

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## EU T-Chart & HW Q's – Please answer in your notebook! HW Grade!



# The European Union!

## Brief Intro to the EU...

What is the European Union? Is it a country?...No. Is it a group of countries from Europe?...Yes. Is *every* European country in the EU?...No.... Yup...It can be confusing... The European Union has been in the news **a lot** lately. I mean...**A LOT!**

As we've said before, Europe was *destroyed and devastated* by World War II. The United Nations formed in 1945 to ensure world peace, but Europe also had some work to do on its own. The European Union grew out of a desire for peace in a war-torn and divided continent. Five years after World War II ended, France and Germany came up with a plan to ensure their two countries would *never* go to war against each other again. Because we all know war is generally over territory and resources, some of the larger European nations came together to ensure these resources would be somewhat, "shared." The result was a deal signed by six nations to combine their coal and steel resources in 1950.

Seven years later a treaty signed in Rome created the **European Economic Community (EEC)** - the foundations of today's European Union. The UK was one of three new members to join in the first wave of expansion in 1973. Today the EU has 27 (bye Britain) member states with a total population of just over 500 million. Let's take a look more at the EU and how the EU is functional today and how the political drawing below proves to be funny, yet true about the European "Union."...

Flick: [The European Union](#)

-----

**How to join the EU?** The European Union is open to any European country that meets these requirements:

- A functioning government with rules of law and enforcement
- Take an oath to protect human rights
- Maintain a stable economy that can compete with other nations both in and out of the EU are those requirements

**Are there other nations who want to join the EU?** Yes. Russia..sorta, Turkey, Moldova, Georgia (not us), Ukraine, and Bosnia & Herzegovina want in. Ukraine wanting to join the EU is part of the reason Russia invaded in 2021. Things are not going well because of this...

**Why aren't these nations in the EU?** Many reasons...In fact, there's no way to include all of those reasons in this doc that would make you understand. Some nations are in constant conflict within the borders, and they are not politically or economically stable enough to be depended on...Some nations are so small that being a member would not benefit them...

**How does the EU prevent one or a few nations from taking complete control?** A new president of the EU is elected every 2.5 years. No one country can politically dominate because every nation gets an opportunity to have a president.

## This is a great way to sum up the values of the European Union

### European values

Have you ever heard the phrase ‘**United in diversity**’? It’s the EU’s motto and encapsulates what the EU’s values are all about. While each EU country has its own culture, language and traditions, they all share the same common values which they must comply with as members of the European Union.

One fundamental value that unites all EU countries is democracy. This means that only democratic countries can be members of the EU. Other values that are common to all EU countries are respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minority groups.

The EU is founded on **six core values** that form the basis of our society:

- respect for human dignity
- freedom
- democracy
- equality
- the rule of law
- respect for human rights, including those of minorities.

## Advantages of being a European Union member

### 1. It creates “harmony” on the continent.

Harmony means “agreement” or “getting along.” Before World War II, European nations were often fighting with each other politically, economically, socially, everythingly. After World War II, with the creation of the United Nations, Europe tried to put the horrible fighting and political uneasiness in the *past*. The EU tried to unite Europe to prevent future fights... So far, so good.

### 2. The European Union has helped to improve local environments.

Since the formation of the EU, the health and quality of the seas and beaches throughout the continent have improved dramatically. Europe has united to fight pollution, climate change, and environmental damage to the continent. Knowing the continent has limited resources, the EU tries to get the countries to unite *against* destroying natural resources on the European continent.

### 3. It creates a feeling of “international security.”

European nations have a form of mutual protection through NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). NATO is made up of 27 countries that unite in keeping peace between Europe and the United States. Nations contribute money to the organization to help maintain peace. Some nations, the United States being one of them, pay far more money than others. Belonging to the United Nations provides another level of security.

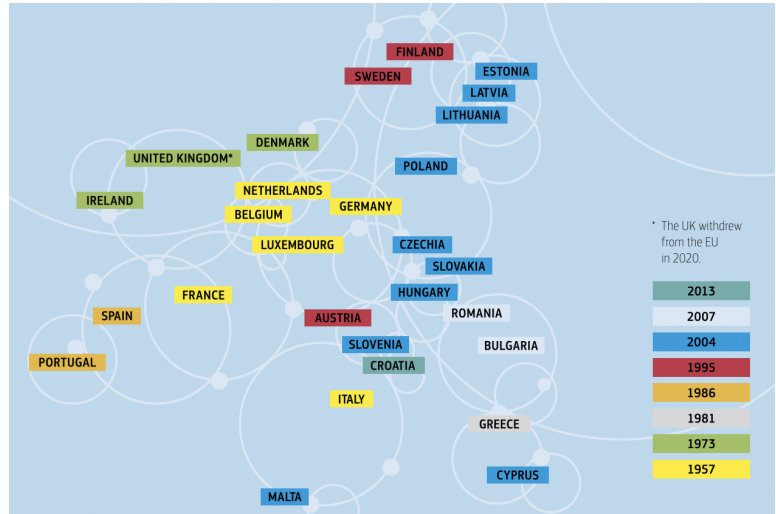


#### 4. Economic security

The **Euro** is the single currency shared by 19 of the 27 Member States of the European Union. It came into use for non-cash transactions in 1999 and for all payments in 2002, when euro notes and coins were issued. New Member States are expected to adopt the euro once they meet the necessary criteria. In the long run, virtually all EU countries should join the euro area. Travelers are spared the cost and inconvenience of changing currencies. Shoppers can directly compare prices in different countries. The European Central Bank ensures price stability.

#### Twenty-Four Official Languages

The 24 official languages of the EU's 28 Member States represent the Union's broad cultural diversity: Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish.



**Are there disadvantages being in the EU?**...Yup. Most of them are economic. Some nations contribute to the EU more than they economically receive. It is almost as if they pay to be members, but receive no economic help ...See below

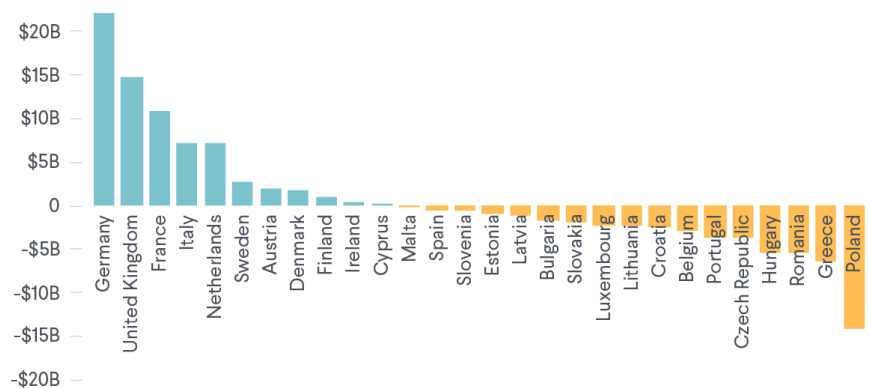
#### How do you think this chart unites and divides the EU?

The EU spends the money on a wide range of projects, but about three quarters of the budget every year goes to two main areas: agriculture and development of poorer areas of the EU.

So, poorer countries and those with a lot of farms get more. Poland was the biggest net recipient of the EU budget (getting more back than it contributed in the first place), followed by Greece, Romania, Hungary and Portugal.

#### Most EU Countries Receive More Funding Than They Contribute

Net contributions to the EU budget, 2020



Note: The United Kingdom left the European Union in January 2020.

Sources: European Union; Internal Revenue Service.

COUNCIL on  
FOREIGN  
RELATIONS



Luxembourg and Belgium, two of the richest EU countries, are also on the list of EU budget net recipients (\$\$\$), because they receive a high proportion of the funding (\$\$\$) as many EU institutions, such as the Commission and the European Parliament, are based there. Basically, Luxembourg and Belgium give a lot of money to the EU, and they receive a lot of money from the EU, whereas Poland does not give a lot of money to the EU, and they receive A LOT of money from the EU.

## The EU in the News!

Feb 3, 2023 at 1:16 pm ET

**EU Agrees to Expand Sanctions on Russian Oil Industry**



An oil-extraction site in Russia. YEGOR ALEYEV/ZUMA PRESS

The European Union agreed to cap the sales price of premium Russian petroleum products such as diesel at \$100 a barrel and limit low-value ones such as fuel oil to \$45 a barrel, clearing the way for Western allies to expand sanctions on Russia's oil industry, according to people familiar with the deal.

**Why do you think the headline/story about Russian sanctions is both good & bad?**

### Below

**Migration to EU nations has created a ruckus..Should nations be able to deny immigrants into their country?...I mean, isn't everyone welcome?**



**The EU is being asked to pay for border fences to keep migrants out ...**

Oct 29, 2021 ... THE EUROPEAN UNION has a firm stance on paying for border walls: it won't. Even after Europe's migration crisis in 2015-16, when 1.4m people ...



President Donald Trump has threatened tariffs (taxes on imported goods) for EU nations. This would make EU products imported to the United States more expensive. The President has also told the EU that they need to spend more of their own money when it comes to defense from foreign nations and that the United States spends too much money to “support” the EU when they are in need.

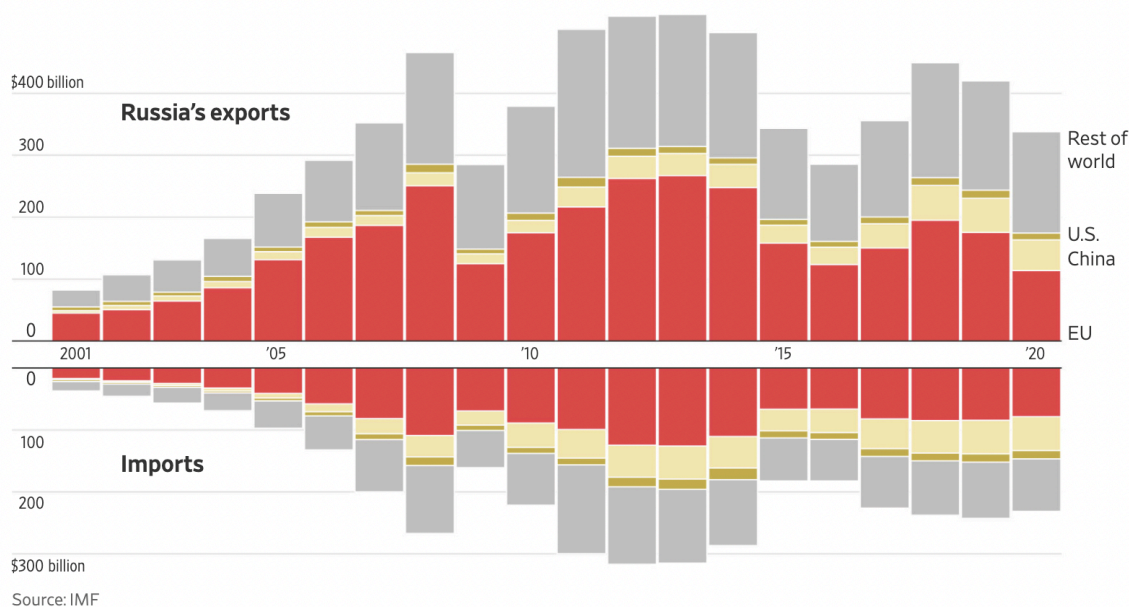


### The European economy has a Trump problem

Feb 27, 2025 ... Europe’s economy is in trouble. Growth has been moribund for a decade and a half. Worries about the continent’s shaky fiscal foundations and its heavy regulatory burden are only growing. Now, governme

## How Well Could Russia’s Economy Withstand Sanctions?

Moscow has taken steps to buffer itself against the economic blow that sanctions could impose

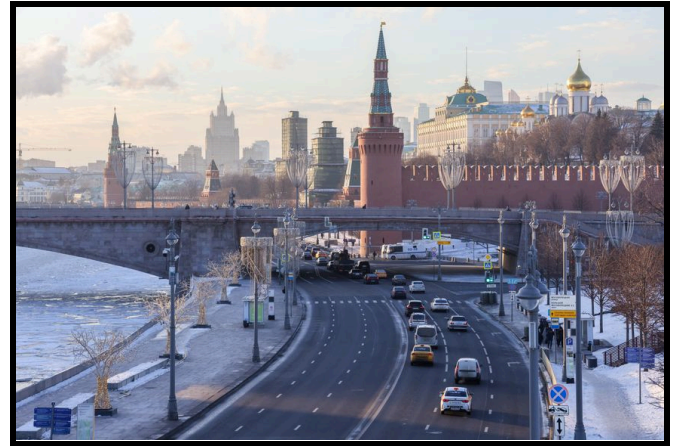


The above chart shows how Russia’s economy would do with the sanctions by other nations. The EU is the red color on the bar graph. Between 2010-2015, the European Union relied fairly heavily on Russia. The goods Russia sent to the EU was mainly in the form of oil and natural gas. Once the EU sanctioned Russia after their invasion of Ukraine, you can see that the number of imported goods from Russia to the EU dropped almost by a third.

When Russia invaded Ukraine two years ago, the EU proposed the ban include 47 types of electronic components that can be used in Russian missile systems and construction and industrial goods that can also be requisitioned by the military, including specialized vehicles, spare parts for trucks, jet engines and cranes. Some goods, actually most goods, now banned from selling to Russia are goods that can be used to manufacture *anything* the Russian government could use to help its war against Ukraine. Pretty smart, huh?

*“We propose, among other things export restrictions on multiple electronic components used in Russian armed systems—such as drones, missiles, helicopters,”*

Ms. von der Leyen said in a speech to EU lawmakers.



Many EU nations are worried that the United States and Russia's recent talks have created tension between the United States and its relationship with the EU. If the United States works with Putin and Russia to end the war and ask Ukraine to give up land and minerals, this goes against the EU's wishes to punish Russia for invading Ukraine.

The big problem is that the United States had supported Ukraine supplying weapons & money, and now it looks like the United States is working with Russia and will stop providing aid to Ukraine. The EU is angry with this decision because it looks like President Trump is ignoring the EU and Ukraine and working with someone the EU disapproves of...

The European Union (EU) is having trouble agreeing on important issues like defense, trade, and economic policy, which makes it hard for them to work together when dealing with President Trump. On January 31st, Trump said he would impose tariffs (taxes on imports) on the EU, criticizing them for not buying enough American products. This caused the value of the euro to drop and European stocks to fall. If Trump goes through with these tariffs, the EU will likely respond by using a mix of tough actions, some compromises, and dramatic moves to protect its interests. In the past, the EU has fought back with its own tariffs, like in 2018, when it reacted to Trump's tariffs on steel and aluminum, and it now has stronger tools to protect itself from trade pressure.

Europe | From Munich to Paris

## The nightmare of a Trump-Putin deal leaves Europe in shock

At an emergency meeting in Paris there are splits on sending troops to Ukraine



PHOTOGRAPH: ROPI

Feb 17th 2025 | PARIS

Save Share Give

Europe | Preparing the arsenal

## Europe races to confront America's trade war

Donald Trump calls the EU's approach "an atrocity". It will respond with retaliation and deflection



PHOTOGRAPH: WIKTOR DABROWSKI/EYEVINE

Feb 3rd 2025

Save Share Give



## Introduction

Have you ever traveled from the United States to another country? If so, you know that crossing international borders is more difficult than crossing state borders within the United States. You likely had to stop and show your passport, and you may have traded your U.S. dollars for a different type of money.

Now imagine that you are in Europe, crossing the border from France to Germany. You do not have to stop to show your passport, and you use the same money in both countries. The main difference you notice after crossing the border is a change in language—people here are speaking German instead of French.

People today travel easily between many European countries because of the **European Union**, or EU. The EU is a *supranational* organization with 28 members as of 2018. *Supra* is a Latin prefix that means “above” or “over.” The government of the European Union stands above the governments of its members. Because it is supranational, the EU has been able to remove barriers that once made travel and trade between European nations complicated. In addition to having “open” borders with each other, many EU nations use a common form of money.

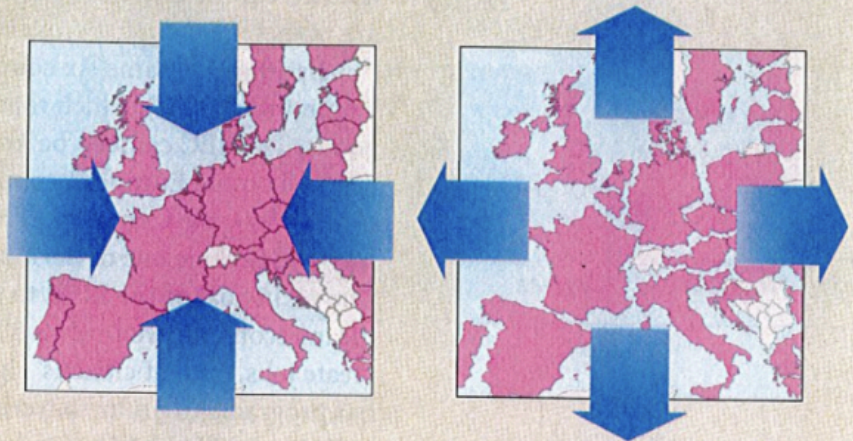
While EU countries use **supranational cooperation** to work toward shared goals, they remain separate countries. These countries are united in certain ways, but divided in others. In this lesson, you will learn about the forces that work for and against supranational cooperation in the EU.

### Essential Question

**What forces work for and against supranational cooperation among nations?**

These two maps show Europe. The highlighted countries are members of the European Union (as of 2018). The map on the left represents things that unite EU countries. The map on the right represents things that pull EU countries apart. Keep these maps in mind as you try to answer the Essential Question.

### Graphic Organizer







### World War II Destruction

On May 14, 1940, German planes bombed the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Much of the city was destroyed. Many other cities in Europe were also bombed during World War II. The EU was formed to make sure such horrors never happened again.

## 1. The Geographic Setting

Europe is a region that consists of many peoples and countries. Throughout the continent's history, certain forces have brought its peoples together, but at the same time, others have pulled them apart. The forces that bring things together, or unite them, are called **centripetal forces**. The forces that divide things, or move them away from one another, are called **centrifugal forces**. The European Union was formed to unite countries that had repeatedly been torn apart by war.

**A History of Bloody Conflict** For much of its history, Europe has been a battleground. During the first half of the 20th century, European nations were devastated by two wars that also spread to other parts of the world. Both wars were so widespread that people now remember them as "world wars."

World War I, which began in 1914, was a bloody conflict that lasted for four years and caused the deaths of over 21 million people. World War II broke out in 1939. On one side of the conflict were the Axis powers—Germany, Italy, Japan, and other countries. The Allies—Great Britain, the Soviet Union, the United States, and their allies—opposed the Axis.

World War II was even more deadly than World War I. It lasted six years and claimed the lives of 50 million people worldwide. The fighting left European cities, industry, farms, and railways in ruins. When the guns finally fell silent in 1945, Europeans wanted to make sure that such horrors never happened again.

**Creating a Future of Peaceful Cooperation** On May 9, 1950, a French leader named Robert Schuman made a famous speech in which he put forward ideas for bringing a lasting peace to Europe. These ideas led to what is now the European Union.

Schuman suggested that France, Germany, and other European countries work together to manage their coal and steel production. If these countries learned to cooperate, he said, they would not be so likely to make war with each other.

Six countries—Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands—agreed with Schuman. By 1952, they had all ratified a treaty that formed the European Coal and Steel Community and created a **common market** for steel and coal products. In a common market, countries reduce or remove trade barriers, such as **tariffs**. Tariffs are taxes on goods that cross country borders.

By 1958, the same six countries created the European Economic Community (EEC), which then removed trade barriers for all kinds of goods. The EEC came to be known as the Common Market. Over the years, six more European countries joined the Common Market.

In 1993, the Common Market was renamed the European Community and became one of the founding institutions of the European Union. The main goal of the EU is to promote peace and prosperity, which means economic well-being. The EU works toward this goal by seeking to create jobs, protect citizens' rights, and preserve the environment. It also has programs to promote freedom, security, and justice for its members. In 2018, the EU had 28 member countries spread across Europe, with several other countries hoping to join. However, the United Kingdom began the process to leave the EU in March 2017.



## 2. Economic Cooperation in the EU

In the United States, people move freely across state borders. For example, some work in one state and live in another. In Europe, before the EU, citizens did not have a similar freedom to move between countries. National laws made it difficult for citizens of one country to live or work in a different country.

Before the EU, each European country had its own policies about who could live or find work within its borders. Each country had its own **currency**, or type of money. Additionally, individual countries charged tariffs, or taxes, on goods imported from its neighbors, making these goods expensive for citizens to buy.

Today members of the EU work together toward shared economic goals. Many centripetal forces promote such economic cooperation, but at the same time, centrifugal forces work against unity.

**Economic Forces That Unite the EU** The creation of a common market was an important economic force in uniting the EU. This single market benefits EU consumers in several ways. With goods moving freely across borders, people have more choices about what to buy. The elimination of tariffs on EU goods has lowered prices for EU consumers. The common market benefits workers as well because they are able to travel freely to other EU countries to find work.

The introduction of a common currency in 2002 has also helped unite the EU. The common currency, called the **euro**, has replaced the national currency in many EU countries. The euro makes it easier to travel and trade across the EU, so people traveling in Europe no longer need to change money when they cross most borders.

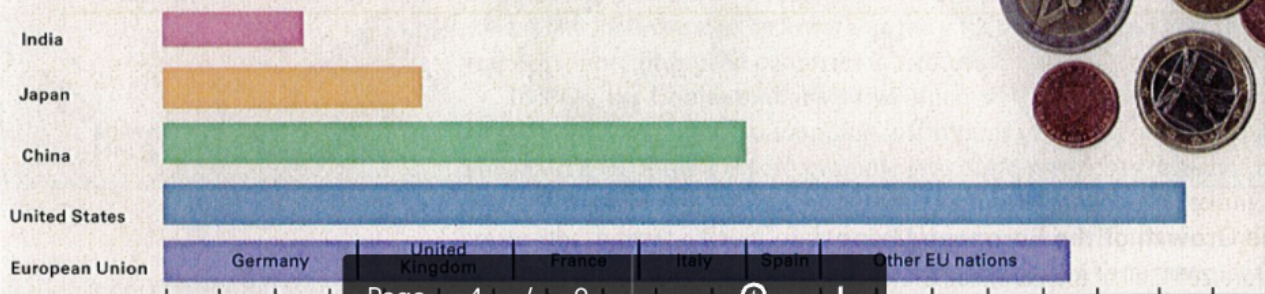
By joining their economies, EU members have also created a powerful trade bloc. A trade bloc is a group of countries that act together to increase their influence over world trade. Hundreds of millions of consumers live in the EU **trade bloc**, making outside nations eager to do business in the EU. The size of its market has made the EU trade bloc an important force in the global economy.

EU countries share other economic goals. The EU works to create jobs, develop resources, and make improvements that encourage trade. For example, the EU has spent large sums to upgrade highways and to help farmers modernize their operations.

### The EU Trade Bloc

This graph compares the GDP of the EU and several large countries. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced in a place. By joining together, EU members have far more economic power than they would have if they acted alone.

Gross Domestic Product of Five Economic Powers, 2016







## The Euro Changeover

In January 2002, the euro became the currency in 12 EU countries. About 291 million people traded in their old money for euros. To prepare for this change, banks were stocked with 12.5 billion new bills and 76 billion coins, and shops listed prices in old national currencies and the euro. These sale signs include prices in euros and German marks.

**Economic Forces That Divide the EU** Other forces work against economic cooperation. EU members do not always agree on the many issues they face, nor do they always see eye to eye on how EU money should be spent.

In general, the Western European members of the EU are wealthier than those in Central and Eastern Europe. In an effort to bring all of its members up to the same level, the EU spends large sums of money on projects in its poorer nations. Some Western Europeans object to so much EU money being spent outside their own area.

Economic differences between EU members create other strains. Generally, workers in Western Europe are paid higher wages than those in Central and Eastern Europe, but living costs are higher in Western Europe as well. These factors have led some Western European businesses to move manufacturing to poorer EU countries. Costs are lower there, and they can pay workers less. As a result, workers in Western Europe worry about losing jobs to poorer EU countries.

Wage differences also encourage workers in poorer EU countries to move to richer ones in search of jobs. Workers in the wealthier countries often resent these immigrants. They also fear that too many newcomers from poor countries will decrease wages for everyone.

There are centrifugal forces at work in the use of the euro as well. When the euro was first used in 2002, three EU members retained their own currency and continued to make their own decisions about money. Members that have joined the EU since then must demonstrate that they have reached certain goals before being permitted to adopt the euro. These goals aim to support economic stability and responsibility. (See the map in the previous section, which shows which countries use the euro.)

As you can see, both centripetal and centrifugal economic forces are at work in the European Union. These centrifugal forces prompted voters in the United Kingdom to decide to leave the EU, and the government began the exit process in 2017. There have been movements to leave in other countries as well, but these nations have decided that the economic benefits of supranational cooperation currently outweigh the costs.

## Brexit

On June 23, 2016, the United Kingdom held a referendum in which voters indicated whether they wanted to leave or remain in the EU. The British exit, or Brexit, vote won. The vote was controversial, with many protesting that the country should remain. This protest in September 2016 was in support of the government beginning the exit process, which it did in March 2017.



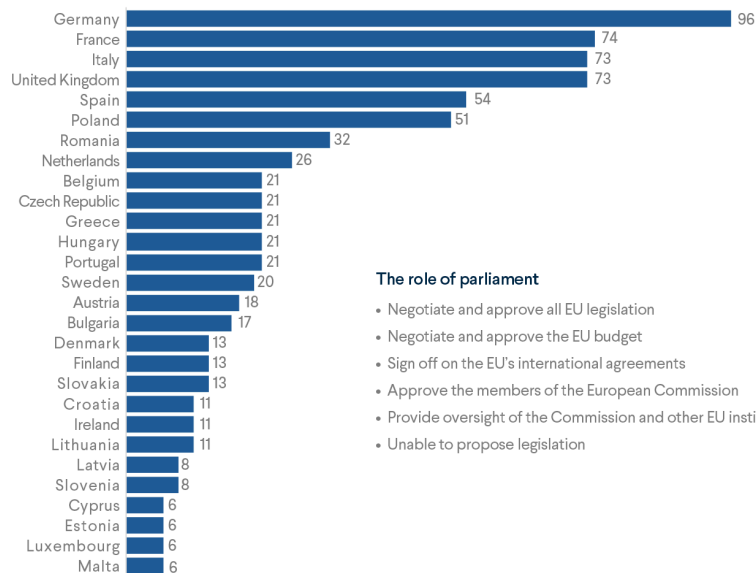


The growing size of the EU is also a centrifugal force. By 2018 the EU included more than 515 million people in 28 countries. As the size of the EU has increased, so have the differences among the EU's nations and peoples. The increased number of countries and cultures has made cooperation more difficult. For example, in recent years, EU members have been divided over how to handle the increased number of migrants from regions affected by war, such as Syria and Iraq.

Finally, the idea of European citizenship has been hard for some Europeans to embrace. Some people fear that their national identity will become lost in the push for a more united Europe. For them, the advantages of political cooperation may not be worth the costs. A 2017 survey found that nearly 70 percent of people view themselves EU citizens, and more than half feel attached to the European Union.

### European Parliament Members by Country

The parliament is made up of 751 members, each directly elected by EU citizens every five years.



#### The role of parliament

- Negotiate and approve all EU legislation
- Negotiate and approve the EU budget
- Sign off on the EU's international agreements
- Approve the members of the European Commission
- Provide oversight of the Commission and other EU institutions
- Unable to propose legislation

Source: European Union.

COUNCIL on  
FOREIGN



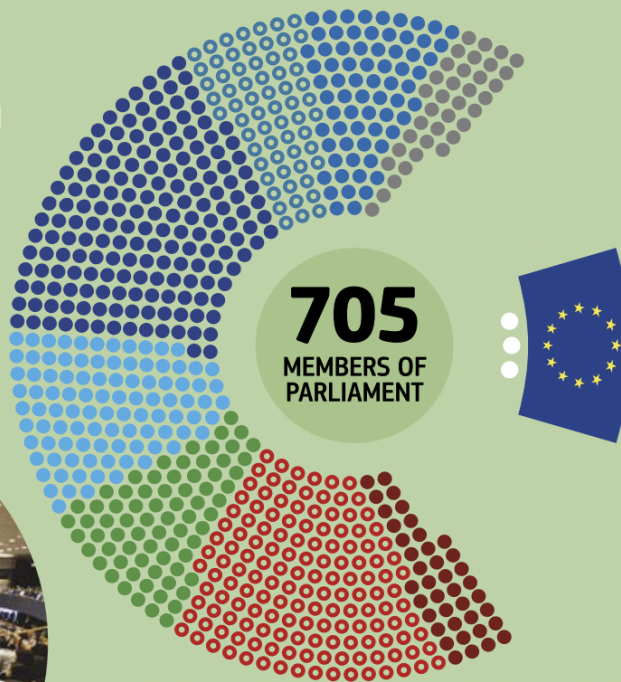
The main meetings of the European Parliament, also known as 'plenary sessions', take place 12 times a year in Strasbourg, France, and up to 6 times a year in Brussels, Belgium.

The European Parliament has 705 members, also called MEPs, from all EU countries. The number of members per country varies: more populous countries have more members than smaller, less populous ones. Members from across the EU with similar political views work together in political groups just as in national parliaments, instead of forming groups according to their nationality.

The European Parliament takes decisions on EU laws together with the Council of the European Union. If the Parliament and the Council cannot agree on a piece of legislation, there will be no new law. The Parliament elects the President of the European Commission and has the right to approve or to dismiss the whole European Commission. It also approves the budget of the European Union.



European citizens directly elect the Members of the European Parliament.



- Group of the European People's Party
- Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats
- Renew Europe Group
- Identity and Democracy Group
- Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
- European Conservatives and Reformists Group
- Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left
- Non-attached members

NB: Situation in October 2021.





### Europe Day in the EU

Celebrations and symbols help create a cultural identity. Every year on May 9, people celebrate Europe Day, which honors Europe's "birthday." It was on this day in 1950 that Robert Schuman proposed creating a more united Europe. Symbols like the EU flag add to the feeling of a shared culture.

## 4. Cultural Cooperation in the EU

In 2000, students across the European Union participated in a contest to create a motto for the EU. These students submitted more than 2,000 possible mottoes. After considering the entries, the EU announced its choice in 2003: "United in Diversity."

The words in this motto are important because the goal of the EU is to unite Europeans in an "ever closer union." Since the EU began, it has worked toward a common European **cultural identity**. At the same time, the EU recognizes the **diversity** of its members and sees diversity as a strength. The word *diversity* refers to all the ways in which people are different from one another. Areas of diversity may include language, religion, ethnicity, beliefs, traditions, and values. These aspects of culture are what make each member country of the EU unique.

**How the EU Promotes a European Cultural Identity** A common cultural identity is a centripetal force. To help make EU countries "United in Diversity," the EU has made it a goal to encourage a common European cultural identity.

One way the EU encourages a European cultural identity is through the use of common cultural symbols. The European flag, which shows a circle of 12 yellow stars on a blue background, symbolizes unity. It was originally created by the Council of Europe, which encouraged all European institutions to adopt the symbol. When the EU formed, it also used the flag as the official emblem of European unity.

Another symbol that the EU has adopted is the European anthem, which takes its melody from Ludwig van Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. When used as the anthem, it is always played without words, in the "universal language of music."

Europe Day is another symbol of European unity. Europeans celebrate Europe Day on May 9, the anniversary of when Robert Schuman first proposed a supranational European organization in 1950. Europe Day is a time for Europeans to come together to share and celebrate their common culture.



The EU also supports cultural programs. One example is the European Union Youth Wind Orchestra, which brings together young musicians from across Europe. Also, each year the EU chooses two or three cities to be European Capitals of Culture. The EU sponsors special shows and events that highlight that city and its culture.

As you have read, open borders and the euro make travel easy within the EU. As Europeans freely move between EU countries, they come to view Europe as a united region. The EU also encourages people, especially youth, to learn multiple European languages. Its goal is for all Europeans to learn two languages in addition to their home language.

### **Forces Working Against a European Cultural Identity**

Sometimes cultural diversity can become a centrifugal force that the EU must work to overcome. The EU celebrates the diversity of languages in Europe, yet those many languages can sometimes make communication difficult. To overcome the communication barrier, the EU must translate all of its speeches and documents into 24 languages. In 2016 alone, the EU had to translate more than 2.2 million pages.

Other centrifugal forces work against a shared cultural identity. National pride is one of them, as countries have a hard time putting the interests of all of Europe above their national interests. Competition and rivalries between countries can make cooperation a challenge.

Cultural traditions sometimes clash even at EU headquarters. For example, traditional Czech foods are often cooked slowly, tasting even better the next day. However, EU rules for its cafeteria state that cooked food cannot be served if it is more than two hours old. One Czech citizen complained, "This will make many of our best dishes illegal!"

### **Summary**

In this lesson, you learned about the European Union. The EU is built on supranational cooperation. You read about centripetal forces that work toward such cooperation. You also read about centrifugal forces that work against unity.

The EU is the best example of supranational cooperation in the world today. It works because its member countries have been willing to give up some power, but just how much power remains an issue. Some Europeans want the EU to become a "United States of Europe," whereas others fear giving up any more power to the EU.

Cooperation among nations is not limited to Europe. Other countries also work together on problems they share. In the next section, you will examine several examples of international cooperation around the world.



### **Cultural Clashes in the EU**

Cultural traditions can divide EU members. For example, bullfighting is a cultural tradition in Spain. Every year, matadors kill thousands of bulls in bullfights. In other EU countries, people view bullfighting as cruel and think that it should be banned.

# The EU and Climate Change...Go Green!

## Delivering the European Green Deal

Achieving the EU's climate commitments will require action in all areas – from industry, energy and transport to food production, agriculture and construction. This will include increasing the use of clean energy, cutting pollution, making our buildings more energy efficient and rolling out cleaner transport along with fuels to support it. In July 2021, the European Commission proposed a variety of measures to set the EU on a path to reach its 2030 climate target. These include:

- increasing the share of renewable energy in the EU's energy mix to 40 %;
- reducing emissions from buildings, road transport and shipping by applying the emissions trading scheme to these sectors;
- more ambitious targets for reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from new cars and vans;
- restoring Europe's forests, soils, wetlands and peatlands so they can absorb and store carbon.

The EU will provide financial support for those facing the greatest challenges to ensure no person or region is left behind. To underline its commitment, the EU is dedicating at least 30 % of its spending between 2021 and 2027 to climate-related initiatives.

Products sold in the EU should be designed to last longer, and to be easier to reuse, repair and recycle. They should also incorporate as much recycled material as possible. The **new circular economy action plan**, one of the main parts of the Green Deal, aims to make sustainable products the norm in the EU.

