

- a reference table with names of the EU institutions and their abbreviations in both, source and target languages. You can use it for your future translations of any documents dealing with the European Union.

Councils

We distinguish three councils within and outside of the EU. As their names are similar, they often get confused. In this chapter, you will find Czech names of the three institutions.

Three Councils (Do not get them confused)

In the European Union

European Council

The heads of State or Government (presidents or prime ministers) and the President of the European Commission meet, in principle, four times a year. These meetings are also known as 'summits'. The European Council fixes the general political guidelines of the Union.

Council of the European Union

The ministers of the Member States meet regularly within the Council of the European Union. Depending on the issue on the agenda, each country is represented by the minister responsible for that issue. The Union's main decision-making body determines the most significant part of European legislation.

Outside the European Union

Council of Europe

The Council of Europe is an intergovernmental organization but is not a European institution (see [its website](#)).

Task

Use the same website as in the previous task to translate the following:

European Council	
Council of the European Union	
Council of Europe	

Now you can

- translate the names of the three councils without getting them confused

Key

European Council	Evropská rada
Council of the European Union	Rada Evropské unie
Council of Europe	Rada Evropy

Pre-Lex

There are many EU institutions, bodies, and agencies. As all these institutions have various documents to be translated into various languages, there is a need for consistency in using terminology, style, layouts, etc., in all translations. Therefore, the EU has been working on developing tools that would increase consistency in all mentioned features of texts. Pre-Lex is one of such tools. You will read about the database in this chapter. Then, you will complete a translation close describing the content of the database.

Pre-Lex, the **database on inter-institutional procedures**, follows the major stages of the decision-making process between the Commission and the other institutions:

- stage of the procedure;
- decisions of the institutions;
- persons' names;
- services responsible;
- references of documents ...etc,

and monitors the works of the various institutions involved (European Parliament, Council, ESC, Committee of the Regions, European central Bank, Court of Justice, etc.).

Pre-Lex follows all Commission **proposals** (legislative and budgetary dossiers, conclusions of international agreements) and **communications** from their **transmission to the Council or the European Parliament**

Links allow users to access directly the electronic texts available (COM documents, Official Journal, Bulletin of the European Union, documents of the European Parliament, press releases, etc.).

You can access Pre-Lex at <http://ec.europa.eu/prelex>.

Now you

- know which database to use when following any Commission procedure
- can translate the names of EU institutions and agencies