

Name: Marcus and Renegar		Unit Plan: Weeks of
		Subject/Grade Level: ELA SS Grades 9-10
Unit Title:	The EU and Me	
Unit Narrative:	<i>How can an understanding of the European Union help me to better my world?</i>	
Standards:	ELA: RI 9-10, W 9-10.1, W 9-10.6, SL 9-10.1	
Objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Students will learn about the European Union by applying critical thinking strategies to informational text. → Students will analyze their learning of the European Union by sharing and extending their connections and new knowledge. 		
Big Ideas		
What is the European Union? What is the back story? How can I apply this learning to my life? My interactions with my world?		
Essential Questions		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → What were the catalysts in bringing the European Union together? → Who is involved in the European Union? → What are the values of the European Union? How can they have an effect on the world around them? → How does this learning about the European Union apply to me (personally) and the world around me? 		
Learning Acquisition and Assessment		
Students will know... (content/concepts)	Students will be able to-(skills, performance tasks)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → World geography (prerequisite) → Basic History of the Beginnings of the European Union and its Purpose → Determine and analyze themes throughout history leading into the assembling of the European Union, and its influence/ partnerships with the United States. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Demonstrate a working knowledge of the EU structure, geographical contributions, and key players in maintaining a strong structure in which central values are protected and advanced. → Interpret Informational Text related to the European Union as they complete tasks such as argumentative writing, creating projects, and engaging in conversations centered around the European Union. → Identify likenesses/ differences between the European Union and the United States. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Apply this understanding to analyzing current events, Informational text, and create projects (showcasing personal application and forward-thinking).
<p>Formative Assessments Students will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → complete an argumentative piece of writing → Engage in daily conversations with the class and their teams → Complete mini quizzes on information learned. → Demonstrate critical thinking by completing graphic organizers to determine and discuss key ideas. 	<p>Summative Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Tests → Projects → Final writing assignment.
Resources and Materials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Gain an understanding of the what, who, and whys surrounding the development of the European Union.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Learn about the location of the members (and those awaiting membership).
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about the identified values of the EU and how the EU works.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Discuss the importance and key members of NATO.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Discuss free trade and how it has affected those in the region. → Use the knowledge obtained from this study to create and share three examples of learning (choice board). → Develop an argumentative writing piece. → Take the quiz.
Resources and Materials	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Maps → Websites → NewsELA

→ Current News Articles

→ Templates- Passports, graphic organizers (Notice and Note), Kami (digital work),



Welcome to our study of the European Union!



Students and Teachers

(Click on star for the link)

*Plan link



Parents and
Community

(Click on star for the link)

The European Union



(Click link)

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The European Union: A history and overview

By ThoughtCo., adapted by Newsela staff on 03/30/20

Word Count 908

Level 1190L



DID YOU KNOW?



The **European flag** is made up of 12 golden stars in a circle on a blue background. It was adopted in 1984 by the European Union (which was called the European Economic Community at the time) and now flies above buildings, parks and monuments all over Europe. The number of stars never changes – it is always 12. They symbolise unity, solidarity and harmony among the people of Europe.



Please take out your EU Packet- We will work on this in teams.

Please complete the questions and map work:

(Your team may use paper/ pencil or import it into [Kami](#) for this portion.)

1. How many member countries are in the EU?
List these countries:
1. How many EU candidate countries are there?
List these countries:
1. On the map, label EU member countries and EU candidate countries.

Then, color the current EU member countries using one color and color the EU candidate countries using another color.



THE EUROPEAN UNION MAIN ACTORS



ORDINARY LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE



European

Click picture for Link #1



Click Link #2

Parliament



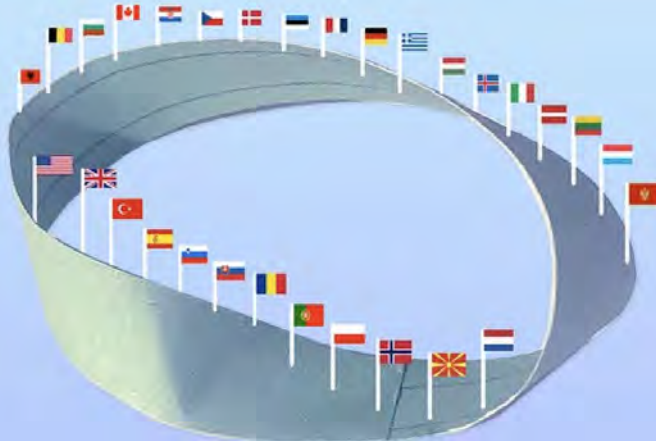
European Values



NATO

How Does NATO Work?

- It offers protection of freedom and stability for members and their regions
- When one NATO nation is attacked, all NATO nations will retaliate
- NATO is funded by its members, with the U.S. contributing roughly 75% of NATO's budget
- NATO targets include weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and cyber-attacks
- NATO protection does not extend to civil wars or internal coups

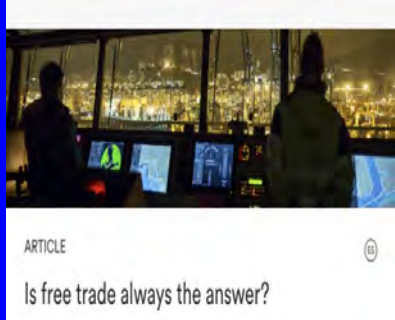


What will I learn?

These articles explore the costs and benefits of free trade agreements in Europe. You will read about the European Union, evaluate its advantages and disadvantages, and analyze the United Kingdom's reasons for leaving it.

Questions to keep in mind:

- What does the trade ecosystem in Europe and Russia look like?
- How has the creation of the European Union affected trade in the region?





EN

AWAY IS A PLACE

To throw away is to forget. But away is always somewhere and, often, people live there.

The journeys waste takes are political. From the city to the country, from the capitalist west to the communist east, relatively wealthy Europeans have long exported their waste, leaving the poor to deal with it.

Since the early 2000s tighter European regulations saw torrents of waste shipped to Africa and Asia where regulations were often less strict. This compounded the historical inequality of colonialism.

But it is not a one-sided relationship. Where Europe sees rubbish, others recognise value and a chance to build alternative economic and social systems that challenge throwaway culture.

***The EU places a strong emphasis on eliminating waste, pollution, and challenging a throwaway culture?**

- **Write an argumentative essay on why this must be a priority for the United States as well. Use current events and statistical evidence to support your claim(s).**

European Values

(Click here for linked information).



[Rubric](#)
[\(click\)](#)

Extension Projects:
Choice Board



Pick three activities to extend your learning about the EU.

Pick a European country that has yet to join the EU. What hurdles would that country have to overcome before they could join? How would they overcome them?

Make a brochure persuading a country to join the EU.

[Templates](#)
(link)

Discuss similarities of the EU and the US using a graphic organizer.

Write a Poem reflecting the values of the EU.

Create (or share an existing)– theme song for the EU. (Explain why you created or chose this song.)

Make a One Pager on your learning about the EU.

Study of Night by Elie Wiesel

*More to be added later

"... if anything can, it is memory that will save humanity. For me, hope without memory is like memory without hope."

(Elie Wiesel, 1986)

Background on Night

Elie Wiesel's Remarks at the Dedication of Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum

By Elie Wiesel
2005

Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel (1928-2016) was a Romanian-born American Jewish writer, a Nobel Laureate, political activist, and Holocaust survivor. In this speech, Wiesel speaks at the opening of Yad Vashem's new Holocaust History Museum. The Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Wiesel discusses the horrors of the Holocaust, as well as his hopes for the museum's impact on others. As you read, take notes on how Elie Wiesel believes the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum can impact the future.

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mes Amis de France, Nitssolei Shoa Yekarim:

As you walk through the museum, so magnificently conceived by Moshe Safdie, you wonder: Where is the place of rage in all that? How come that the Jewish people, when we discovered the magnitude of cruelty and the consequences of hatred, how come that we were not possessed by a(n) extraordinary, implacable² rage — rage of the killers; rage toward those who inspired the killers; rage towards the indifferent — those who knew and were silent? Where is rage?



"Yad Vashem Hall of Names" by David Shankbone is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

Rogues Gallery

How do some of today's despots and autocrats compare with Hitler?



Bashar al-Assad
NORTH KOREA
SYRIA
The Assad regime has kidnapped, tortured, and executed chemical weapons on civilians during the civil war that began as an Arab Spring uprising in 2011. At least 160,000 Syrians have been killed, and millions more have been displaced.



Kim Jong Un
NORTH KOREA
Kim has put more than 200,000 North Koreans, including children, into labor camps, according to Human Rights Watch; they're tortured, starved, and attacked by dogs if they get out of line. He has ruthlessly ruled his one-party state since the death of his father in 2011.



Robert Mugabe
ZIMBABWE
The 90-year-old Mugabe has used intimidation, violence, and murder to cling to power he's held since 1980 and to punish his political opponents. Mugabe has also threatened to behead gay people, saying they're "worse than dogs and pigs."



Vladimir Putin
RUSSIA
President Putin alarmed the world earlier this year when he seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. In power since 1999 as either prime minister or president, Putin has cracked down on freedom of speech, the press, and the rights of opponents to protest.



Omar Hassan al-Bashir
SUDAN
Bashir is wanted by the International Criminal Court for genocide. In 2003, when non-Arabs in Darfur demanded more rights from the Arab Sudanese government, Bashir's millitamen burned Darfur's villages and murdered and raped its people. About 400,000 have been killed, and the violence is ongoing.

Name: _____ Class: _____

A Holocaust Survivor, Spared from Gas Chamber by Twist of Fate

By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
2015

During World War II, Germany's Nazi Party forced hundreds of thousands of political opponents, Jews, and other so-called "racially undesirable elements" of German society into concentration camps. Throughout the war, it's estimated that more than 10 million people died in these camps. This article reports on the experiences of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp. As you read, take notes on how Mandelbaum's experiences have shaped his outlook on life and what can be learned from him.

Seventy years ago, Soviet soldiers liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of Nazi concentration camps.

Some 300 Holocaust survivors were at Auschwitz on Tuesday, along with several European presidents and other government officials, to honor at least 1.7 million people who were murdered, 1 million of whom were Jewish.



Making it Personal:

DEFENSE

U.S. approves cluster bombs despite humanitarian concerns

The controversial weapons have been banned in more than 100 countries.

Biden on cluster munitions: 'Difficult' decision, but Ukraine need...

Share



By LAWRENCE UKENYE

07/07/2023 03:13 PM EDT

Updated: 07/07/2023 04:31 PM EDT



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Explainer: What is NATO, and what is its role in the Russia-Ukraine crisis?

By The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.14.22

Word Count 952

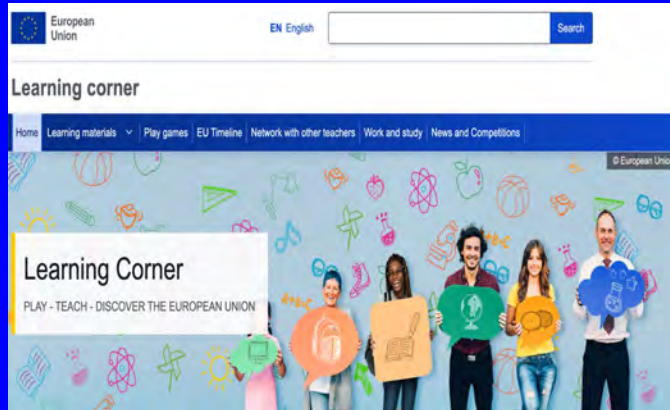
Level 1240L



Other Teaching Resources

Learn and play

If you're a primary or secondary school pupil, this is where you'll find [games](#)^{EN...}, competitions and activity books to help you discover the EU in a fun way, in the classroom or at home. You can also find out more about studying or volunteering abroad.



Teach and connect

If you're a teacher and want to help your pupils learn about the EU and how it works, this is a source of [teaching material](#)^{EN...} for all age groups. As well as finding inspiration for lesson plans, you can also discover networking opportunities with other schools and teachers across the EU.

Assessment:



EU and Me Quiz for high school students:

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/play-games/quiz_en#/dashboard

Additional Quizzes

What is the European Union Quiz (13 questions):

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/play-games/quiz_en#/topic/what-is-the-european-union%3F

How does the EU work (13 questions):

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/play-games/quiz_en#/topic/how-does-the-eu-work%3F

How is the EU relevant to your daily life (12 questions):

https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/play-games/quiz_en#/topic/how-is-the-eu-relevant-to-your-daily-life%3F

What is on the EU's agenda? (13 questions):


https://learning-corner.learning.europa.eu/play-games/quiz_en#/topic/what's-on-the-eu's-agenda%3F

Do Now: In Class, Use the Nonfiction Notice and Note graphic organizer [\(link\)](#) and the 3 major questions to analyze 2 of the 4 Nonfiction texts in the following slides.

The Big 3 Questions...

Big Question


What surprised me?



- I was shocked about...
- I was surprised when...
- I never thought...
- I could not believe...
- Really?

Big Question


What did the author think I already knew?



- I did not know...
- I was confused by...
- The author assumed...
- The author thought I knew...

Big Question

What challenged, changed, or confirmed what I knew?



- All that I thought, but...
- I had to rethink...
- The author assumed...
- My understanding changed when...
- I was right/wrong about...

Notice and Note Non-Fiction

Signposts Question/Answer Cheat Sheet

Nonfiction Notice & Note Signposts

- Contrasts and Contradictions
- Extreme or Absolute Language
- Numbers and Stats
- Quoted Words
- Word Gaps

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Welcome Parents and Community Members!

The European Union

(Click link)



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Welcome to Our Parent/ Community Night on the European



Please grab a passport and pick a room to start your EU experience.

Your adventure Awa

Room 142 How does the European Union Work?

Room 150 How is the European Union relevant to your daily life?

Room 154 What is on the European Union's agenda?

Room 160 Games and Foods you experience when you travel to E

Welcome Parents and Community Members!

Your adventure Awaits:

Room 142 How does the European Union work? The interactive website will allow you to learn more about the European Union at your own pace.

Room 150 How is the European Union relevant to your daily life? Parents take a gallery walk of student projects.

Room 164 What is on the European Union's agenda? What do we have in common? EU's agenda? Student compare and contrast work on display.

Room 166 Games and foods you will experience when you travel to Europe.

Thank you
for joining
us!



European
Commission



**A SHORT
GUIDE**
EU
to the





A version of this publication containing links to online content is available here in PDF and HTML format:

<https://op.europa.eu/webpub/com/short-guide-eu/en>

A Short Guide to the EU

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Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2021

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Print	ISBN 978-92-76-24433-2	doi:10.2775/354386	NA-04-20-623-EN-C
PDF	ISBN 978-92-76-24412-7	doi:10.2775/5724	NA-04-20-623-EN-N
HTML	ISBN 978-92-76-24384-7	doi:10.2775/89160	NA-04-20-623-EN-Q

A Short Guide to the EU

Ever wondered which EU countries use the euro or what it means to be part of the Schengen area? What the European Green Deal is and how it will make your life better? What exactly the EU does for you and where the money comes from to pay for it all? Read on to find out everything you need to know about the EU.



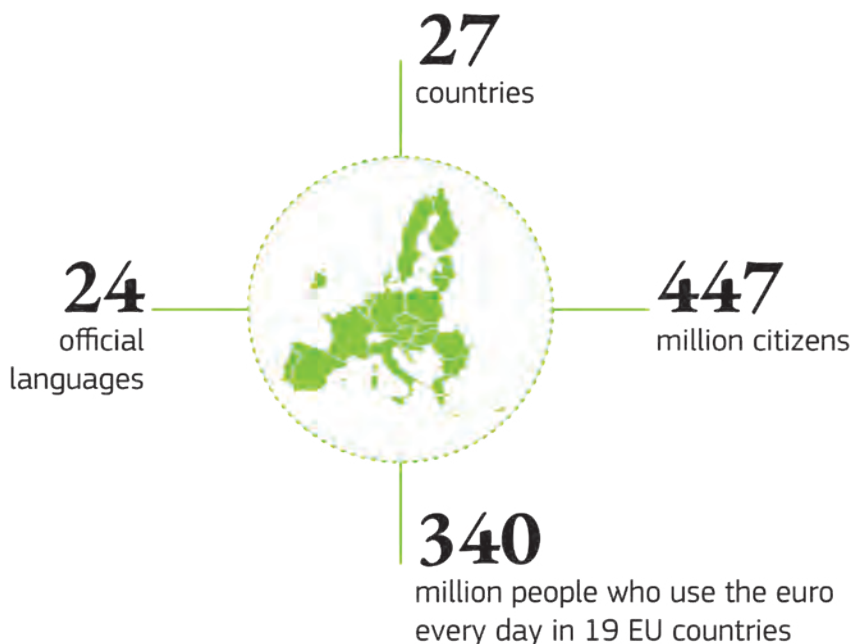
What is the European Union?

The European Union (EU) is a unique economic and political union between [27 European countries](#). They work together to improve the lives of people in Europe, and even further afield.

The EU has worked for the peace, prosperity and well-being of its citizens for over 60 years. From six founding countries – or Member States – in the 1950s, it has grown into a Union of 27 countries with a population of almost 450 million people.

What started as an economic project to help raise living standards in post-war Europe has led to the creation of the world's largest single-market area, where people, goods, services and money can move freely. Over the decades, the EU has widened its scope to areas where cooperation between countries brings better results. The countries that belong to the EU believe that by working together they are stronger and better able to tackle today's big challenges, such as COVID-19, climate change and the digital transformation of our society.

This guide contains lots of useful information about the EU and what it does, and tips on where to get more information.

The EU has:**THE EU FLAG****THE EU'S MOTTO**

**UNITED
IN
DIVERSITY**

EUROPE DAY

A Union of values

While Europeans may speak different languages and have different traditions, they share the same set of values, on which the EU was founded. These are respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.

These values are set out in the EU treaties and in the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](#), which brings together in one place all the personal, civic, political, economic and social rights enjoyed by people within the EU.

If you are a citizen of one of the 27 countries that make up the EU, you are also a citizen of the EU. This gives you some important extra [rights](#), such as the freedom to move, live, work and study in any EU country and the right [to vote and to stand as a candidate](#) in local and European elections, even when living in another EU country. You also have the right to make a [petition](#) to the European Parliament, to apply to the European Ombudsman and to write to any EU institution in one of the 24 official languages of the EU.

As well as protecting the rights of its citizens and people living in the European Union, the EU also promotes human rights and fair elections worldwide. Every year, the European Parliament awards the [Sakharov Prize](#) to an individual or organisation that fights for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

**In 2020,
13.5 million
people in the EU
were citizens
of a different
EU country
from the one
they lived in.**



Living in the EU brings some important rights and benefits, such as these:



I am **protected from discrimination** on any ground, including sex, race, religion, ethnic or social origin, disability, age or sexual orientation;



I have the right to have my **personal data** protected;



I can shop online and buy from any EU country with confidence, thanks to strong EU **consumer protection**;



My health is protected by tough **EU environmental standards**, such as rules on the quality of air and water.

The EU at a glance


Thanks to the **Single Market** people, goods, services and money can move around the EU's 27 countries almost as freely as within a single country.

Twenty-two EU Member States and four non-EU countries – Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland – belong to what is known as the **Schengen area**. This means you don't have to show your passport when crossing the border between these countries. Travel has been disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find more information about this at reopen.europa.eu/en




 AUSTRIA  1995  8.9 M 	 FRANCE  1958  67.3 M 	 MALTA  2004  0.5 M 
 BELGIUM  1958  11.5 M 	 GERMANY  1958  83.2 M 	 NETHERLANDS  1958  17.4 M 
 BULGARIA  2007  7 M Lev (BGN) 	 GREECE  1981  10.7 M 	 POLAND  2004  38 M Złoty (PLN)
 CROATIA  2013  4.1 M Kuna (HRK) 	 HUNGARY  2004  9.8 M Forint (HUF)	 PORTUGAL  1986  10.3 M 
 CYPRUS  2004  0.9 M  	 IRELAND  1973  5 M  	 ROMANIA  2007  19.3 M Leu (RON) 
 CZECHIA  2004  10.7 M Koruna (CZK)	 ITALY  1958  59.6 M 	 SLOVAKIA  2004  5.5 M 
 DENMARK  1973  5.8 M Krone (DKK)	 LATVIA  2004  1.9 M 	 SLOVENIA  2004  2.1 M 
 ESTONIA  2004  1.3 M 	 LITHUANIA  2004  2.8 M 	 SPAIN  1986  47.3 M 
 FINLAND  1995  5.5 M 	 LUXEMBOURG  1958  0.6 M 	 SWEDEN  1995  10.3 M Krona (SEK)

 Joined the EU

 Population in millions in 2020

 Currency

 Not part of the Schengen area



What is the EU doing to tackle the big issues we face today?

Here you can find information on some of the big issues that the EU is working on to improve people's lives. To see how the priority issues on the EU's agenda are put into action, please refer to the section 'Who does what?' (page 27). You can find more information about all of the EU's activities on the EU's website: europa.eu.

COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic has led to human tragedy, lockdowns and economic slowdown, testing the EU and the rest of the world like never before. The EU's priority since the beginning of the crisis has been to save lives and protect jobs. As well as taking action to contain the spread of the virus, it has been working to support national health systems and help get Europe back on its feet.

By summer 2021, four COVID-19 [vaccines](#) were authorised for use in the EU.



A delivery of medical equipment from the rescEU reserve in Prague, Czechia, 24 October 2020.

While EU countries are responsible for their own health policies and immunising their own citizens, the EU provides support and helps with coordination, for example by securing vaccine supplies so no country is left empty-handed.

Vaccination programmes started across the EU in December 2020. A common system of [EU digital certificates](#) is helping to make it easier for people in the EU to start travelling again.

The EU is committed to ensuring that safe vaccines reach all corners of the world, and has exported hundreds of millions of doses to other countries. It is also one of the leading contributors to COVAX, the global initiative for fair access to COVID-19 vaccines. To make sure it is prepared for future epidemics, the EU is working with its international partners, including through initiatives such as the G20 [Global Health Summit](#) in May 2021.

The EU and its Member States have shown true solidarity during the pandemic. For example, hospitals across Europe have treated patients from other countries, and the EU has coordinated the delivery of protective equipment to where it is needed most. The [rescEU medical reserve](#) (the common European stockpile of emergency medical equipment) has helped Member States facing shortages of equipment.



A drive-through vaccination centre, Milan, Italy, 23 March 2021.



The EU is also taking action to ensure a rapid economic recovery from the pandemic. From 2021 to 2027, funding of €2 018 billion (in current prices) will support people, companies and regions across the EU. This total includes a special recovery fund of €807 billion, known as [NextGenerationEU](#). The EU aims to ensure Europe's healthy recovery from COVID-19 by investing in projects and initiatives to make it greener, more digital and better able to deal with future challenges.

EU spending 2021-2027



In addition, the [SURE initiative](#) is helping to preserve jobs and support families in 19 Member States.



Find out more about [EU action on COVID-19](#).

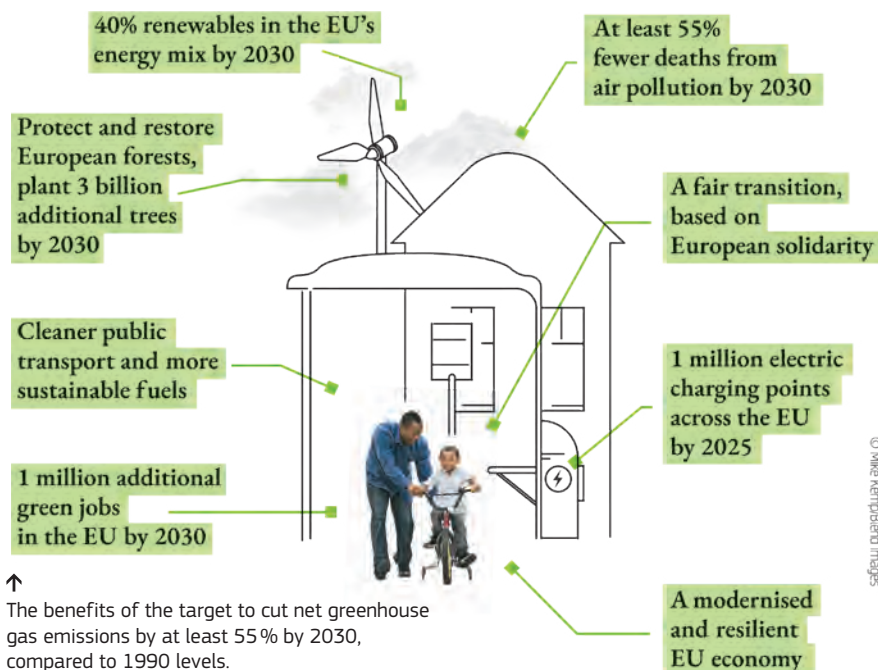
Climate change

Climate change and damage to the environment threaten Europe and the world.

The [European Green Deal](#) is the EU's strategy to create a modern and competitive European economy. It aims to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050, at which point we will produce no more greenhouse gases than our ecosystems can naturally absorb.

As a first milestone on this ambitious path, the EU has set a new target of cutting its net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55 % by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. All sections of society and the economy will have to play their part – from industry, energy and transport to food production, agriculture and construction. There will be financial support for those regions, industries and workers that face the greatest challenges. In July 2021 the European Commission proposed a package of [measures](#) to make sure that the EU achieves its objectives under the European Green Deal.

What's in it for you?



We can all do our bit – from reducing food waste and recycling more to taking the bike instead of the car, or even planting a tree. If you want to get involved why not check out the [European Climate Pact](#), which brings people and organisations together to share information on climate action. Help us build a greener Europe!



© LIFE06 NAT/E/000209/Aixa SOPEÑA.

The EU has funded the conversion of two passenger and goods ferries from heavy oil to more environmentally friendly electric batteries. They operate on the busy route between Helsingør (Denmark) and Helsingborg (Sweden). The converted ferries help to improve air quality in these densely populated areas.

Natura 2000
is the world's largest network of protected areas, safeguarding thousands of havens for Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats.

The Iberian lynx is back from the verge of extinction in Portugal and Spain thanks to the efforts of many, including the work of projects funded by the EU's [LIFE](#) programme. The return of the species is one of Europe's greatest animal conservation success stories.

At least 30 % of the EU's spending between 2021 and 2027 will be on tackling climate change and its effects.

Getting the most out of the digital transformation

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how important [digital technology](#) is for keeping people and businesses connected in times of crisis.

We all need to be digitally savvy in today's society, whether it's for online banking and shopping at home or using technology in our jobs. To get everyone up to speed, and ensure Europe's position as a world leader in technology, the EU is investing in everything from digital skills and supercomputing to high-speed connectivity and better cybersecurity.



A librarian reading a book to elderly people by videoconference, an initiative set up by the Soto del Real municipal library in Madrid, Spain, 16 November 2020.

The EU is working to ensure that the online world is safe and fair for people and businesses alike. Thanks to EU rules, today we have more control over our personal data and how it is used by others.

The EU in the world

The EU works closely with its neighbours and with countries around the world. It is building new partnerships, in particular with [Africa](#), and working with other countries and international organisations, such as the United Nations and the World Health Organization, to tackle common challenges like climate change and COVID-19. The EU also makes trade deals with other countries, most recently with Canada, Japan and Mexico. These deals expand the trade that supports the EU economy and creates jobs.

Together, the EU and its member countries are the biggest donor of international aid in the world. In 2020 they provided €66.8 billion to help fight COVID-19, overcome poverty and advance global development.

Helping people find work

The [European Social Fund](#) helps people to get a job (or a better job), including those who face disadvantages. Each year the fund helps some 10 million people find a job or improve their skills.

The EU is helping young people to enter the job market. For example, the [Youth Guarantee scheme](#) aims to ensure that anyone under 30 receives an offer of good-quality employment, education, apprenticeship or training within 4 months of becoming unemployed or leaving education. The [‘Your first EURES job’ programme](#) also helps young people to find work in another EU country.

Volunteering is a great way of contributing to local communities at home or abroad, while developing new skills and making friends. The [European Solidarity Corps](#) gives young people the chance to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad. [EU Aid Volunteers](#) offers over-18s the opportunity to participate in humanitarian projects worldwide.

Stepping up the fight against cancer

The EU is determined to turn the tide against cancer. With €4 billion of funding, [Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan](#) maps out a new EU approach to cancer prevention, treatment and care. EU funding has already led to [groundbreaking research](#) – from 3D modelling of tumours to detecting cancer through a person’s breath.



A nurse setting up the machine for a patient’s MRI scan, Liège University Hospital, Belgium, 24 January 2020.

A Union of equality

The EU is building a Europe of equality. This means that women and men should get [equal pay for equal work](#), [people with disabilities are able to participate equally](#) in all areas of life, and [racism](#) is not tolerated. It means that [people should not be excluded or marginalised](#), and people should be [free to love who they want](#).

Migrants and EU citizens with a migrant background play a key role in European society, including as essential workers. The EU is working to ensure everyone can participate fully in society by focusing on things such as better access to education, jobs, healthcare and housing.

Protecting people

The safety and [security](#) of people in Europe, in both the physical and the digital worlds, is a top priority for the EU. It works daily to tackle threats such as terrorism, organised crime, the drugs trade and human trafficking.

Lies about COVID-19, dangerous hoaxes, conspiracy theories and consumer fraud all pose a threat, including to public health. The EU is working with social media companies and online platforms to limit the [spread of misleading information](#) and fake news in Europe. The [European Digital Media Observatory](#) supports the work of independent fact checkers and aims to become the European hub to fight online disinformation.



Find out more about the [priorities](#) of the European Commission.

Europe means culture

What do the Oscar-winning films *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Son of Saul*, *The Father* and *Another Round* have in common? They all received support from the EU's [Creative Europe MEDIA programme](#).

Is your city the next European Capital of Culture? The much-prized [title](#) has been awarded to more than 50 cities across the EU. It puts the spotlight on local artists and each city's unique cultural wealth.

Explore Europe's art and culture from your armchair! The [Europeana](#) digital platform gives access to over 58 million items from the collections of more than 3 600 cultural institutions.



What are some of the things that the EU does for me?



You can live and work in another EU country. Check the [EURES portal](#) for job vacancies and practical advice.



You can retire to any EU country (plus Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland) and receive your [state pension](#) there.



You can study or do a training course in another EU country. More than 10 million people have taken part in the [Erasmus programme](#) since it began in 1987.



The EU scrapped roaming charges in 2017 to make it cheaper to keep in touch with friends and family as you travel across the EU. Your digital subscriptions travel with you too!



If you fall ill while visiting another EU country the [European Health Insurance Card](#) ensures you can get state-provided healthcare. You will be treated under the same conditions and at the same cost as the people insured in that country.



[Wi-Fi4EU](#) hot spots in public areas in around 8 000 local communities around the EU mean you can connect to the internet for free. Look out for this symbol:



You can use one single currency – the euro – in 19 EU countries.



You can rest easy when travelling in the EU. You are protected by a full set of [passenger rights](#) whether you go by air, rail, ship, bus or coach.



Toys have to meet [strict safety rules](#) before they can be sold in the EU.



[EU rules](#) mean you can cancel or return online purchases within 14 days with no reason required.



People in the EU benefit from some of the world's strictest standards for safe and healthy food.



Bank savings of up to €100 000 are always protected.



Find out more about [what the EU does for you](#).



What is the EU doing to improve things where I live?

The EU invests locally in towns and regions to boost jobs and the economy and improve quality of life. It aims to make a difference in five key areas:

- ✔ helping people to get into employment and education, or helping to include them in society;
- ✔ small and medium-sized businesses;
- ✔ research and innovation;
- ✔ protecting and improving the environment;
- ✔ modernising transport and energy to fight climate change.

**Between 2014
and 2020
the EU
invested over
€460 billion
in its regions.**

Investing in people and places

Take a look around your area and you will soon find a school, a bridge, a hospital or another project that has benefited from EU funding. Thousands of projects have received support from EU regional programmes over the years. Below are just a few examples of projects that are, or soon will be, making a difference to people's lives across the EU.



Saving lives with a new emergency hospital in Romania

€47 million in EU funding is being invested to build a [hospital](#) in Cluj, Romania, equipped with advanced technology to treat critically ill patients. It will form part of a network of regional emergency hospitals and will contribute to Romania's efforts to increase access to healthcare.



Better road connections in Greece

Residents, tourists and businesses in Greece will all benefit from an important [new section](#) of motorway. EU funding worth €255 million is supporting the construction of the missing link between Lamia and Xyniada. This will connect the regions of Central Greece and Western Thessaly to the main motorway network.



Sustainable swimming in Belgium

A swimming pool [renovation](#) at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Free University of Brussels) is making a splash for sustainability. The new facility uses 60 % less energy and emits 500 tonnes less CO2 annually than the old pool, and is open to swimmers from outside the university. The project received just over €2 million in EU funding.

© Image by Hebi B. from Pixabay



Greener cities and regions

A more reliable and efficient energy supply in Czechia, 21 new electric trains to improve Croatia's rail network and measures to increase flood safety in Hungary are among [14 green projects](#) that will benefit EU citizens. More than €1.4 billion of EU funds is being invested in seven EU countries in areas such as environment, health, transport and energy.



Faster internet connections in Sicily

More than 2.3 million people in Sicily, Italy, are benefiting from high-speed internet access thanks to a [project](#) supported by €55 million in EU funding. More than 1.2 million households have been connected to ultra-fast broadband throughout Sicily's nine provinces.



Green playgrounds in Paris

Concrete schoolyards across Paris are being turned into cool, green islands capable of storing water and reducing heat. Supported by almost €5 million in EU funding, the [OASIS project](#) is helping to protect Parisians from the effects of climate change, while creating spaces where children can have fun.

© iStock.com/FatCamera



Find out about projects in your country that have received EU funding:

- https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/
- <https://www.what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/1/>



@EUinmyregion



#EUinmyRegion

How can I get help with funding?

Researcher, farmer, entrepreneur or artist? Find out about who's eligible for funding:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/how-apply/eligibility-who-can-get-funding_en

Find out how to access funding for regions:

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/accessing-funds/

EU Pioneers

From resistance fighters and political leaders, to a world famous actor, find out more about the [women and men](#) who inspired the creation of the Europe we live in today. They include:



Konrad ADENAUER



Ursula HIRSCHMANN



Anna LINDH



Melina MERCOURI



Jean MONNET



Robert SCHUMAN



Altiero SPINELLI



Simone VEIL



Louise WEISS

© Associated Press, Konrad Adenauer

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© Nationaal Archief C00, Melina Mercouri

EU milestones

1950

9 May



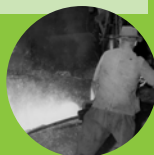
The **Schuman Declaration**.

France's Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposes to pool coal and steel production so that no single country can make weapons to turn against another.

1952

23 July

The **European Coal and Steel Community** is established.



1957

25 March

The **Treaties of Rome** are signed by six countries – Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They create a common market, the **European Economic Community**, from 1 January 1958.

1987

15 June



The **Erasmus** student exchange programme is launched.

1989

The collapse of communism triggers a wave of democratic change across central and eastern Europe.

1993

1 January

The launch of the **single market**, where people, goods, services and money can circulate freely.



2012

1 April

The **European citizens' initiative** is launched.



2012

10 December

The EU is awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**.



2015

12 December

A total of 195 countries, including all the EU Member States, adopt the **Paris Agreement** on climate change.



1962

30 July

The **common agricultural policy** is launched, helping to safeguard food supplies and supporting farmers and rural areas.

1968

1 July

Customs duties between the six Member States are abolished.



1979

7 to 10 June

For the first time, **European citizens can vote** for who represents them in the European Parliament.



1993

1 November

The **European Union** is created.



1995

26 March

The **Schengen Agreement** removes border controls between certain Member States. Twenty-two of them now enjoy this advantage.



2002

1 January

Euro notes and coins first appear, and are now used in 19 EU countries.



2017

15 June

Roaming charges end.



2020

January

COVID-19 reaches Europe, sparking the **biggest-ever response to a public health emergency** in the history of the EU.



2021

9 May

The **Conference on the Future of Europe** is launched.





How does the EU work?



Plenary Session of the
European Parliament,
Brussels, Belgium,
26 April 2021.

Everything that the EU does is based on treaties that contain the rules for how the EU works. These have been agreed voluntarily and democratically by all EU countries.

The EU [takes action](#) in those areas where its Member States have authorised it to do so and where it makes sense to act together, such as on climate change or trading across the world.

The EU treaties specify who can pass laws in what areas: the EU, national governments or both. EU countries are [responsible](#) for making their own decisions and laws in certain areas of national policy, such as industry, health and education, and the EU provides support. In areas where either the EU or national governments can act, the EU may only do so if it can act more effectively.

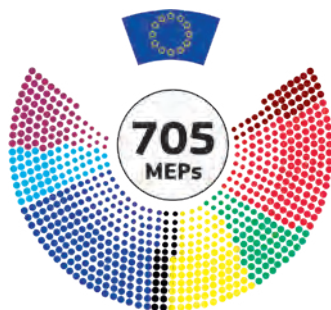
To help achieve their goals, the EU countries have created a number of institutions to take decisions at the EU level and to then carry them out.

Who does what?



The [European Parliament](#), which sits in Strasbourg and Brussels, represents the interests of the citizens of the EU. Together with the Council, it is the main decision-making body of the EU.

The 705 Members of the European Parliament, also known as MEPs, are directly elected by EU voters every 5 years. The most recent election was in 2019. Each EU country elects a number of members, in proportion to its population. MEPs don't sit in groups based on their nationality, but in political groups that cover several countries, or as independents. David Sassoli is the current President of the European Parliament.



- Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)
- Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament
- Renew Europe Group
- Identity and Democracy
- 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

The [Council of the European Union](#), also known as the Council, is made up of the government ministers of all the EU countries. Together with the European Parliament, it is the main decision-making body of the EU. Every 6 months a different

EU country holds the [presidency](#) of the Council. To ensure continuity, the presidencies work together closely in groups of three on a common agenda over an 18-month period.



This is not to be confused with the [European Council](#), which is made up of all the EU countries.

It sets the EU's political direction and priorities. Charles Michel is the current President of the European Council.



The [European Commission](#) is the EU's civil service. It has the right to propose new actions and new laws, which are then decided on by the Parliament and the Council. It is also responsible for ensuring that EU rules are correctly applied. The Commission is led by President Ursula von der Leyen and her team of Commissioners – one from each EU country.

All countries in the European Union have to follow EU rules and meet the targets they sign up to, otherwise the Commission can take [action](#) against them.



The [Court of Justice of the European Union](#) ensures that EU law is enforced and applied in the same way in every EU country.



The [European Central Bank](#) manages the euro. Its main aim is to keep prices stable in the euro area.

Who pays for the EU?

The money spent by the EU (the [EU budget](#)) comes from several [sources](#): customs duties; contributions based on the value added tax (VAT) collected by EU countries; and direct contributions by EU countries. A new source of revenue – a levy on non-recycled plastic packaging waste – was introduced in January 2021.

From contributing to new and better roads, railways and airports to developing rural areas and enabling studying opportunities abroad, the EU budget helps to deliver on the things that matter to people in the EU. As well as leading the digital transformation and the fight against climate change, it also helps to reduce disparities within and between EU countries.



How can I get involved?

Do you have ideas about the kind of EU you want to live in? Well, it's time to speak up. Whoever you are and wherever you are, the EU wants to hear your suggestions.

The European Parliament, the Council and the European Commission have launched a major pan-European debate – the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) – to enable everyone across the EU to share their views and their hopes for the European Union in the years ahead. There are events in all countries, with debates online and, where COVID-19 rules permit, in person. You can find out what's happening on the conference's multilingual [website](#). You can even organise your own events and upload them. So make sure you get involved – the future of Europe is in your hands!

As an EU citizen, there are already several ways you can contribute to the decision-making process. For a start, you can make your voice heard by voting in the [European elections](#) every 5 years. Find out which MEPs [represent your country](#).



The launch of the Conference on the Future of Europe, Strasbourg, France, 9 May 2021.

Left to right: President of France Emmanuel Macron, President-in-office of the Council of the European Union António Costa, President of the European Parliament David Sassoli and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

Have you ever thought an EU law could be improved? Well, you can help make EU rules fit for the future by making [suggestions](#) on how to simplify and modernise existing laws. You can also share your views on new policies. Make sure you [have your say](#) on the issues that matter to you. You can contribute in any of the 24 official EU languages.

If you enjoy public debates, why not take part in one of the many [citizens' dialogues](#) that take place across the EU every year. This is your chance to ask EU politicians questions and tell them how EU policies affect you. You can also share your ideas on the future of Europe there. [Check out the dates](#) and cities for upcoming dialogues.

Under the [European citizens' initiative](#) you can ask the Commission to propose a new law. First you'll need to gather support for your cause. Once an initiative has gathered 1 million signatures, the Commission will decide on what action to take. So far, six citizens' initiatives have reached the required number of signatures.

The first-ever successful European citizens' initiative, Right2Water, led to [new rules](#) to ensure the safety and quality of drinking water, and easier access to it for vulnerable groups.

An audience member joins the debate at a citizens' dialogue, Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg, 20 January 2020.



Where can I get more information?

There are hundreds of **Europe Direct information centres** all over the European Union. You can find the address of the one nearest you at:

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

You can contact Europe Direct:

- by freephone: 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (certain operators may charge for these calls),
- at the following standard number: +32 22999696, or
- by email via: https://europa.eu/european-union/contact_en

Information about the European Union in all the official languages of the EU is available on the **Europa website** at: <https://europa.eu>. Check out also the [General Report](#) on all of the EU's activities in 2020.

You can download or order free and priced **EU publications** from: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publications>

For help and advice for EU citizens and businesses, visit

Your Europe: <https://europa.eu/youreurope/index.htm>

For educational material, games and quizzes, visit **Learning**

Corner: https://europa.eu/learning-corner/home_en

Discover the **Youth Portal** at: https://europa.eu/youth/EU_en

The **European Commission** in your country:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/contact/representations-member-states_en

The **European Parliament** in your country:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/at-your-service/en/stay-informed/liaison-offices-in-your-country>

The **European Consumer Centres Network:**

https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/consumer-rights-and-complaints/resolve-your-consumer-complaint/european-consumer-centres-network-ecc-net_en



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Publications Office
of the European Union

Print ISBN 978-92-76-24433-2 doi:10.2775/354386
PDF ISBN 978-92-76-24412-7 doi:10.2775/5724
HTML ISBN 978-92-76-24384-7 doi:10.2775/89160

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NA-04-20-623-EN-N
NA-04-20-623-EN-Q

Belgian Waffle Cookies Recipe

July 29, 2023 7:30 pm EST

Belgian Waffle Cookies Recipe

You might think the only use for your waffle iron is to make waffles, but there's other recipes to try with this appliance like these Belgian waffle cookies!

Prep Time

10

minutes

Cook Time

15

minutes

Servings

18

Cookies

Ingredients

- 1½ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt

- ½ cup butter, softened
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon maple extract

Directions

1. Preheat your waffle iron while you make the cookie batter.
2. In a medium bowl whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt until combined. Set aside.
3. In a large bowl add the butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar. Cream them together until the mixture is light and fluffy.
4. Add the eggs, vanilla extract, and maple extract to the butter and sugar mixture bowl and mix until well combined.
5. Add the flour mixture to the bowl and mix until the batter is just combined.
6. Use a small cookie scoop to scoop batter into the hot waffle iron. Close the waffle iron and cook the cookies until they are golden brown, about 3–4 minutes.
7. Use tongs to carefully remove the cookies from the waffle iron. They will be soft when you remove them from the iron, but will become crispy as they cool. Repeat with the remaining cookie dough until all the batter is baked.
8. Let cookies cool, then serve.

Nutrition

Calories per Serving	128
Total Fat	5.7 g

Saturated Fat	3.4 g
Trans Fat	0.0 g
Cholesterol	31.3 mg
Total Carbohydrates	17.6 g
Dietary Fiber	0.3 g
Total Sugars	9.5 g
Sodium	61.4 mg
Protein	1.7 g

The information shown is Edamam's estimate based on available ingredients and preparation. It should not be considered a substitute for a professional nutritionist's advice.



Rate this recipe



Pick three activities to extend your learning about the EU.

Pick a European country that has yet to join the EU. What hurdles would that country have to overcome before they could join? How would they overcome them?

Make a brochure persuading a country to join the EU.
[Canva templates](#)
(link)

Discuss the Economic similarities of the EU and the US using a graphic organizer.

Write a Poem reflecting the values of the EU.

Create (or share an existing)- theme song for the EU.
(Explain why you created or chose this song.)

Make a One Pager on your learning about the EU.

Real Talk Discussion

rubric

Note: Fill out this rubric using your observations from students' Note-Taking Organizers, Real Talk Reflections, and your observations as groups discussed.

How would you describe the quality of the student's talking points?	Excellent – the student showed an expert understanding of the text and created unique, provocative talking points	Average – the student showed a good understanding of the text and created thoughtful talking points that were generally interesting	Weak – the student showed a basic understanding of the text and created talking points that were generally obvious and expected	Very Weak – the student did not create most of their talking points, or they demonstrated poor understanding of the text
How would you describe the student's analysis of the text?	Excellent - the student made thoughtful connections and inferences	Average - the student made general connections or comments that were sometimes disconnected	Weak - the student did not analyze the text, but simply summarized; or the student's comments were completely disconnected	It's hard to know because the student seldom participated
How would you describe the student's understanding of the text?	Excellent - the student clearly grasped the important plot points and characters in the text	Average - the student vaguely referred to events/characters in the text but could not cite specifics	Weak - the student mixed up characters or important events in the text	It's hard to know because the student seldom participated
How did the student exhibit active listening? (Circle all that apply.)	Eye contact with the speaker was apparent	Nodded in agreement with the speaker	Commented on a classmate's analysis and moved the discussion along	Asked questions relevant to the discussion
Did the student use evidence from the text to support their analysis?	Always	Often	Seldom (said their opinion more than evidence)	Never (only said their opinion)

BUILDING AN ARGUMENT

MAIN IDEA

Here's what I think...

COUNTER ARGUMENTS

Evidence to back up my reasons

Here are my **REASONS!**

You **COULD** argue that...

○

1. _____

○

2. _____

○

3. _____

...but here's the **WEAKNESS...**

PRO

CON

When you weigh all the evidence, you conclude that...

Strong Finish!

How many member countries are in the EU?
List these countries:

How many EU candidate countries are there?
List these countries:

On the map, label EU member countries and EU candidate countries.

Then, color the current EU member countries using one color and color the EU candidate countries using another color.



TITLE

AUTHOR

PUBLICATION



AUTHOR'S PURPOSE

Persuade Inform Entertain

WORD GAPS

WORDS I DONT KNOW:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

MEANING IN TEXT:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

QUOTED WORDS

1. What/who did the author quote or cite?
2. Why was this person quoted?
3. What insight does the quote give?

CONTRASTS & CONTRADICTIONS

1. What information goes against something you thought you knew? What surprises you?
2. What does this make you wonder about?

NUMBERS & STATS

1. What numbers/stats did the author use?
2. Why are these numbers/amounts significant?

ABSOLUTE & EXTREME LANGUAGE

1. What is the word/phrase that's extreme?
2. Why do you think the author said it like this?

NOTICE & NOTE

SIGNPOSTS

TALKING POINTS

Student Directions: Below you will find 6 types of talking points to choose from. A "talking point" is basically something that a group can discuss after reading the same text. Review these types before writing the talking points for your own discussion. Remember: Your discussion is in your hands, so make it interesting with great talking points!

QUESTIONS

Remember to make them open-ended and interesting!

Some stems: How... What if... Why...

QUOTES

These can be dialogue, but they don't have to be. If it is dialogue, make sure to write down who says the quote.

OBSERVATIONS

These are general events or details you noticed as you read, and you would like to talk about.

Some stems: "Did you notice..." "It was interesting that..." "This stuck out to me because..." "I wonder if..."



VOCABULARY

These could be words/phrases you did not know and would like to figure out with your group. They may also be words you thought were an interesting author choice and would like to discuss.

Some stems: "Why do you think the author chose the word . . ." "Why do you think [Character Name] uses the word X when describing . . ."

STYLE

These are an author's choices that you can talk about, such as imagery, figurative language, sentence structure, symbolism, etc.

CONNECTIONS

Here you can make connections between the story and your own observations/experiences, current events, history, other texts, etc.

Common stem: "X reminds me of..."

Name: _____

Class: _____

A Holocaust Survivor, Spared from Gas Chamber by Twist of Fate

By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
2015

During World War II, Germany's Nazi Party forced hundreds of thousands of political opponents, Jews, and other so-called "racially undesirable elements" of German society into concentration camps. Throughout the war, it's estimated that more than 10 million people died in these camps. This article reports on the experiences of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp. As you read, take notes on how Mandelbaum's experiences have shaped his outlook on life and what can be learned from him.

[1] Seventy years ago, Soviet¹ soldiers liberated Auschwitz, the most notorious of Nazi concentration camps.

Some 300 Holocaust survivors were at Auschwitz on Tuesday,² along with several European presidents and other government officials, to honor at least 1.1 million people who were murdered, 1 million of whom were Jewish.

Among those killed there were Jack Mandelbaum's mother and brother. The Polish-born Mandelbaum survived, spared at the last minute by an officer of the dreaded SS³ who yanked the teen away from his family and sent him instead to a forced labor camp.

Last week, Mandelbaum flew from his Naples, Florida, home to Berlin,⁴ to help open an exhibit on the children of Auschwitz, and to tell his story.



["Auswichtz"](#) by Abel Francés Quesada is licensed under CC BY-NC 2.0.

-
1. The Soviet Union was a Marxist–Leninist state on the Eurasian continent that existed between 1922 and 1991, at which point it dissolved into 12 separate republics.
 2. Tuesday, July 21, 2015
 3. The SS was a major paramilitary organization under Adolf Hitler and the Nazis.
 4. The capital of Germany

[5] "I'm a person of action," he says. "Anger doesn't get you anyplace. Hate doesn't get you anyplace."

In August 1939, as the Nazis were about to invade Poland, Mandelbaum was 13 and living in the Polish port city of Gdynia. Mandelbaum says his father worried that the port would be attacked, so he sent his wife and three children to stay with relatives in the countryside.

He promised to join them six weeks later, but he never arrived. About a year later, he sent them a postcard from the Stutthof concentration camp.

"I guess he didn't want us to worry about him, so he said he was OK," Mandelbaum says.

He never saw his father again. His sister later died on a forced march to another concentration camp.

Prisoner 16013

[10] Then, before dawn on June 14, 1942, the SS came for what was left of the family.

"They banged on the door and everyone had to come out in five minutes, and there was a lot of shooting and crying, and people didn't know what was happening because they had to rush out," Mandelbaum recalls. "Many people were even in their bed clothes. And we were lined up in the market square, and then we were marched to a local brewery."

An SS officer there began separating people to the left and to the right. Mandelbaum says he clung to his mother and brother, who were sent to the left. But the SS officer saw in his documents that Mandelbaum had worked as an electrician's helper.

"He grabbed me and pushed me to the other side," Mandelbaum says. As for his family, he says, "The people who were to the left were sent to Auschwitz to be gassed.⁵ I never saw them again."

To the Nazis, he became prisoner 16013 and spent the next three years at seven concentration camps. The first was Gross-Rosen, where prisoners worked in a granite quarry.

[15] "There were so many prisoners," he says. "We were in a big barrack, it had a concrete floor, it

5. Gas chambers were used in the 1930s and 1940s by the Nazi Party initially as part of the "public euthanasia program" aimed at eliminating physically and intellectually disabled people and political undesirables, but by the early 1940s gas chambers were largely used at extermination camps to quickly and cheaply kill large numbers of Jews at a time. Several million people were gassed to death during the Holocaust.

had no beds. And we were lined up like herring⁶ on the floor, so when one person turned, everybody else had to turn, it was so tight.”

Food was scarce, and the daily meal amounted to a single piece of bread and what Mandelbaum describes as soup made out of grass.

He recalls emaciated prisoners stuffing paper into their mouths to fatten their cheeks so they'd look healthier to the guards assigned to remove the weak for extermination. His own weight eventually dropped to 80 pounds.

But Mandelbaum says he refused to give up hope. He poured what little energy he had into work, hoping it would eventually lead to his release.

Suddenly, Freedom

“We had a good life before the war. I went to a public school, I had good clothes and good food and a nice apartment,” he says. “My dream was to go back to this life and be reunited with my family and my sister and my brother, and that sustained me.”

[20] It also helped that he didn't know the Nazis were trying to slaughter all Jews, something he says he and other prisoners learned only after liberation.

Their sudden freedom, too, was a complete shock, Mandelbaum says. “We didn't know anything, only on the morning when we woke up and the Nazi flag wasn't flying and the guards weren't there.”

Unlike at Auschwitz, Allied soldiers⁷ did not free them, as his camp was in a no man's land between the fleeing Nazis and advancing Russians. He and a friend from the camp grabbed an abandoned horse-drawn wagon and left as quickly as they could.

“We came across a women's concentration camp and they were still locked up, so we actually became the 'liberators' of the camp,” he says, with a laugh.

Mandelbaum was 17 when the Holocaust ended. He says he returned to Poland several times to see if he could find his family but failed. He did find an uncle living in a hamlet near Munich.

[25] The following year, he immigrated to the United States and settled in Kansas City, Missouri, where he married, had four children and became a successful importer of ladies' handbags. It

6. A type of fish, often served tightly packed in a can

7. The Allies of World War II were the countries that opposed the Axis powers (primarily Germany, Japan, and Italy).

would be 16 years before he began speaking publicly about the Holocaust, something he says he decided to do after talking to one of his neighbors.

“He asked me what kind of sports did I play in the concentration camp, so all of the sudden it just opened everything up, how little people knew what was going on, and this was when I started to speak in different venues about my experiences,” he says.

That desire to educate people brought Mandelbaum, 87, to Berlin last week. He says it’s sad to see anti-Semitism⁸ on the rise in Germany and elsewhere in Europe, but he hopes he and other Holocaust survivors can make a difference.

“You know, when we were in the camps, we would always ask, ‘How can the world stand by and let this happen?’” he says. “So it’s a matter of being vigilant, a matter of trying to do as much as you can in order to enlighten people [about] how dangerous it is when you become a bystander.”

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8. Anti-Semitism refers to hostility toward or prejudice against Jewish people

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. What can be learned from conflict?
2. How does a person overcome adversity? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
3. What is the goal of education—especially when it comes to history and human rights? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
4. Do you believe Mandelbaum truly survived by a "twist of fate"? In the context of this article, is there such thing as fate? Or can people control their own destinies? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature or art in your answer.

Vote that reverberates around world: Britain wants to leave European Union

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 06.27.16

Word Count **960**

Level **1190L**



Demonstrators opposing Britain's exit from the European Union hold a protest in Parliament Square in London, England, on Saturday, June 25, 2016, following Friday's EU referendum result. AP Photo/Tim Ireland

LONDON, England — Britain voted to leave the European Union (EU) after a bitterly divisive referendum campaign Friday. The outcome toppled the prime minister and sent stock markets around the world plunging. The vote also shattered the stability of the EU, which was designed half a century ago to prevent World War III.

The decision launches a years-long process to renegotiate trade, business and political links between the United Kingdom and what would become a 27-nation bloc of countries. No major country has ever left the EU before, and the divorce could take decades to complete.

"The dawn is breaking on an independent United Kingdom," said Nigel Farage, leader of the UK Independence Party, which wanted to break away from the EU. "Let June 23 go down in our

history as our independence day!"

Prime Minister Plans To Resign

Prime Minister David Cameron, who had led the campaign to keep Britain in the EU, said he would resign by October. He left it to his successor to decide when to leave the European Union.

Polls ahead of the vote had shown a close race, and the momentum had increasingly appeared to be on the "remain" side over the last week. But in an election Thursday marked by notably high turnout, "leave" won with 52 percent of the votes. Of the 46 million registered voters, 72 percent cast ballots.

The result shocked investors, and stock markets fell around the world. Key stock markets dropped 10 percent in Germany and about 8 percent in Japan and Britain, and the euro and British pound also lost value.

"Leave" Leader Tones It Down

Seeking to calm frayed nerves was the most prominent "leave" campaigner, Boris Johnson. Taking a somber tone unusual for the flamboyant former London mayor, he described the EU as a noble idea that was no longer right for Britain. He said the result in no way means the United Kingdom will be "less united" or "less European."

Even as he spoke, however, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said a second Scottish vote on independence from the United Kingdom is now "highly likely." Scotland voted in 2014 to remain a part of the UK, but that decision was seen by many as depending on the UK remaining in the EU.

Britain would be the first major country to leave the EU, which was born from the ashes of World War II. By creating the bloc of nations, European leaders sought to build links and avert future hostility.

Leaders from across the EU voiced regret at the British decision.

"What doesn't kill you makes you stronger," said Donald Tusk, the president of the European Council, who vowed not to let the vote derail the EU.

Could France And Netherlands Be Next?

But already, far-right leaders in France and the Netherlands were calling for a similar anti-EU vote in their countries.

The referendum showed Britain to be a sharply divided nation: Strong pro-EU votes in the economic and cultural powerhouse of London and Scotland were countered by strong feelings for an exit across the rest of England.

"It's a vindication of 1,000 years of British democracy," Jonathan Campbell James declared at the train station in Richmond, southwest London. "From Magna Carta all the way through to now, we've had a slow evolution of democracy, and this vote has vindicated the maturity and depth of the democracy in our country."

Others expressed anger and frustration. Olivia Sangster-Bullers, 24, called the result "absolutely disgusting."

"Good luck to all of us, I say, especially those trying to build a future with our children," she said.

Labour Party Had Opposed The Referendum

Cameron called the referendum largely to silence voices to his right. Johnson, who like Cameron is from the Conservative Party, now becomes a leading contender to replace Cameron as prime minister. The vote also dealt a blow to the main opposition Labour Party, which threw its weight behind the "remain" campaign.

The vote became a rebellion against political, economic and social leaders, while many groups — company presidents, scientists, soldiers — had written open letters warning of the consequences of an exit. Farage called the result "a victory for ordinary people against the big banks, big business and big politics."

American presidential candidate Donald Trump praised the decision, saying Britons "took back their country. It's a great thing." He said people in the United States and the United Kingdom are angry about similar things.

The "leave" campaign accused the immigrants of putting stress on Britain's housing market, public services and jobs.

Those concerns were magnified by the refugee crisis of the past year that saw more than 1 million people from the Middle East and Africa flood into the EU.

The slaying of pro-Europe lawmaker Jo Cox a week before the vote brought a shocked pause to both campaigns. While it isn't clear whether her killer was influenced by the EU debate, her death aroused fears that the referendum had stirred demons it would be difficult to subdue.

Long Divorce Proceedings

The result triggers a new series of negotiations that is expected to last two years or more as Britain and the EU search for a way to separate economies that have become intertwined since the UK joined on January 1, 1973. Until those talks are completed, Britain will remain a member of the EU.

In addition, the complex nature of Britain's integration with the EU means that breaking up will be hard to do. The negotiations will include cross-border security, foreign policy cooperation and a common fishing policy.

It will also threaten London's position as one of the world's most important financial centers. The UK hosts more headquarters of non-EU companies than Germany, France, Switzerland and the Netherlands put together.

Is free trade always the answer?

By The Guardian, adapted by Newsela staff on 08.16.19

Word Count 1,739

Level 1250L



Crew members operate on the bridge of CMA CGM SA's Benjamin Franklin container ship as it enters Hong Kong Harbour in Hong Kong, China, on February 2, 2016. The Benjamin Franklin is the largest container ship ever to have docked at a U.S. port. Photo by Qilai Shen/In Pictures via Getty Images

The world is concerned about the effects of the tariffs created by President Donald Trump on goods imported to the United States. Meanwhile, government ministers are renegotiating Britain's trading relationship with Europe.

Why are these wealthy nations that were once cooperative in trade now pulling back? More and more, the concept of free trade is being picked apart.

Why Is Trade Good?

Economists argue about a lot of things, yet many would probably agree on the benefits of free trade. It generates wealth by allowing the free flow of goods across international borders, without taxes and other such barriers.

The argument goes that billions of people around the world have been lifted out of poverty by the combined power of capitalism and free trade. We are taught that the world's most powerful nations sparked their advance by tearing down the castle walls of protectionism during the latter half of the 19th century. Protectionism is when a country is only looking out for deals that help itself first, rather than being open to free trade. The new open capitalism opened up new markets to boost the Industrial Revolution and drive forward the development of the middle class, some say.

John Stuart Mill wrote that, once upon a time, the average patriot "wished all countries weak, poor and ill-governed, but his own: he now sees in their wealth and progress a direct source of wealth and progress to his own country."

Two ideas remain central to the theory of international trade more than 200 years later.

In his influential work "The Wealth of Nations," Adam Smith taught countries to concentrate their efforts on producing and selling goods in which they have an "absolute advantage" over their trading partners. Cheaper labor costs give modern-day China an absolute advantage over most Western nations for manufacturing. But what happens when a country has an absolute advantage in multiple industries?

In the 19th century, David Ricardo took the idea further by arguing that one country might have a comparative advantage over the other. He said it was possible for England to produce more wine and cloth than Portugal. However, it would require greater effort in England, handing Portugal a comparative advantage.

Both theories teach nations to focus their time on making and selling goods in which they have an advantage over their rivals, for mutual benefit through free trade. Consumers will benefit from lower prices in both nations.

Classical economic theory does not, however, always work in practice, and the rules require all nations to play the same game. Unchecked capitalism across borders still creates winners and losers. It poses thorny social and political questions for policymakers where dry, imaginary economic models cannot help.

There are thousands of ways nations can distort the playing field. The most extreme might be the use of military intervention. Far more common, though, are taxes, spending, the use of the legal system and subsidies — that is, government aid — for particular industries. Trump's import tariffs are the most well-known example at the moment, though.

How Do Import Tariffs Work?

Tariffs are border taxes charged on foreign imports. Importers pay the charges at the point of entry to the customs agency of the country or region imposing them.



Image 1. Portrait of Adam Smith by John Kay, 1790. Image: Wikimedia

Image 1. Portrait of Adam Smith by John Kay, 1790. Image: Wikimedia

Rather than being used to raise revenue, tariffs are imposed to increase the price of foreign goods in order to make domestic produce comparatively cheaper. The aim is toward encouraging domestic production and protecting firms from global competition.

Economists mostly agree that higher tariffs are counterproductive. While they can protect jobs, they also tend to raise the price of goods for consumers and stifle innovation that could benefit the economy.

Countries that belong to the World Trade Organization (WTO) agree to keep their tariffs within certain limits. Acting as the ultimate rule-maker in international tariff disputes, the club numbers about 160 nations, including the United Kingdom, the United States, Japan, Russia, China and Germany.

With the U.S. the most powerful nation in the WTO and the driving force behind its creation in 1995, much of the organization is tilted to the image of America. Trump, however, views membership as a "disaster."

Besides using tariffs to protect domestic industries, countries often provide support to certain industries through state subsidies, or impose quotas that restrict the volume of goods imported from overseas. There are also non-tariff barriers, such as patent rules, health and safety regulations, labor and environmental standards, and rules of origin. For example, one rule of origin is that parmesan cheese can only come from northern Italy.

Non-tariff rules have forged countries' domestic policies closer together in recent decades to enable greater levels of international trade. After all, we wouldn't want to have higher car safety standards for foreign goods than our own. Herein are many of the arguments about how Britain will arrange its trade with the European Union (EU) or the U.S. after Brexit.

There are fears the U.S. would push Britain to lower its food safety standards. That could allow the sale of chlorinated chicken, a chemically treated kind that is allowed in the U.S. but has been banned in Britain since 1997. Meanwhile, Brexit supporters are concerned the U.K. sticking to EU rules could hinder trade deals with the rest of the world.

Do Trade Deficits Matter?

Many economists would argue trade deficits are irrelevant, while surpluses are often seen as symbols of economic strength. Deficits happen when expenses exceed revenues, imports are greater than exports or liabilities exceed assets.

Persistent deficits require funding via international borrowing. This becomes harder if confidence in a country falls.

There are other risks from reliance on imports over domestic production. National security is one: for example, should a country sacrifice the ability to produce steel required for making tanks? Trump is using national security legislation for much of his tariffs. However, some observers argue he has done so because the law is harder for the U.S. political system to block, delay or modify.

The other risk is that imports support jobs overseas, rather than at home. "Jobs! Jobs! Jobs!" was the president's rallying cry ahead of his election. Workers in industries competing most with imports — typically in manufacturing — do tend to lose out, economists have found. Meanwhile, employment shifts toward industries less affected by trade.

Without smooth transitions for struggling industries, or the safety net of the welfare state — through job-seeker benefits, education and training from the government — whole communities can be left out of work. Britain during the 1980s was a classic example: the government of Margaret Thatcher chose to shut U.K. mines and import coal from South Africa and Argentina.

Is Free Trade Always The Answer?

Trade deals always create winners and losers. While the choice is a matter for politics, these decisions often come amid great pressures from powerful officials, investors and companies who don't want to lose money or influence. Some observers argue that free trade deals are therefore often simply the result of people with strong political connections seeking to maintain their power and wealth.

The failed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership between the U.S. and the EU is one recent example. Corporate interests including the U.S. private health industry wanted to expand to new markets in Europe. The deal ultimately failed amid widespread public opposition.

There are fears trade deals benefit larger corporations already operating across international borders, rather than smaller businesses. Domestic producers can be squeezed out by global rivals with much greater resources and wealth.

The argument could be best put by the political theorist Isaiah Berlin who noted, "freedom for the pike is death for the minnows."

However, international firms often support networks of smaller companies in their supply chains. Greater trade barriers can make it more difficult for multinationals to operate across borders, meaning they could relocate elsewhere where it is easier for them to do so — directly and indirectly affecting jobs and economic growth. After the gradual advance of globalization in recent years, rapidly undoing the progress may cause severe short-term pain.

Economists argue that international competition sparks greater innovation and productivity, while warning protectionism can hinder progress. The low quantity and poor quality of Russian cars and other Eastern European goods serves as one example, while the poor reputation of cars made by the British motor industry during the 1970s might be another. Consumers have benefited as the quality of goods have improved and prices have fallen.

What Next?

There are already signs Trump's import tariffs and retaliation measures are having an effect. Industrial surveys show manufacturers are suffering from higher costs of materials and longer delivery times in the U.S. and Europe, while production is also slowing.

The company Harley-Davidson has said it will need to move production of motorcycles for European consumers outside the U.S. after the EU carried through a threat to tax American motorcycles, following the introduction of steel tariffs by Washington. In the U.K., plane-maker



Image 2. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan in the White House, 1988. Photo: Wikimedia

Image 2. Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan in the White House, 1988. Photo: Wikimedia

Airbus and auto company BMW have warned of lost jobs and withheld investment triggered by uncertainty over the U.K.'s future trading relationship with the EU. Figures from the Office for National Statistics already report falling levels of business investment in the U.K. since it opted to leave the EU.

The existing U.S. tariffs are forecast by economists to trigger American job losses as well as weaker economic growth. This comes despite the pledge by Trump that the taxes should save U.S. jobs. The International Monetary Fund, an international organization, warned global growth could slow by as much as 0.5 percent by 2020. That could be worth as much as \$430 billion. There are fears the situation could spiral further, as countries fight back at one another by imposing ever-higher taxes on one another's goods.

For the U.K., the key test for leaving the EU will come in October 2019. The deadline for the U.K. to leave the EU has been delayed from March 2019 to October 31, 2019.

The disputes could rumble on for many years. The EU has hit back against US steel and aluminum tariffs with \$3.2 billion of levies on U.S. goods. However, it has held back a second round of duties on \$4.2 billion, with an implementation date of June 2021, to put pressure on the White House.

Britain leaves the European Union, leaps into the unknown

By Associated Press, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.04.20

Word Count **1,195**

Level **1260L**



The colors of the Union Jack, the national flag of the United Kingdom, light up the outside of 10 Downing Street, the residence of the British prime minister, in London, England, January 31, 2020. Britain officially left the European Union that day after a debilitating political fracas that bitterly divided the nation since the 2016 Brexit referendum. Photo: Kirsty Wigglesworth/AP Photos

With little fanfare, Britain left the European Union (EU) on January 31, after 47 years of membership.

The United Kingdom's departure became official at 11 p.m. Thousands of enthusiastic Brexit supporters gathered outside Britain's Parliament to welcome the moment they'd longed for since Britain's 52-48 percent vote in June 2016 to walk away from the Union, which it had joined in 1973.

In a message from nearby 10 Downing Street, where Prime Minister Boris Johnson lives, Johnson called Britain's departure "a moment of real national renewal and change."

From 28 Countries To 27, The EU Shrinks

Many Britons mourned the loss of their EU identity, and some marked the passing with tearful vigils.

It is uncertain whether Brexit, which is Britain's exit from the EU, will make Britain a proud nation that has reclaimed its sovereignty, or a diminished presence in Europe and the world.

While Britain's exit is a historic moment, it is only the first stage of the Brexit saga. When Britons woke up on February 1, they noticed very little change. The United Kingdom and the EU have given themselves an 11-month "transition period." During this time, the U.K. will continue to follow the bloc's rules, which is to strike new agreements on trade, security and a host of other areas. A bloc is a political coalition. The EU's bloc is the alliance of all the cooperating members, of which Britain is now no longer one of.

The now 27-member EU will have to bounce back from one of its biggest setbacks in its 62-year history to confront an ever-more complicated world. Now, a former member becomes a competitor, just across the English Channel.

World Leaders React

French President Emmanuel Macron called Brexit a "historic alarm signal" that should force the EU to improve itself.

This is the first time a country has left the EU, and many in the bloc regretted the day. EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen lamented that "as the sun rises tomorrow, a new chapter for our union of 27 will start."

She warned Brexit day would mark a major loss for the United Kingdom and said the island nation was heading for a lonelier existence.

"Strength does not lie in splendid isolation, but in our unique union," she said.

Johnson insisted post-Brexit Britain would be "simultaneously a great European power and truly global in our range and ambitions."

"We want this to be the beginning of a new era of friendly cooperation between the EU and an energetic Britain," Johnson said in an address to the country an hour before Britain's exit.

Conservative Leaders Celebrate

Johnson won an election victory in December with a dual promise to "get Brexit done" and deliver improved jobs, infrastructure and services for Britain's most deprived areas, where support for leaving the EU is strongest.

Johnson is a Brexit enthusiast, but he knows many Britons aren't, and his Conservative government sought to mark the moment with quiet dignity. Red, white and blue lights illuminated government buildings and a countdown clock projected onto the prime minister's Downing Street residence.

Meanwhile, in Parliament Square, British politician and Brexiter supporter Nigel Farage gathered a crowd of several thousand, who belted out the patriotic song "Land of Hope and Glory" as they

waited for the moment that many doubted would ever come.

"This is the single most important moment in the modern history of our great nation," Farage told the crowd. "The war is over," said Farage, who often describes Britain's relationship with Europe in martial terms. "We have won."

Londoner Donna Jones said she had come to the gathering to "be part of history."

"It doesn't mean we're anti-Europe, it just means we want to be self-sufficient in a certain way," she said.

Some Celebrate, Others Protest

Yet Britons who cherished their membership in the bloc — and the freedom it bought to live anywhere across 28 countries — were mourning.

"Many of us want to just mark our sadness in public," said Ann Jones, who joined dozens of other anti-Brexiteers on a march to the EU's mission in London.

"And we don't want trouble, we just want to say ... we didn't want this."

Britain's journey to Brexit has been long, rocky — and is far from over.

Why Britain Left

Leaving the bloc was long considered an extreme idea. It gradually gained strength within the Conservative Party, which has a wing of fierce opponents of EU membership. The United Kingdom's Conservative Party is a right-wing political group that holds more seats and thus, more power, in the Parliament, the country's governing body. Former Prime Minister David Cameron eventually agreed to hold a vote on Brexit in 2016, saying he wanted to settle the issue once and for all.

It has not been so smooth. Since the 2016 vote, the United Kingdom has held fractious negotiations with the EU that finally, late last year, secured a deal on divorce terms. Britain is leaving the bloc almost as divided as it was on the day of the vote.

By and large, Britain's big cities voted to stay in the EU, while small towns voted to leave. England and Wales supported Brexit, while Northern Ireland and Scotland voted to remain.

Candlelit vigils were held in several Scottish cities, government buildings in Edinburgh were lit up in the EU's blue and yellow colors, and the bloc's flag continued to fly outside the Scottish Parliament.

Leaders In Scotland, London Saddened by Brexit

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said Brexit was "a moment of profound sadness."

"And here in Scotland, given that it is happening against the will of the vast majority of us, that sadness will be tinged with anger," she said in a speech in Edinburgh.

Sturgeon's Scottish National Party government is demanding the right to hold a vote seeking independence from the United Kingdom, something Johnson refuses to grant. Scotland is a country within the U.K. Brexit forces Scotland to also leave the EU.

London, which is home to more than 1 million EU citizens, also voted by a wide margin to stay in the bloc.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said he was "heartbroken" about Brexit. He insisted London would continue to welcome all, regardless of "the color of your skin, the color of your flag, the color of your passport."

Negotiations between Britain and the EU on their new relationship are due to start in March. The EU says Britain can't have full access to the EU's single market unless it follows the bloc's rules, but Britain insists it will not agree to follow an EU rule book in return for unrestrained trade.

Hope For An Independent Britain

Johnson is adamant that he will not extend the transition period beyond December 31, 2020.

In the English port of Dover, just 20 miles (32 kilometers) across the Channel from France, U.K. resident Philip Barry said he was confident it would all be worth it.

"My expectation is that there may be a little bump or two in the road but in the end, it will even out," he said. "Somebody once said: short-term pain but long-term gain."

Name: _____

Class: _____

Elie Wiesel's Remarks at the Dedication of Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum

By Elie Wiesel
2005

Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel (1928-2016) was a Romanian-born American Jewish writer, a Nobel Laureate, political activist, and Holocaust survivor. In this speech, Wiesel speaks at the opening of Yad Vashem's new Holocaust History Museum. The Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum is Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Holocaust. Wiesel discusses the horrors of the Holocaust, as well as his hopes for the museum's impact on others. As you read, take notes on how Elie Wiesel believes the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum can impact the future.

[1] Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Mes Amis de France, Nitsolei Shoa Yekarim:

As you walk through the museum, so magnificently conceived by Moshe Safdie, you wonder: Where is the place of rage in all that? How come that the Jewish people, when we discovered the magnitude¹ of cruelty and the consequences of hatred, how come that we were not possessed by a[n] extraordinary, implacable² rage — rage of the killers; rage toward those who inspired the killers; rage towards the indifferent — those who knew and were silent? Where is rage?



["Yad Vashem Hall of Names"](#) by David Shankbone is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0.

So you look and you look, and you are afraid to look. I am. I look at some pictures of Jews from Hungary and I am afraid to discover some that I have known. You read and you read, and you say to yourself: Where did they have the strength to write, to use words, destined to whom?

My good friends, all of us know more or less that there was a tragedy; and we also know we must be honest about it: There are no words.

[5] Only those who were there know what it meant being there. And yet, we are duty-bound to try

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1. **Magnitude** (*noun*) the great size or extent of something
 2. **Implacable** (*adjective*) relentless; unstoppable

and not to bury our memories into silence. We try. I know what people say: “It’s so easy.” Those that were there won’t agree with that statement. The statement is: “It was man’s inhumanity³ to man.” No! It was man’s inhumanity to Jews. Jews were not killed because they were human beings. In the eyes of the killers, they were not human beings! They were Jews! It is because they were Jews that it was so easy for the killers to kill!

And you see the pictures. My god, you see the pictures. Jews were ordered to dig their own graves. Have we ever had that in history, which always is filled with cruelty — but not such cruelty? Have mothers ever been forced to give up their children in order to live? And few mothers chose that, no? Mothers went with their children, with their babies — there are no words.

At that time we had a feeling that history had entered into madness, and madness had its own logic, its own destiny, almost its own archeology.⁴ And within that madness it was perfectly plausible to kill children.

And so, we go through the museum and we don’t understand. All we know is that it happened. And now the question is: What does one do with memories?

Any psychiatrist⁵ will tell you, if you suppress memories they come back with fury. You must face them. Even if you cannot articulate⁶ them, we must face them. And memories are many and varied: memories of those who died with weapons in their hands; and those who died with prayers on their lips. And let no one say that some were heroes and others martyrs.⁷ In those times the heroes were martyrs and the martyrs were heroes. It was heroic for a friend to give his piece of bread to his friend. It was heroic to go around on Shabbat⁸ and simply say to his or her friends: “It’s Shabbat, today.” It was heroic to have faith; it was heroic to be human.

[10] And so we go through the museum and what should we do? Weep? No. My good friends, we never try to tell the tale to make people weep. It’s too easy. We didn’t want pity. If we decided to tell the tale, it is because we wanted the world to be a better world — just a better world, and learn, and remember.

There is a frightening character in all of Kafka’s⁹ stories. It’s always the messenger who tried to deliver the message, and is unable to do so. We feel sorry for a poor messenger. But there is something more tragic than that: when the messenger has delivered the message and nothing

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3. **Inhumanity** (*noun*) extremely cruel and brutal behavior
 4. the remains of a culture of a people
 5. a medical practitioner who specializes in diagnosing and treating mental illnesses
 6. **Articulate** (*verb*) to express an idea or feeling clearly or effectively
 7. A “martyr” is a person who is killed because of their religion or other beliefs.
 8. “Shabbat” is the Jewish Sabbath: a day of rest and spiritual enrichment.
 9. referring to Franz Kafka, a German-language writer of novels and short stories

has changed.

You heard tonight those who spoke here with elegance, with compassion, and they spoke already about anti-Semitism¹⁰ and intolerance. Now? 60 years later? When the messenger has tried to deliver the message? Why should there be anti-Semitism? But there is. Why should there be suicide killers? But there are. Why should there be hatred? But there is. Fanaticism?¹¹ Yes! It's calmed? No, it's here!

The messenger has delivered the message. What is our role?

We must become the messengers' messengers.

"Remarks at the Dedication of Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum" by Elie Wiesel. Copyright © 2005 by The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

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10. "Anti-Semitism" is hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.
 11. a belief or behavior involving an obsessive enthusiasm

Discussion Questions

Directions: Brainstorm your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Be prepared to share your original ideas in a class discussion.

1. In your opinion, what lessons has the world failed to learn from the Holocaust? Consider the treatment of specific racial, ethnic, and religious groups in recent history.
2. In the context of the text, what can we learn from tragedy? How did the Holocaust change the world? How can it encourage positive change and the avoidance of future violence? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
3. In the context of the text, what is the goal of education? How is the Yad Vashem Holocaust History Museum an educational tool? Do the goals of museum align with the goals of education? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.
4. In the context of the text, how do people create change? How did the Jews who recorded their experiences during the Holocaust contribute to future change? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

5. In the context of the text, how are people changed by war? How did war influence the Nazi Party's treatment of Jews? Cite evidence from this text, your own experience, and other literature, art, or history in your answer.

The European Union: A history and overview

By ThoughtCo., adapted by Newsela staff on 03.30.20

Word Count **908**

Level **1190L**



The European Parliament meeting in 2014 at Strasbourg, France. The European Parliament is one of the three legislative bodies of the European Union, alongside the European Commission and the Council representing national governments. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Diliff. CC BY-SA 3.0

The European Union (EU) is a group of 27 member states united as a political and economic community throughout Europe. The EU has a rich history and unique structure that have created a successful organization that continues to fulfill its mission.

History

In 1949, the Council of Europe was created to unite European countries after World War II. In 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community expanded cooperation among countries. The first countries in this initial treaty were Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These countries are known today as the "founding members."

Disruptions across Europe during the 1950s, including the Cold War, protests, and divisions between Eastern and Western Europe, showed there was the need for additional European unification. The Treaty of Rome, signed on March 25, 1957, created the European Economic Community. The new organization allowed people and products to move throughout Europe.

The Single European Act, signed in 1987, was developed to create a single market for trade. Europe was further unified in 1989 when the boundary between Eastern and Western Europe — the Berlin Wall — came down.

The Modern-Day EU

Throughout the 1990s, the "single market" idea allowed easier trade between countries and more citizen interaction on issues such as the environment and security. It also made it easier to travel through different countries.

Even though European countries had several treaties in place before the early 1990s, the modern-day EU arose in this period. The Treaty of Maastricht on European Union was signed on February 7, 1992, and put into action on November 1, 1993.

The Treaty of Maastricht identified five goals designed to unify Europe in more ways than just economically:

1. Strengthen the democratic governing of participating nations.
2. Improve efficiency of the nations.
3. Establish economic and financial unification.
 1. Develop the "community social dimension."
 2. Establish a security policy for involved nations.

The Treaty of Maastricht supports these goals with policies concerning issues such as industry, education and youth. In addition, the treaty established a single European currency, the euro, to create fiscal, or monetary, unification in 1999. The EU expanded in 2004 and 2007, bringing the total number of member states to 27. In 2019, there were 28 member countries. However, in early 2020, the United Kingdom officially left the EU, bringing the current number of member states to 27.

In December 2007, all the member nations signed the Treaty of Lisbon, hoping to make the EU more democratic and efficient. The organization's priorities included climate change, national security and sustainable, or environmentally friendly, development.

How A Country Joins The EU

Countries interested in joining the EU must meet several requirements. First, all countries in the EU are required to have a government that guarantees democracy, human rights and the rule of law and protects the rights of minorities. Each country also must have a market economy strong enough to stand on its own within the competitive EU marketplace. Finally, the



Image 1. The fall of the Berlin Wall physically and metaphorically brought Europe closer together. The wall had been constructed after World War II and divided East and West Germany. This photograph by an unknown photographer shows protestors gathering at the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin in 1989. Photo: Wikimedia Commons.



Image 2. The European Union created the Euro currency to unite their countries economically. Photo: Wikimedia Commons/Avij.

candidate country must be willing to follow the objectives of the EU on politics, the economy and monetary issues. Candidate countries also must be prepared to be a part of the EU's administrative and judicial structures.

After the candidate nation has met each of these requirements, the country is screened. If approved, the Council of the European Union and the country draft a Treaty of Accession, which requires ratification and approval by the European Commission and European Parliament. After a successful process, the nation can become a member state.

How The EU Works

With so many participating nations, governing the EU is challenging, but its structure continually changes to address current conditions. Today, treaties and laws are created by the "institutional triangle," which includes the Council of the European Union, representing national governments; the European Parliament, representing the people; and the European Commission, representing Europe's main interests.

The Council is the main decision-making body present. Also participating is a council president, and each member state serves a six-month term in the position. In addition, the council has the legislative power and decisions are made with a majority vote, a qualified majority or a unanimous vote from member state representatives.

The European Parliament, an elected body representing the citizens of the EU, participates in the legislative process as well. These representative members are directly elected every five years.

Finally, the European Commission manages the EU with members who are appointed by the council for five-year terms — usually one commissioner from each member state. The main job of the European Commission is to uphold the EU's common interests.

In addition to these three main divisions, the EU's courts, committees and banks participate in certain issues and support the organization.

The EU Mission

The EU's mission remains the same as when the Council of the European Union formed in 1949: to continue prosperity, freedom, communication and ease of travel and commerce for its citizens. The EU maintains this mission through the treaties that make it function, cooperation from member states and its unique governmental structure.

Write Prompt

Write a paragraph that explains the central idea of the text. Use at least two details from the article to support your response.

Quiz

- 1 How does the article develop the idea that the European Union's member states share political power?
- (A) by describing the legislative rules and structure established by the Treaty of Maastricht
 - (B) by explaining the process and requirements that a country must meet to be considered for membership in the EU
 - (C) by describing the ability of smaller countries to veto the actions of larger ones in the Council
 - (D) by explaining how three institutions within the EU share legislative power and represent the interests of either citizens, governments or the EU
- 2 How does the author connect the EU with the Council of Europe?
- (A) by explaining the similarities between each group's legislative body
 - (B) by describing the historical process of European integration that led from the Council of Europe to the EU
 - (C) by explaining that the same countries that founded the Council of Europe also established the EU
 - (D) by describing the requirements for membership in each organization
- 3 What is one relationship between the section "The Modern-Day EU" and the section "The EU Mission"?
- (A) Both sections outline the mission and values of the EU.
 - (B) The first section explains why the EU has a shared currency, and the second reiterates the EU's values.
 - (C) Both sections explain the importance of the "single market" to the EU.
 - (D) The first section illustrates the goals of the EU, and the second explains how ease of travel helps to achieve them.

- 4 Read the following sentences from the sections "History" and "The Modern-Day EU."

The Single European Act, signed in 1987, was developed to create a single market for trade. In addition, the treaty established a single European currency, the euro, to create fiscal, or monetary, unification in 1999.

Which answer choice BEST describes the relationship between the two sentences?

- (A) Together they illustrate Europe's increasing economic integration over the past few decades.
- (B) The first sentence states a cause and the second explains its effect.
- (C) Together they describe the evolving mission of the EU throughout the course of its development.
- (D) The first sentence states a problem and the second gives the solution.



European
Commission

EU'S NEXT LONG-TERM BUDGET & NextGenerationEU: KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

#EUBudget #EUSolidarity #StrongerTogether

11 November 2020



"I welcome today's agreement on our Recovery Plan and the next Multiannual Financial Framework. We now need to move forward with finalising the agreement on the next long-term budget and NextGenerationEU by the end of the year. Help is needed for citizens and business badly hit by the coronavirus crisis. Our recovery plan will help us turn the challenge of the pandemic into an opportunity for a recovery led by the green and digital transition".

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

On 10 November 2020, the European Parliament and EU Member States in the Council, with the support of the European Commission, reached an agreement on the largest package ever financed through the EU budget, of €1.8 trillion. Following the coronavirus crisis and its consequences, the package will help rebuild a greener, more digital and more resilient Europe, which is better fit for current and forthcoming challenges.

Key figures in the agreement:

- Long-term budget for 2021-2027 of **€1.074 trillion** combined with the temporary recovery instrument, NextGenerationEU, of **€750 billion**;
- More than **50%** of the amount will support **modernisation** through policies that include research and innovation, via **Horizon Europe**; fair climate and digital transitions, via the **Just Transition Fund** and the **Digital Europe programme**; preparedness, recovery and resilience, via the **Recovery and Resilience Facility**, **rescEU** and a new health programme, **EU4Health**;
- Traditional policies such as **cohesion and common agricultural policy** will be modernised and will continue to receive significant EU budget funds, with the objective to support the green and digital transitions;
- **30%** of the EU funds, under both NextGenerationEU and MFF, will be spent to fight climate change. The package also pays a specific attention to biodiversity protection and gender mainstreaming;
- Key programmes, including **Erasmus+**, **EU4Health** and **Horizon Europe**, will be reinforced compared to the agreement at the July 2020 special European Council, by a total of **€15 billion**.

New own resources

The agreement contains a clear roadmap towards new own resources, which would help repay the borrowing under NextGenerationEU:

- **Carbon border adjustment mechanism** and a **digital levy**: to be proposed by June 2021, with a view to their introduction at the latest by 1 January 2023.
- A new own resource based on the **Emissions Trading System**: to be proposed by June 2021.
- **Further new own resources, to be proposed by June 2024**: could include a Financial Transaction Tax, a financial contribution linked to the corporate sector or a new common corporate tax base.



Rule of law

For the first time, the EU will have a **specific mechanism** to protect its budget against breaches to the rule of law. Final beneficiaries of EU funding in the Member State concerned will not be negatively affected by this mechanism.

Flexibility

The budget will have **increased flexibility mechanisms** to make it fit not only for today's realities but also for tomorrow's uncertainties.







"Today's agreement will allow to reinforce specific programmes under the long-term budget for 2021-2027 (including Horizon Europe, Erasmus+, EU4Health). All in all, the EU long-term budget together with NextGenerationEU will amount to more than €1.8 trillion. It will play an essential role to support the recovery and make sure traditional beneficiaries of EU funds receive the sufficient means to continue their work during these very challenging times for all".

Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner for Budget and Administration

1 NextGenerationEU

To finance NextGenerationEU, the Commission will borrow on the markets. The funds raised will go to specific programmes and will be spent in a limited period of time in order to kick-start the recovery.

	NGEU	Total with MFF
Grants	390.0	
<i>of which provisioning for guarantees</i> 	5.6	
Loans 	360.0	
TOTAL	750.0	
Recovery and Resilience Facility	672.5	673.3
<i>Of which GRANTS</i>	312.5	313.3
<i>Of which LOANS</i> 	360.0	360.0
REACT-EU	47.5	47.5
Rural development	7.5	85.4
Just Transition Fund	10.0	17.5
InvestEU 	5.6	9.4
rescEU	1.9	3.0
Horizon Europe	5.0	84.9

All amounts in EUR billion

Source: European Commission.

2 Long-term budget 2021-2027

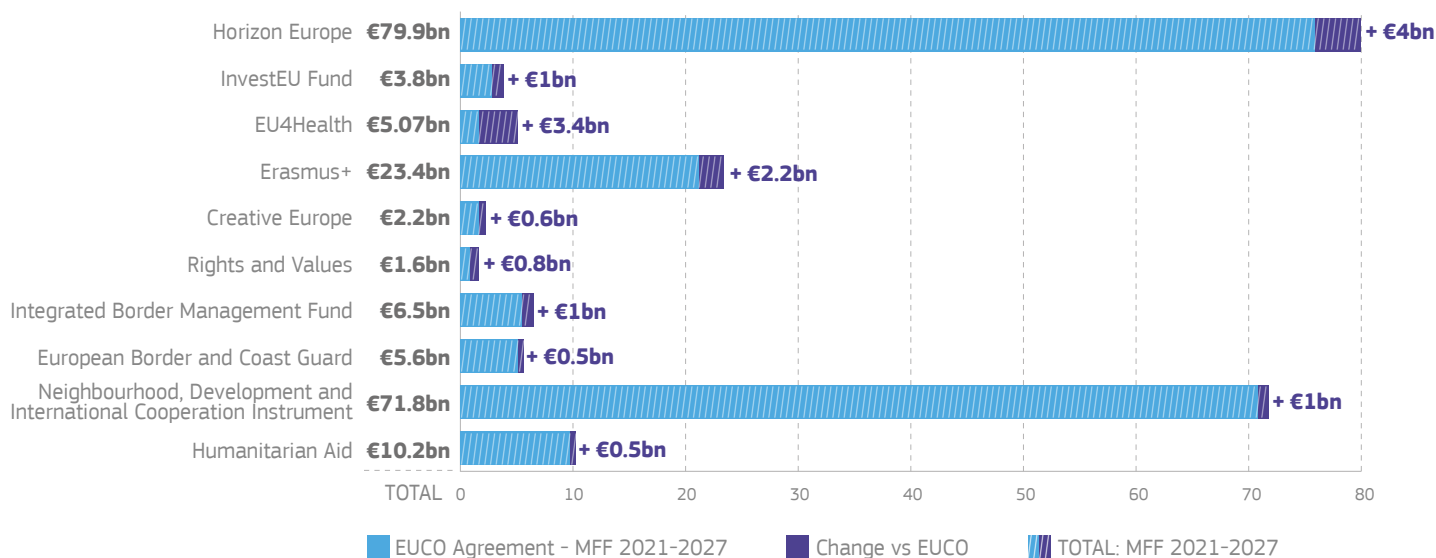
The long-term EU budget will continue to play a key role to support the recovery and make sure traditional beneficiaries of EU funds receive the sufficient means to continue their work during very challenging times for all.

MFF 2021-2027 total allocations per heading

	MFF	NEXT GENERATION EU	TOTAL
1. Single Market, Innovation and Digital	132.8	10.6	143.4
2. Cohesion, Resilience and Values	377.8	721.9	1 099.7
3. Natural Resources and Environment	356.4	17.5	373.9
4. Migration and Border Management	22.7	-	22.7
5. Security and Defence	13.2	-	13.2
6. Neighbourhood and the World	98.4	-	98.4
7. European Public Administration	73.1	-	73.1
TOTAL MFF	1 074.3	750.0	1 824.3

All amounts in EUR billion.
Source: European Commission.

Within the long-term budget 2021-2027, **ten programmes received top-ups** compared to the European Council agreement from 21 July 2020.



All amounts in EUR billion, 2018 prices.
Source: European Commission.

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Explainer: What is NATO, and what is its role in the Russia-Ukraine crisis?

By The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 02.14.22

Word Count **952**

Level **1240L**



A Danish Royal Air Force F-16 fighter jet at the Siauliai military air force base near Vilnius, Lithuania, on January 28, 2022. As tensions build with Russia, NATO is focused on defending its 30 member countries. Photo: Mindaugas Kulbis/AP Photo: Mindaugas Kulbis/AP

Members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have been sending troops and weapons to nations surrounding Ukraine. Russia is once again threatening to invade Ukraine. Diplomatic efforts are ongoing to stop that from happening.

Ukraine is not a member of NATO, which is a military alliance of mainly Western countries united by a mutual defense treaty. At the heart of the crisis is the tension between the West and Russia over NATO that has existed ever since the Cold War.

Soon after World War II, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), a group of countries led by Russia, became enemies. The conflict between the United States and the USSR was called the Cold War. The countries never fought each other. However, tensions rose because the Soviet Union wanted to control Eastern Europe and the US and Britain feared the expanding Soviet power and spread of communism in Western Europe.

The Ukrainian government would like to join other nations that were once part of or allied with the former Soviet Union in an expanded NATO. Russia has demanded that NATO stop expanding eastward and never admit Ukraine.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin spoke at a news conference on January 28. Austin repeatedly reminded Russia that Article 5 of the NATO treaty obligated the United States and allies to come to the aid of its Eastern European members in the event of Russia attacking any of them.

"Our focus is not on fighting in Ukraine," he said. "It's on reassuring our NATO partners and allies."

Here is some essential background about NATO and Article 5.

What Is NATO?

The United States was a driving force behind the formation of NATO in 1949. Initially, the military alliance was made up of just 12 countries, including Britain, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Canada and the United States, and was designed as a defensive force against the former Soviet Union.

NATO now has grown to 30 countries. Among them are Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which were part of the Soviet Union, and the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland, all former Soviet satellite nations. With the Soviet Union long gone, NATO has grown, evolving with the security concerns of its members and maintaining its status as the world's most powerful military alliance.

Russia sees NATO's growth across Europe and expansion eastward as a major threat, driving new tensions that echo the older fears NATO was first designed to confront. Moscow — Russia's capital and government headquarters — has accused NATO of trying to encircle it. Of the 14 countries bordering Russia, five are NATO members making up 6 percent of Russia's land borders, according to NATO.

In 2008, NATO announced that Ukraine and Georgia would become members, once they reached the alliance's standards for governance and transparency, among other measures. Ukraine enacted a law in 2017 making NATO membership a priority. However, the nation has not progressed in its bid for membership.

Some have cited Ukraine's problems with widespread corruption and shaky transition to democracy as reasons for the delay. However, NATO members have also been afraid of the Russian reaction.

Nonetheless, NATO sees helping to defend Ukraine against Russian aggression as part of its mission. Russia annexed Crimea, a part of Ukraine, thereby claiming it as Russian territory, and invaded eastern Ukraine in 2014. NATO responded by suspending cooperation with Russia and boosting Ukraine's defensive capabilities. NATO held military trainings and sent troops around Eastern Europe. It also funded cyber warfare preparedness and supported reforms of the Ukrainian armed forces.

What Is Article 5 Of NATO's Treaty?

One of NATO's founding principles — mutual defense of members — is confirmed in Article 5 of its treaty.

"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all," the article reads. It goes on to lay out how if one member of the alliance is attacked, NATO must take "action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

Article 5 authorizes an armed response. However, the wording is vague and broad so as to leave room for other kinds of action.

Ukraine, while not a NATO member, has effectively come under the alliance's protection and come to represent the Washington-Moscow clash. NATO has classified its support for Ukraine since 2014 as "enhanced collective defense measures" that fall under the umbrella of the article's principles. NATO has also continued to object to Russia's annexation of Crimea and invasion of the eastern Donbas area of Ukraine.

When Has NATO Invoked Article 5 Before?

NATO has only formally called upon Article 5 of the treaty once before: On September 12, 2001, after the September 11 attacks, in support of the United States. NATO forces were then sent to Afghanistan. This marked the first time the alliance militarily intervened outside of the Euro-Atlantic region.

In Afghanistan, NATO led a body called the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from 2003 to 2014. In that capacity, it was involved in efforts to train Afghan forces and authorities, as well as development projects.

Over the years, NATO has been involved in other military operations and missions that the alliance classifies as "crisis management," according to its website. Troops or assistance have been sent to countries including the Balkans, Libya, Somalia, Iraq and Pakistan. The United States also got NATO help following Hurricane Katrina.

NATO has active operations in Kosovo, Iraq and the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, it works with the African Union's peacekeeping forces and an air policing program, which it boosted after Russia's 2014 invasion of Ukraine.

Write Prompt

Make an objective claim about the topic of the text. Write a paragraph to support your claim. Include relevant observations, details, results, and arguments from the text.

Quiz

1 Read the statement.

Article 5 authorizes an armed response. However, the wording is vague and broad so as to leave room for other kinds of action.

Which sentence from the article BEST supports the statement?

- (A) Some have cited Ukraine's problems with widespread corruption and shaky transition to democracy as reasons for the delay.
- (B) One of NATO's founding principles — mutual defense of members — is confirmed in Article 5 of its treaty.
- (C) NATO has only formally called upon Article 5 of the treaty once before: On September 12, 2001, after the September 11 attacks, in support of the United States.
- (D) Over the years, NATO has been involved in other military operations and missions that the alliance classifies as "crisis management," according to its website.

2 Read the paragraph from the section "What Is Article 5 Of NATO's Treaty?"

Ukraine, while not a NATO member, has effectively come under the alliance's protection and come to represent the Washington-Moscow clash. NATO has classified its support for Ukraine since 2014 as "enhanced collective defense measures" that fall under the umbrella of the article's principles. NATO has also continued to object to Russia's annexation of Crimea and invasion of the eastern Donbas area of Ukraine.

Which idea is BEST supported by this paragraph?

- (A) NATO unofficially protects Ukraine.
- (B) NATO is actively recruiting Ukraine.
- (C) NATO has a treaty with Ukraine.
- (D) NATO is politically advising Ukraine.

3 Why did the author conclude the article by describing NATO's work with the African Union?

- (A) to give a historical example of NATO's use of Article 5
- (B) to show how NATO's growth has motivated Russia to fight back
- (C) to give an example of NATO's other "crisis management" operations
- (D) to show why sending military forces to Ukraine would be a risky move

4 Which statement BEST represents NATO's approach toward Russia in the article?

- (A) NATO is motivated to continue partnering with countries that have security concerns regarding Russia.
- (B) NATO has made direct threats against Russia if it does not immediately pull troops out of Ukraine.
- (C) NATO is adding new members on an annual basis with the hope of eventually taking over Russia.
- (D) NATO has not been concerned with Russia since the Cold War but continues to keep an eye on the country's political actions.



The European Parliament



- The European Parliament (EP) is the legislative branch of the European Union and one of its seven institutions. It is directly-elected and made up of 705 members (MEPs) representing all EU countries.
- The European Parliament decides upon EU legislation, including the multiannual budget, together with the Council of the European Union (EU Member State governments). The EP holds other EU institutions, like the European Commission, to account.
- It elects the President of the European Commission and plays a key role in vetting Commissioner-designates through individual hearings. The College of Commissioners - how the twenty-seven commissioners are referred to collectively - must then be approved through a consent vote by the EP.
- Members of the European Parliament are elected in EU member states every five years and represent around 446 million citizens. Over the years, and with subsequent changes to EU treaties, the Parliament has acquired substantial legislative and budgetary powers.



The European Parliament



Strasbourg/Brussels

- The official seat of the Parliament is in Strasbourg where MEPs have to meet in 12 plenary sessions per year.
- In Brussels, committee meetings, political group meetings and additional 2-day plenary sessions (4 – 6 times a year) are held.
- Strasbourg is historically symbolic city of reconciliation between France and Germany. Legal obligation since 1999, unanimous vote of the European Council for a treaty change.

Why was Strasbourg designated the official seat of the European Parliament

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/faq/20/why-was-strasbourg-designated-the-official-seat-of-the-european-parliament>

EU Values



Human Dignity

Freedom

Democracy

Equality

The Rule of Law

Respect for Human Rights
including the rights of minorities

Changing times, same values – values that need to be defended but within and beyond EU borders

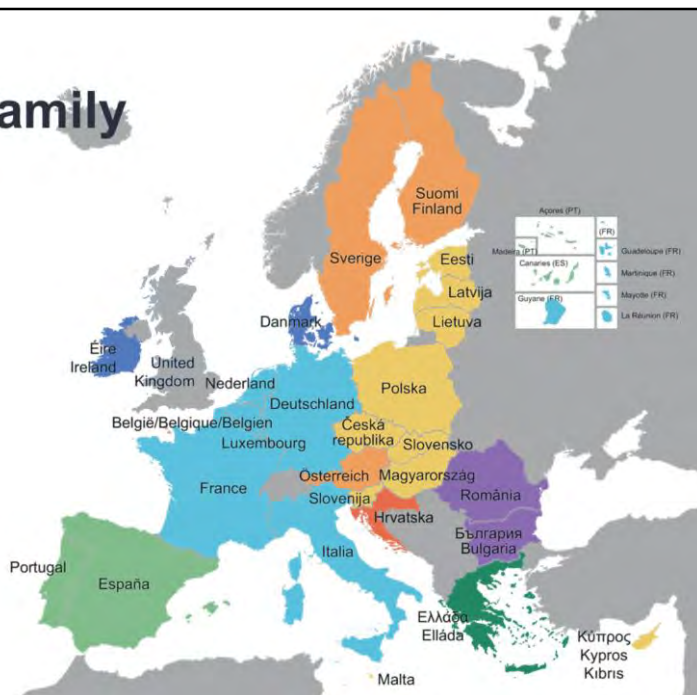
- The EU is a community of values, not only an internal market of 440 million consumers.
- It is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of minorities.
- Fundamental rights apply to all people in the EU, no matter their status or origin. Some of these freedoms are as old as Europe: life and liberty, thought and expression. But others have had to be redefined to keep pace with the times. Protecting personal data or prohibiting human cloning were far from the minds of the first elected MEPs, some four decades ago.
- The Parliament defends democracy and the rule of law at the European level.

Link:

Rule of law Art. 7: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20180222STO98434/rule-of-law-concerns-how-the-eu-can-act-infographic>

European Union family

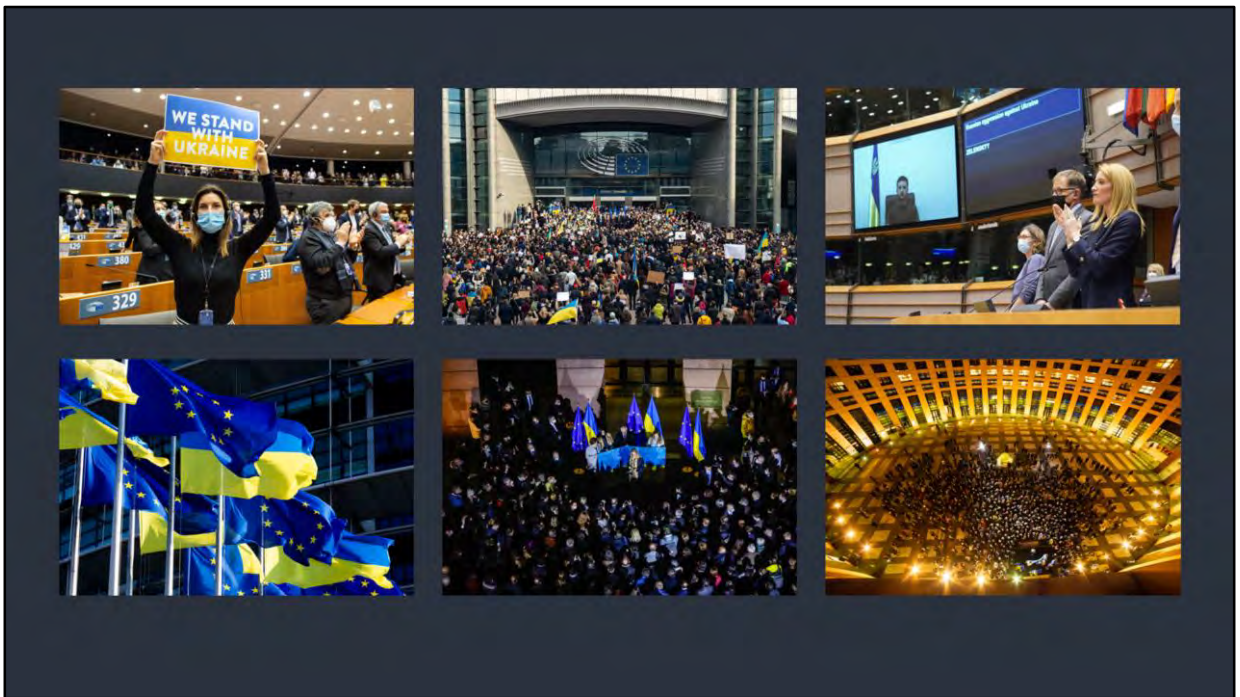
- 1952
- 1973
- 1981
- 1986
- 1995
- 2004
- 2007
- 2013
- 2020



- The European project was created to reconcile old enemies and provide a structure to prevent future conflicts
- There were 8 waves of enlargement, from 6 to 28 Member States.
- 5 candidates: Albania, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey
- Potential candidates: Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo
- The Copenhagen criteria: **political**: stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities; **economic**: a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces; **administrative and institutional capacity** to effectively implement the acquis and ability to take on the all obligations
- Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein participate directly in the single market via the European Economic Area. Switzerland does so via 120 bilateral agreements.
- In June 2016, the UK voted in a referendum to leave the European Union; transitional period expired on 31 December 2020.

Conditions for EU membership: https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/conditions-membership_en

Brief history of the EU: https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/history-the-treaties-of-rome_V001-0011_ev



Links to information

https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/package/russian-aggression-against-ukraine_22401

LTTs

<https://comm-wiki.in.ep.europa.eu/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=444933122>

Images, from top left to bottom right:

- Extraordinary Plenary session on the situation in Ukraine (images 1 and 3)
- Gathering outside the EP building in support to Ukraine (image 2)
- Ukrainian Flag is raised at the EP building in Strasbourg (image 4)
- Gathering in support of Ukraine in front of the European Parliament in Strasbourg (images 5 and 6)

Key Players



Roberta Metsola
European Parliament



Ursula Von Der Leyen
European Commission



Charles Michel
European Council

Key players

- The Parliament's President is elected for a renewable term of two and a half years, i.e. half the mandate of a Parliament. The President represents the European Parliament vis-à-vis the outside world and in its relations with the other EU institutions.
- There are three presidents: a President of the Parliament, a President of the Commission, and of the Council – as well as the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.
- Roberta Metsola is youngest ever EP president, from Europe's smallest MS, and a third woman to ever hold the position.

Link:

EU presidents – who does what? https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/presidents_en

How the President of European Commission is elected?

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20140711STO52254/how-the-president-of-the-european-commission-gets-elected>

EU Institutions



705 Members
representing
the EUROPEAN CITIZENS



27 Commissioners
representing
the EU's INTEREST



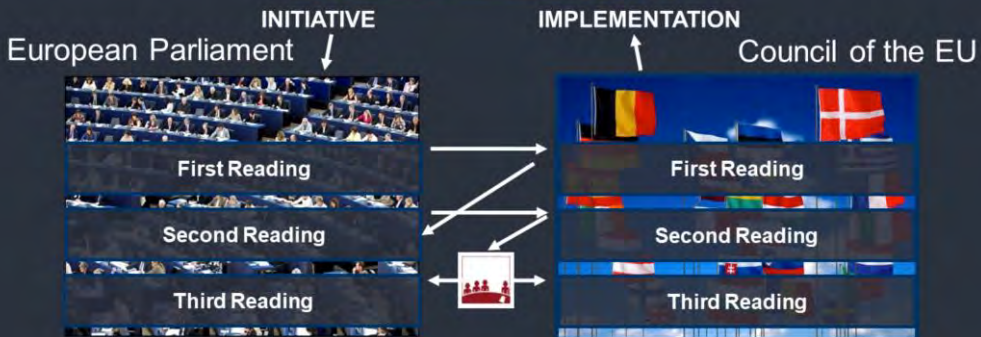
Prime ministers and
ministers representing
the 27 MEMBER STATES

ABC on EU institutions: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/eu-affairs/20130905STO18726/abc-of-the-eu-institutions>

EU institutional balance: https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/institutional-affairs_en

How are EU Laws agreed?

European Commission



- European Commission prepares legislative proposals on its own initiative or at the request of other EU institutions or countries, or following a citizens' initiative, often after public consultations.
- The final proposal is sent simultaneously to the European Parliament, Council and national parliaments.
- President of the European Parliament refers the proposal to a parliamentary committee, which appoints a rapporteur who is responsible for drawing up a draft report with amendments to the proposed text.
- The committee votes on this report and any amendments to it tabled by other members.
- The European Parliament then discusses and votes on the legislative proposal in plenary based on the committee report and amendments.
- Parliament can accept the proposal without any changes or make amendments. In rare cases the President can request the Commission withdraw its proposal. Parliament's 1st reading position is forwarded to the Council.
- Council can: can: **accept the EP position**, in which case the legislative act is adopted; **or adopt changes to Parliament's position**, leading to a Council's first reading position, which is sent to the Parliament for a 2nd reading.

Legislative procedure:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/legislativeprocedure/default_en.htm

EU competences

Exclusive

- customs union
- competition rules of the internal market
- monetary policy for the Eurozone
- common commercial policy
- conclusion of international agreements*

Shared

- internal market
- social policy
- economic, social and territorial cohesion
- agriculture and fisheries
- environment
- consumer protection
- transport
- trans-European networks
- energy
- area of freedom, security and justice
- common safety concerns in public health
- research, technological development, space
- development cooperation and humanitarian aid

Supporting

- health
- industry
- culture
- tourism
- education, vocational training, youth and sport
- civil protection
- administrative cooperation

Division of competences

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM%3Aai0020>

20 Standing Parliamentary committees

3 subcommittees, 2 special committees and 1 enquiry committee

MEPs				MEPs		
79	AFET	Foreign Affairs		43	REGI	Regional Development
		DROI	Human Rights	SEDE	Security & Defence	
26	DEVE	Development		48	AGRI	Agriculture and Rural Development
43	INTA	International Trade		28	PECH	Fisheries
41	BUDG	Budgets		31	CULT	Culture and Education
30	CONT	Budgetary Control		25	JURI	Legal Affairs
61	ECON	Economic and Monetary Affairs		69	LIBE	Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs
		FISC	Tax matters		28	AFCO
55	EMPL	Employment and Social Affairs		37	FEMM	Women's Rights and Gender Equality
88	ENVI	Environment, Public Health & Food Safety		35	PETI	Petitions
76	ITRE	Industry, Research and Energy		37	COVI	COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and recommendations for the future
45	IMCO	Internal Market and Consumer Protection		32	ING2	Foreign interference in all democratic processes in the eu, including disinformation
49	TRAN	Transport and Tourism		38	PEGA	Use of Pegasus and equivalent surveillance spyware

The Parliament's committees

- Committees are the legislative engines of the House.
- There are 20 specialised standing committees; they instruct legislative proposals through adoption of reports, propose amendments to the Plenary and appoint teams to conduct negotiations with the Council on EU legislation.
- Committee has between 25 and 88 full members and an equivalent number of substitutes.
- Each committee elects a chair and up to four vice-chairs amongst its full members, for a two and a half year mandate. The political make-up of the committees reflects that of the plenary assembly.
- Parliament can also set up sub-committees and special temporary committees to deal with specific issues; and committees of inquiry to investigate alleged contraventions or maladministration of EU law.
- Parliamentary committees have supporting secretariats and normally meet in Brussels. Their debates are public and web-streamed.

Link:

List of standing committees and sub-committees, special committees and committees of inquiry:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/parliamentary-committees.html>

2023



01					02					03					
52	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	9	10	11	12	13	
2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		6	13	20	27		
3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		7	14	21	28		
4	11	18	25		8	15	22		8	15	22		15	22	29
5	12	19	26		9	16	23		9	16	23		16	23	30
6	13	20	27		10	17	24		10	17	24		17	24	31
7	14	21	28		11	18	25		11	18	25		18	25	
8	15	22	29		12	19	26		12	19	26		19	26	

04					05					06						
13	14	15	16	17	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
3	10	17	24		1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26			
4	11	18	25		2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27			
5	12	19	26		3	10	17	24		7	14	21	28			
6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25		8	15	22	29			
7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26		9	16	23	30			
8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27		10	17	24		17	24	31
9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28		11	18	25		18	25	

07					08					09						
26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	35	36	37	38	39		
3	10	17	24	31	1	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25			
4	11	18	25		2	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26			
5	12	19	26		3	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27			
6	13	20	27		4	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28			
7	14	21	28		5	11	18	25		8	15	22	29			
8	15	22	29		6	12	19	26		9	16	23	30			
9	16	23	30		7	13	20	27		10	17	24		17	24	31

10					11					12				
39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	48	49	50	51	52
3	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27		4	11	18	25	
4	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28		5	12	19	26	
5	11	18	25		8	15	22	29		6	13	20	27	
6	12	19	26		9	16	23	30		7	14	21	28	
7	13	20	27		10	17	24		8	15	22	29		
8	14	21	28		11	18	25		9	16	23	30		
9	15	22	29		12	19	26		10	17	24	31		

Calendar 2023

- Sessions
- Committee meetings
- Political group meetings
- External Parliamentary activities

Working calendar

Every week of the month is different and calendar is adopted at least one year in advance.

Red – plenary weeks, meetings Mon PM-Thu AM in Strasbourg or Wed PM-Thu AM in Brussels.

Pink - committee weeks, maximum 16 meetings at the same time.

Blue - political groups weeks, preparing positions for the plenary.

Green weeks - external activity: MEPS are in their constituencies or on official delegations to countries or regions round the world.

2019 European election turnout by country (%)



[2019 European election results](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/election-results-2019/en)

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/election-results-2019/en>

EPRS Infographic - 2019 European elections: National rules

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2018/623556/EPRS_ATAG\(2018\)623556_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2018/623556/EPRS_ATAG(2018)623556_EN.pdf)

9th legislature of the EP (July 2019)

MEPs from
190
national political parties

61%
are new to
Parliament



39%
have been
MEPs before

21

youngest MEP

49 ½
average age of
the MEPs

41%  |  **59%**

82
oldest MEP

705 Members

96		Germany	21		Greece	13		Ireland
79		France	21		Hungary	12		Croatia
76		Italy	21		Portugal	11		Lithuania
59		Spain	21		Sweden	8		Latvia
52		Poland	19		Austria	8		Slovenia
33		Romania	17		Bulgaria	7		Estonia
29		Netherlands	14		Denmark	6		Cyprus
21		Belgium	14		Finland	6		Luxembourg
21		Czechia	14		Slovakia	6		Malta

- The European Parliament has 705 Members elected in 27 Member States of the EU. Since 1979 MEPs have been elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year period.
- Seats are allocated on the basis of population of each Member State. Treaty limitations: maximum 751 Members, maximum 96/country, minimum 6/country (minimum to ensure that the full range of political opinion in smaller countries is represented).
- When UK left the EU on 1 February 2020, Parliament was reduced from 751 to 705 MEPs: 27 of UK's 73 seats were redistributed to other countries, while remaining 46 seats are kept for future enlargements.

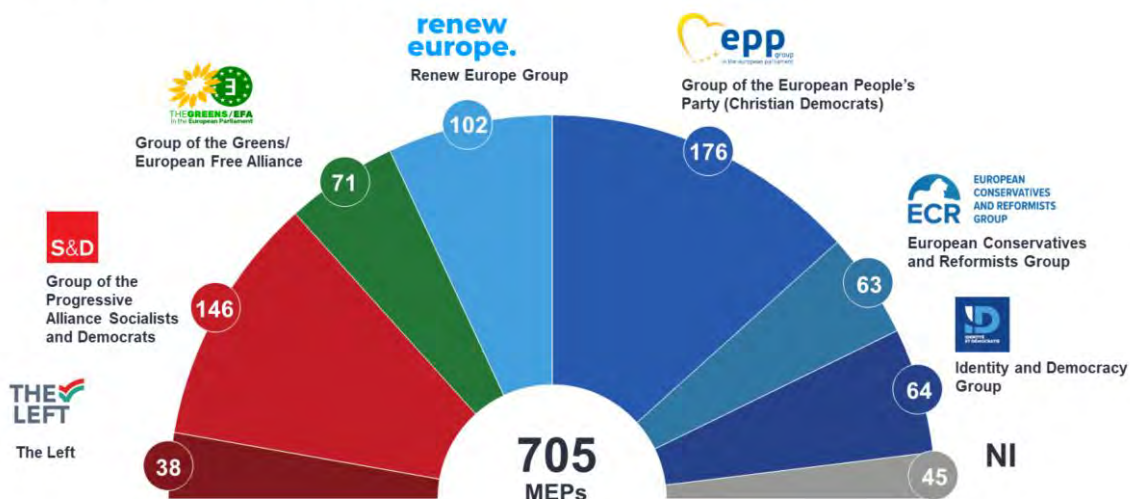
MEPs

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/home>

EPRS At a Glance - The European Parliament after Brexit

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/642259/EPRS_ATAG\(2020\)642259_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2020/642259/EPRS_ATAG(2020)642259_EN.pdf)

Political Groups EU



Political groups

- Members of the European Parliament sit in political groups – they are not organised by nationality, but by political affiliation. There are currently 7 political groups in the European Parliament – and nearly 200 political parties are represented.
- Minimum number to form a political group is 25 Members, representing at least one-quarter (8) of the Member States within the group.. Members may not belong to more than one political group.
- Members who don't belong to any political group are known as non-attached Members.
- Main difference to national parliaments: no official governing or opposition parties, hence a different and more dynamic way of creating ad-hoc, spontaneous majorities for any given issue.

MEPs by Member State and political group

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/crosstable.html>

Languages

BG	български	FR	français	NL	Nederlands
CS	čeština	GA	Gaeilge	PL	polski
DA	dansk	HR	hrvatski	PT	português
DE	Deutsch	IT	italiano	RO	română
ES	español	LV	latviešu	SK	slovenčina
ET	eesti keel	LT	Lietuvių kalba	SL	slovenščina
EL	ελληνικά	HU	magyar	FI	suomi
EN	English	MT	Malti	SV	svenska

- Legal provisions for multilingualism: all languages as declared by Member States when entering the EU are legally equal official languages
- 552 possible language combinations (23 x 24) - European Parliament has one of the largest interpreting services in the world.
- Interpretation is mostly done through relay languages (EN, FR, DE).
- MEPs have the right to speak in any of the official EU languages. but tend to speak in their mother tongue in plenary sessions, while in negotiations or committee meetings often use one of the more widely spoken languages
- English is likely to remain an official EU language as unanimous agreement between EU leaders is needed to change the current set-up.

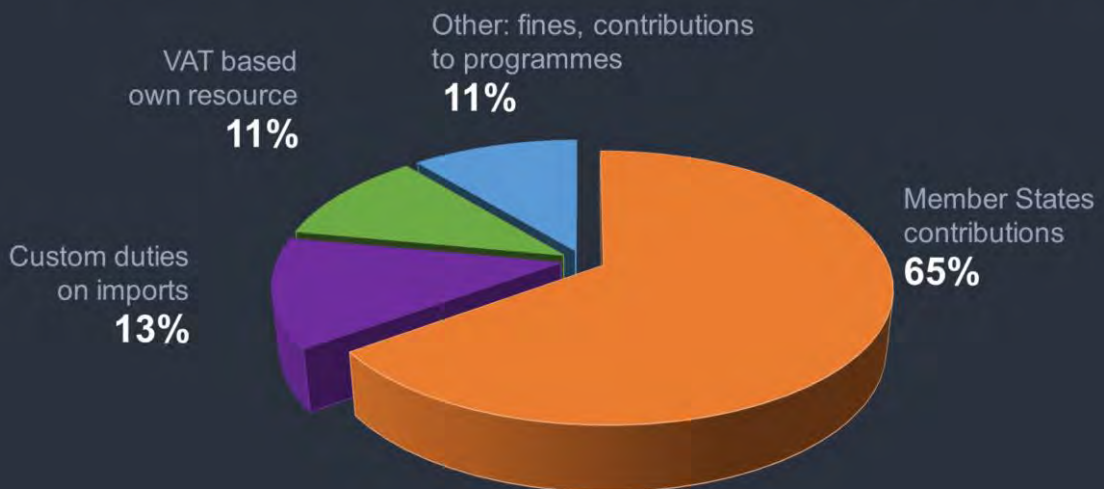
Legal aspects of EU multilingualism:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/595914/EPRS_BRI\(2017\)595914_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2017/595914/EPRS_BRI(2017)595914_EN.pdf)

EP and multilingualism

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/about-parliament/en/organisation-and-rules/multilingualism>

Where does the money come from (revenue)?



EU budget – where does money come from

- The EU budget is funded from three main sources: Member State contributions, based on a percentage of their Gross National Income. Import duties on goods entering from outside the EU. A percentage of each Member State's national VAT rate.

Links

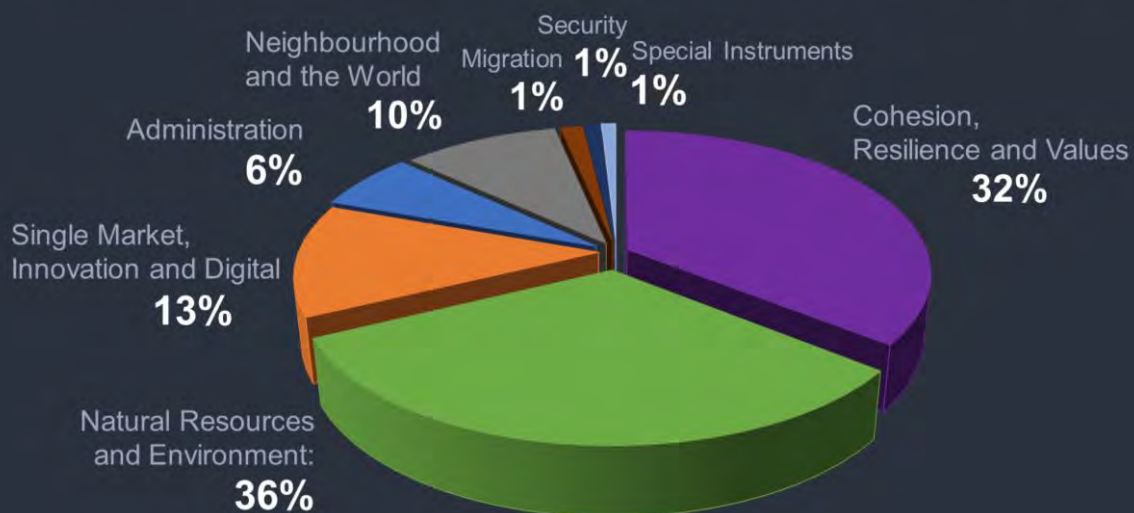
EU revenues:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/figures/2007-2013/index_en.cfm

EU budget at a glance

<https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/79442520-a772-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1>

Where does the money go? Total 2021: €164.25 billion



EU budget – where does the money go (expenditure)

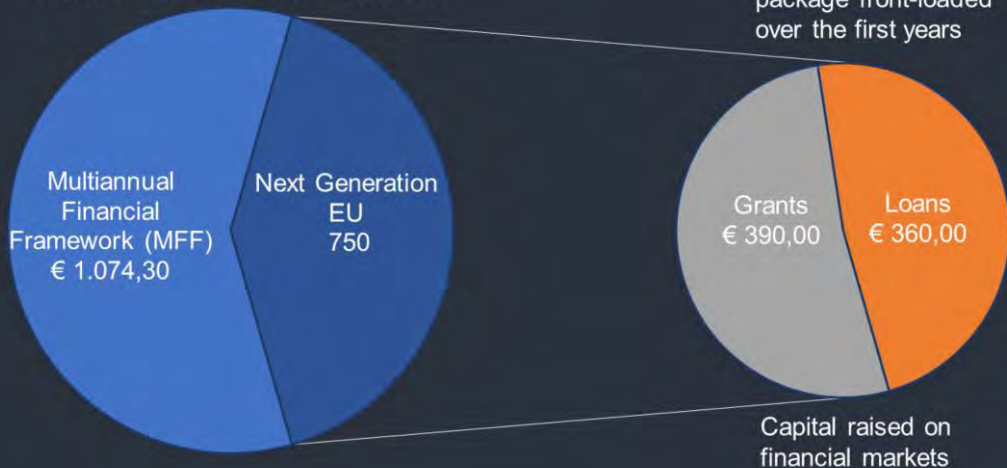
https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_2489

EU budget 2021

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/budget/www/index-en.htm>

EU Expenditure 2021-2027 (billion)

Total €1,824.3 Billion



Links

Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/mff2021-2027-ngeu-final/>

EU budget 2021-2027 and recovery plan

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/infographics/recovery-plan-mff-2021-2027/>

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20200115IPR70326/q-a-on-the-eu-s-long-term-budget-multiannual-financial-framework-mff>



Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought

2022
The Brave People of Ukraine

Quiz on human rights:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20191205STO68454/quiz-how-much-do-you-know-about-human-rights-in-the-eu>

Laureates of the Sakharov prize

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sakharovprize/en/laureates.html>

How the laureate is chosen:

http://www.epgencms.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/upload/2aedebc0-cf0f-4e87-b91f-0b0ae23b7803/SAK_prize_infographic_vertical_EN.pdf