



**THE EU
IN A
NUTSHELL**



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WHAT IS EUROPE?



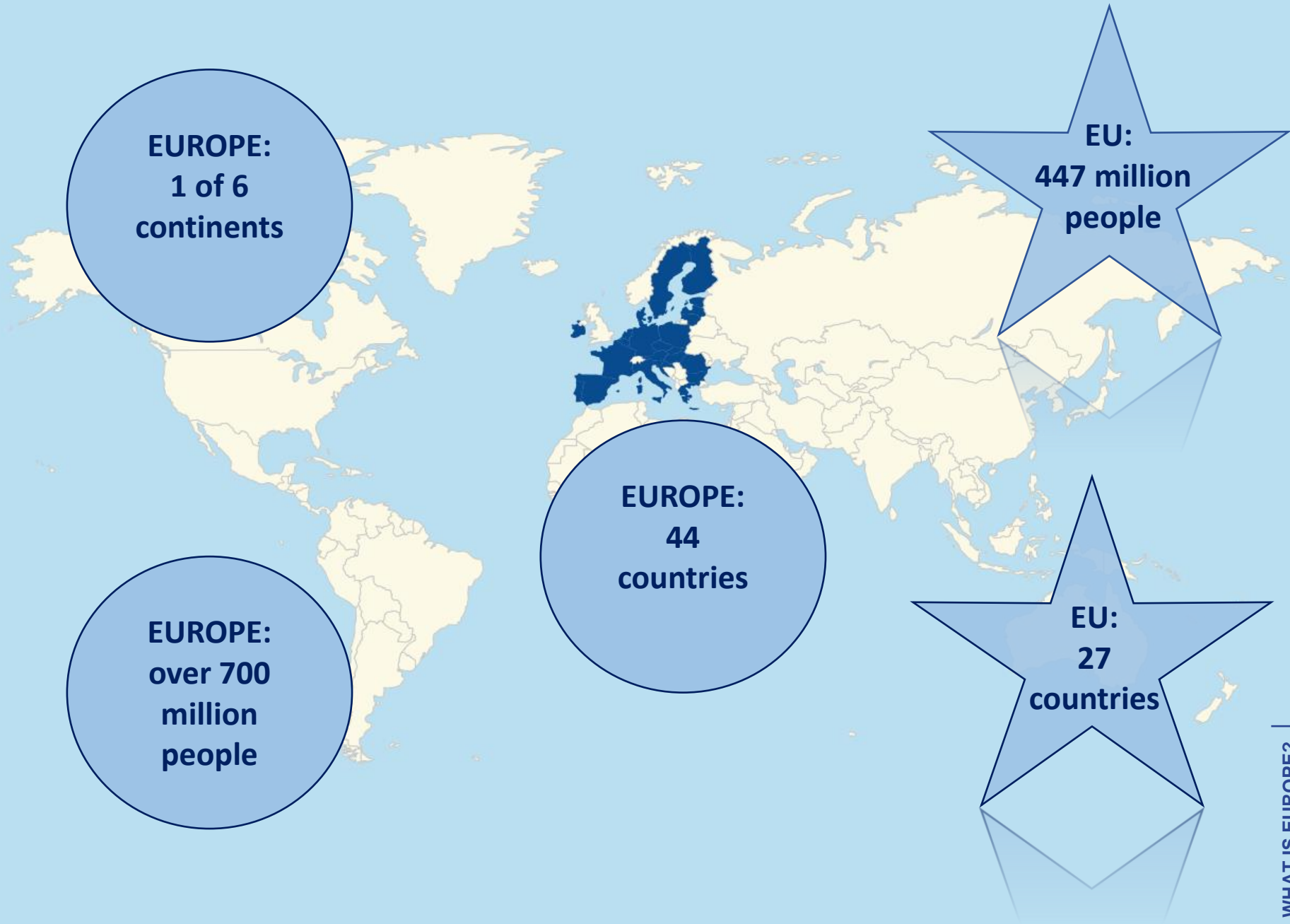


DO YOU FEEL EUROPEAN?

WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL EUROPEAN?



THE BASICS





EUROPEAN CULTURE



European culture and diversity shaped by:

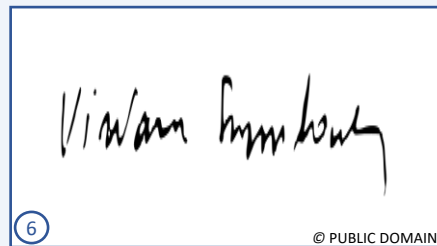
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights

EUROPEAN ARTISTS

Over the centuries, new styles of music, architecture and literature have inspired artists throughout Europe.

For example:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Pablo Picasso | 5. Stefan Zweig |
| 2. Ludwig van Beethoven | 6. Wisława Szymborska |
| 3. Alfons Mucha | 7. Simone de Beauvoir |
| 4. Hilma af Klint | 8. Magda Szabó |



EUROPEAN VALUES



Human dignity
Freedom
Democracy
Equality
Rule of law
Human rights



United
in Diversity

THE 24 EU OFFICIAL LANGUAGES





EU LANGUAGE FAMILIES





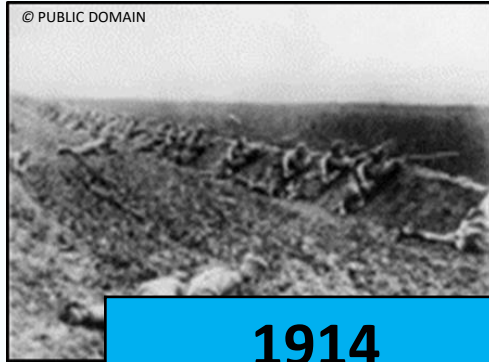
THE EUROPEAN PROJECT





**WHICH
COUNTRIES
CREATED THE
EU AND WHY?**

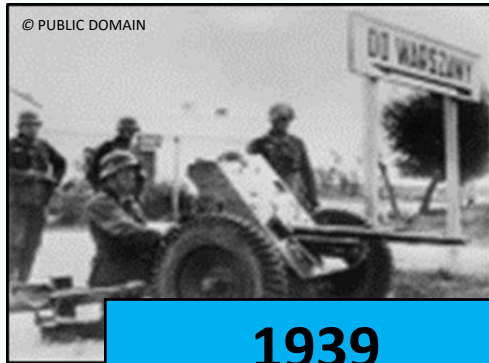
FROM WAR TO PEACE



1914



1918



1939



1945



FROM WAR TO PEACE

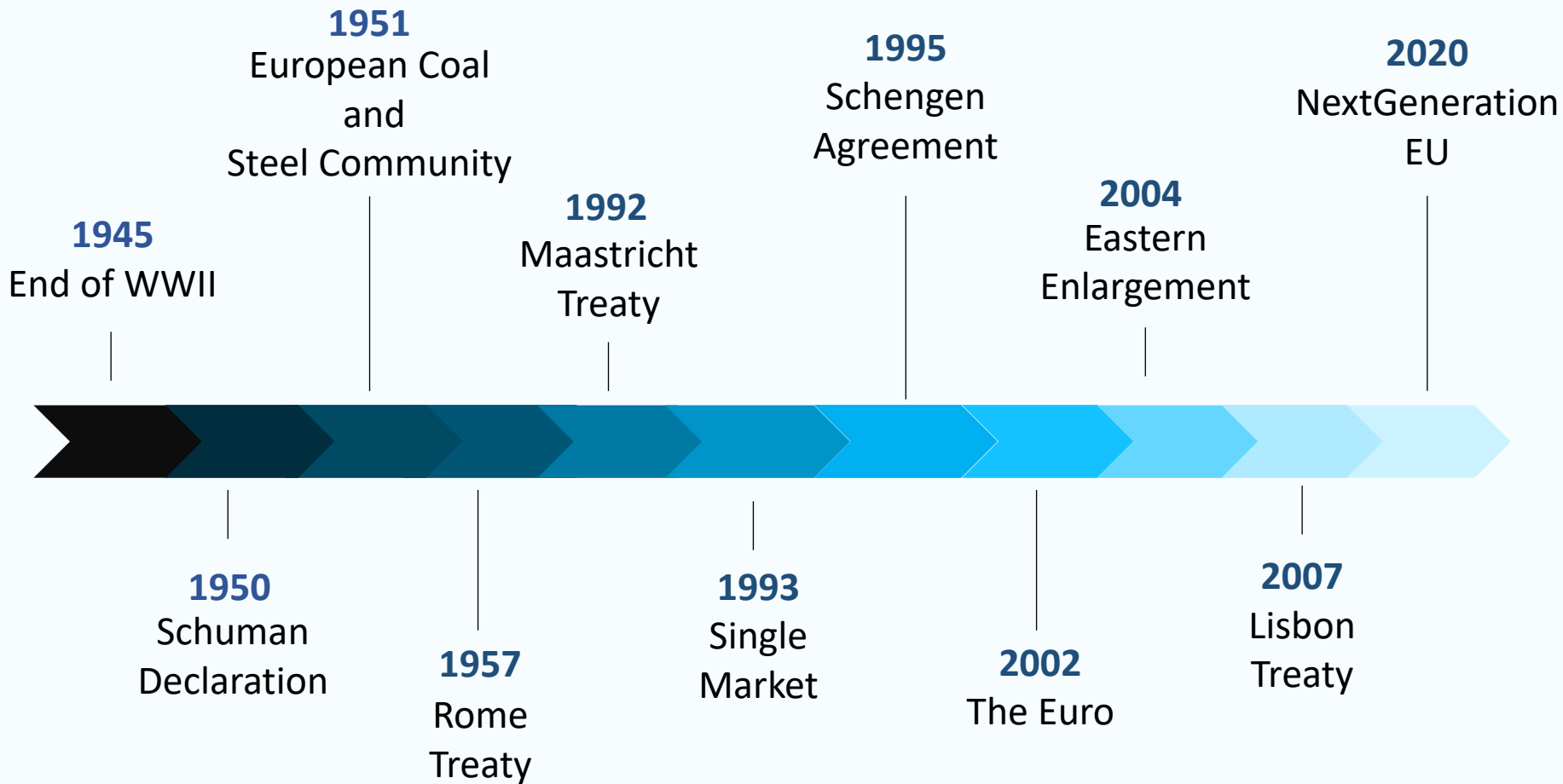
Peace was one of the aims that led to the creation of the European Union

The EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012





THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

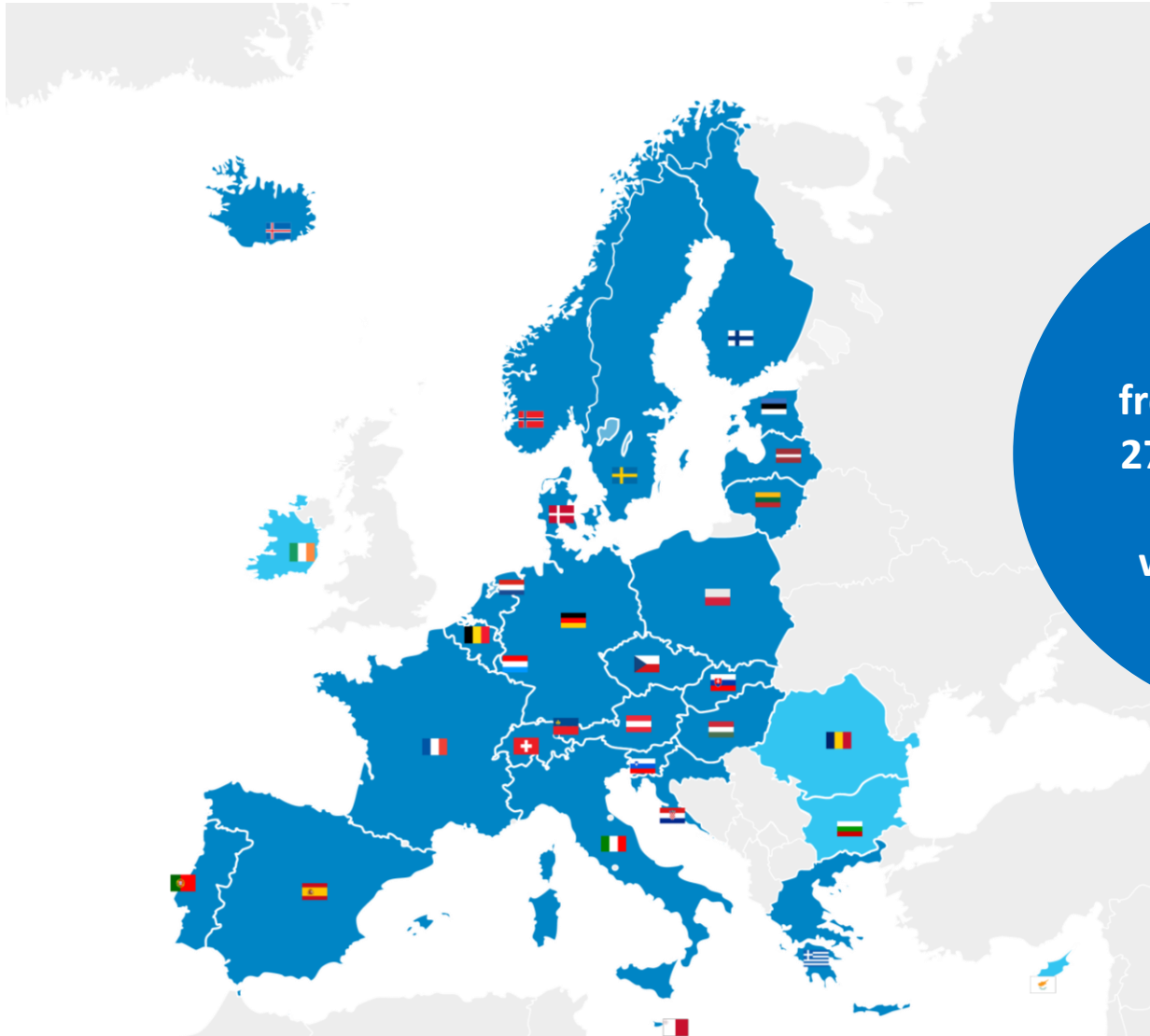


EU COUNTRIES

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1951 | Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands |
| 1973 | Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom (UK left the EU in 2020) |
| 1981 | Greece |
| 1986 | Spain, Portugal |
| 1995 | Austria, Finland, Sweden |
| 2004 | Czechia, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia |
| 2007 | Bulgaria, Romania |
| 2013 | Croatia |



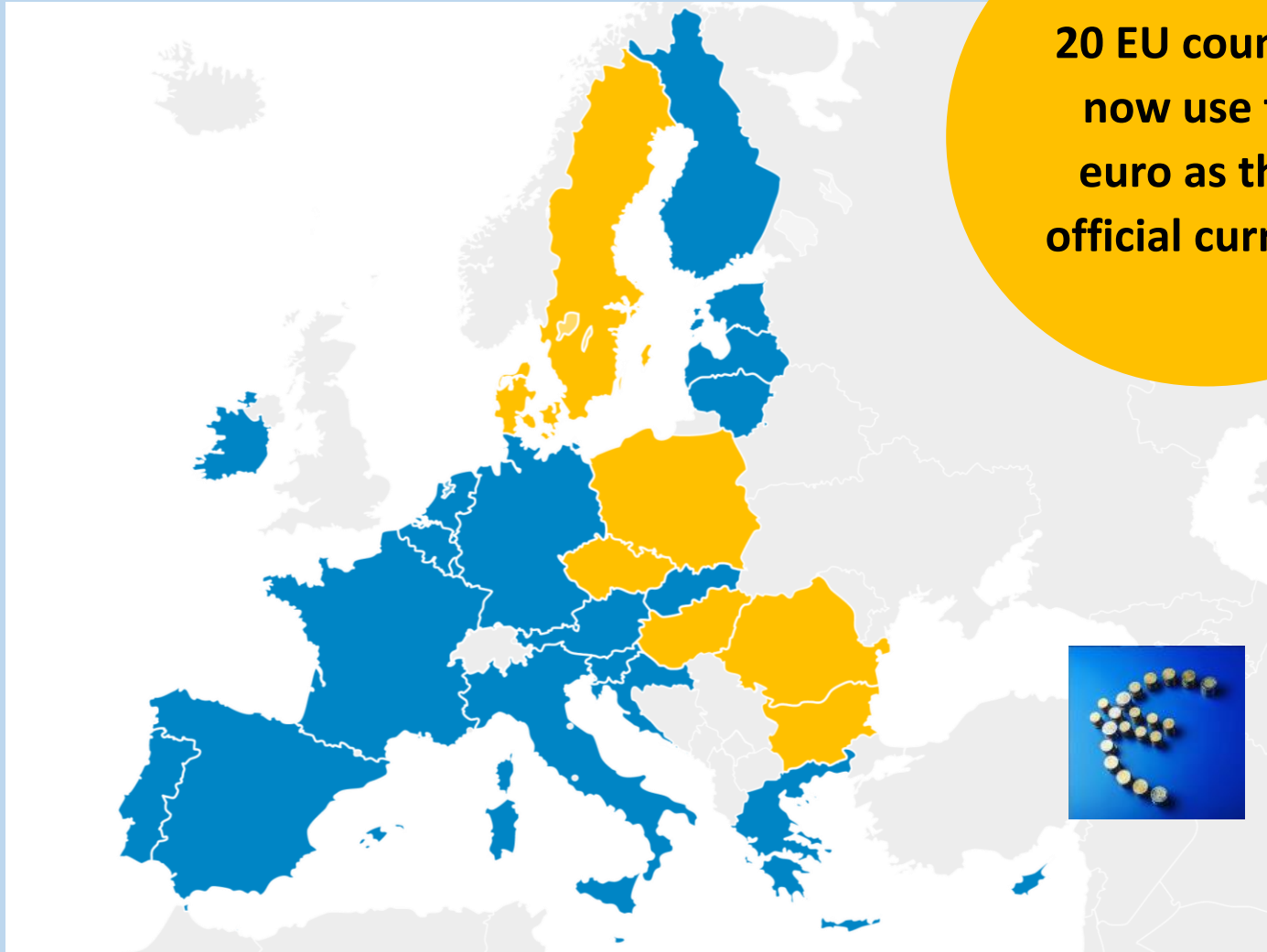
SCHENGEN AREA



**Did you know?
You can travel
freely between the
27 countries of the
Schengen area
without showing
your passport**

Schengen area countries Non-Schengen area EU countries

EURO AREA



**20 EU countries
now use the
euro as their
official currency**

EU countries that use the Euro

EU countries that do not use the Euro

WHAT DOES THE EU DO ?



**WHAT DO
YOU THINK
THE EUROPEAN
UNION
DOES
FOR YOU?**



STUDY, WORK AND VOLUNTEERING



Youth Guarantee Scheme



EURES



ERASMUS+



European Solidarity Corps

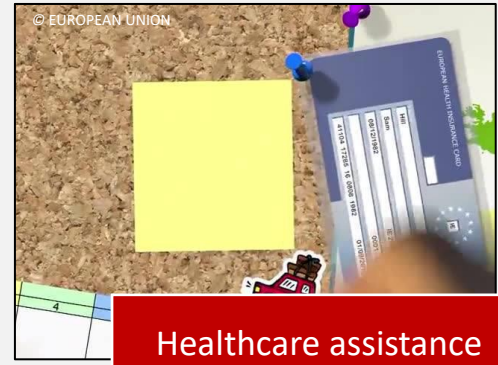
TRAVELS



Discover EU



Free roaming



Healthcare assistance



Passenger rights



Access to digital
subscriptions

...AND MUCH MORE



Participation



Environmental protection



Consumer rights and safety



EU-funded projects



EU in the world

EU PRIORITIES



Green Deal



NextGenerationEU



Digitalisation



Equality



2022: EU SOLIDARITY WITH UKRAINE



[#StandWithUkraine](#)

2022: THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH



European Year of Youth



**Which topics
do you think
should be
prioritised by the
European
Institutions?**



HOW DOES THE EU WORK ?



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



is the voice of European citizens

has Members from all EU countries directly elected by citizens every five years

discusses new laws proposed by the European Commission

modifies (if necessary) and decides these laws together with the Council

elects the President of the European Commission

approves the EU budget

holds at least six sessions per year in Brussels (Belgium) and 12 in Strasbourg (France)



THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL



brings together the heads of state or government of each EU country

does not adopt EU laws

sets the EU's main priorities and policy directions

meets at least four times a year in Brussels (Belgium) or Luxembourg (Luxembourg) for European Summits



THE COUNCIL OF THE EU



represents the governments of the EU countries

brings together ministers of EU countries who meet to discuss EU matters (agriculture, foreign affairs, justice, etc.)

takes decisions and passes laws together with the European Parliament

has a rotating Presidency – every six months another EU country takes the lead

meets in Brussels or Luxembourg



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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



represents the EU common interests

is made up of one President and a Commissioner from each EU country responsible for a specific topic

proposes new laws and programmes

is elected by the European Parliament for five years

manages the EU policies and budget

is the guardian of the EU Treaties

is located in Brussels and Luxembourg

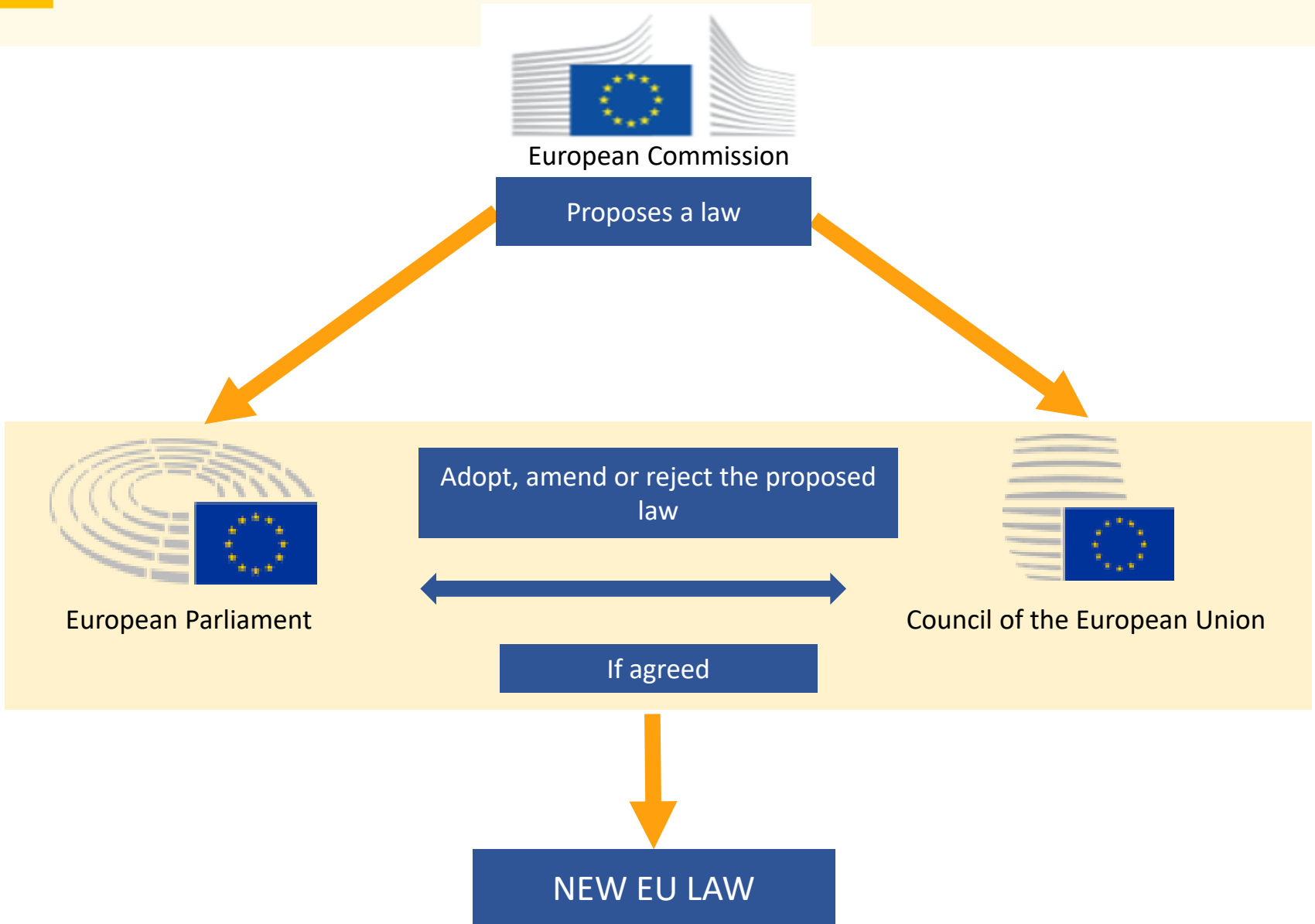


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EU LAWS: WHO DOES WHAT?





THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE



keeps track of EU laws

makes sure that EU countries respect EU laws

advises national courts on the interpretation of these laws

fines countries if they do not respect EU laws

checks if the laws respect fundamental rights (e.g. freedom of speech, freedom of the press)

consists of one judge per EU country

is located in Luxembourg



THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS



checks whether the EU's budget has been correctly spent

advises EU policymakers on how to best spend the budget

reports fraud, corruption or other illegal activity

has Members appointed by the Council for six-year terms



THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK



leads EU economic and monetary policy

manages the European currency – the ‘euro’

is responsible for keeping the euro and prices stable

fixes interest rates for the euro area

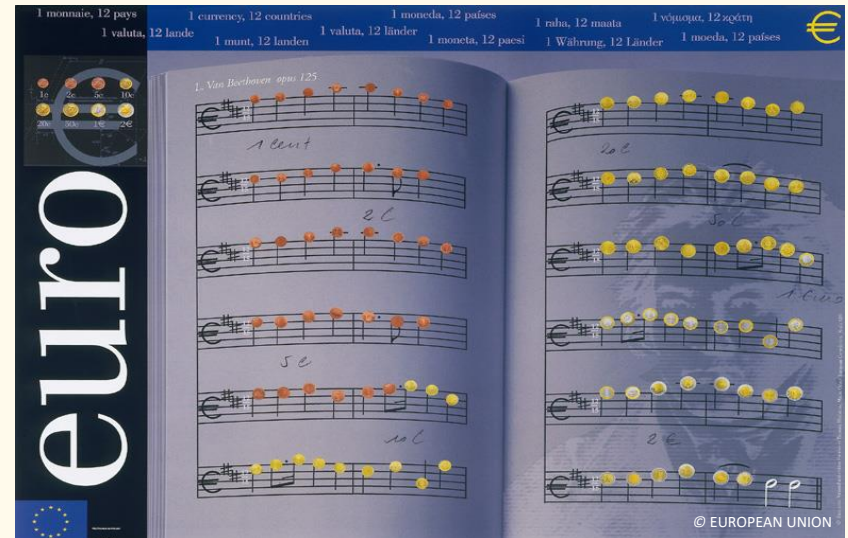
works with the national central banks of EU countries

has six Members appointed by the Council for an eight-year term that cannot be renewed

is located in Frankfurt (Germany)



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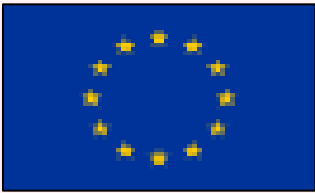
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HOW DOES THE EU WORK?

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EU?

Europa website

europa.eu



Learning Corner website

europa.eu/learning-corner



Learning Corner newsletter

ec.europa.eu/newsroom/comm/user-subscriptions/1595/create



What Europe does for me

what-europe-does-for-me.eu



Publications Office

publications.europa.eu

STAY IN TOUCH

In person:

> Questions about the EU? **Europe Direct** can help.



europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11**

> Find an **EU centre near you** to meet, ask, discuss about the EU.

europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us_en

Via social media:



Use the **search tool** to find the EU's social media accounts.

europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks_en

Thank you!



europa.eu/learning-corner

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