

Policymaking in Denmark and Europe

Rasmus Nørlem Sørensen

Secretary General in the Democracy in Europe Organisation

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Defining Danish Democracy

- Constitutional Monarchy
- Corporative state or network state
- Proportional representation
- Multi-party system (8 parties)
- Minority governments



Theory and Danish Democracy

- Executive Branch
- Legislative Branch
- Judicial Branch
- The Government
- Folketinget = The Parliament
- The Court System



What's odd about Danish democracy?



Where's your opening?

- Easy access to politicians
- Public hearings and NGO responses to new laws
- Lack of knowledge among politicians in the Standing Committees
- Qualified public debate – people will listen to reasons and arguments
- Public funding of NGO-activities

What is the European Union?

- Intergovernmental organisation
- European Federation
- An ugly duckling, turning out to be... a platypus



EU from a global perspective

- World's biggest economy and market
- Third largest political entity with 500 million inhabitants
- Propably the world's most powerful legislative body

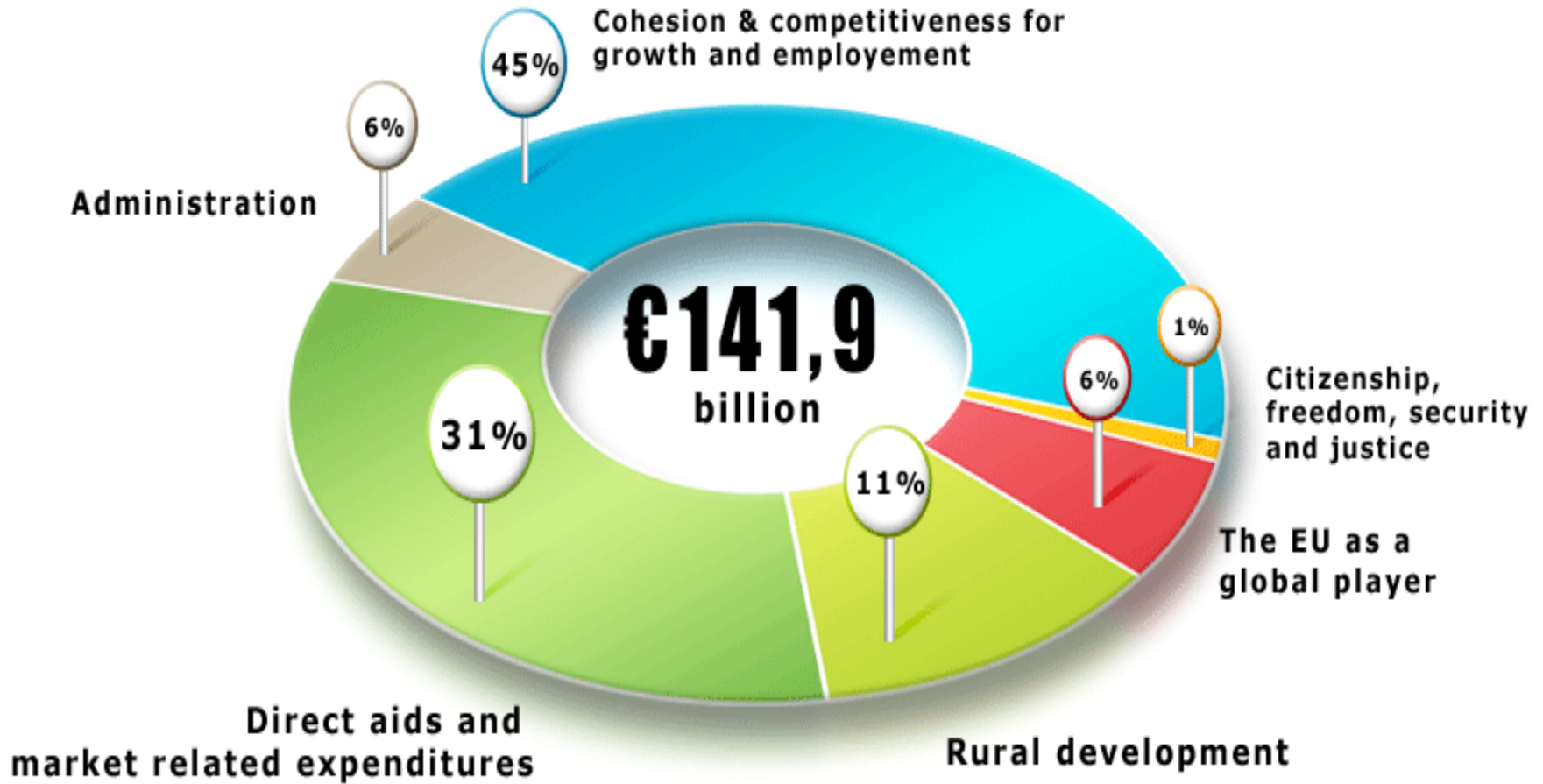


What is EU doing?

- Making laws (a lot)
- Distributing money (few)



EU's budget 2011

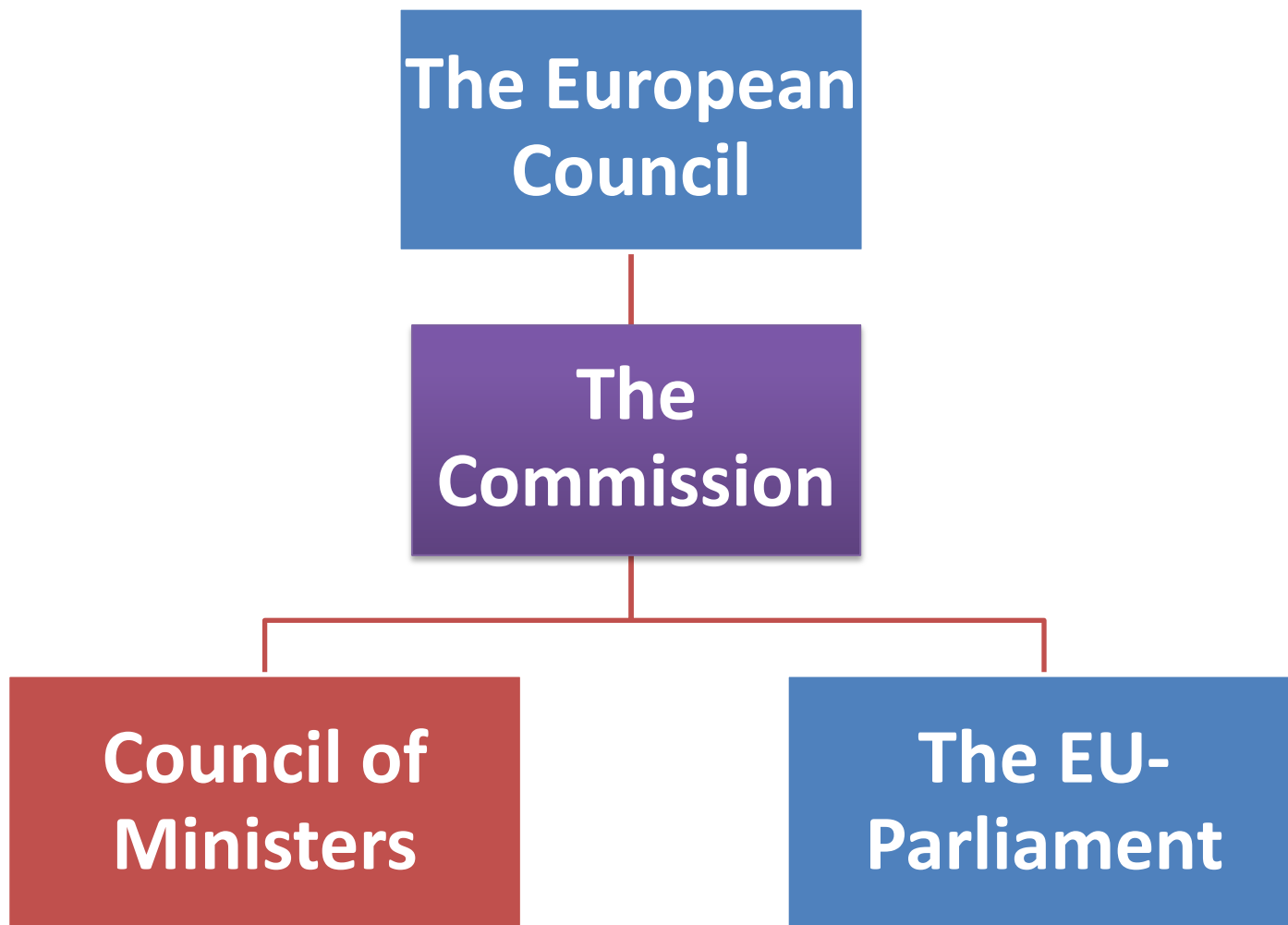


Budget-facts

- **1,2 % af EU's BNI**
(141,9 billion euro)
- **Net Payers:** Germany, Italy, France, Denmark
- **Net recipients:** Poland, Greece, Hungary, Portugal
- **Growth and employment support:** Poland, Spain
- **CAP-subsidies:** France, Spain and Germany



EU institutions



The EU-Commission

- Executive branch = EU's government
- 27 Commissaries
 - Appointed not elected
 - = ministers
- Right of initiative

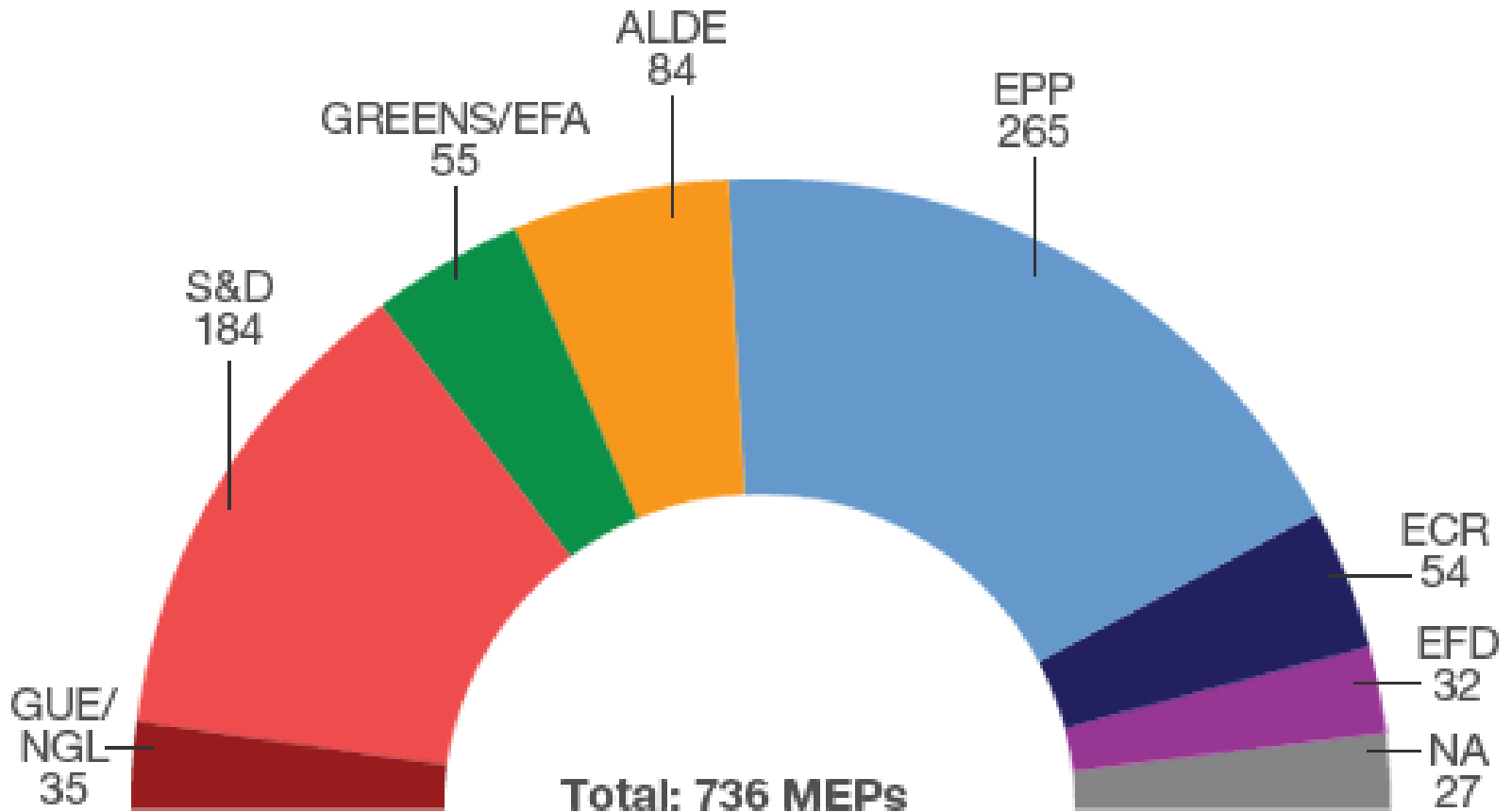


EU-Parlamentet



- Legislative Branch (with Council of Ministers)
- Approves the Commission
- Approves the budget
- Elected in the member states

Political Groups



Council of Ministers

- Legislative Branch (with the EU-Parliament)
- Relevant ministers from each of the member states
- Votes according to size of country
- National interests decisive



Danish Minister of Climate and Gender Equality, Lykke Friis

Lobbyism and the Need for Knowledge

- The Commission has a small staff of some 25.000
- Members of Parliament are few and far from their electorate
- 30,000 lobbyists in Bruxelles (12,000 in Washington)



Where's your opening?

- Members of Parliament – with sympathies for your "cause"
- Members of the Danish Parliament and government
- European NGO's
- The Danish EU-Presidency?
- Citizens initiative?