

Glossary for the PIIE Chart, “[Mapping relationships between select US and EU government entities and global institutions](#)”

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The chart is a supplement to the [Rebuilding the Global Economy](#) project, a series outlining policy priorities and solutions in 2021.

US government

President

As the head of state and head of the US government, the president executes and enforces laws created by Congress. The president appoints the heads of more than 50 independent commissions, including the Federal Reserve Board, and issues executive orders to clarify or help implement existing laws. The president can also veto bills passed by Congress, but Congress can override vetoes with a two-thirds majority vote.

State Department

Advises and implements the president’s foreign policy, manages diplomatic relations and agreements with foreign governments, and administers US immigration laws abroad.

Treasury Department

Advises the president on domestic and international economic and financial issues and implements policies relating to taxation, government spending, and public debt.

Trade Representative (USTR)

Develops and coordinates US international trade and investment policy, including negotiations with foreign governments to establish trade agreements and solve trade issues and disputes.

Commerce Department

Sets business standards, regulates international commerce, acts against unfair or predatory practices by trading partners, provides grants to support economic activity, helps negotiate bilateral trade agreements, and protects US national security interests in trade and business activity.

Council of Economic Advisers (CEA)

Comprising three senior economists and staff, the CEA provides the president with objective advice on domestic and international economic policy and produces reports on the state of the economy.

National Economic Council (NEC)

Advises the president on economic policy. The NEC is made up of the heads of departments and agencies that affect and monitor the nation's economy, including State, Treasury, Commerce, Agriculture, Labor, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, Energy, and Health and Human Services.

Congress

Made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate, the Congress is the legislative body of the US government. Congress debates, negotiates, and votes on legislation. For a bill to become law, it must be adopted by both the House and Senate and signed into law by the president. But Congress can override a presidential veto with a two-thirds majority in both the Senate and the House.

Congressional Committees

Monitor executive operations, hold hearings to gather information and views from experts, amend legislative bills and resolutions, and submit bills to the full Congress.

Federal Reserve (The Fed)

Conducts monetary policy, including setting interest rate targets, to promote full employment and ensure price stability. The Federal Reserve sets bank regulations to preserve the stability of the US banking system and provides financial services for the US government.

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Provides both financial and technical assistance to developing nations with the goal of promoting self-reliance, working with the State Department to advance US interests.

International organizations

United Nations (UN)

Succeeding the League of Nations, the United Nations was established after World War II to maintain global peace and security. The UN promotes human rights, delivers humanitarian aid, facilitates sustainable development, and upholds international law through its agencies and programs. Its 193 member states pay dues and send delegations to sit at the UN General Assembly.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Monitors international health issues and coordinates global health priorities; its mandate entails training health workers, advising the 194 member states on health policy, and supporting the delivery of health services and essential medicines.

World Bank Group

Established after World War II, the World Bank and its components provide financing, assistance, and policy advice to middle- and low-income countries with a focus on reducing poverty, fostering growth, and raising living standards among the bottom [40 percent of earners](#) in each economy. To become a

member of the bank component—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)—a country must have joined the International Monetary Fund. Membership of several other World Bank Group components are dependent on IRBD membership.

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Also established after World War II, the IMF issues short-term loans and assistance to countries in balance-of-payment crises, advises its 190 member countries on how to strengthen their economies, and monitors the stability of the international monetary system and the economic health of member countries.

Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

A group of 37 member countries, the OECD researches and proposes economic and social policies to foster prosperity, equality, and opportunity.

Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

Owned by 63 central banks, the BIS functions as a central bank for central banks. It sets capital requirements, acts as a counterparty for central bank transactions, administers war reparations, makes short-term collateralized loans, and facilitates central bank cooperation.

Financial Stability Board (FSB)

Established after the 2008 crisis, the FSB promotes the stability of the international financial system, rather than that of individual states or financial entities. The FSB coordinates regulatory, supervisory, and financial policies among its member institutions, which include central banks, ministries of finance, regulatory authorities, and international standard-setting bodies.

World Trade Organization (WTO)

Created in 1995 as successor to General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the WTO administers the rules of global trade in goods and services between the consenting 164 member states. It also serves as a platform to negotiate amendments to existing trade agreements and to settle trade disputes.

EU government

European Commission

As the executive arm of the European Union, the European Commission proposes new EU laws to the legislative bodies of the European Union (the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union), implements policies once approved by the EU legislature, and manages the EU budget. No policy can be proposed without the president of the European Commission's agreement. Aside from the president, the European Commission is made up of 27 commissioners, one from each member state. The commissioners are nominated by the member states and appointed following the approval of the European Parliament.

Council of the European Union

Together with the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union debates, amends, and approves proposed EU legislation and an annual EU budget. There are no fixed members of the Council of the European Union. To fill the 27 seats per session, each EU member state sends one minister or other government official responsible for the policy area under discussion.

European Parliament

Debates legislation put forward by the European Commission, passes or rejects proposed EU laws, supervises and confirms membership of the European Commission, and establishes an EU budget jointly with the Council of the European Union. For proposals to become laws, they must pass both the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

European Central Bank (ECB)

Manages the euro and sets monetary policy and interest rates for the euro area to keep prices stable. Responsible for banking supervision in the euro area.

European Council

The European Council (as distinct from the Council of the European Union) is made up of the sitting heads of state of the 27 EU member countries. The European Council sets the overall political direction of the European Union but does not propose or adopt legislation. It is responsible for appointing the president of the European Central Bank and nominating a candidate to the EU Parliament for president of the European Commission.