



**THE EU  
IN A  
NUTSHELL**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

-  **WHAT IS EUROPE?**
-  **THE EUROPEAN PROJECT**
-  **WHAT DOES THE EU DO?**
-  **HOW DOES THE EU WORK?**
-  **HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?**
-  **STAY IN TOUCH**





# WHAT IS EUROPE?



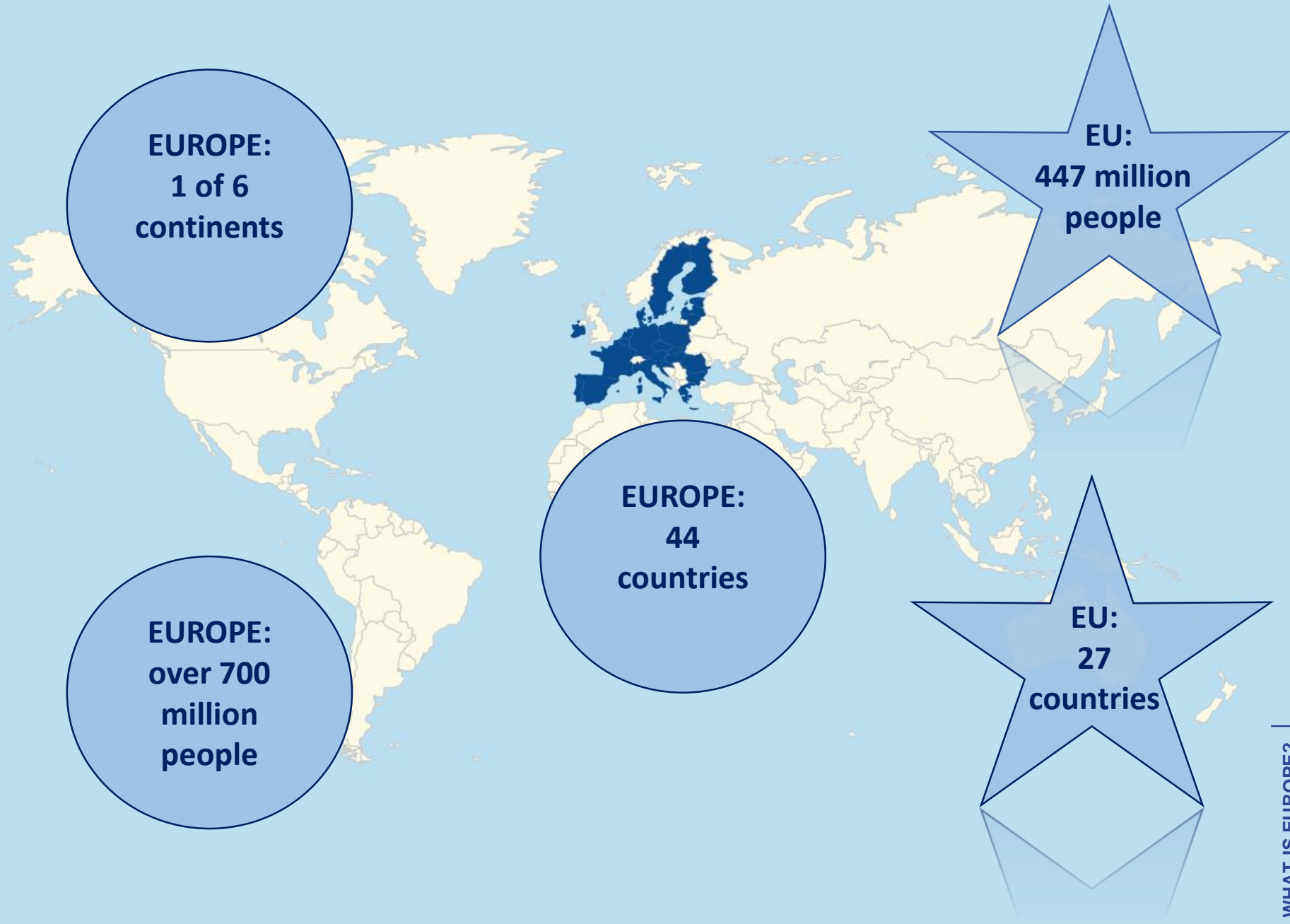


# DO YOU FEEL EUROPEAN?

*WHAT MAKES YOU FEEL EUROPEAN?*



# THE BASICS



# EUROPEAN CULTURE



European culture and diversity shaped by:

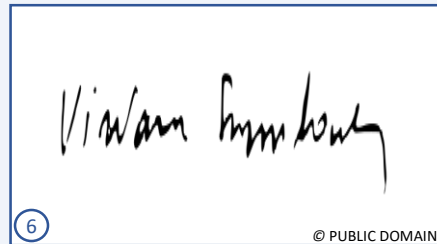
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights

# 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        |

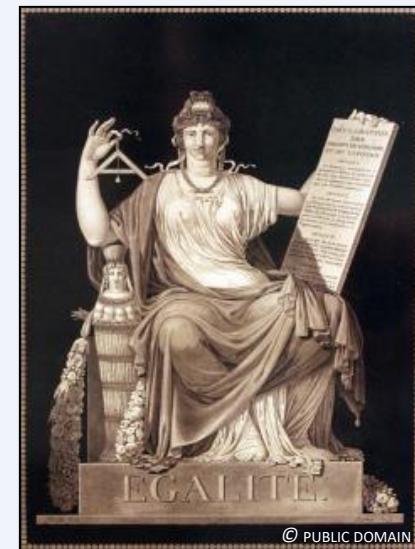




# EUROPEAN VALUES



Human dignity  
Freedom  
Democracy  
Equality  
Rule of law  
Human rights



United  
in Diversity

# THE 24 EU OFFICIAL LANGUAGES





# EU LANGUAGE FAMILIES





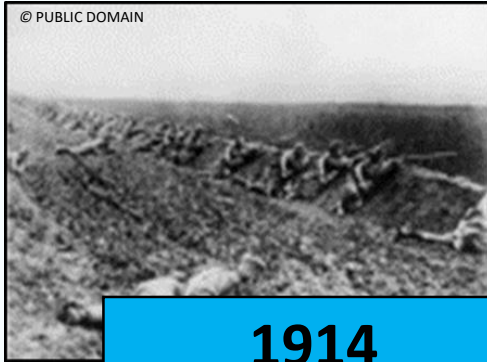
# THE EUROPEAN PROJECT





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

# FROM WAR TO PEACE



**1914**



**1918**



**1939**



**1945**



# FROM WAR TO PEACE

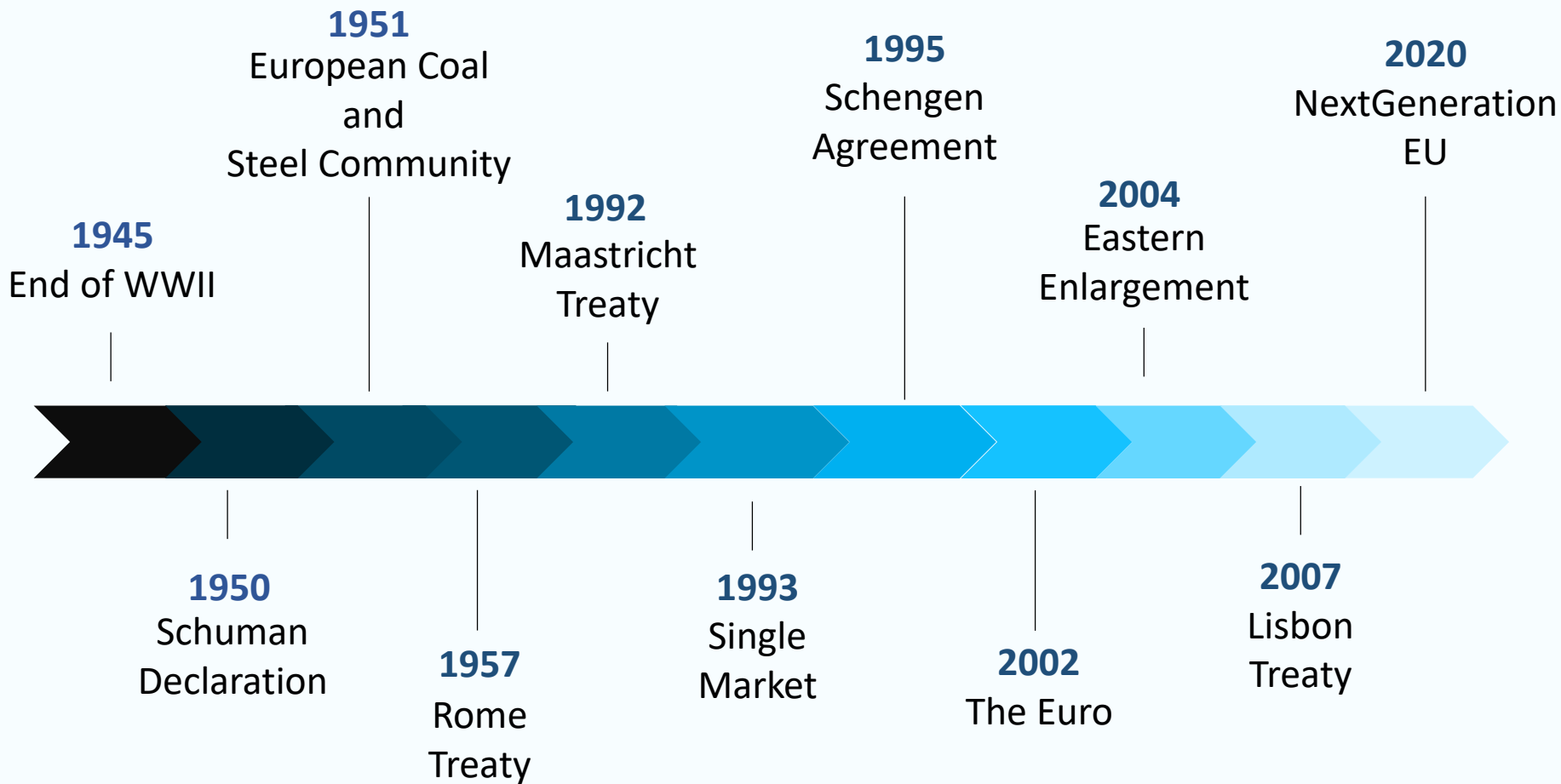
Peace was one of the aims that led to the creation of the European Union

The EU received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012





# THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



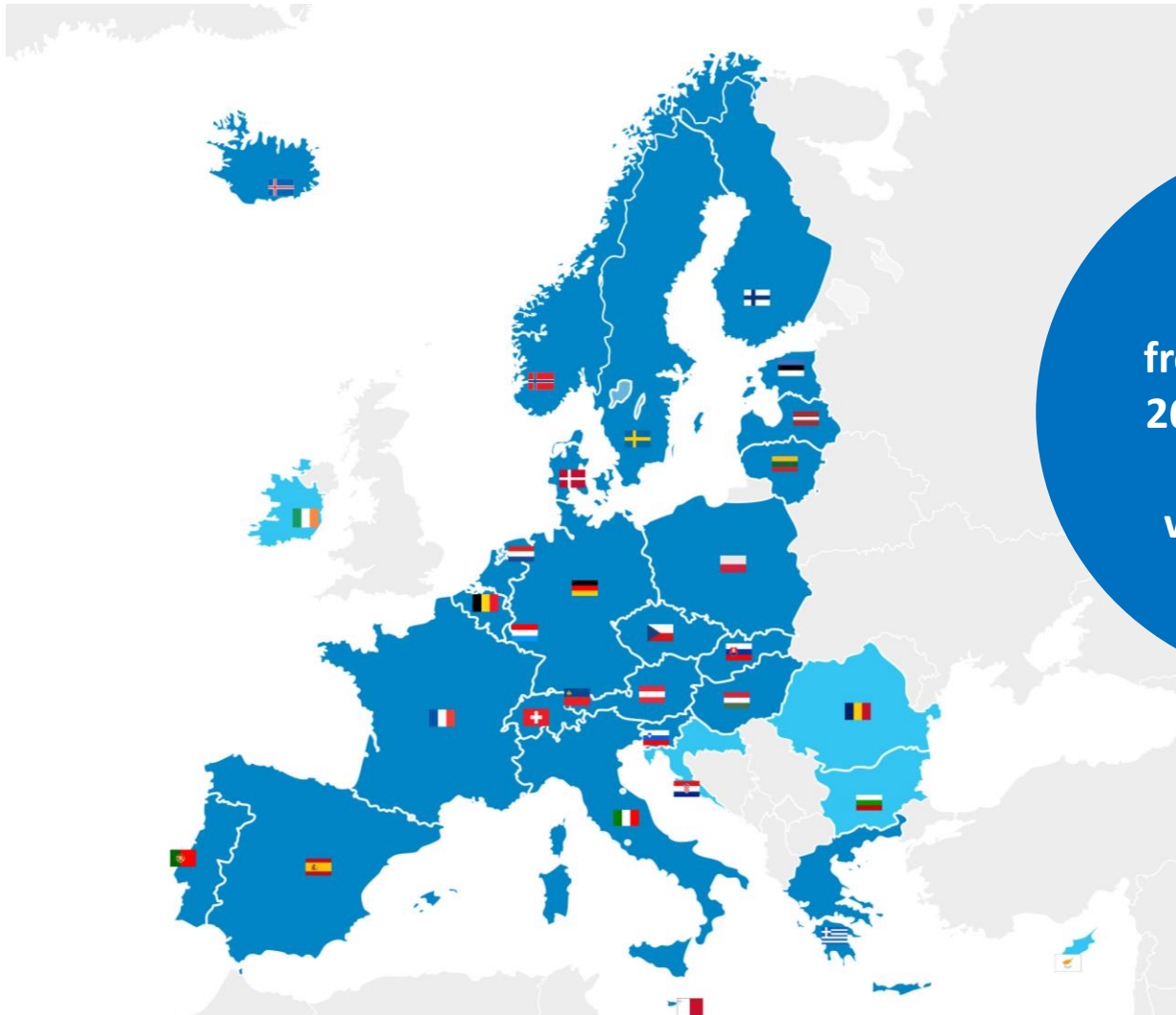


# EU COUNTRIES

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

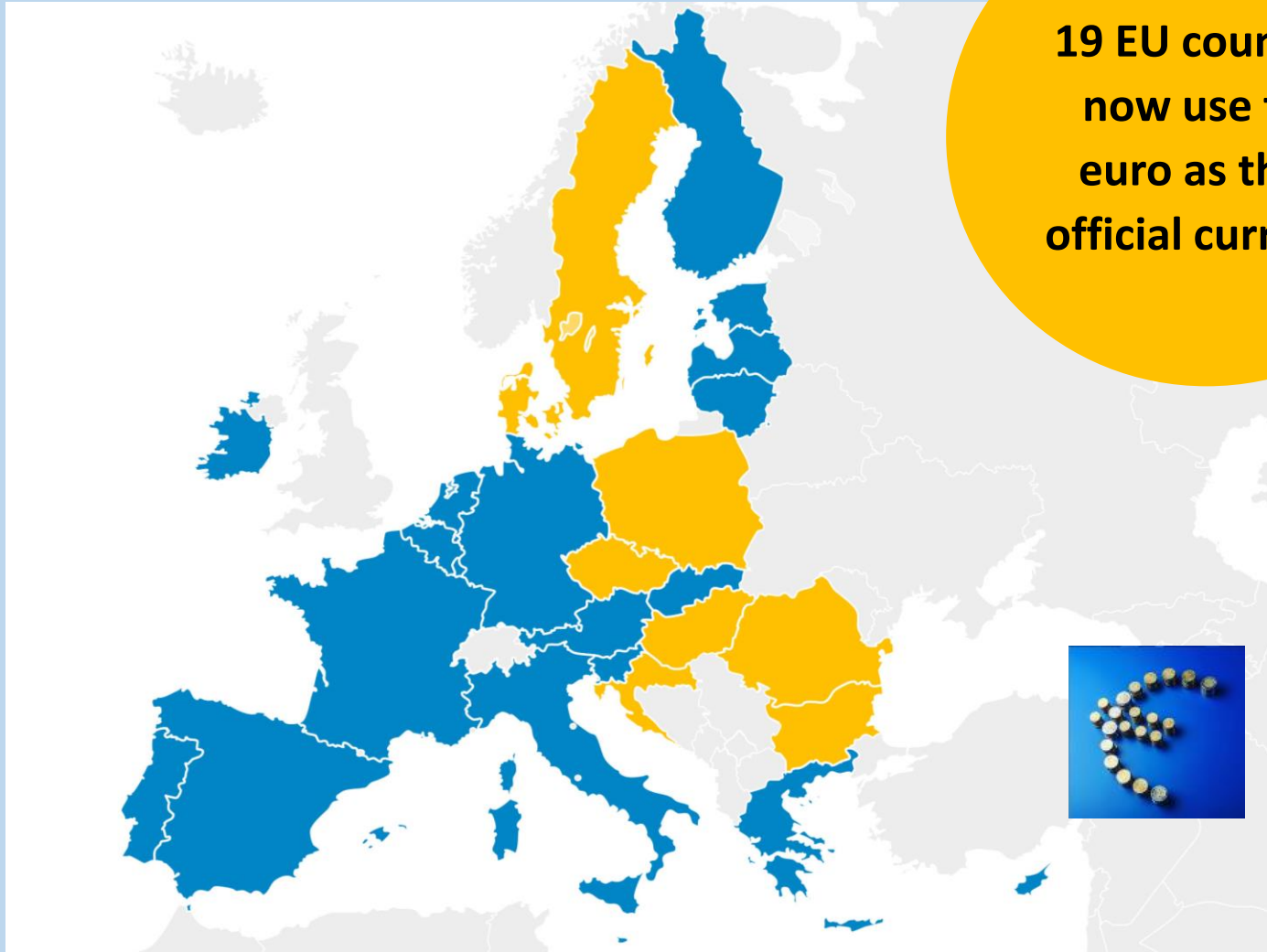


# SCHENGEN AREA



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

Schengen area countries      Non-Schengen area EU countries



**19 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

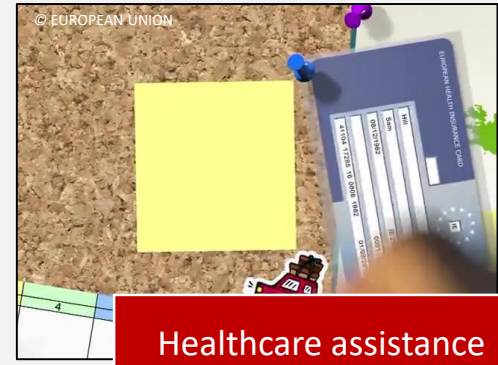
# TRAVELS



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](#)

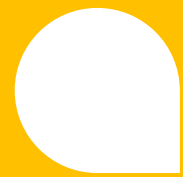
# 2022: THE EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH



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)



[© Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International](#)

# 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



© EUROPEAN UNION



© EUROPEAN UNION



# 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

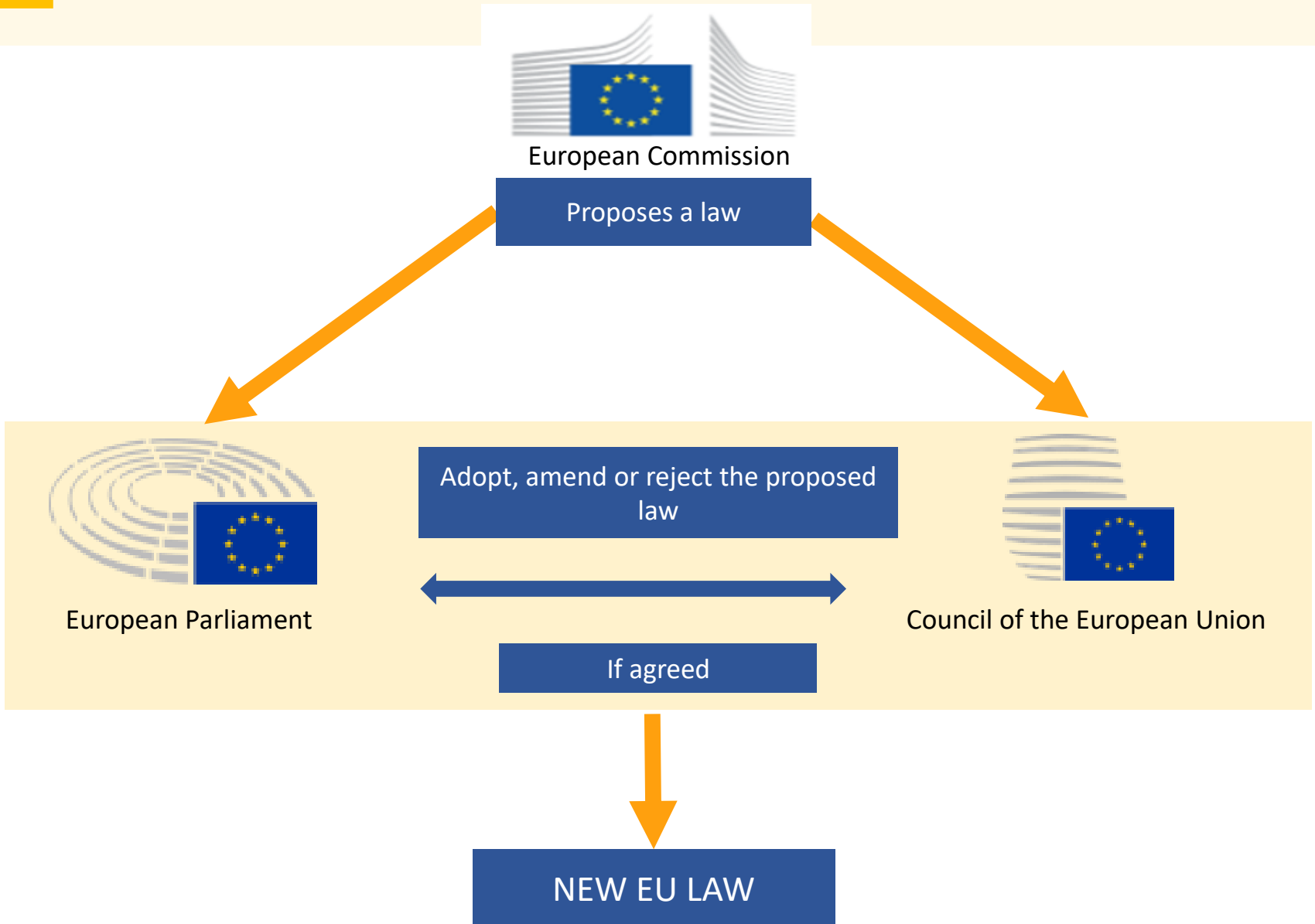


© EUROPEAN UNION



© EUROPEAN UNION

# 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

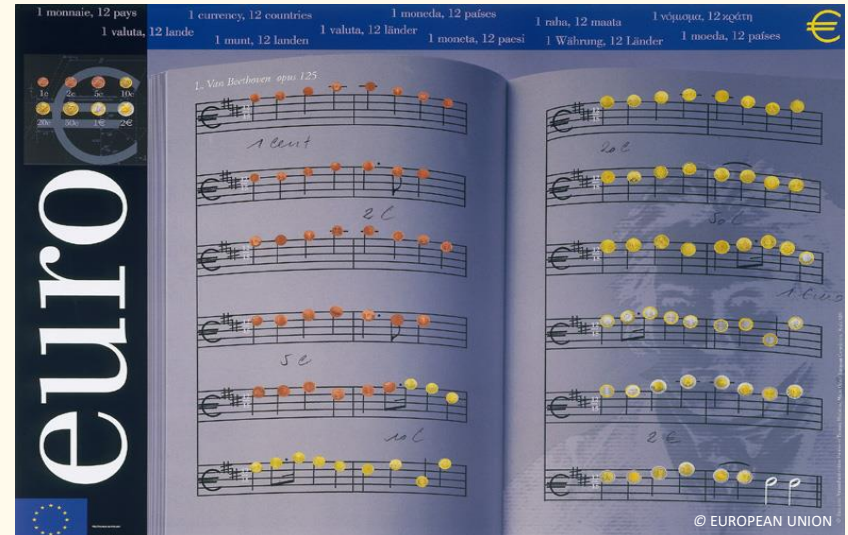
works with the national central banks of EU countries

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

is located in Frankfurt (Germany)



© EUROPEAN UNION

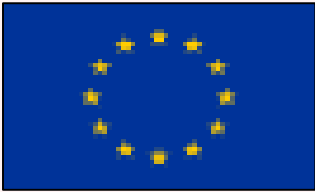


© EUROPEAN UNION

# HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EU?

**Europa website**

[europa.eu](http://europa.eu)



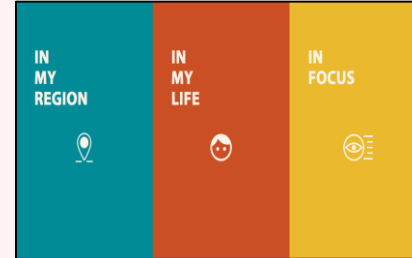
**Learning Corner website**

[europa.eu/learning-corner](http://europa.eu/learning-corner)



**Learning Corner newsletter**

[ec.europa.eu/newsroom/comm/user-subscriptions/1595/create](http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/comm/user-subscriptions/1595/create)



**What Europe does for me**

[what-europe-does-for-me.eu](http://what-europe-does-for-me.eu)



**Publications Office**

[publications.europa.eu](http://publications.europa.eu)

# STAY IN TOUCH

## In person:

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



[europa.eu/european-union/contact\\_en](https://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](https://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](https://europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks_en)

# Thank you!



[europa.eu/learning-corner](https://europa.eu/learning-corner)

✉ [COMM-A2@ec.europa.eu](mailto:COMM-A2@ec.europa.eu)



© European Union, 2022

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.