The European Union

As of March 2020
The European Union

Name: European Union
Date of birth: 9 May 1950
Place of birth: Paris
Place of residence: Brussels
Marital status: Economic and political union between member states
Size: 27 member states / >445 million people / >4 million km²
Weight: Economy (GDP 2018): EUR 15.89 trillion
Trade (2018):
- Share of global imports of goods: 15.2%
- Share of global exports of goods: 15.5%
Official languages: 24
Awards: Nobel Peace Prize 2012

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Europe 74 years ago

The EU emerged after the Second World War driven by the maxim "never again war!".

Image: Berlin during the Second World War © FDFA
EU enlargement

Member since
- 1957
- 1973
- 1981
- 1986
- 1995
- 2004
- 2007
- 2013

Candidates for accession

Potential candidates

* Withdrawal of the United Kingdom: 31.01.2020
Responsibilities

- Agriculture
- Customs union
- Humanitarian aid and development
- Energy and environmental policy
- Health
- Marine conservation
- Research and space
- Social policy
- Transport networks

- Currency
- Security policy
- Consumer protection
- Trade and competition
- Internal market
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- Trade and competition
- Internal market
EU treaties
Treaty of Lisbon

**Modern and efficient institutions**
- Majority voting widely used, Unanimity less common
- Permanent President of the European Council
- High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- European External Action Service

**Simpler structure**
- 'European Communities' → 'European Union'

**Democracy and bringing the Union closer to its citizens**
- European Parliament strengthened
- Citizens' initiative
EU policy areas

Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
- Permanent structured cooperation (PESCO)
  Intergovernmental cooperation – unanimity required

Union policies
(e.g. Eurozone, Schengen area, environmental policy)
- Judicial and police cooperation/enhanced cooperation
- Supranational organisation requiring majority voting
EU institutions and bodies
Other EU bodies

Committee of the Regions (CoR)
European External Action Service (EEAS)
European Investment Bank (EIB)
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Brexit

Referendum
Referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU (‘Leave’ won 51.9% of the votes)

Notification
Formal notification under Article 50* of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) triggers negotiations on the terms of the UK’s withdrawal

Withdrawal
UK’s withdrawal with agreement and beginning of transition period

End of transition period
Transition period until end of 2020 (can be extended once with the agreement of both parties)

*Art. 50 TEU
• Negotiations must be completed within a period of two years from the date of notification.
• The European Council, with the agreement of the UK, may decide unanimously to extend this period.
Thank you for your attention

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