

EUROPE IN A
NUTSHELL





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 OR COULD
MAKE YOU FEEL EUROPEAN?*



EUROPE:
**1 of 7
continents**

EU:
**512 million
people**

EUROPE:
**44
countries**

EUROPE:
over **700
million
people**

EU:
**28 Member
States**

EUROPE'S CULTURE

European culture and diversity shaped by:

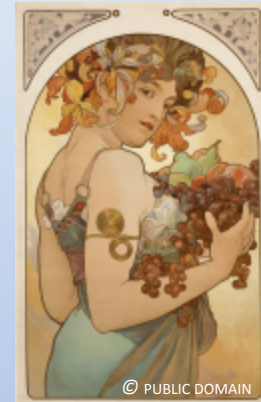
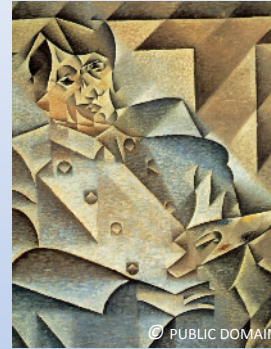
- Ancient Greece and Rome
- Reformation and Enlightenment
- Parliamentarism and social rights

EUROPEAN ARTS

Over the centuries, new styles of music, architecture and literature have inspired artists throughout Europe.

For example:

- Pablo Picasso
- Beethoven
- Alfons Mucha
- Jane Austen
- Van Gogh
- Stefan Zweig
- Józef Czechowicz
- Claude Monet

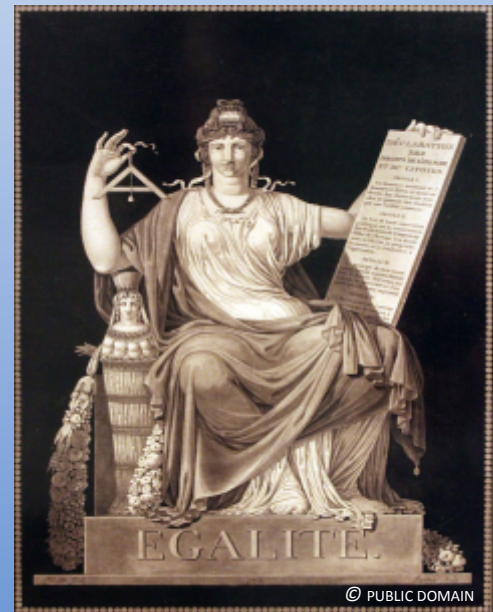


EUROPEAN VALUES

- Democracy
- Human dignity
- Freedom
- Equality
- Rule of law
- Respect for human rights



United
in Diversity



EU LANGUAGE FAMILIES

24 EU official languages

Bulgarian

Slovene

SLAVIC

Slovak

Polish

Czech

Croatian

Danish

Swedish

GERMANIC

German

Dutch

English

Spanish

Romanian

ROMANCE

French

Portuguese

Italian

Estonian

Finnish

Greek

OTHER

Maltese

Irish

Hungarian

Lithuanian

Latvian



THE EUROPEAN PROJECT



A photograph of two people standing on a rocky cliff edge, their arms raised in a gesture of triumph or joy. The scene is set against a bright, clear sky. A large, semi-transparent blue circle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing white text. The background shows a rugged landscape with rocks and some greenery.

WHICH COUNTRIES CREATED THE EU AND WHY?

FROM WAR TO PEACE

- Many wars took place in Europe throughout the centuries – two world wars in the 20th century alone.

- Peace was one of the aims that led to the creation of the **European Union**.
- The EU received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 2012**.



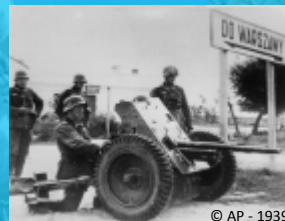
© AP - 1914

1914



© Universität Osnabrück/Historische Bildpostkarten - CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

1918



© AP - 1939

1939



© AP - 1945

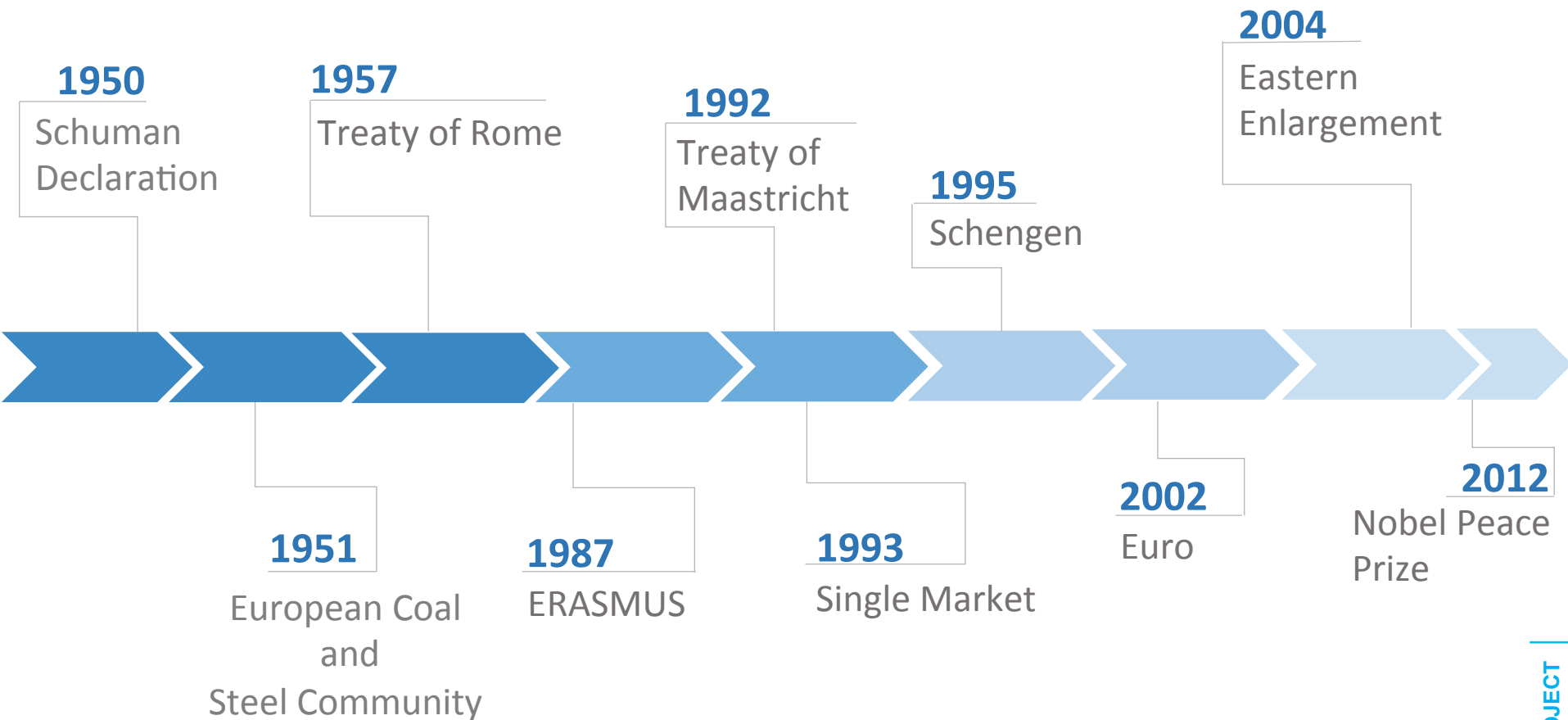
1945

EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES

1951	Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands
1973	Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
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



MAIN STEPS IN THE CREATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



SCHENGEN AREA



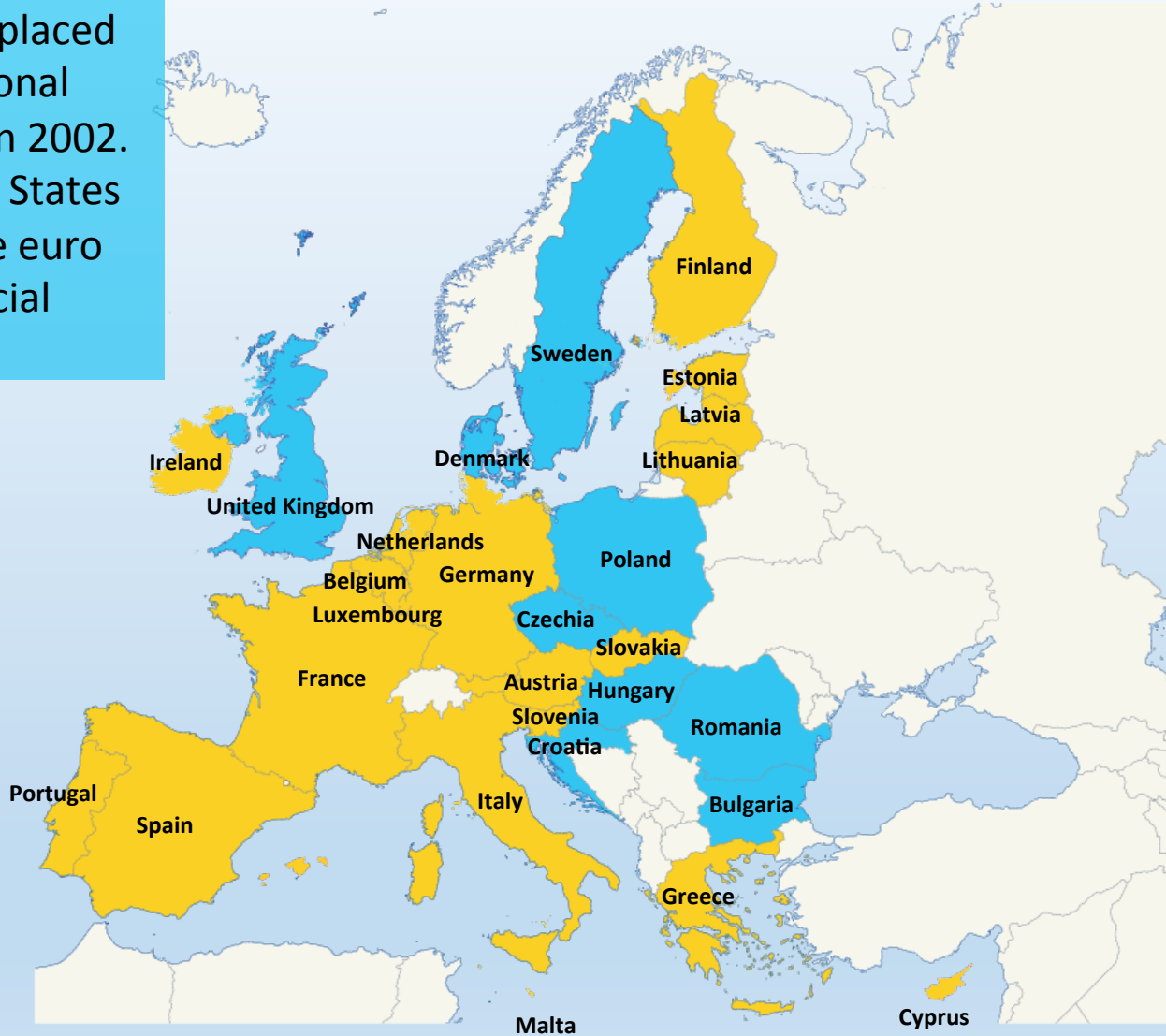
Schengen area countries

Non-Schengen area countries

Did you know that you can travel freely and without needing to show a passport?

EURO AREA

- The euro replaced former national currencies in 2002.
- 19 Member States now use the euro as their official currency.



Euro area countries

Non-Euro area countries



A young woman with brown hair, wearing a blue knit hat, is holding a blue sign with yellow stars. The sign has white text that reads: "WHAT DO YOU THINK THE EUROPEAN UNION DOES FOR YOU?". The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

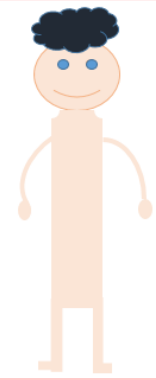
**WHAT DO
YOU THINK
THE
EUROPEAN UNION
DOES
FOR YOU?**



WHAT DOES THE EU DO ?



INVEST



This is Max. Max is a European citizen. He is very curious and passionate about everything that surrounds him.



They can call each other at any time for the same price as if they both were in France.



Max can still watch his favourite series while travelling because he benefits from EU-wide access to his digital subscriptions.

Max can travel from his home town (Paris) to Budapest by direct train to visit his best friend.



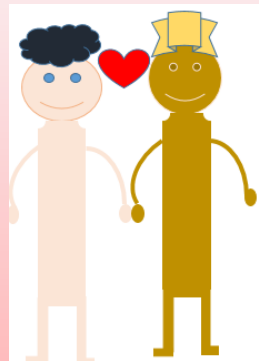
He decides to find a summer job in Budapest so he can pay for the return ticket to Paris.

His mother feels reassured in letting him go because he has his European Health Insurance Card in case of an emergency and can get healthcare in any EU country.



MAX LETS THE EU, THE SECOND LARGEST ECONOMY IN THE WORLD, INVEST FOR HIM. BE LIKE MAX 😊

PROTECT



Max meets his boyfriend, Theo, in Budapest. Together they plan to go to Barcelona for Easter.



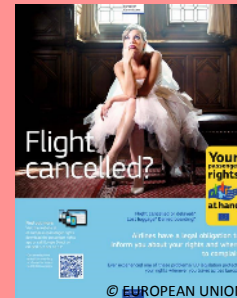
When they buy their snacks in the supermarket, they will no longer get free plastic bags as **the EU protects our planet.**



Both can pay for their tickets securely via their smartphones as **citizens' privacy** is respected throughout the EU.



Their mothers are happy for them to go on holiday together because they know **human rights and diversity** are respected in EU countries.



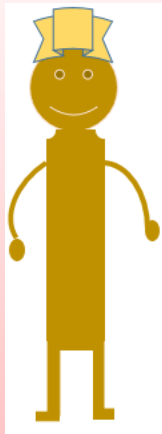
If their flight is cancelled, they will get reimbursed thanks to **European consumers' rights.**



They will be able to eat the same quality food as at home because each European country has to apply the same rules for **health and safety.**

MAX AND THEO LET THE EU PROTECT THEM. BE LIKE MAX AND THEO 😊

EMPOWER



Theo wants to join Max in Paris. But he is unsure for how long and whether he should pursue his studies abroad. Many options are possible.



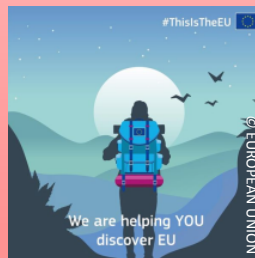
Theo prefers **volunteering** as a way to help different communities, while enjoying the time with his boyfriend.



Theo reassures his mother by saying that if he needs money he can find a job by applying for the **Youth Guarantee scheme**.



His mother would like him to take part in an **Erasmus+** programme, so he can live for a couple of months in Paris with Max and continue his studies.



His mother wonders if Paris is the right choice. She asks him to **discover the EU** a little more before making any final decision.

THEO USES THE EU TO EMPOWER HIMSELF. BE LIKE THEO 😊



**Which topics
do you think should
be prioritised by the
European
Institutions?**



HOW DOES THE EU WORK ?



THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

- is the **voice of the 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)



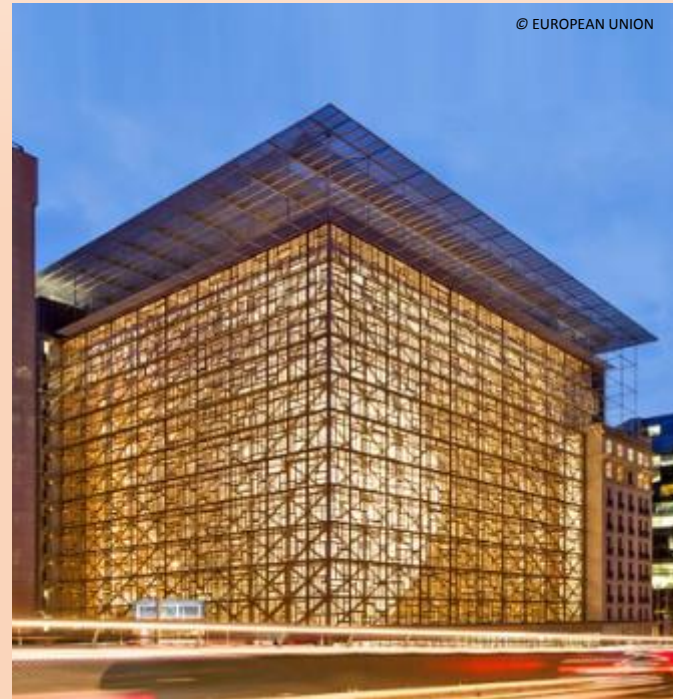
THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- brings together the **heads of state and government** of each EU country
- sets the **EU's main priorities and policy directions**
- does **not** adopt EU laws
- 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**

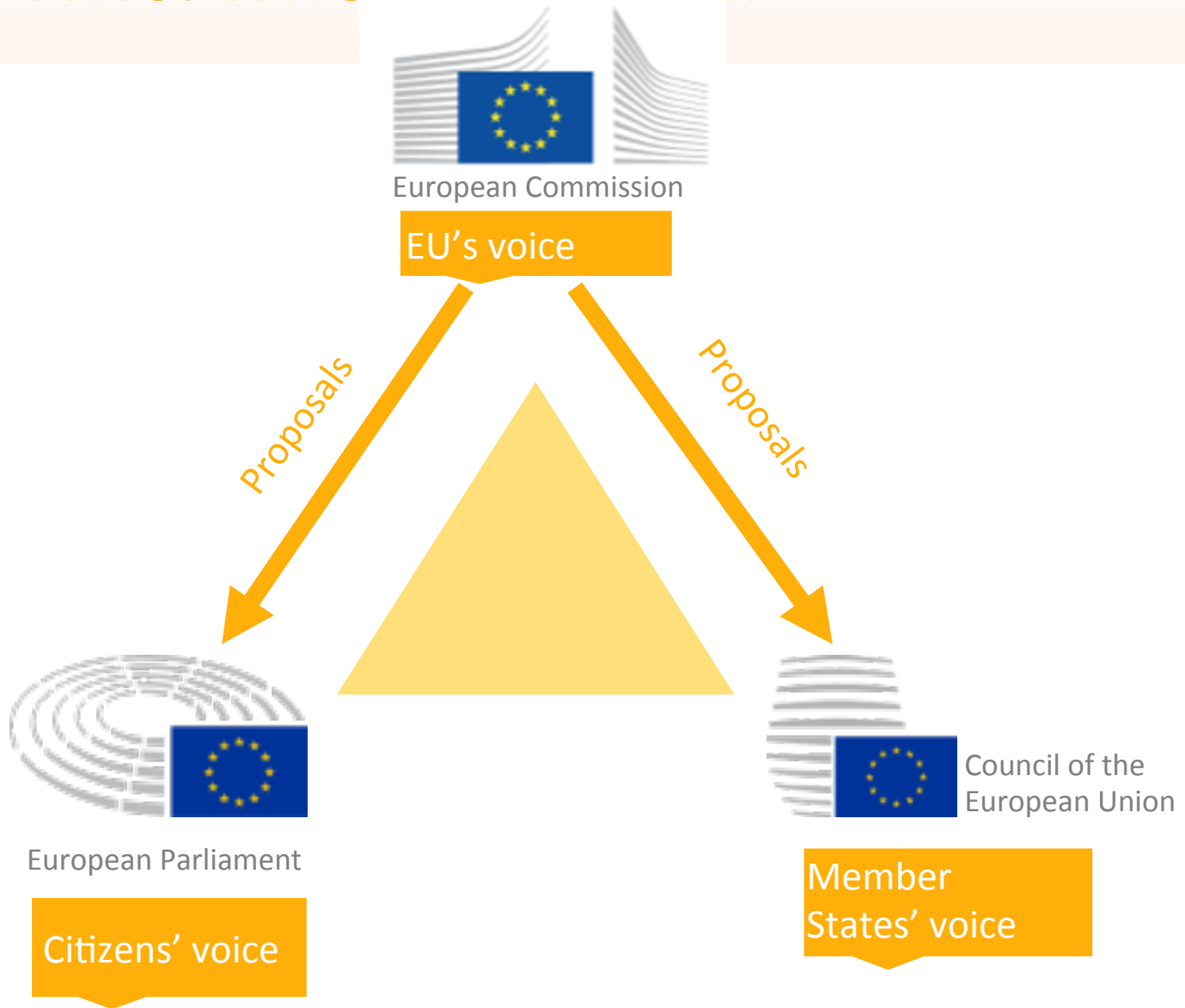


THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- represents the EU's common interests
- is made up of **one President**, as well as **one Commissioner** from each EU country responsible for a specific topic, such as **economy, agriculture, transport**
- proposes **new laws** and **programmes**
- is **elected** by the Parliament for five years
- **manages the EU's policies and the EU budget**
- is the guardian of the Treaties
- is located in **Brussels and Luxembourg**



EU LAWS: WHO DOES WHAT



THE EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE

The 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 don't 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

The Court of Auditors:

- checks whether the EU's **budget** has been **correctly spent**
- **reports fraud, corruption** or other **illegal activity**
- **advises EU policymakers** on how to best spend the budget
- has Members appointed by the Council for six-year terms

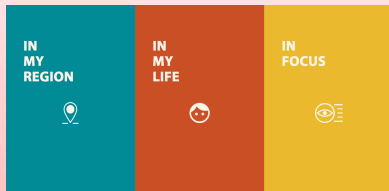


THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK:

- **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)



HOW CAN I LEARN MORE?



What Europe does for me
[what-europe-does-for-me.eu](https://www.what-europe-does-for-me.eu)



All the EU publications you need
publications.europa.eu

Learning Corner
europa.eu/learning-corner

The EU in slides
europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/slide-presentations_en

Europa website
europa.eu



STAY IN TOUCH

In person:

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



europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

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

- weekdays 09:00 – 18:00 CET
- in any official EU language
- from anywhere in the EU

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

europa.eu/european-union/contact/meet-us_en

Via social media:



Use the **search tool** to find social media accounts with EU input.

europa.eu/european-union/contact/social-networks_en