

Article 7

of the Treaty on EU sets out ways for the EU to react

(introduced by the Amsterdam Treaty in 1997)

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

When there is a risk of a serious breach of EU values

Article 7.1

The Council determines there is a clear RISK of a breach



One third of member states in the Council

or



the European Commission



the European Parliament

Procedure triggered by

Parliament should give consent by



and



The EU country concerned addresses the Council

The Council takes a decision



by a MAJORITY of at least 4/5 of member states

SANCTIONS MECHANISM

When a serious and persistent breach of EU values has taken place

Phase 1:

Article 7.2

EU heads of state (European Council) determine that there HAS BEEN a serious and persistent breach



One third of member states in the Council

or



the European Commission

The EU country concerned is invited to submit observations before the decision

The European Council takes decision BY UNANIMITY

Phase 2:

Article 7.3

THE COUNCIL CAN SUSPEND MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS, including voting rights

The vote requires a qualified majority

72% of member states should vote in favour

&

representing 65% of the EU's population

The EU country concerned does not take part in the votes in the Council and the European Council

