EU POWERS AND COMPETENCES
European powers are those that are conferred on the European Union (EU) in specific areas by EU countries.
There are 3 types of powers, which vary in how they are conferred:
- Explicit powers: these are clearly defined in the relevant articles of the Treaties.
- Implicit powers: according to the implicit powers theory, competence in external matters derives from explicit internal competence. Where the Treaties assign explicit powers to the EU in a particular area (e.g. transport), it must also have similar powers to conclude agreements with non-EU countries in the same field (the principle of parallelism between internal and external powers).
- Subsidiary powers: where the EU has no explicit or implicit powers to achieve a Treaty objective concerning the common market, Article 352 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU allows the Council, acting unanimously, to take the measures that it considers necessary.

SEE ALSO
- Distribution of competences
- The European Union’s external action
- Subsidiarity
- Subsidiary powers
- Summary on the division of competences within the European Union
- European Commission’s FAQs on EU competences and European Commission powers