

# **“The United States of Europe is a fine ideal”**

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# Thesis

I'm inclined to believe that all member-states must have equal rights and responsibilities as this was the main purpose of the creation of the European Union. But, unfortunately, I believe that the EU deviated from this goal as some economically and politically strong member-states (Germany, UK, France, e.t.c ) have obtained more rights than other weaker members which are in a **poor** economic situation.

On the other hand, it is worth mentioning that the EU has been formed in order to keep the balance and equality between all the member-states. Particularly, it has created the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union** which entrenches:

- ❖ all the rights supported by the Law of the Court of Justice of the EU;
- ❖ the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights;
- ❖ other rights and principles resulting from the common constitutional traditions of EU countries and other international instruments.

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## CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

2012/C 326/02

PREAMBLE

TITLE I DIGNITY

TITLE II FREEDOM

TITLE III EQUALITY

TITLE IV SOLIDARITY

TITLE V CITIZENS' RIGHTS

TITLE VI JUSTICE

TITLE VII GENERAL PROVISIONS GOVERNING THE INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF THE CHARTER

# History of the European Union

The idea of the European union had been for centuries, a vision of numerous philosophers (Cand , Komenius, V. Hugo) . It was based on the geographic location of the European continent which unites different countries and civilizations.

After the disastrous consequences of the two world wars, Europe had common interests in the economy and social reconstruction. Under these conditions, the vision of the United Europe rises, without national rivalries and internal conflicts which existed in the past.

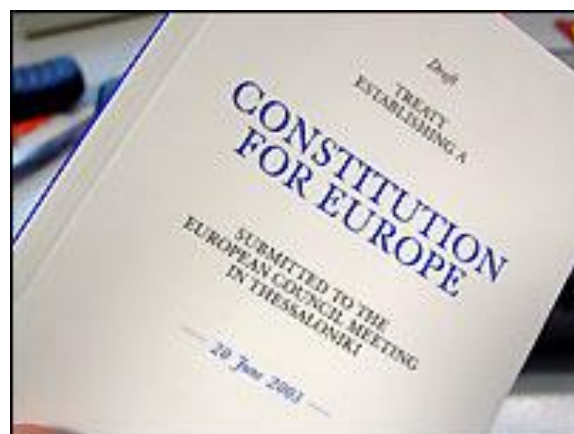
Since **1950**, France promotes the negotiations in order to found the European Community under the ministry of R. Scuman!

In **1951**, the Treaty of Paris was signed between France, West Germany, Italy, Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The Community expects the common use of Coal and Steel for the countries- members - mentioned above.

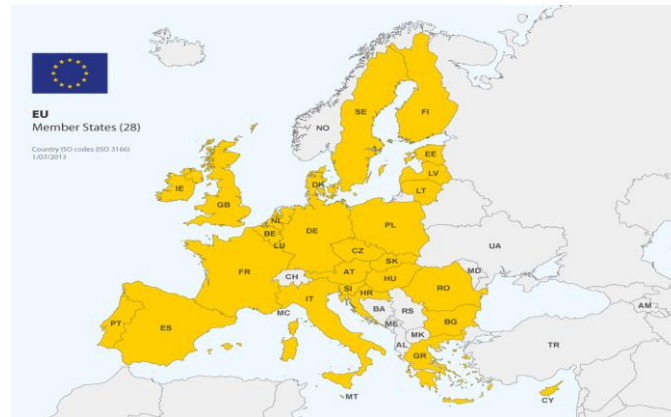
In **1957** , “the six” signed the Treaty of Rome, on which the European Economic Community (EEC) was founded. The European unity was becoming a reality.

In **1992** the Maastricht Treaty was signed which is formally called Treaty of the European Union (TEU)

During its formation, the European Union doesn't concern only the economic unity of the member states. It also dictates the common European nationality of the citizens and the possibility to travel or live freely in every member state! Moreover, Euro (the official currency of the eurozone) and the common policies in the domain of safety, education, environment, health, human rights, e.t.c. have brought up radical changes in the lives of people. Finally, European Union established the European Constitution in **2004**.



As the years go by, new member states are added. In **1996**, there are already 15 member states and in **2004** about 25. Between **2009-2013**, European Union reaches 28 member states.



## Summary

The **European Union (EU)** is a politico-economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. It covers an area of 4,324,782 km<sup>2</sup>, with an estimated population of over 508 million. The EU operates through a system of supranational institutions and intergovernmental-negotiated decisions by the member states. The institutions are: the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank, and the Court of Auditors. The European Parliament is elected every five years by EU citizens.

## INTERVIEWS

❖ *In which ways do you believe that the creation of the EU has benefited the citizens?*

**Answer 1:** "I believe that the European Union has managed to bring down the borders and the dividing lines among the people of Europe who were divided as the result of World War II. So European Union creation may keep citizens united."

*Antonis, 50*

**Answer 2:** "I believe that the creation of the EU helped the development of strong bonds between the member-states. Moreover, it helped eliminate the differences which existed during the two world wars."

*Eleni, 49*

**Answer 3:** "The creation of the EU benefited the citizens in a way that they have the same rights, free movement of goods but also it made the European economy stronger by the establishment of the euro."

*Konstantina, 16*

❖ *Do you believe that the EU has deviated from its initial purpose?*

**Answer 1:** "Yes, because the interests of the countries according to their economic problems have influenced the initial purpose of the EU."

*George, 32*

**Answer 2:** "Yes, as its primary goal was solidarity, equal development and help between the member-states while nowadays it has become some kind of exploitation of the weaker countries by the stronger."

*Maria, 24*

❖ *Do you believe that the younger citizens of the EU are efficiently informed about the opportunities offered to them by the EU? And if not, in which ways do you think it is the better for their education and career life?*

**Answer 1:** "I don't think that they are well informed. In that case it would be better if their countries could inform them about the potentials."

*Konstantina, 16*

**Answer 2:** "No they aren't! In my opinion, the best way would be through school. It can organize field trips to the European council or run projects about the EU."

*Marina, 19*

## Conclusion

All in all, generally the EU has influenced strongly the life of every citizen as it has improved the quality of his life. Free borders have helped citizens broaden their horizons as they constantly get influenced by the different cultures and ways of life. **So I claim that being an EU member state has a very positive impact on our lives!**

## References

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