– New procedure: Double Majority System

4. New President of the European Council

5. New High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

   With the ambitiously worded “High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy”, the Lisbon Treaty aimed to bring under one umbrella those portfolios that have an external dimension, including foreign affairs, but also trade, agriculture, or the environment. As a consequence, this new post replaced the High Representative for CFSP. The High Representative was placed within the supranational Commission.

6. Elimination of 3-Pillar system

7. Legally-binding Charter of Fundamental Rights

   Full opt-outs for Poland & UK

   Partial opt-outs for Ireland & Denmark: asylum, visa, immigration-related

8. 1/3 national parliaments can force legislative reconsideration

   Should 1/3 national parliaments voice concerns, the proposals would be sent back for review by the Commission. If, after this, a majority of national parliaments still oppose the proposal, and national governments or the EP also disagree, then the proposal would be struck down. Although this change in procedures does not necessarily mean that national parliaments have the ability to block EU legislation outright, it certainly provides one way of closer dialogue between Brussels and national capitals.

9. European Court of Justice has power to overrule Justice & Home Affairs issues…?

10. Citizens Initiative: petition w/ 1 million signatures triggers legislative proposal

   Now a petition of 1 million signatures forces the Commission to formulate a legislative proposal which is then voted upon by the EP and the Council of Ministers.

   Continued Problems…

   1. Treaty changes still have to be ratified by all member states (issue of EU being “held hostage” by 1 member state refusing to ratify).

2008 Crisis