The background of the slide is the flag of the European Union, featuring a blue field with twelve five-pointed gold stars arranged in a circle. The text is overlaid on this flag.

# Europe and the European Union (E.U.)

Michaela Alexandridi



# What is the European Union, when and why was it created?

- The European Union is an economic and political association between 28 European countries.
- Firstly, it was called the European Economic Community (E.E.C.).
- It was created after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War (in 1958) to promote economic cooperation: the idea was that countries who trade with one another become economically interdependent and so are more likely to avoid conflict.



# The 28 European countries

## 1958:

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Italy
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands

## 1973:

- Denmark
- Ireland
- United Kingdom

## 1981:

- Greece

## 1986:

- Portugal
- Spain

## 1995:

- Austria
- Finland
- Sweden

## 2004:

- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Malta
- Poland
- Slovakia
- Slovenia

## 2007:

- Bulgaria
- Romania

## 2013:

- Croatia

# The symbols of the European Union's flag

- The E.U.'s flag is as famous as its symbols.
- It's dark blue and it has on it 12 (twelve) yellow stars.
- This flag means the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.



# Which are the European Institutions?

## The European Institutions:

- European Parliament
- European Council
- Council of the European Union
- European Commission
- Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)
- European Central Bank (ECB)
- European Court of Auditors (ECA)
- European External Action Service (EEAS)
- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- European Investment Bank (EIB)
- European Ombudsman
- European Data Protection Supervisor (EDPS)
- Interinstitutional bodies
- Committee of the Regions (CoR)

# The European Parliament

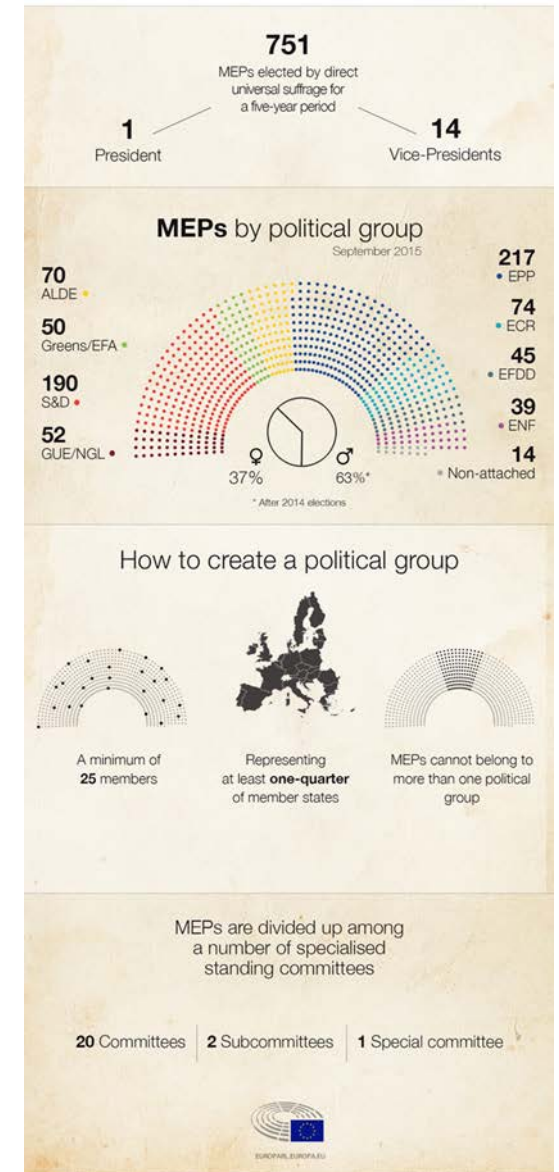
- The European Parliament is the E.U.'s law-making body. It is directly elected by EU voters every 5 years.
- The Parliament has 3 main roles: 1) Legislative, 2) Supervisory and 3) Budgetary
- The Parliament's work has two main stages: the “Committees” ( preparing legislation) and the “Plenary sessions” (passing legislation).



European Parliament

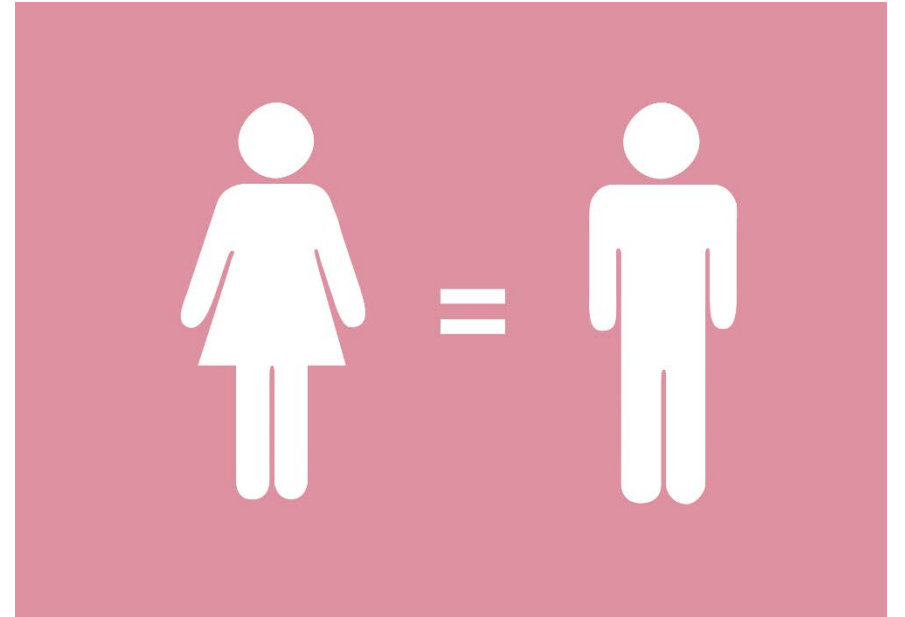
# The European Parliament

The European Parliament has 20 committees and two subcommittees, each of them handling a particular area or policy. The committees examine proposals for legislation, and MEPs and political groups can propose amendments or reject bills. The issues are debated within the political groups.

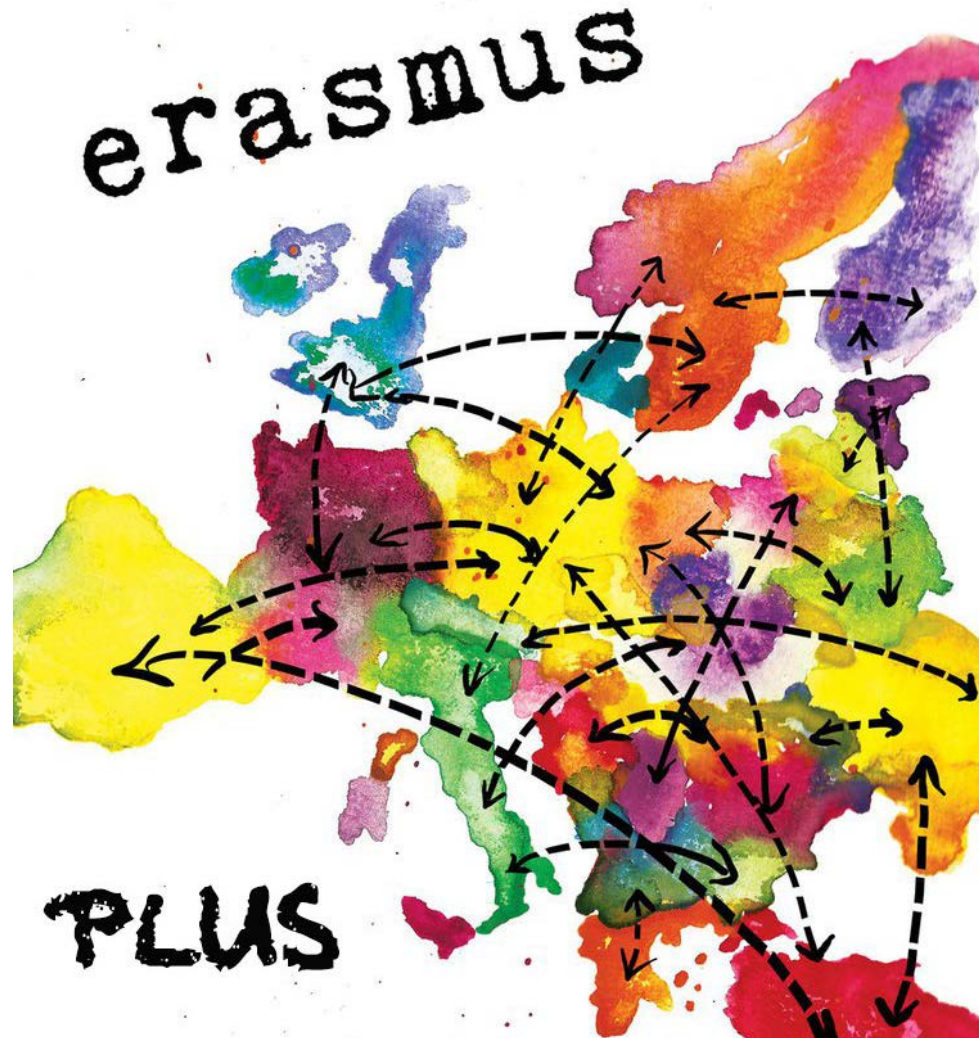


# Human rights and equality

- One of the EU's main goals is to promote human rights both inside Europe and around the world.
- The core values of the European Union are: human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights.



# Erasmus: A European educational programme



- Erasmus is a European educational programme only for students of the European Union.
- By exchanging students from all the E.U., it gives the opportunity to them to study in a different country for a short period of time and learn more about this country.
- Since 1987, more than a million students have participated.



*The end*