

# EU

12 stars in circle symbolize the ideal of unity, harmony, solidarity...

9. may - Europe day

27 member countries

Croatia, Macedonia, turkey - have applied for eu membership

Ode to joy - national anthem - the melody comes from the ninth symphony composed by Beethoven

Moto - united in diversity

It has reunited the fractured continent

It has brought the frontier-free market and a single currency - euro

It has brought political stability and economical prosperity to its citizens

It is the world's biggest donor of development aid to poor countries

The eu population is nearly half a billion

It is a major economic and commercial power

Through richly diverse, the eu countries are united in their commitment to peace, democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights

The eu began life in 50s as European Economic Community with 6 founding countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands

they created a new way coming together to manage their joint interests, based essentially on economic integration.

Less than a half the size of usa, but it's population is over 50%larger

The eu population is the world's third largest after china and india

It covers more than 4 million km and has 495 mio inhabitants

France – biggest

Malta – smallest

Life expectancy is rising

Education is the key to success – for individuals and for the eu as a whole

The subjects:

Men: science, computing, engineering,

Women: arts, law, humanities

Better education means better job prospects

Information technology – an essential tool

### **Eu mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century:**

Provide peace, prosperity, stability for its people

Overcome the divisions on the continent

Ensure that its people can live in safety

Promote balanced economic and social development

### **Peace and stability**

Before becoming a political objective, the idea of united Europe was just a dream

Between 45 and 50 a handful of courageous statesmen set about persuading their people to enter new era. New structure would be created in western Europe, based on shared interests.

Enlargement process continue to this day

Entry negotiations began with turkey and Croatia..

## Safety and security

The eu has to take effective action to ensure the s and s of its members

It must also protect its military and strategic interests (working with nato)

Making the eu an area of freedom, security and justice is a new challenge that requires close cooperation between governments

## Economic and social solidarity

Eu countries must ensure the economic growth to compete on the world's stage with other major economies, because no individual eu country is not strong enough by itself

## Identity and diversity in a globalised world

Standards of living have risen steadily

There are significant gaps between rich and poor and one of the following tasks of the eu is to narrow those gaps.

Europeans cherish their:

Rich heritage of values which includes: a belief in human rights, social solidarity, free enterprise, a fair distribution of the fruits of economic growth, the right to a protected environment, respect for cultural, linguistic and religious diversity and a harmonious blend of tradition and progress.

## Institutions

### **European parliament**

Elected by citizens of the eu since 1979

It started in 50s

Elections – every 5 years

Last elections were in june 2009

It has 736 members from all 27 countries

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of july 09, jerzy buzek was elected president of the ep and will hold that position for 2 years

Slo has 7 seats in ep

Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg

#### **Three main roles:**

Passing European laws – jointly with the council

Exercises democrating supervision over the other eu institutions and has a right to censure a commission as a whole

The power of the purse – authority over the spending

It has to give its assent to international agreements negotiated by the commission and to any proposed enlargement of the eu

It can throw out proposed legislation if an absolute majority vote against (more than a half)

## Two main stages:

Preparing for the plenary sessions

Plenary sessions itself:

One week per month – Stras.

Two days – Brus.

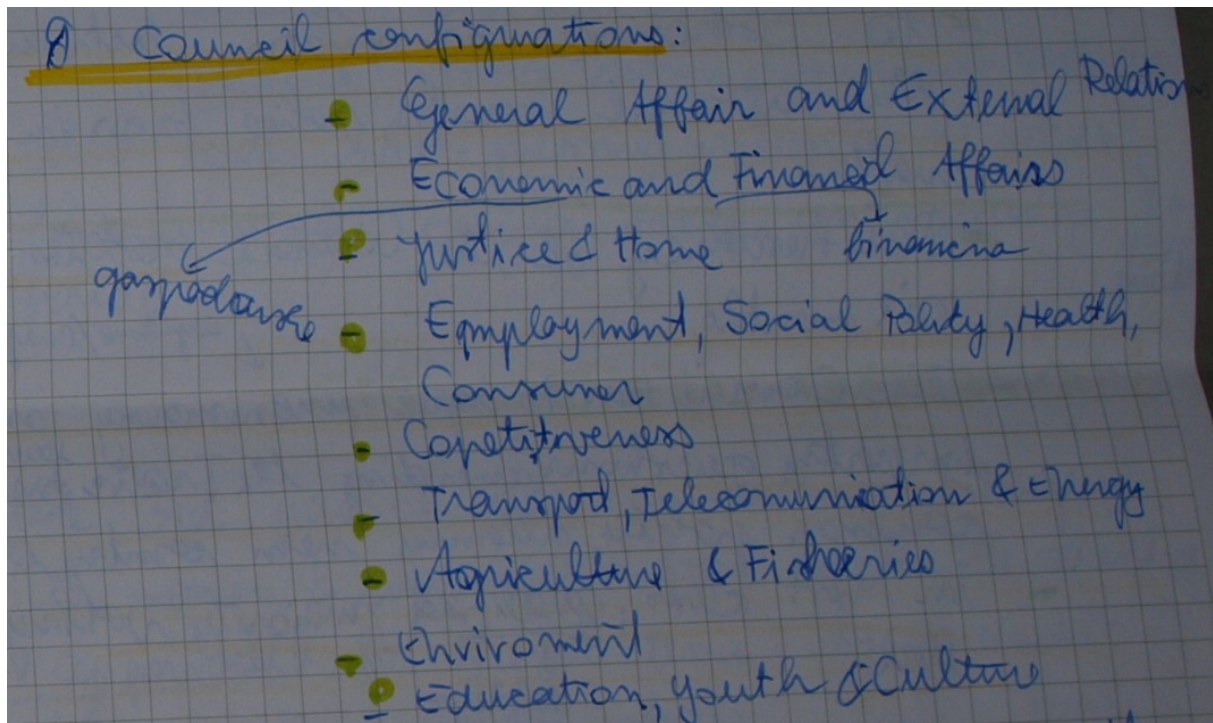
At sessions ep examines proposed legislation and votes on amendments

## The council of the eu

Main decision -making body

One minister from each country

Which minister attend on which meeting depends on the subject:



The ministers signature is the signature of the whole government..

Each minister is answerable to his national parliament and citizens that parliament represents

### **6 key responsibilities:**

Passing European laws – jointly with the ep

To coordinate the board economic policies of the member states

To conclude agreements between the eu and other countries

To approve the eu's budget, jointly with the ep

To develop eu's common foreign and security policy based on guidelines set by the eu council

To coordinate operation between the national courts, police forces in criminal matters

The presidency of the council rotates every 6 months

The council has to agree unanimously on important questions

In most cases, qualified majority voting is used

### **The European council**

Meets 4 times a year

It's chaired (voden) by the president or prime minister holding the presidency

Deals with pressing international issues

Initiator of union's major policies

## **The European commission**

3<sup>rd</sup> part of the decision making triangle

27 members - from each country

Appointed for 5 year term by agreement between the member states

Answerable to the parliament

It attends all the sessions of parliament

It's independent; it represents upholds the interests of the eu

Drafts proposals for new eu laws - presents them to the ep and the council

It's the executive arm, responsible for implementing the decisions of ep and council

Seat - Brussels, but also offices in lux. And other capitals

### **4 main roles**

To propose legislation to parliament and the council

To manage and implement eu policies and the budget

To enforce European law - jointly with the court of justice

To represent eu on the world stage

## **The court of justice**

Based in lux.

Makes sure that eu's legislation is interpreted and applied in the same way in the whole eu

Makes sure that eu states and institutions do what the eu law requires and that treaties are correctly interpreted and applied

One judge per member state

Assisted by 8 advocate - general (državni pravobranilec)

Those are people [which impartiality is not doubted.](#)

## **The court of auditors**

Set up in 1975 - lux

[It checks that eu funds are spent legally, economically and for the intended purpose](#)

27 members - appointed for 6 years by the council - renewable term