

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:

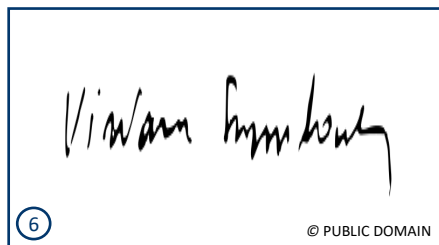
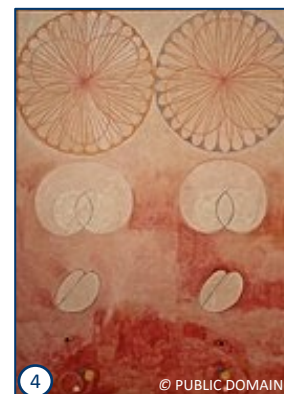
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights

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



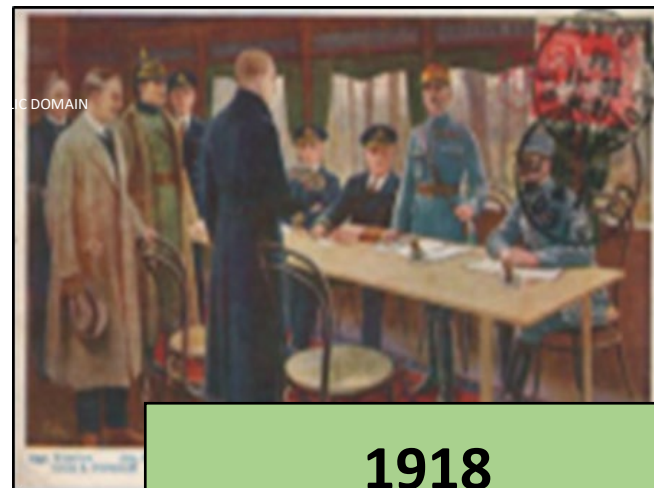
The background of the slide shows two hikers from behind, standing on a rocky trail. They are wearing dark jackets and backpacks, and their arms are raised in the air. The landscape is hilly and green, under a clear sky.

Which countries created the EU and why?

From war to peace



1914



1918



1939



1945

From war to peace

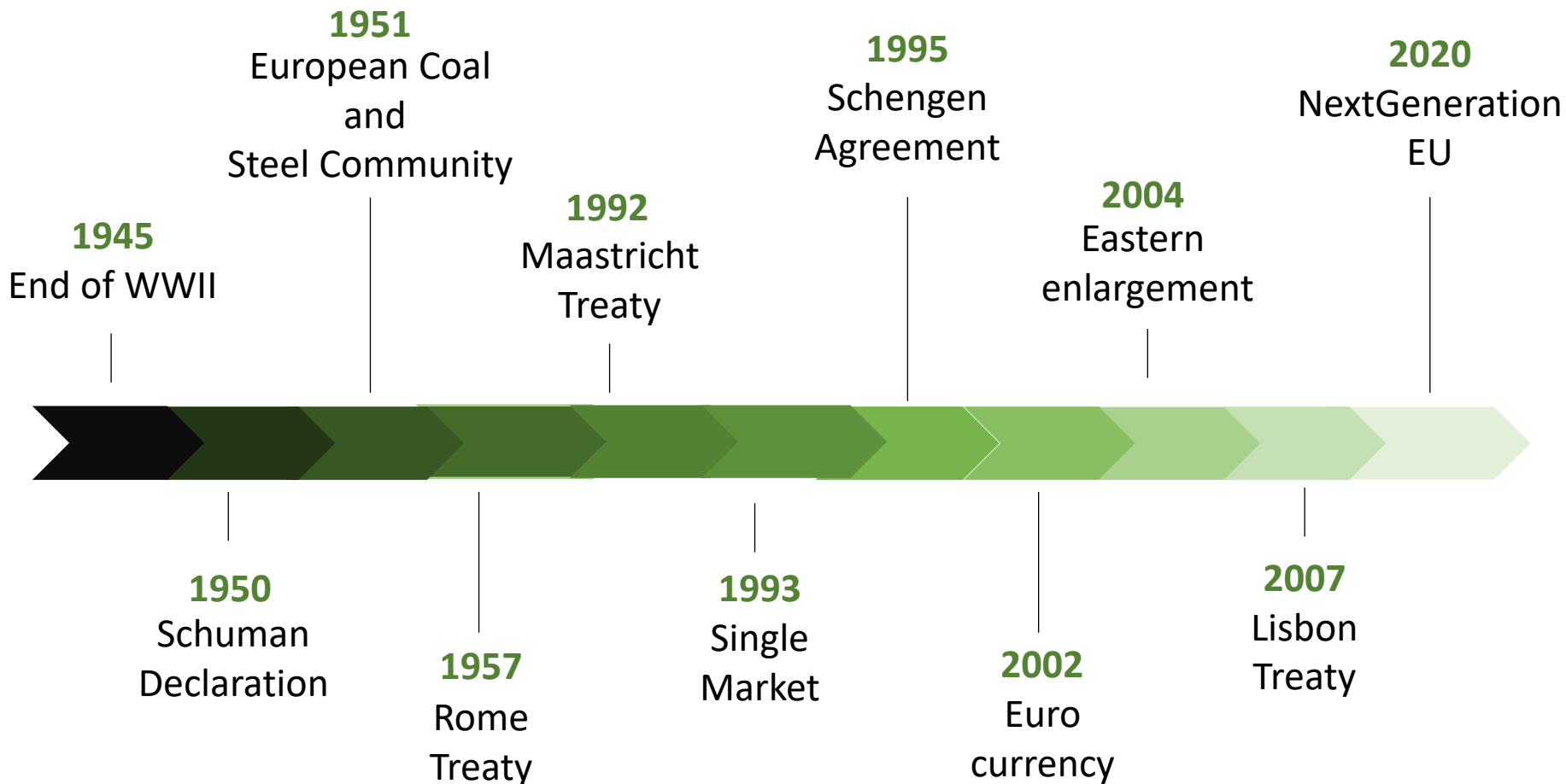
**Peace was one of
the aims that led to
the creation of the
European Union**

**The EU received the
Nobel Peace Prize
in 2012**





The creation of the European Union



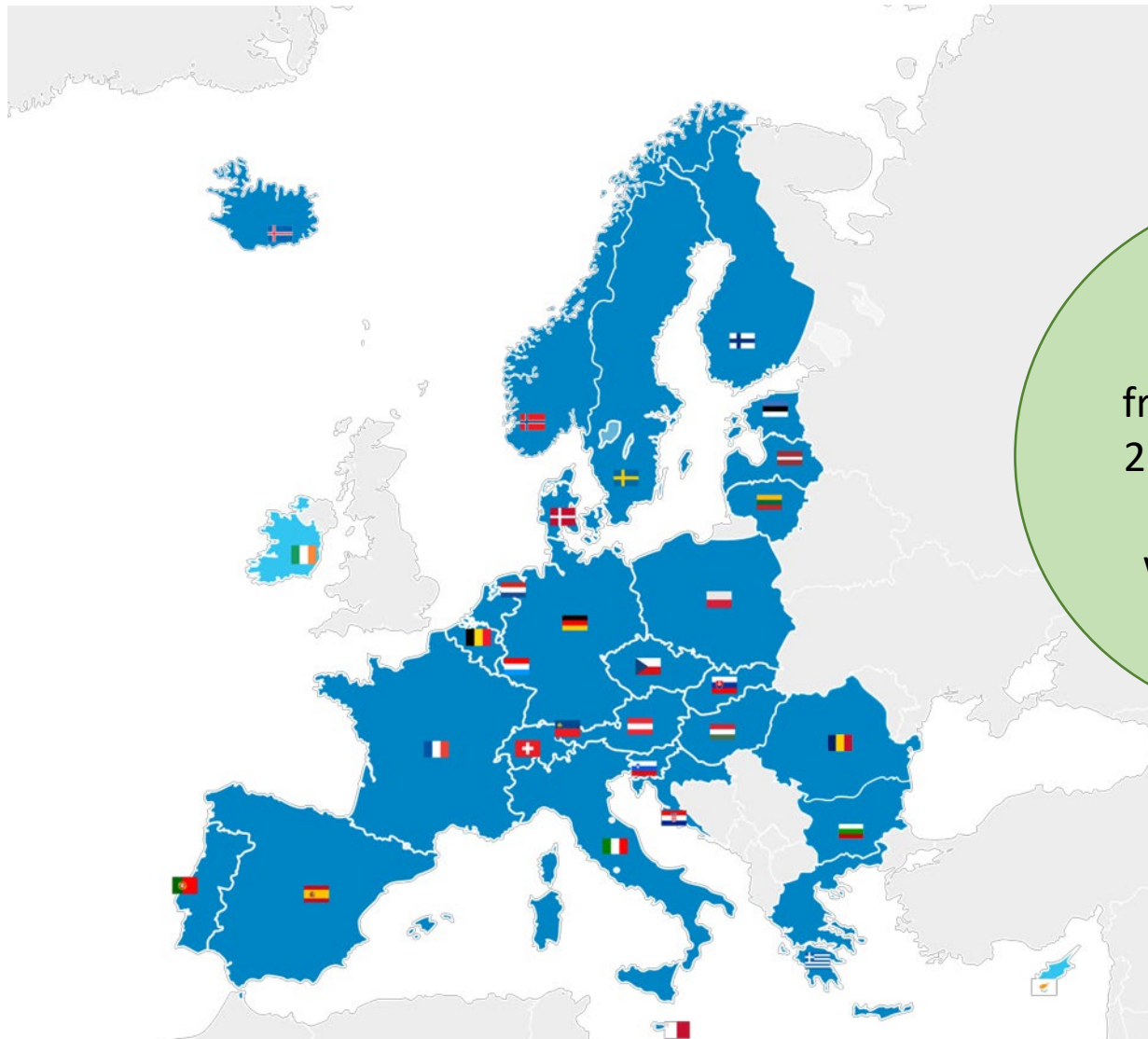


EU Countries

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

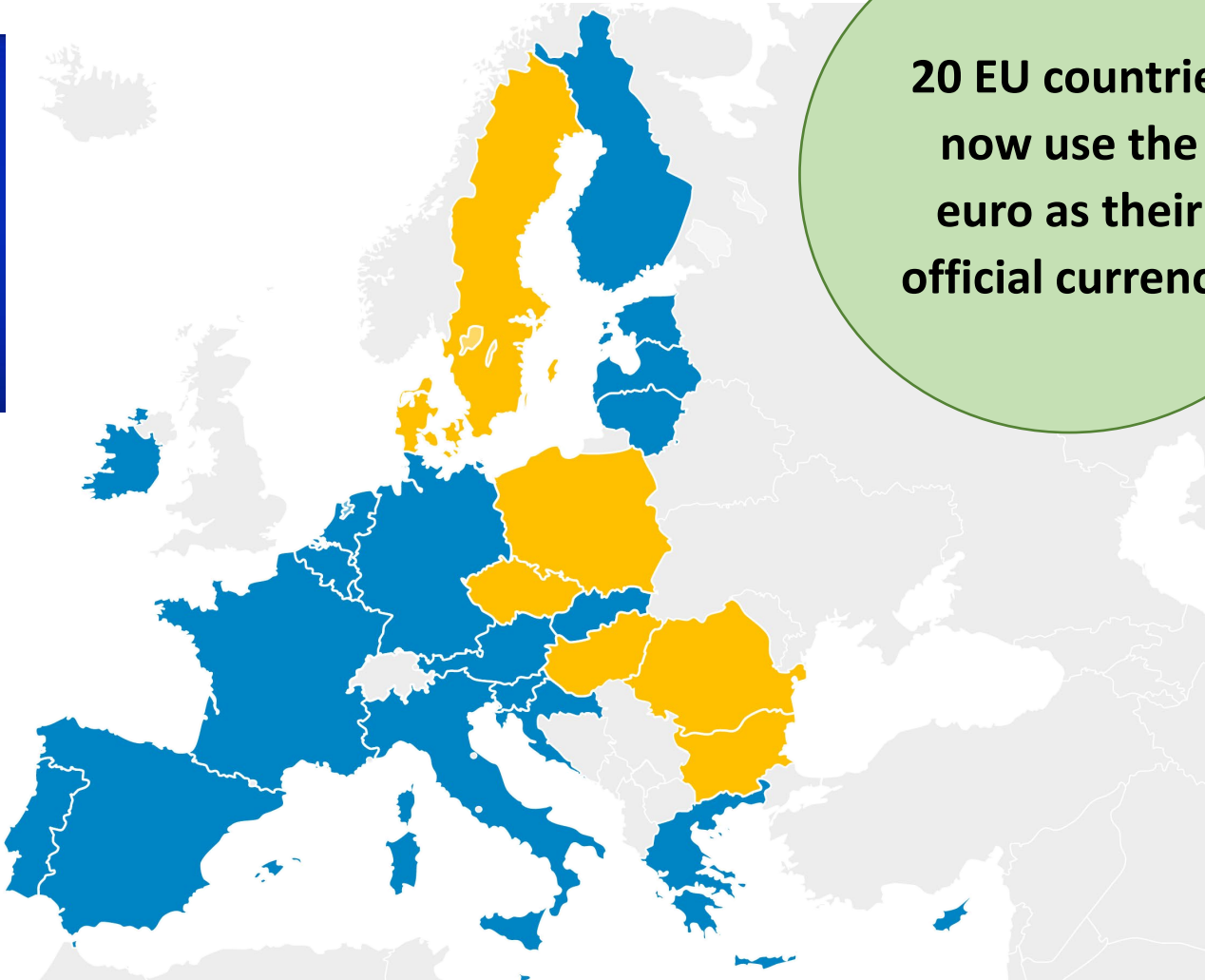


Did you know?
You can travel freely between the 27 countries of the Schengen area without showing your passport

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

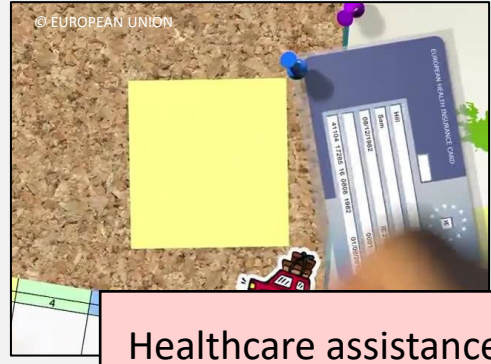
Travel



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



USB-C Common charger



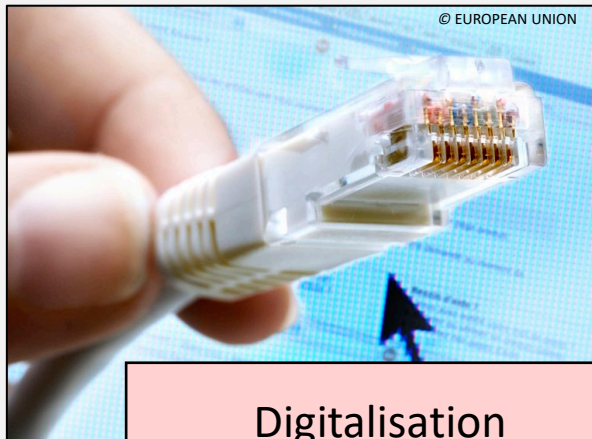
EU Priorities



Green Deal



NextGenerationEU



Digitalisation



Equality



Continuing EU Solidarity with Ukraine



[#StandWithUkraine](#)

One charger for all

USB-C is the common charger for phones, tablets, cameras & more.

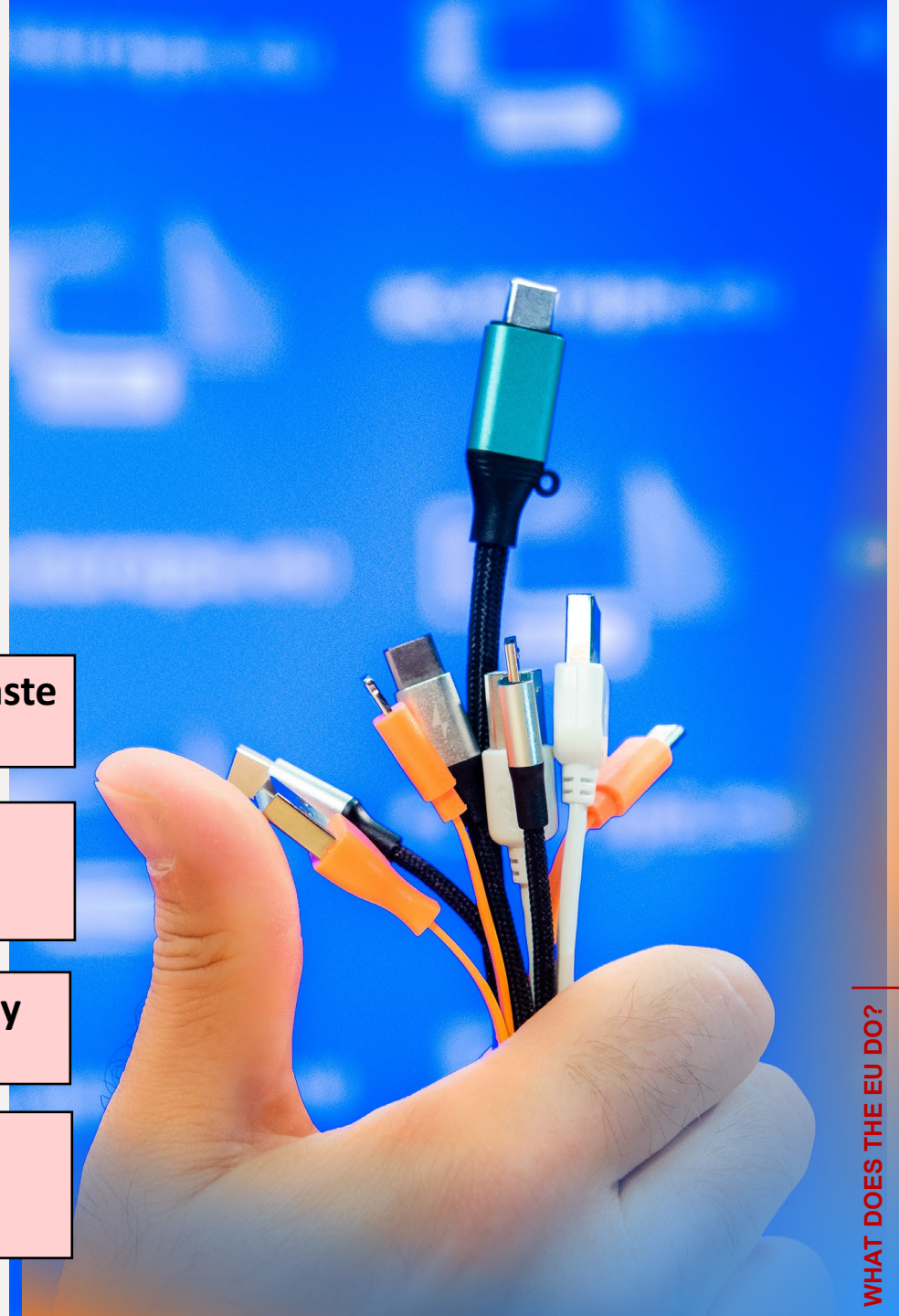
Laptops will follow in 2026.

Reduces **electronic waste**

Makes life **simpler** for everyone

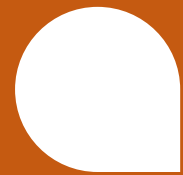
Promotes **sustainability**

More **convenient** for consumers





**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

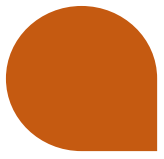
modifies (if necessary) and decides these laws together with the Council

elects the President of the European Commission

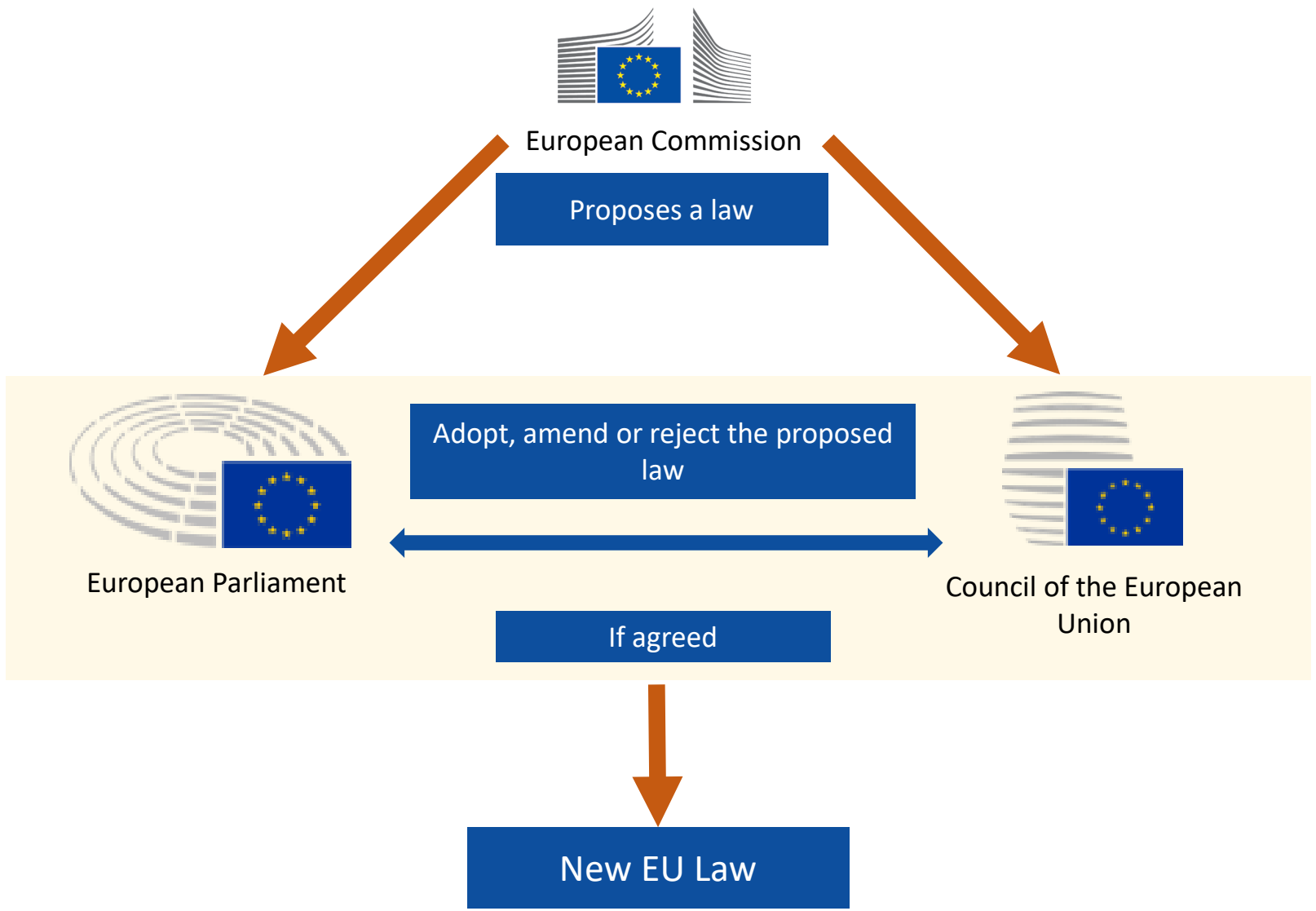
approves the EU budget

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



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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

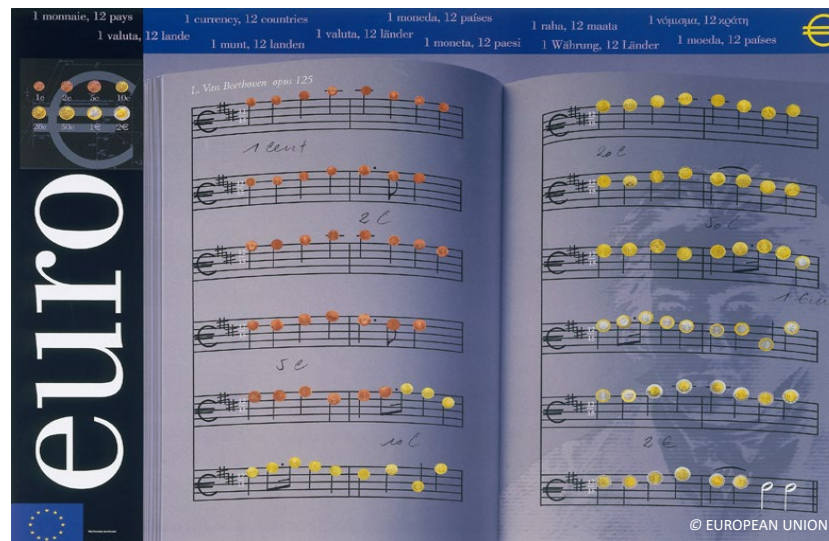
works with the national central banks of EU countries

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)

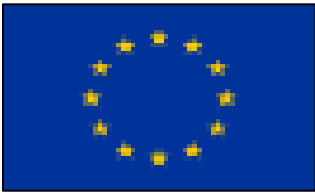


Your Europe, Your Say (YEYS)

Learn more about the EU

Europa website

europa.eu



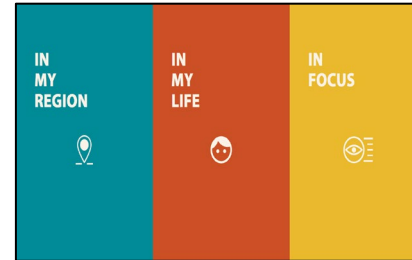
Learning Corner website

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:

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Europe Direct can help.



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

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

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Via social media:



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

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Thank you!



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