

2016

# The United States of Europe



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## **Introduction**

The European Union is an economic Union of 28 member states that are located in Europe. The EU has a system of institutions which are: The European Parliament, the European Union, The European Commission, the Court of Justice, the European Central Bank, and the Court of Auditors. The Parliament is elected every five years by citizens of countries of the European Union. The capital of this Union is Brussels (Belgium) and across the EU, 24 languages are spoken. The president of the European Commission is Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Council is Donald Tusk and the President of the European Parliament is Martin Schulz. The EU has created its own market that applies in all member- states. Within the European Union geopolitical area (Schengen Area), passport controls no longer exist. Now, everything has changed and there are some very powerful countries which refuse to help the other countries because of their power.

## **Historical Background of the E.U**

After World War II, European integration was seen as an antidote to the extreme nationalism which had devastated the continent. The 1948 Hague Congress was a pivotal moment in European federal history, as it led to the creation of the European Movement International and of the College of Europe, where Europe's future leaders would live and study together. In 1957, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany signed the Treaty of Rome, which created the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1973, the Communities expanded to include Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom. Norway had started negotiating to

join at the same time, but Norwegian voters rejected membership in a referendum. In 1979, the first democratic elections to form the European Parliament were held.

Greece joined in 1981; Portugal and Spain in 1986. In 1985, the Schengen Agreement paved the way for the creation of open borders without passport controls between most member states and some non-member states. In 1986, the European flag began to be used by the Community and the Single European Act was signed.

In 1990, after the fall of the Eastern Bloc, the former East Germany became part of the Community as part of a reunified Germany. With further expansion planned to include the former communist states, as well as Cyprus and Malta, the Copenhagen criteria for candidate members to join the EU were agreed upon in June 1993.

### **Questionnaire (with Pie Chart)-Results**

I asked 20 people about the European Union. The questions were the following:

1)The first question was about the creation of a new Union which is going to be called “United States of Europe”

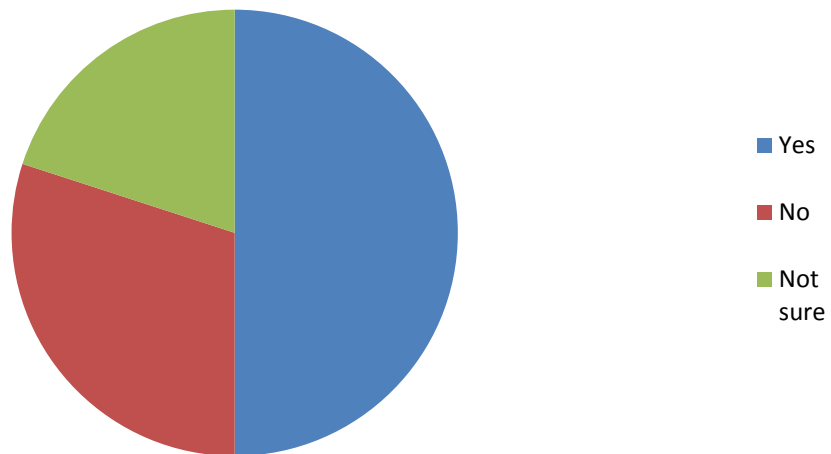
The possible answers were:

Yes

No

Not sure

### Should we create a new Union with the name "United States of Europe"



2) Which is the best thing for Greek economy?

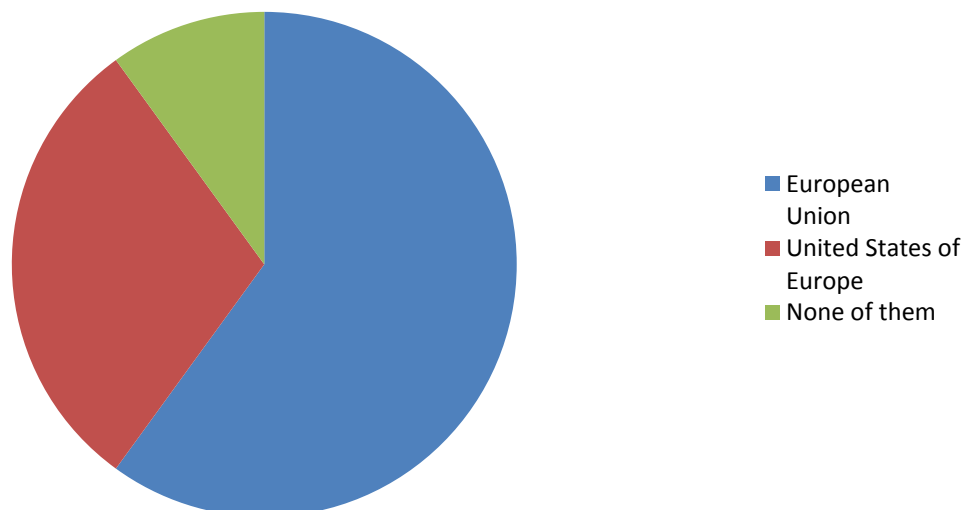
The possible answers were:

European Union

United States of Europe

None of them

### Which is the best thing for Greek Economy?



### **Suggestions**

I believe that every European country has to be a part of the European Union. There are five recognized candidates for membership: Turkey, Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Serbia. All candidate countries except Albania and Macedonia have started negotiations. Kosovo, whose independence is not recognised by five EU member states, and Bosnia and Herzegovina are recognised as potential candidates for membership by the EU. Bosnia-Herzegovina has a Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU, which generally precedes the lodging of membership applications, while Kosovo has signed its own SAA. The three major western European countries which are not EU members, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, have all submitted membership applications in the past, but subsequently the EU froze them.

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