

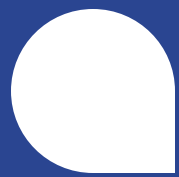
The EU in a nutshell



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What is Europe?





What does the EU mean to you?

What makes you feel European?



The Basics



Europe:
1 of 7 continents
44 countries
Over 700 million people

EU:
27 countries
447 million people



European Culture



European culture and diversity have been shaped by:

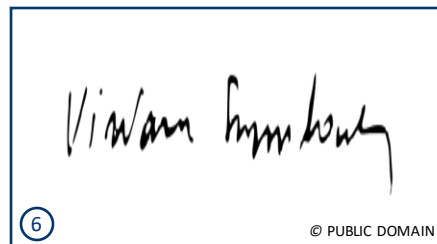
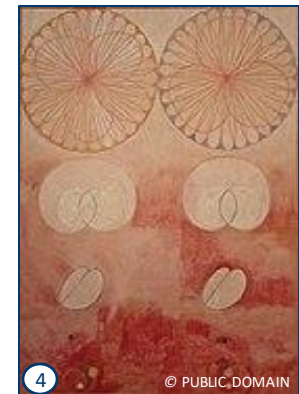
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights

European Artists

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

For example:

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



European Values

1. Human dignity
2. Freedom
3. Democracy
4. Equality
5. Rule of law
6. Human rights



24 Official EU Languages





EU Language Families

24 Official EU Languages

Germanic	Romance	Slavic	Other
Danish German English Dutch Swedish	Spanish French Italian Portuguese Romanian	Bulgarian Czech Croatian Polish Slovak Slovene	Estonian Finnish Greek Irish Lithuanian Latvian Hungarian Maltese

The European Project





**Which
countries
created the EU
and why?**

From war to peace



1914



1918



1939



1945

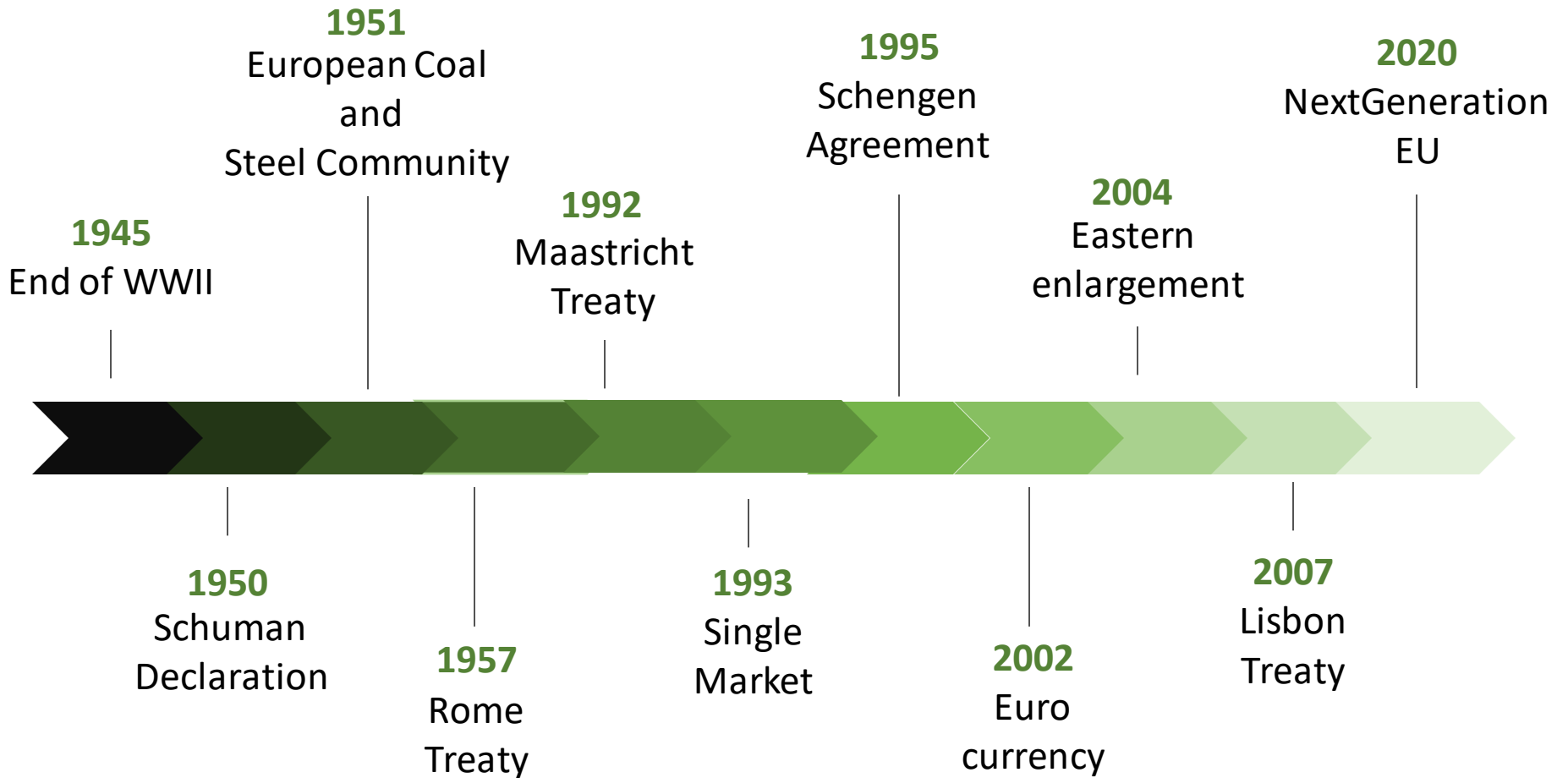
From war to peace

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 (the 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

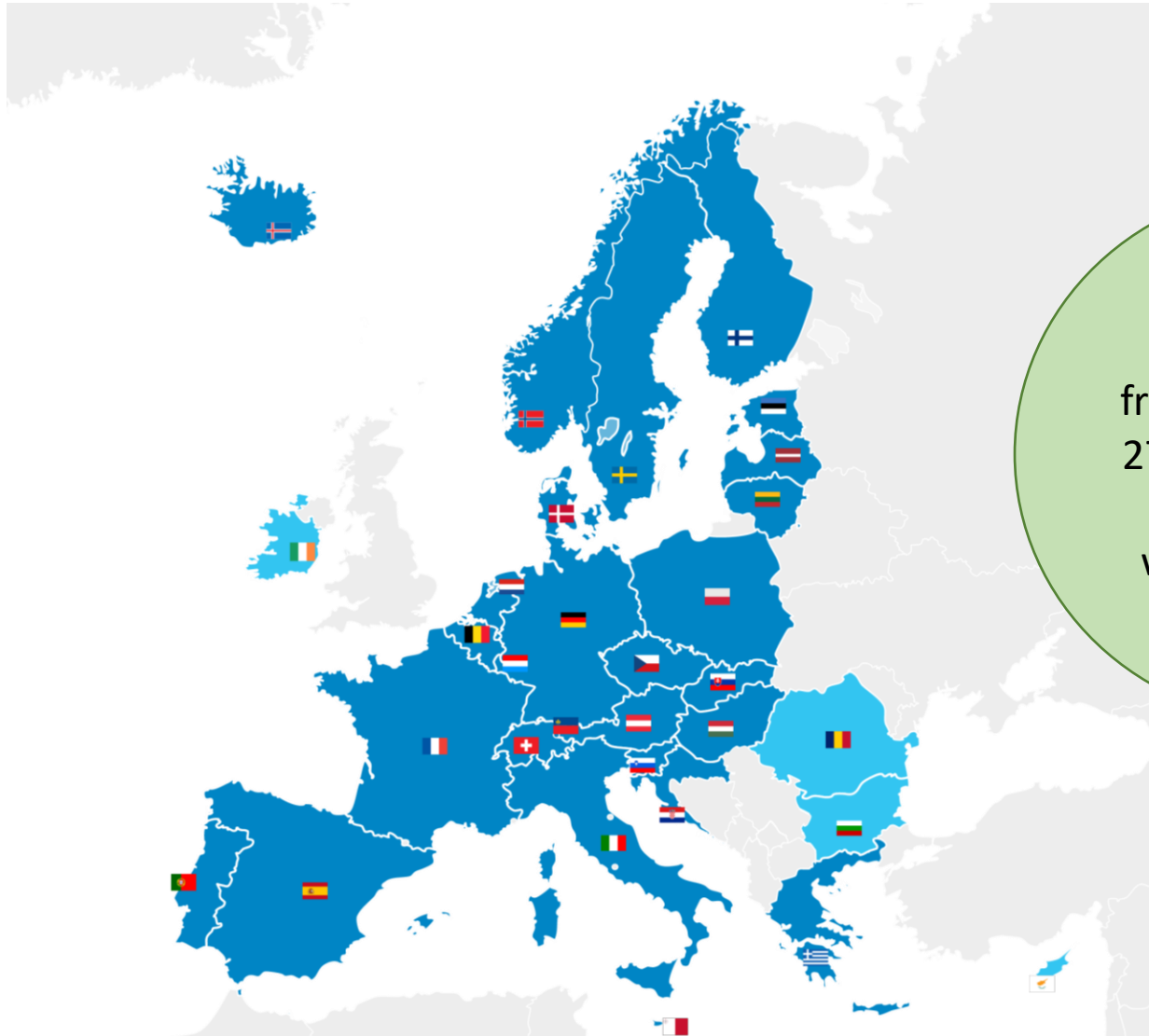
Bulgaria, Romania

2013

Croatia



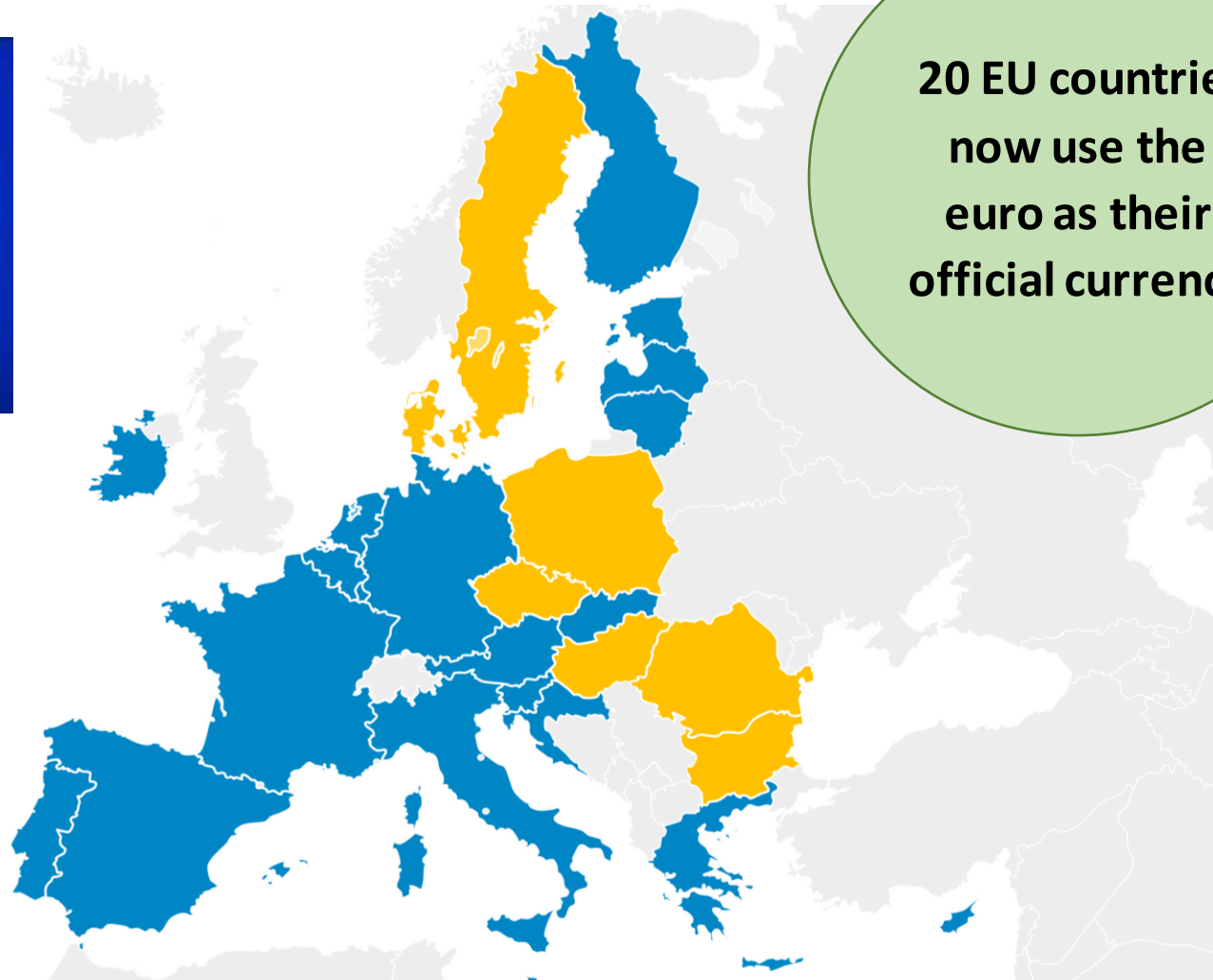
Schengen Area



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 EU
does for you?**



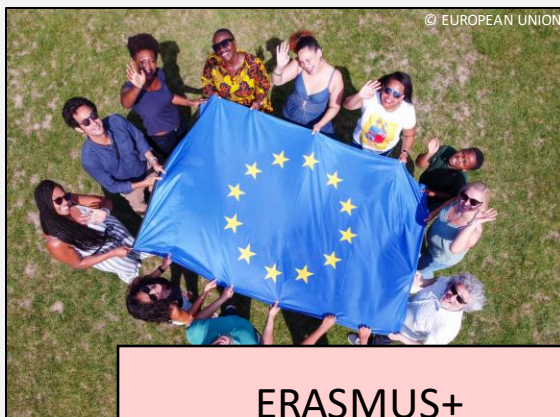
Study, Work and Volunteering



Youth Guarantee Scheme



EURES



ERASMUS+



European Solidarity Corps

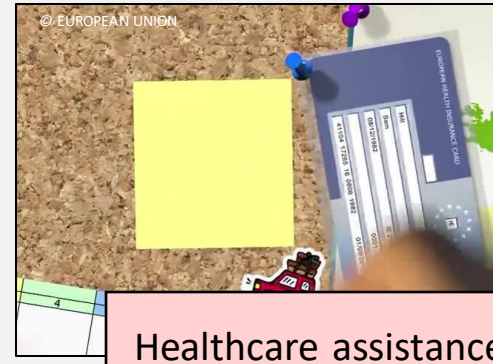
Travel



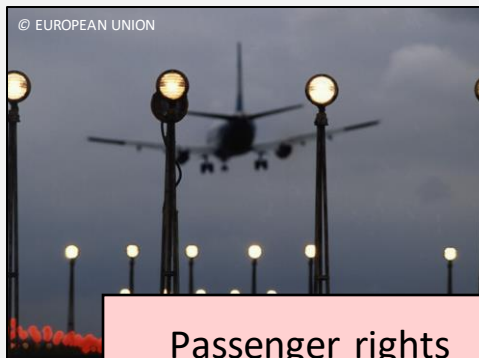
Discover EU



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

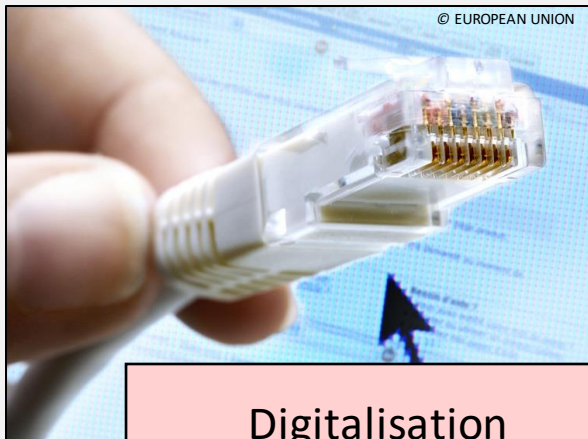
EU Priorities



Green Deal



NextGenerationEU



Digitalisation



Equality



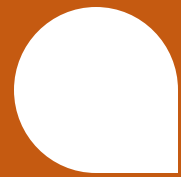
Continuing EU Solidarity with Ukraine



[#StandWithUkraine](#)

A large audience of young people, likely students or young professionals, is seated in a semi-circular assembly hall. They are wearing headsets and looking towards the front of the room. The setting appears to be a formal meeting or conference. A red circular overlay is positioned on the right side of the image, containing white text.

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



How does the EU work?



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



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



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

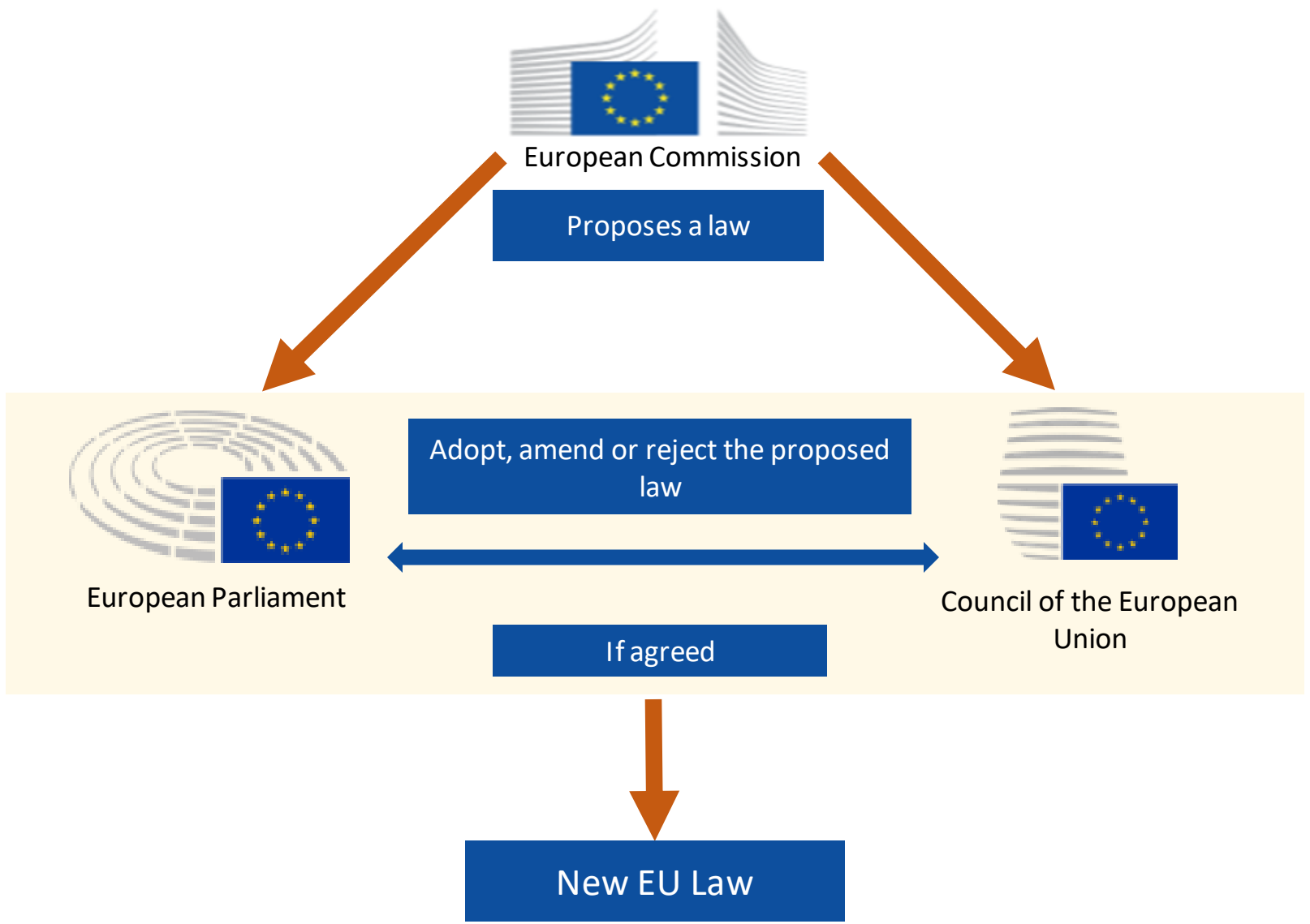
approves the EU budget

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





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

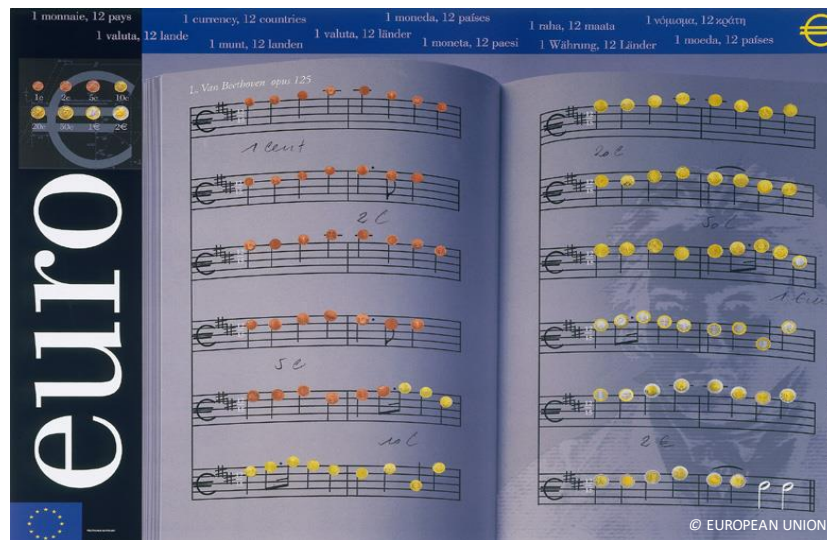
works with the national central banks of EU countries

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

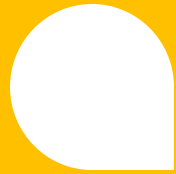
is located in Frankfurt (Germany)



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How YOU can shape Europe



How you can shape Europe



Citizen's Initiatives



European Youth Week



European Youth Event (EYE)



Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS)

European elections 2024

The next European elections will take place 6–9 June 2024. Save the date!

Voting age: 16-18 years old (depending on your country).



Why vote?

The members of the European Parliament are elected by European citizens .

Vote to make sure your views are represented.



Why vote?

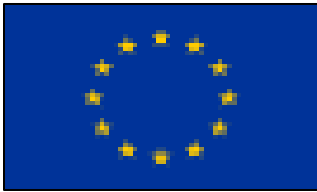
Because you can choose who takes decisions on important issues that concern you – like climate change, jobs and the protection of your rights and freedoms.



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 about and discuss 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

✉ COMM-A2@ec.europa.eu



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