

European Citizenship



Why was the European Union created?

The European Union was set up with a view to ending the frequent and bloody wars between neighbouring countries. The Second World War was an awful example of that. As of 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community began to unite European countries economically and politically in order to secure peace.

Which are the European Institutions and how do they work?

European Parliament = A directly-elected EU body with legislative, supervisory, and budgetary responsibilities

European Council = Defines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union

Council of the European Union = Voices the EU member governments, by adopting EU laws and coordinating EU policies

European Commission = Promotes the general interest of the EU by proposing and enforcing legislation as well as by implementing policies and the EU budget

Court of Justice of the European Union = Ensures EU law is interpreted and applied the same in every EU country; also ensures countries and EU institutions abide by EU law

European Central Bank = Manages the euro, keeps prices stable and conducts EU economic & monetary policy

What are the symbols of the EU?

The European flag



The European anthem

*Est Europa nunc unita
et unita maneat;
una in diversitate
pacem mundi augeat.*

*Semper regnant in Europa
fides et iustitia
et libertas populorum
in maiore patria.*

*Cives, floreat Europa,
opus magnum vocat vos.
Stellae signa sunt in caelo
aureae, quae iungant nos*

*Europe is united now
United may it remain;
Our unity in diversity
May it contribute to world peace.*

*May there forever reign in Europe
Faith and justice
And freedom of its people
In a greater motherland*

*Citizens, may Europe flourish,
A great task calls on you.
Golden stars in the sky are
The symbols that shall unite us*

What are the aims of the EU?

1. to promote economic and social progress. *In other words, help people earn enough money and get treated fairly.*
2. to speak for the European Union in international organisations. *By working as a group, the EU hopes that Europe's ideas will be listened to.*
3. to introduce European citizenship. *Permanent inhabitants of member states are citizens of the EU and all have the rights.*
4. to develop Europe as an area of freedom, security and justice. *That is, to help Europeans to live in safety, without the threat of war.*
5. to maintain and build on already established EU law. *To make new laws that protect the European citizens' rights.*

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