

“The European Commission is a politically independent collegial institution which embodies and defends the general interests of the European Union. Its virtually exclusive right of initiative in the field of legislation makes it the driving force of European integration. It prepares and then implements the legislative instruments adopted by the Council and the European Parliament in connection with Community policies.”

“The Commission ... is responsible for planning and implementing common policies, executing the budget and managing Community programmes. As ‘guardian of the Treaties,’ it also ensures that European law is applied.”