

# Europe in a nutshell



# What is the European Union?

It is \_\_\_\_\_  
= it is situated in Europe



Let's have  
a closer look:

What do Europeans  
have in common?

It is a \_\_\_\_\_  
= it unites countries and people.



How has the EU  
developed?

What does the EU  
do today?

# Europe – our continent

Europe is one of the world's continents.

It stretches  
from the \_\_\_\_\_  
Ocean in the  
north

and from the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Ocean in the  
west

\_\_\_\_\_ million  
of them in  
the European  
Union.

to the \_\_\_\_\_  
Mountains in  
the east.

More than \_\_\_\_\_  
million people live in  
Europe,

to the  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sea in the  
south

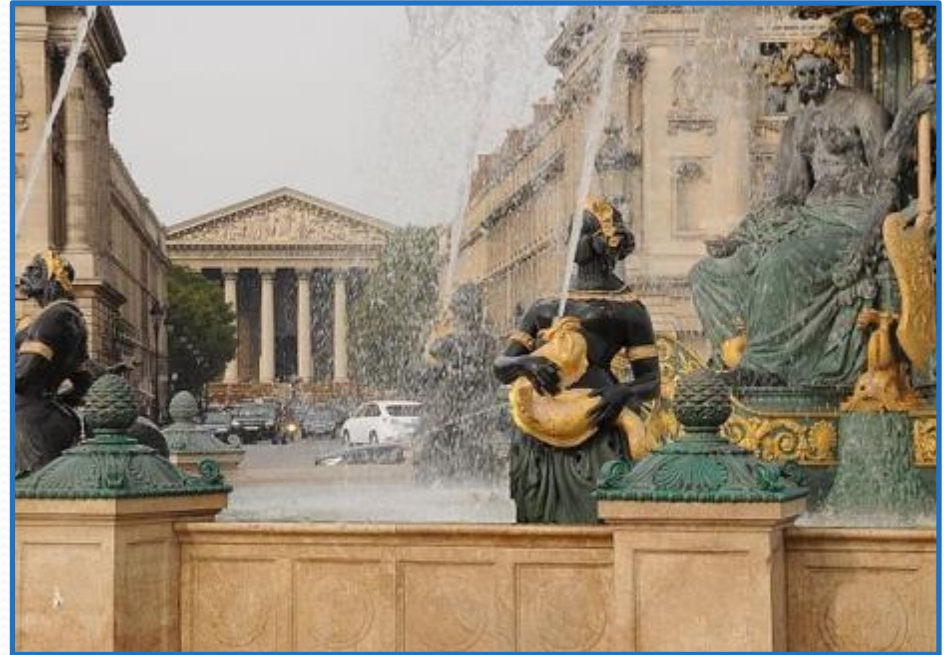


# Europe – our history

We Europeans do not only share a continent, we share a common \_\_\_\_\_.

New ways of living, \_\_\_\_\_ and believing have always spread throughout Europe. They have shaped the way we feel and behave to this day.

Ancient \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, for example, have strongly influenced European culture.



The church of the Madeleine in Paris, inspired by a Roman temple, designed as a temple to the glory of Napoleon's army, seen here from the Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine was erected during the French Revolution.

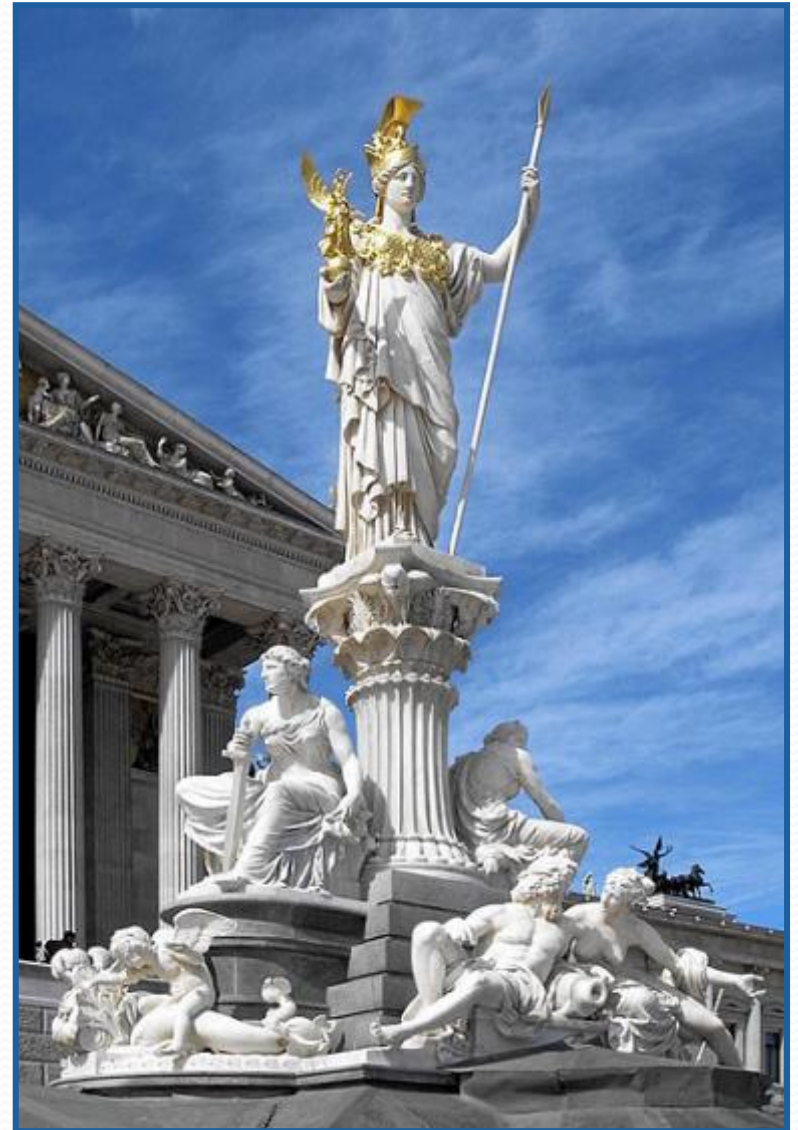
# Languages

Our languages reflect that:  
many words in European  
languages have common \_\_\_\_\_  
in ancient Greek and Latin.

For example:

- Europe and democracy  
(\_\_\_\_\_) or
- Union (\_\_\_\_\_).

The Athena Fountain in front of the  
Austrian Parliament Building in Vienna.



# Arts and culture

Over the centuries, new styles of music, architecture and \_\_\_\_\_ have inspired artists all over Europe.

For example:

- gothic \_\_\_\_\_ in France, Spain, Poland or Slovakia, or
- classical \_\_\_\_\_ written by German, Italian, Austrian, or British composers.





# European wars

Sadly, the story of Europe is not all about great achievements of which we can be proud.

Throughout history, European \_\_\_\_\_ have fought terrible wars against each other.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, \_\_\_\_ wars that started on this continent spread and involved countries all over the \_\_\_\_\_.



**This cemetery contains the remains of more than 140,000 soldiers who died during the Battle of Verdun (France) in the First World War.**

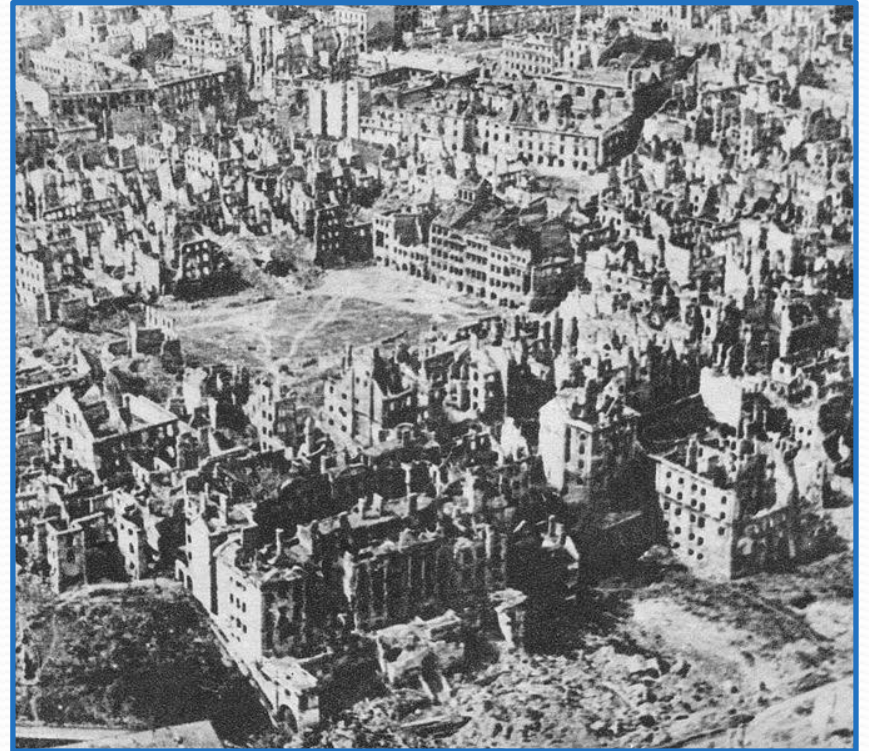
# European wars

At the end of the \_\_\_\_\_  
World War, people in Europe  
asked themselves:

"Can anything be done to  
stop these terrible things  
from happening again?"

"Will Europeans ever learn to  
work together instead of  
fighting each other?"

Let's see what happened next.



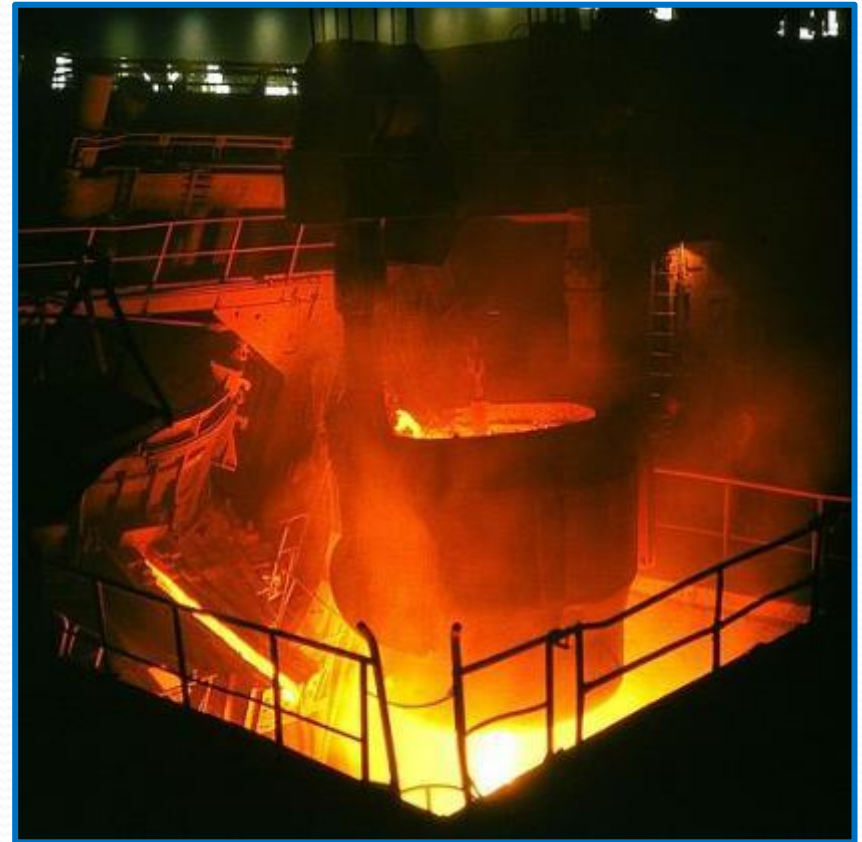


# Founding of the European Union

If you want to prevent war,  
you have to \_\_\_\_.

A first step is to control jointly  
the things needed for war:

- \_\_\_\_ for weapons and
- \_\_\_\_ for factories and  
transport...



# European Coal and Steel Community

... That's why \_\_\_\_\_ European countries (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) agreed to unite their coal and steel industries.

They set up the

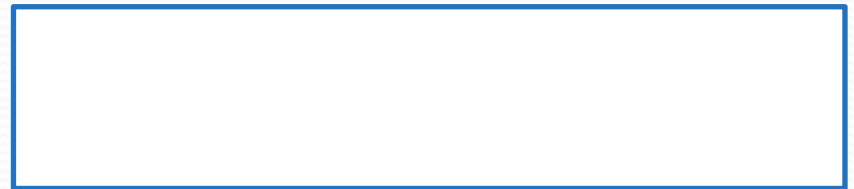


# European Economic Community

The six countries got on so well that they decided to go a step further and to set up the

\_\_\_\_\_  
(EEC).

The main idea was to create a '\_\_\_\_\_. That means getting rid of all national obstacles to free trade, such as border checks and customs duties, as if Europe were one country.





# Not just economics...

Over the years, more and more countries joined the EEC.

They started working together in many more areas, for example,

- to protect the \_\_\_\_\_ and
- to build better \_\_\_\_\_ and railways across Europe.



The Øresund Bridge, completed in 1999, links Sweden and Denmark.

# Fall of the Iron Curtain

In 1989, countries from central and \_\_\_\_\_ Europe broke free from \_\_\_\_\_ rule. The unnatural separation between the eastern and western parts of Europe, the '\_\_\_\_\_', ceased to exist.

The countries that had regained their freedom reformed their laws and economies and joined the EU. The EU now has \_\_\_\_\_ member countries.



# What the European Union does today

The EU tries to make life better for all of us. Let's have a look at some examples.

## **Money**

In the past, each country in Europe had its own \_\_\_\_\_. Now, many EU countries use one single currency, the \_\_\_\_\_.



## **Freedom for young people**

The EU supports young people who want to spend some time studying or \_\_\_\_\_ in another European country. ([Erasmus+](#))



# What the European Union does today

## Freedom for employees

EU citizens may live and \_\_\_\_\_ in any EU country of their choice.



Do you want to become a chef?  
Why not work in another EU country to  
uncover the secrets of its cuisine.



## Climate action

In international \_\_\_\_\_ on climate change, the European Union speaks with one \_\_\_\_\_.

# What the European Union does today

## Helping poorer regions

Some areas in Europe need \_\_\_\_\_ to build new roads and railways; in other places many people are looking for a \_\_\_\_\_. The EU provides funding for specific \_\_\_\_\_ that address these needs.



**Wastewater treatment plant in Croatia,  
financed with the help of EU funds**



## Helping neighbouring countries

The EU helps other countries improve \_\_\_\_\_, hospitals and \_\_\_\_\_ protection. Lida and Alina from Moldova have benefited from this.

# What the European Union does today

There are many more things the EU is doing today:

Protecting the  
\_\_\_\_\_



Making  
phone calls  
\_\_\_\_\_



Helping to  
save  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ensuring  
the food we  
eat is  
\_\_\_\_\_



and

lots,

lots

more!



# The EU is even working in space

A satellite with two large solar panel arrays is shown in orbit above the Earth's horizon. A bright blue beam of light originates from the satellite and points down towards the Earth's surface. The background is the blackness of space with stars.

with satellites  
that help cars  
navigate more  
intelligently and  
make air travel  
safer.

# How the EU makes decisions

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of effort by many people to organise the EU and make everything work. So who does what?



The \_\_\_\_\_ is made up of 28 Commissioners, one from each member \_\_\_\_\_. Their job is to think about what would be best for the EU as a \_\_\_\_\_. They propose laws and make sure that the EU treaties are \_\_\_\_\_.



# The 28 Commissioners

European  
Commission



**JEAN-CLAUDE  
JUNCKER**

PRESIDENT



**FRANS  
TIMMERMANS**

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Better Regulation, Interinstitutional Relations,  
Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights*



**FEDERICA  
MOGHERINI**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE  
of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy



**KRISTALINA  
GEORGIEVA**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Budget  
and Human Resources*



**ANDRUS  
ANSIP**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Digital Single Market*



**MAROŠ  
ŠEFČOVIČ**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Energy Union*



**VALDIS  
DOMBROVSKIS**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Euro and Social Dialogue*



**JYRKI  
KATAINEN**

VICE-PRESIDENT  
*Jobs, Growth, Investment  
and Competitiveness*



**GÜNTHER  
OETTINGER**

*Digital Economy and Society*



**JOHANNES  
HAHN**

*European Neighbourhood  
Policy and Enlargement  
Negotiations*



**CECILIA  
MALMSTRÖM**

*Trade*



**NEVEN  
MIMICA**

*International Cooperation  
and Development*



**MIGUEL ARIAS  
CAÑETE**

*Climate Action and Energy*



**KARMENU  
VELLA**

*Environment, Maritime  
Affairs and Fisheries*



**VYTENIS  
ANDRIUKAITIS**

*Health and Food Safety*



**DIMITRIS  
AVRAMOPOULOS**

*Migration, Home Affairs  
and Citizenship*



**MARIANNE  
THYSSEN**

*Employment, Social Affairs,  
Skills and Labour Mobility*



**PIERRE  
MOSCOVICI**

*Economic and Financial Affairs,  
Taxation and Customs*



**CHRISTOS  
STYLIANIDES**

*Humanitarian Aid  
and Crisis Management*



**PHIL  
HOGAN**

*Agriculture  
and Rural Development*



**JONATHAN  
HILL**

*Financial Stability,  
Financial Services  
and Capital Markets Union*



**VIOLETA  
BULC**

*Transport*



**ELŻBIETA  
BIENKOWSKA**

*Internal Market, Industry,  
Entrepreneurship and SMEs*



**VĚRA  
JOUROVÁ**

*Justice, Consumers  
and Gender Equality*



**TIBOR  
NAVRACSICS**

*Education, Culture, Youth  
and Sport*



**CORINA  
CREȚU**

*Regional Policy*



**MARGRETHE  
VESTAGER**

*Competition*



**CARLOS  
MOEDAS**

*Research, Science  
and Innovation*



# The European Parliament

The \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ represents all people in the EU. Its members are chosen in an election every \_\_\_\_\_ years. All adult citizens in the EU have the right to vote.



# The Council and the European Council

In the \_\_\_\_\_, ministers of EU Member States meet to discuss EU matters, take decisions and pass \_\_\_\_\_.

In the \_\_\_\_\_ all the leaders of the EU countries (Presidents, Prime Ministers or Chancellors) get together to set Europe's general \_\_\_\_\_.



European Council meeting, February 2016

# The Court of Justice

The \_\_\_\_\_ makes sure that all EU countries stick to the laws that they have \_\_\_\_\_ upon.

The Court also checks that these laws respect 'fundamental rights', such as freedom of \_\_\_\_\_ and the freedom of the \_\_\_\_\_.



**Court of Justice, Luxembourg**



# Taking care of our money



The **European Central \_\_\_\_\_** is responsible for maintaining price stability in the euro area.

The **European Court of \_\_\_\_\_** checks if the budget of the European Union has been spent correctly.





# Member States of the European Union

These are the 28  
Member States of the  
European Union.

Can you remember  
the names of the six  
founding countries?

Member States of the  
European Union



Candidate countries and  
potential candidates



# Enlargement: from six to 28 countries

**1952** Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands

**1973** Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom

**1981** Greece

**1986** Portugal, Spain

**1995** Austria, Finland, Sweden

**2004** Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia

**2007** Bulgaria, Romania

**2013** Croatia

