



## A EUROPE THAT DELIVERS:

Options for making the European Union's work more efficient

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### A double-hatted President?



*"Europe would function better if we were to merge the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission."*

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, State of the Union address, 13 September 2017

One option to make the structure of the Union more efficient could be for a single person to hold the two offices of President of the European Council and President of the European Commission. This can be done on the basis of the current Treaties, as Article 15 (6) of the Treaty on European Union states only that the President of the European Council shall not hold a national office.



#### AVOIDING DUPLICATIONS

Today there is a good degree of duplication in the work of the EU, with both the European Council and Commission Presidents attending European Councils and G7 and G20 meetings. With a single president, both EU and world leaders would have a single counterpart.

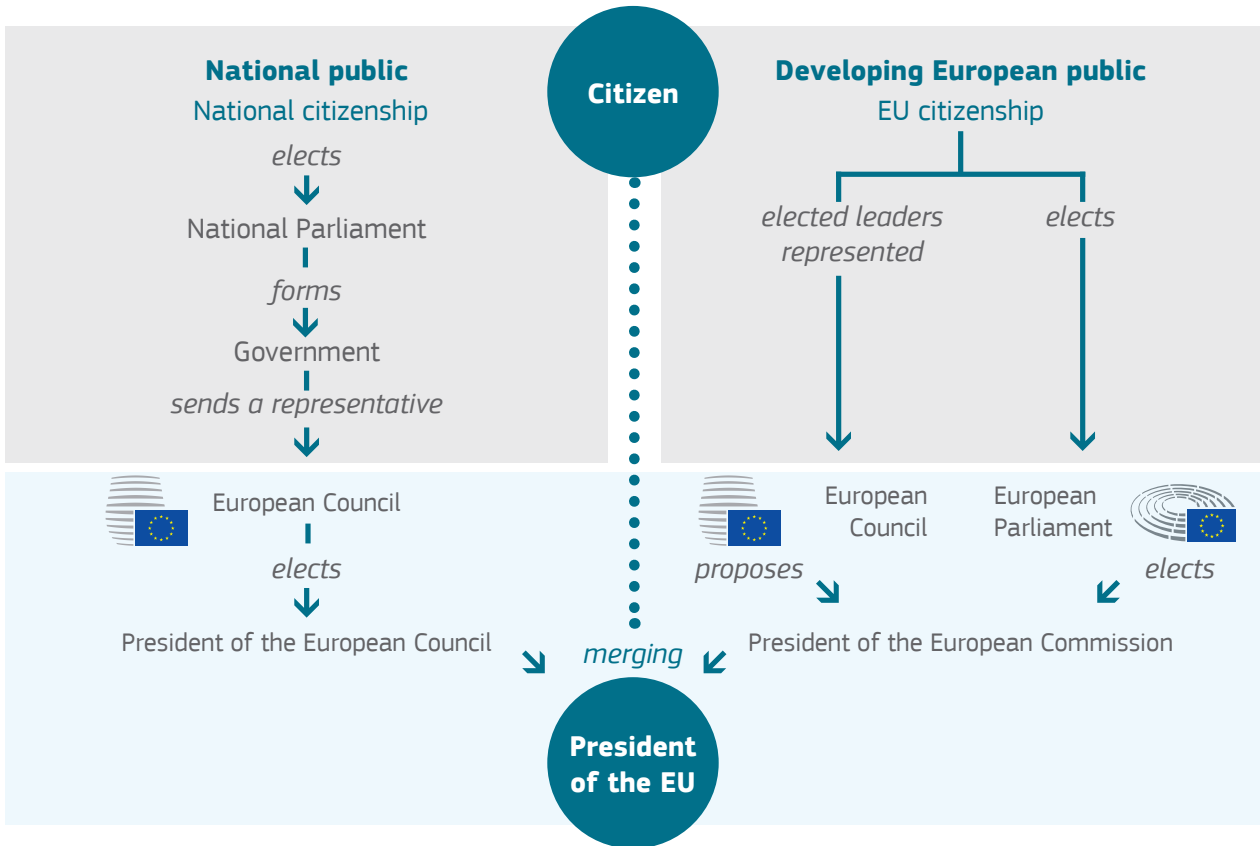
#### NO MORE 'BRUSSELS BLAMING'

Too often there is an artificial division perceived between the European Commission and the Member States. Decisions are represented at national level as "diktats" imposed upon Member States by a disconnected "Brussels". Having one person preside the two institutions would help bridge that artificial gap.



#### GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY

The European Commission is an institution created by the Member States to work towards the common European interest, as is the European Council. Having one person preside the two institutions would embody the dual nature of the Union's legitimacy and accountability.



## NO MERGING OF THE INSTITUTIONS

A double-hatted president does not imply merging the two institutions, nor does it require Treaty change. There is even a precedent: the existing role of High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the Commission provides an example of how responsibility can be successfully exercised by the same person without compromising the independence of the institutions.

## THE BIRTH OF AN IDEA

