

NOBEL  
PEACE PRIZE®  
EUROPEAN UNION



2012



## FACTSHEET: THE EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is a unique economic and political partnership between 27 European countries that together cover much of the continent.

It was created in the aftermath of the Second World War. The first steps were to foster economic cooperation: the idea being that countries who trade with one another become economically interdependent and so more likely to avoid conflict. The result was the European Economic Community (EEC), created in 1958, and initially increasing economic cooperation between six countries: Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Since then, a huge single market has been created and continues to develop towards its full potential.

But what began as a purely economic union has also evolved into an organisation spanning all policy areas, from development aid to environment. A name change from the EEC to the European Union (the EU) in 1993 reflected this change.

The EU has delivered half a century of peace, stability, and prosperity, helped raise living standards, and launched a single European currency. Thanks to the abolition of border controls between EU countries, people can travel freely throughout most of the continent. And it's also become much easier to live and work abroad in Europe.

### HOW THE EU WORKS

In the EU's unique institutional set-up:

- The European Parliament composed of directly elected MEPs who represent the EU's citizens.
- The European Council, bringing together the national Heads of States and Governments with the President of the Commission, chaired by the President of the European Council sets the EU's broad priorities.
- The European Commission, composed of a member per member state acting together as a College promotes the interests of the EU as a whole.,.
- The Council of the European Union represents the governments of the member states. .

In principle, the Commission proposes new laws, and the Parliament and Council adopt them. The Commission and the member countries then implement them, and the Commission ensures that the laws are properly applied and implemented.



## **POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The EU is based on the rule of law. This means that everything that it does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by all member countries. These binding agreements set out the EU's goals in its many areas of activity.

The EU is active in a wide range of policy areas, including economic governance, immigration, energy, transport, environment, consumer protection and human rights. The EU member countries have transferred some of their law-making authority to the EU in certain policy areas, such as agriculture and fisheries. In other areas, such as culture, policy-making is shared between the EU and national governments.

One of the EU's main goals is to promote human rights both internally and around the world. Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights: these are the core values of the EU. Since the 2009 signing of the Treaty of Lisbon, the EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights brings all these rights together in a single document.

The single market is the EU's main economic engine, enabling most goods, services, money and people to move freely. Another key objective is to develop this huge resource to ensure that Europeans can draw the maximum benefit.

As it continues to grow, the EU remains focused on making its governing institutions more transparent and democratic. More powers are being given to the directly elected European Parliament, while national parliaments are being given a greater role, working alongside the European institutions. In turn, European citizens have an ever-increasing number of channels for taking part in the political process.



## THE EUROPEAN UNION - SPREADING PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

THE ORIGINS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION LIE IN THE FRANCO-GERMAN RECONCILIATION AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WHICH WAS A KEY CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE IN EUROPE. THE UNION'S AIM OF PROMOTING PEACE AND PREVENTING CONFLICT IS ENSHRINED IN THE TREATIES. WITH SUCCESSIVE ENLARGEMENTS, THE UNION HAS CONTINUED TO SPREAD PEACE AND DEMOCRACY ON THE CONTINENT, BY TAKING IN NEW MEMBER STATES. IT PROMOTES PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD AT LARGE THROUGH ITS DEVELOPMENT AID, TRADE, HUMANITARIAN ACTION, CLIMATE ACTION, COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY AND THE EUROPEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICY.

### EU ENLARGEMENT

From the outset, the European Union has been open to any European country that shares the values of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights, which are enshrined in its treaties.

The prospect of joining the European Union helps drive forward political and economic reforms, transforming societies and creating new opportunities for citizens and business. Strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance is central to the enlargement process.

As it has enlarged, the Union has spread peace and democracy across the continent. Greece, Portugal and Spain, which all had military regimes, joined in the 1980s. In 2004, the accession of 10 countries (eight from central and eastern Europe plus Cyprus and Malta) after the collapse of Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s, ended the division of the continent that had endured since the end of the Second World War. Bulgaria and Romania followed in 2007.

The enlargement agenda is now focused on EU neighbours in the Balkans, following the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. Croatia is set to join in July 2013, and accession negotiations started with Montenegro in 2012.

In addition, accession negotiations have been under way with Iceland since 2010 and with Turkey since 2005.



## THE EUROPEAN UNION IN THE WORLD

The European Union of today is a major global player. With a population of more than 500 million people, representing over 20 % of the world's gross domestic product (GDP), it has regional and global security interests and responsibilities to match. Its goal of preserving peace, preventing conflicts and strengthening international security in its external relations is enshrined in the treaties.

It now has a diplomatic network of more than 140 delegations and offices, run by the European External Action Service, through which it conducts its relations with the rest of the world.

The EU provides half of all development aid and is the world's most important trading power, contributing to a fifth of world-wide imports and exports, and promoting human rights in its trade agreements. Through its humanitarian action it helps victims of conflicts and provides emergency relief in the wake of disasters throughout the world. The EU is also a leading player in international efforts to combat climate change.

Through its common foreign and security policy, the EU is engaged in mediation efforts to prevent or resolve conflicts. It plays an essential role in the Middle East peace process as a member of the International Quartet. It is involved in strengthening the stability of the Western Balkans, for example with the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, launched in March 2011.

The Union's operational engagement to promote and preserve peace and stability around the world has a tangible expression in the common security and defence policy. The EU can and does send peacekeeping troops, police and judges to help save lives and stabilise countries and regions, including after conflicts and disasters across the globe. The EU aspires not only to stop conflict, but to address the underlying causes.

Since 2003, 25 civilian missions and military operations have been deployed to three continents, including to Afghanistan, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and the Horn of Africa. Currently, the EU is conducting eleven civilian missions and three military operations. More than 80,000 people, from soldiers to policemen to rule of law experts, have been deployed so far. CSDP missions, whether patrolling sea lanes to help prevent piracy, protecting refugees, policing post-conflict societies or monitoring ceasefires, combine classic peacekeeping with state-building and stabilisation.



The European Neighbourhood Policy, launched in 2004, has created a strong framework for relations with partners to the south and east. In the Union for the Mediterranean the EU is taking a leading role in supporting the transition to democracy in the wake of the Arab Spring. With the Eastern Partnership the EU is seeking closer and deeper political, economic and trade relations with six post-Soviet states: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.

### **LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION**

#### **Treaty of Lisbon - A treaty of rights and values**

[http://europa.eu/lisbon\\_treaty/glance/rights\\_values/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/lisbon_treaty/glance/rights_values/index_en.htm)

#### **EU enlargement**

[http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/index_en.htm)

#### **Union for the Mediterranean**

[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/euromed/index_en.htm)

#### **Eastern partnership**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/eastern/index_en.htm)

#### **Common Foreign and Security Policy**

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/policies/foreign-policy?lang=en>

[http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/index_en.htm)

#### **Common Security and Defence Policy**

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eeas/security-defence?lang=en>

#### **Crisis response**

##### **Website of the European External Action Service**

<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/eeas/foreign-policy/crisis-response>

##### **Conflict prevention, peace-building and mediation**

##### **Website of the European External Action Service**

[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict\\_prevention/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/cfsp/conflict_prevention/index_en.htm)

##### **EU external policy and climate change**

##### **Website of the European External Action Service**

[http://www.eeas.europa.eu/climate\\_change/index\\_en.htm](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/climate_change/index_en.htm)

##### **Development cooperation - Europeaid**

##### **Website of the European Commission**

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/index_en.htm)



## THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 2012

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2012 is to be awarded to the European Union (EU). The union and its forerunners have for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

In the inter-war years, the Norwegian Nobel Committee made several awards to persons who were seeking reconciliation between Germany and France. Since 1945, that reconciliation has become a reality. The dreadful suffering in World War II demonstrated the need for a new Europe. Over a seventy-year period, Germany and France had fought three wars. Today war between Germany and France is unthinkable. This shows how, through well-aimed efforts and by building up mutual confidence, historical enemies can become close partners.

In the 1980s, Greece, Spain and Portugal joined the EU. The introduction of democracy was a condition for their membership. The fall of the Berlin Wall made EU membership possible for several Central and Eastern European countries, thereby opening a new era in European history. The division between East and West has to a large extent been brought to an end; democracy has been strengthened; many ethnically-based national conflicts have been settled.

The admission of Croatia as a member next year, the opening of membership negotiations with Montenegro, and the granting of candidate status to Serbia all strengthen the process of reconciliation in the Balkans. In the past decade, the possibility of EU membership for Turkey has also advanced democracy and human rights in that country.

The EU is currently undergoing grave economic difficulties and considerable social unrest. The Norwegian Nobel Committee wishes to focus on what it sees as the EU's most important result: the successful struggle for peace and reconciliation and for democracy and human rights. The stabilizing part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace.

The work of the EU represents "fraternity between nations", and amounts to a form of the "peace congresses" to which Alfred Nobel refers as criteria for the Peace Prize in his 1895 will.

Oslo, 12 October 2012



## THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION – 9 MAY 1950

source: <http://europa.eu/about-eu>

THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION WAS PRESENTED BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERT SCHUMAN ON 9 MAY 1950. IT PROPOSED THE CREATION OF A EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY, WHOSE MEMBERS WOULD POOL COAL AND STEEL PRODUCTION.

THE ECSC (FOUNDING MEMBERS: FRANCE, WEST GERMANY, ITALY, THE NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG) WAS THE FIRST OF A SERIES OF SUPRANATIONAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS THAT WOULD ULTIMATELY BECOME TODAY'S «EUROPEAN UNION». THE SCHUMAN DECLARATION IS CONSIDERED AS THE FOUNDING ACT OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 1950, the nations of Europe were still struggling to overcome the devastation wrought by World War II, which had ended 5 years earlier.

Determined to prevent another such terrible war, European governments concluded that pooling coal and steel production would – in the words of the Declaration – make war between historic rivals France and Germany «not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible».

It was thought – correctly – that merging of economic interests would help raise standards of living and be the first step towards a more united Europe. Membership of the ECSC was open to other countries.

### KEY QUOTES

- World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.»
- «Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity.»
- «The pooling of coal and steel production... will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.»



## SCHUMAN'S DECLARATION

*«World peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it.*

*The contribution which an organized and living Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations. In taking upon herself for more than 20 years the role of champion of a united Europe, France has always had as her essential aim the service of peace. A united Europe was not achieved and we had war.*

*Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity. The coming together of the nations of Europe requires the elimination of the age-old opposition of France and Germany. Any action taken must in the first place concern these two countries.*

*With this aim in view, the French Government proposes that action be taken immediately on one limited but decisive point.*

*It proposes that Franco-German production of coal and steel as a whole be placed under a common High Authority, within the framework of an organization open to the participation of the other countries of Europe. The pooling of coal and steel production should immediately provide for the setting up of common foundations for economic development as a first step in the federation of Europe, and will change the destinies of those regions which have long been devoted to the manufacture of munitions of war, of which they have been the most constant victims.*

*The solidarity in production thus established will make it plain that any war between France and Germany becomes not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible. The setting up of this powerful productive unit, open to all countries willing to take part and bound ultimately to provide all the member countries with the basic elements of industrial production on the same terms, will lay a true foundation for their economic unification.*

*This production will be offered to the world as a whole without distinction or exception, with the aim of contributing to raising living standards and to promoting peaceful achievements. With increased resources Europe will be able to pursue the achievement of one of its essential tasks, namely, the development of the African continent. In this way, there will be realised simply and speedily that fusion of interest which is indispensable to the establishment of a common economic system; it may be the leaven from which may grow a wider and deeper community between countries long opposed to one another by sanguinary divisions.*

*By pooling basic production and by instituting a new High Authority, whose decisions will bind France, Germany and other member countries, this proposal will lead to the realization of the first concrete foundation of a European federation indispensable to the preservation of peace.*



*To promote the realization of the objectives defined, the French Government is ready to open negotiations on the following bases.*

*The task with which this common High Authority will be charged will be that of securing in the shortest possible time the modernization of production and the improvement of its quality; the supply of coal and steel on identical terms to the French and German markets, as well as to the markets of other member countries; the development in common of exports to other countries; the equalization and improvement of the living conditions of workers in these industries.*

*To achieve these objectives, starting from the very different conditions in which the production of member countries is at present situated, it is proposed that certain transitional measures should be instituted, such as the application of a production and investment plan, the establishment of compensating machinery for equating prices, and the creation of a restructuring fund to facilitate the rationalization of production. The movement of coal and steel between member countries will immediately be freed from all customs duty, and will not be affected by differential transport rates. Conditions will gradually be created which will spontaneously provide for the more rational distribution of production at the highest level of productivity.*

*In contrast to international cartels, which tend to impose restrictive practices on distribution and the exploitation of national markets, and to maintain high profits, the organization will ensure the fusion of markets and the expansion of production.*

*The essential principles and undertakings defined above will be the subject of a treaty signed between the States and submitted for the ratification of their parliaments. The negotiations required to settle details of applications will be undertaken with the help of an arbitrator appointed by common agreement. He will be entrusted with the task of seeing that the agreements reached conform with the principles laid down, and, in the event of a deadlock, he will decide what solution is to be adopted.*

*The common High Authority entrusted with the management of the scheme will be composed of independent persons appointed by the governments, giving equal representation. A chairman will be chosen by common agreement between the governments. The Authority's decisions will be enforceable in France, Germany and other member countries. Appropriate measures will be provided for means of appeal against the decisions of the Authority.*



*A representative of the United Nations will be accredited to the Authority, and will be instructed to make a public report to the United Nations twice yearly, giving an account of the working of the new organization, particularly as concerns the safeguarding of its objectives.*

*The institution of the High Authority will in no way prejudge the methods of ownership of enterprises. In the exercise of its functions, the common High Authority will take into account the powers conferred upon the International Ruhr Authority and the obligations of all kinds imposed upon Germany, so long as these remain in force. «*



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