

These & additional short videos available for download (*material offered gratis for EU related educational & informational purposes*): [europa.eu.int/comm/mediatheque/video/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/mediatheque/video/index_en.html)

#### How the EU works

1. The New Europe (13 mins) *overview of the formation of the EU*
2. Shaping the New Europe (16 mins) *EU institutions and the constitutional convention*
3. The Future of the EU (11 mins) *enlargement and institutional change*

#### How the EU works to protect quality of life in Europe

4. CAP (Common Agricultural Policy): Continuity and change (9 mins)
5. Food: A question of quality (17 mins) *food testing and safety regulations*
6. European Biodiversity Under Threat (9 mins) *the case of the Iberian Lynx*
7. Recycling Electronic Waste in Europe: a duty (8 mins)

#### How the EU works to help trade and commerce in Europe

8. Fair Competition in Europe (16 mins) *hypothetical examples of managing cartels in EU*
9. The EU and Trade (7 mins) *overview of role of EU institutions in trade*
10. Europe Tuned in to its Music Industry (8 mins) *case of the music industry and open markets*

#### How the EU works with its close neighbors

11. A New Policy for the Neighborhood (10 mins) *EU relations with Ukraine and Morocco*
12. Bosnia and Herzegovina (10 mins)
13. Stability in the Western Balkans (7 mins) *peacekeeping and EU influence in Balkans*

#### How the EU helps the developing world

14. Cooperation that Counts (6 mins) *overview of intent of EU development and aid policy*
15. Afghanistan: One Year Later (16 mins) *case study of EU aid in rebuilding Afghanistan*
16. Fighting Poverty (18 mins) *EU role in global aid (N.B. poor sound quality)*

# The EU at a Glance



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## Creation of the European Union

Established just after WWII, the European Union (EU) has achieved some remarkable things in just 50 or so years. Created after the European continent had instigated two world wars, the European Community (later called the European Union) was intended to bind the governments and people of Europe together, and so to make future wars impossible. The EU in the past 50 years has helped bring peace and prosperity for the almost 400 million people of Europe. It has created a 'single market' where not only goods such as food and furniture can be sold but where people can also move around freely, living, working, studying, and retiring in any other member country—all without needing special visas or permits. The EU has grown from the original six



Signing of Treaty of Rome, 1957: establishing the European Community

countries who created the community in 1950s, to the current 25 member countries as of May 2004. Three additional countries have applied to join and are working to bring their political and economic systems into line with EU requirements. Countries wanting to join the EU must show that they share the values that the EU members

- ☆ Searchable site with teaching materials for all world areas developed by National Resource Centers:

[www.outreachworld.org](http://www.outreachworld.org)

- ☆ Downloadable materials on world regions:

[www.globaled.org](http://www.globaled.org)

- ☆ The Center for Teaching International Relations (CTIR) site, materials developed *by teachers for teachers*:

[www.du.edu/ctir/pubs\\_why.html](http://www.du.edu/ctir/pubs_why.html)

- ☆ BBC site for UK teachers

[www.bbc.co.uk/history/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/)

- ☆ Intercultural E-mail Classroom Connections – helps teachers link with partners in other countries for e-mail classroom pen-pal and other project exchanges, ideas on how to use this in class

[www.iecc.org](http://www.iecc.org)



## Online Resources for Teaching about Europe and the EU

☆ CES Internet Resources:

[www.unc.edu/depts/europe/weblinks.htm](http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/weblinks.htm)

☆ CES site for downloadable or web-based units on...

[www.unc.edu/depts/europe/outreach/msie.html](http://www.unc.edu/depts/europe/outreach/msie.html)

- ☆ What Happened to Yugoslavia?
- ☆ Multicultural France: Focus on the Veil
- ☆ After the Fall – video and supporting materials for teaching about the fall of the Berlin Wall
- ☆ An EU Primer (basic information on the EU)
- ☆ European Monetary Union
- ☆ European Common Foreign and Security Policy
- ☆ Enlargement of the European Union
- ☆ Europe and the Environment

☆ Europa, Gateway to the EU:

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

☆ The EU at a Glance:

[europa.eu.int/abc/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/abc/index_en.htm)

☆ What Does the EU Do?

[europa.eu.int/abc/index2\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/abc/index2_en.htm)

☆ How is the EU Organized?

[europa.eu.int/abc/index3\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/abc/index3_en.htm)

☆ EuropaGO, games:

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

have in common. The EU Treaty says that “...any European state which respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law...” may apply to become a member of the EU.

## Sovereignty and EU Institutions

The EU is not a federation of states (as is the United States of America), nor is it simply an organization for helping nations to cooperate (as is the United Nations). The countries that belong to the EU remain sovereign states, but they have agreed to pool their sovereignty and put some government decisions in the hands of the EU governing institutions that they have jointly created. The main institutions they have created are:

- **The European Parliament**, which is directly elected by the all the people of Europe and represents the people’s interests
- **The Council of the European Union**, which is made up of representatives from each of the member states’ governments and represents the interests of the individual member states
- **The European Commission**, which is responsible for promoting the interests of the EU as a whole. The Commission is made up of offices (Directorates General) with special responsibility for different policy areas (e.g. Education and Culture, Environment, External Affairs, Agriculture etc.). The member states each appoint people to the Commission so that it has a balance of workers from all the member states.

The sovereignty that the member states have pooled in the EU creates a larger and more powerful ‘state’ that can be more influential in world affairs than any of them could be as smaller states, as well as allowing them to create common policies and rules that apply to all of Europe and not just one small country.

## EU Policy and the Regions

Since the 1990s in addition to joint policies having to do with trade, the EU has also been making common policies on the environment, education, and social policy, as well as policy for helping the smaller regions in Europe to develop and offer their citizens the same advantages as the bigger regions or the cities.

Smaller regions of Europe can get funds to create jobs, helping people to continue living in the area, or funds to build retirement communities that help older people stay close to their families. Cultural organizations of all sorts are funded through the EU to sponsor orchestras or dance troupes, or to create movies—almost anything as long as the project involves collaboration between several European countries. A special



**Renovation of the Burgos cathedral façade in Spain**

fund (structural funds) even helps preserve different aspects of European heritage—old castles or famous buildings, or sometimes whole ‘heritage’ cities.

As languages help us to understand cultures, one EU policy focuses on getting students to learn additional European languages and to study in other European countries. Students at all levels in Europe are encouraged (often required) to study at least one language other than their own. More than half (53%) of all Europeans speak a second language and among the younger generation the rate is much higher. Thousands of students each year are funded by EU programs called ‘Erasmus’ and ‘Socrates’ to spend a few months or a year studying in another European country. In this way they learn to understand and respect each others’ different ways of doing things.

