Fête de l’Europe 2013

The European Union

The Consulate General of France in Atlanta
What is the European Union??
Inter-governmental and supra-national organisation

Made up of European countries

The Treaty on European Union (commonly known as the Maastricht Treaty) in 1992

Many aspects of the EU existed before that date through a series of predecessor organisations, dating back to 1952
What are the objectives of the European Union?
Covers all policy areas, from health and economic policy to foreign affairs and defence.

A key activity of the EU is the establishment and administration of a common single market, consisting of a customs union, a single currency, a Common Agricultural Policy and a Common Fisheries Policy.
Key Figures and information
Member States

➢ Take a guess: how many member States are part of the EU?
➢ Do you know some?
Member States

• Belgium (1952)
• Italy (1952)
• France (1952)
• Luxembourg (1952)
• Germany (1952)
• Netherlands (1952)
• United Kingdom (1973)
• Denmark (1973)
• Ireland (1973)
• Greece (1981)
• Portugal (1986)
• Spain (1986)

• Austria (1995)
• Finland (1995)
• Sweden (1995)
• Slovakia (2004)
• Slovenia (2004)
• Malta (2004)
• Cyprus (2004)
• Czech Republic (2004)
• Estonia (2004)
• Hungary (2004)
• Latvia (2004)
• Lithuania (2004)
• Poland (2004)
• Romania (2007)
• Bulgaria (2007)
On the Road to EU Membership

- **Acceding country**
  - Croatia

- **Candidate Countries**
  - Iceland
  - Montenegro
  - Serbia
  - The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
  - Turkey

- **Potential candidates**
  - Albania
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina
  - Kosovo
Becoming a member of the EU is a complex procedure which does not happen overnight. Once an applicant country meets the conditions for membership, it must implement EU rules and regulations in all areas.
Joining the EU

• The ‘Copenhagen criteria’
  ➢ Free-market economy
  ➢ Stable democracy
  ➢ Rule of law
  ➢ Acceptance of EU legislation
Population / Geography

- Over 4 million Km²
- 465 million inhabitants
- France
- Malta
Institutions
The EU has three main Institutions:

- The European Commission in Brussels and Luxembourg
- The Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg
- The Council in Brussels and Luxembourg
EU Symbols
The European flag
Do you Know the European Anthem?

The melody used to symbolize the EU comes from the 9th Symphony composed in 1823 by Beethoven.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrexhus-8kw
Europe Day

Do you Know when is Europe Day? And Why?

- May 9th
- The ideas behind the European Union were first put forward on 9 May 1950 by French foreign minister Robert Schuman. This is why 9 May is celebrated as a key date for the EU.
Do you Know what is the European Motto?

- "United in diversity"

- It signifies how Europeans have come together, in the form of the EU, to work for peace and prosperity, while at the same time being enriched by the continent's many different cultures, traditions and languages.
Rights and Everyday Life
Every person holding the nationality of a Member State is a citizen of the Union.

Citizenship of the Union is complementary to national citizenship but does not replace it.
• *What is the symbol of the Euro?*
The Euro

Notes
The Euro

Coins
The EU encourages people to spend time abroad as part of their education.

**Erasmus and Comenius programs**

- Mobility programs allowing students or teachers to live and work in European countries for any length of time between 6 weeks and ten months.
As EU citizens, children are entitled to attend school in any EU country under the same conditions as nationals of that country—regardless of their language level.

Children of EU nationals migrating to another EU country for work are entitled under EU law to receive free language tuition in your new home country to help them adapt to the school system there.
EU citizen are entitled to study at any EU university under the same conditions as nationals.

Regardless of the other entry conditions, you may not be refused access to training or education in another EU country on grounds of your nationality. Special rules apply to fees and grants.
What does the Schengen Convention mean:

- Abolition of internal border controls and a common visa policy.
- Operates like a single state for international travel purposes with external border controls but with no internal border controls.
- 26 European countries covering a population of over 400 million people and an area of 4,312,099 square kilometres.
EU nationals do not need to show national ID card or passport when travelling from one passport-free Schengen EU country to another.

For non EU passport holders traveling on a Schengen Visa means that the visa holder can travel to any (or all) member countries using one single visa, thus avoiding the hassle and expense of obtaining individual visas for each country.
The passport-free Schengen area

- Austria
- Hungary
- Norway
- Belgium
- Iceland
- Poland
- Czech Republic
- Italy
- Portugal
- Denmark
- Latvia
- Slovakia
- Estonia
- Liechtenstein
- Slovenia
- Finland
- Lithuania
- Spain
- France
- Luxembourg
- Sweden
- Germany
- Malta
- Switzerland
- Greece
- Netherlands

Which Member state doesn’t belong to the Schengen area?

UK
The EU actively encourages the acquisition of language skills from an early age.

- **How many Official languages**
- **23**
Languages

- Access to all EU documents in the official language. Right to write to the Commission, and receive a reply in that language.
- At the European Parliament: right to use any of the EU's official languages when speaking in Parliament.
- Translation service (written) of the Commission: 1,750 linguists and 600 support staff, one of the largest translation services in the world.
- Interpretation service of the Commission (oral translation): 600 staff interpreters, 3,000 freelance interpreters and 250 support staff.
Figures to Remember

➤ Year of creation:
➤ 1952

➤ Member States:
➤ 27

➤ States in the Euro zone:
➤ 12

➤ States in the Schengen zone:
➤ 26
Want to Learn More?

Useful websites:

- europa.eu
- www.eurunion.org
- www.toutteleurope.eu
- ec.europa.eu
- grainedeurope.eu
- Lespetitscitoyens.com
- weezquizz.com
- www.european-studies.org
- www.jugendebattiert.ch
- www.globaleducation.ch
- www.alliancesud.ch
- www.alliancesud.ch
- europe.screron.fr
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