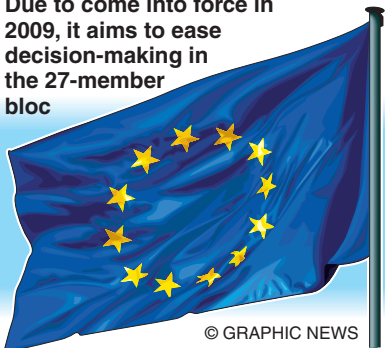


Treaty of Lisbon

The European Union Reform Treaty is a slimmed-down version of the European constitution, rejected by French and Dutch voters in 2005. Due to come into force in 2009, it aims to ease decision-making in the 27-member bloc



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★ **Voting system:** Number of votes allocated to members according to population size. Introduction delayed until 2014 to placate Polish fears that system penalises smaller countries

★ **President:** Serves 2.5 year term. Replaces system where states take turns to hold post for six months

★ **Foreign affairs:** Revamped post of foreign policy chief to bolster common foreign and security policy

★ **EU Commission:** Executive body cut from 27 to 17 members, selected in rotation for five-year term

★ **Rights charter:** UK to opt out of 50-article list due to concern over impact on business and legal system