

From Europe to the Euro

**Student Orientations
2015 Euro Challenge**

www.euro-challenge.org



What is the European Union?

- A unique institution – Member States voluntarily cede national sovereignty in many areas to carry out common policies and governance.
- Not a super-state to replace existing states, nor just an organization for international cooperation.
- Shared values: liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.
- Largest economic region in the world.
- World's most successful model for advancing peace and democracy (2012 Nobel Peace Prize winner).
- World's largest donor providing assistance to developing countries.



Sizing up the European Union

28 member states

over **500** million
combined population

24 official
languages

22%
of global GDP

4.3 million km²
total surface area

20% of global
exports and imports



Outline of the Presentation



History of the European Union

- Half a Century of Change and Progress



How does the European Union function?

- A Unique Institutional Structure



The €uro Currency and the Monetary Union

- United in Diversity



The European Union and the United States

- Partners in Global Leadership

1951



Six founding countries ( Belgium,  Federal Republic of Germany,  France,  Italy,  Luxembourg,  the Netherlands) signed a treaty to run heavy industries (coal and steel) under common management in 1951:

The European Coal and Steel Community was born, precursor of the EU.

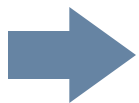
1957



[The signatories are] "determined to **lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe**, resolved to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action to **eliminate the barriers which divide Europe (...)**"

Preamble of the EEC Treaty

Six founding countries **expanded cooperation to other economic sectors**, creating the **European Economic Community (EEC)** – or “common market“.



Elimination of tariffs* on trade between the six original members achieved by 1968.

* A tariff is a tax on imports or exports

Widening the Union - EU Enlargements



- 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



- Candidate Countries:**
- Iceland
 - FYR Macedonia
 - Turkey
 - Serbia
 - Montenegro
- Potential Candidates:**
- Albania
 - Bosnia & Herzegovina
 - Kosovo*

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European Commission – Promoting the Common Interest



Jean-Claude Juncker

President of the European Commission

- 28 Commissioners, representing the European perspective, each responsible for a specific policy area.
- EU's executive branch proposes legislation, manages Union's day-to-day business and budget, and enforces rules.
- Negotiates trade agreements and manages Europe's multilateral development cooperation.

Council of the EU (Council of Ministers by field, e.g., agriculture, foreign policy, economy)

EU's main decision-making body, comprised of ministers of 28 Member States, representing Member State's point of view.

European Council meets at the level of heads of state and government to set the main political direction of the EU.

The President represents the Council for a 2 ½ -year term (renewable one); but a country “presidency” rotates among Member States every six months.

European Parliament

The voice of the people

- European citizens directly elect members for five-year terms.
- With the Council, passes EU laws and adopts EU budgets.
- Approves EU Commissioners.

(Parliament in session pictured below)

European Court of Justice

Upholding the Law

- Highest EU judicial authority.
- Ensures all EU laws are interpreted and applied correctly and uniformly.
- Can act as an independent policy maker and overrule national law in areas (economy, agriculture) covered by the Treaties.



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The Euro and the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)

1986 **Single European Act**

Sets objective of establishing an internal market

1992 **Maastricht Treaty**

Sets out how to achieve EMU, lays down convergence criteria

1999 **Introduction of the euro**

The euro is officially introduced as a virtual currency in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

2002 **Banknotes and coins**

Introduction of euro banknotes and coins, replacing national currencies



Economic integration is the cornerstone of the EU



Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) enshrined as an objective in the EU Treaties



18*
member
states

The euro area – Countries share the euro as their currency, ECB sets interest rates.

28
member
states

The single market – elimination of trade and competition barriers; free movement of goods, services, capital and people

28
member
states

Enhanced policy coordination – countries maintain control over economic policy, but have to coordinate at EU level

Euro Area \neq European Union

**Of the 28 EU Member States today,
18* have adopted the euro**

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain

What about the other 10?

Denmark and the United Kingdom **have opted out and are not obliged to adopt the euro.**

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Sweden **aim to adopt the euro eventually, when they are ready.**



What Are the Benefits of the Single Market?

- + Increased competition
 - Lower prices
 - Wider choice of products and services
 - More jobs

- + Easier travel

- + More opportunities to live, work and study in other EU countries



What Are the *Additional* Benefits and “Costs” of Adopting the Euro?

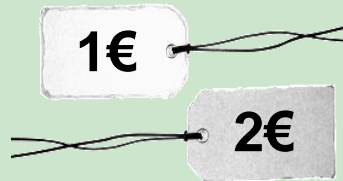
Price stability and security of purchasing power



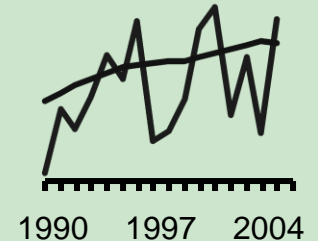
Elimination of transaction costs



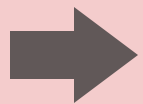
Price transparency across countries



Elimination of exchange rate risks



Countries can no longer change their **interest rate** or their **exchange rate**.



Countries **give up their ability to set their own monetary policy**

Countries must fulfill the convergence (or “Maastricht”) criteria



Price Stability
(low inflation)

**Interest rate
convergence**



**Public finance
discipline**
(low government
debt and deficit)

**Exchange rate
stability**



The European Central Bank – managing the Euro

- The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank for the euro area.
- The ECB's main task is to maintain price stability in the euro area, i.e. keep inflation low.
- This is done by steering interest rates, thereby influencing economic developments (by affecting borrowing and lending by consumers and companies)
- The ECB operates independently from Member State governments.



US

Euro area

Monetary policy



Fed Chair: Janet Yellen



ECB President
Mario Draghi

Fiscal policy



Treasury Secretary
Jack Lew + Congress



Eurogroup Finance Ministers

→ Eurogroup: economic policy co-ordination is required

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The European Union and the United States



President of the United States of America Obama with President of the European Commission Juncker on the occasion of the G20 Summit in Australia

The European Union and the United States

Barack Obama

President of the
United States of
America



“America has no better partner than Europe. Now is the time to build new bridges across the globe as strong as the one that bound us across the Atlantic. Now is the time to join together, through constant cooperation, strong institutions, shared sacrifice, and a global commitment to progress, to meet the challenges of the 21st century.”

US and EU – Partners in Global Leadership



Federica Mogherini

(EU High Representative for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy)

- EU and U.S. work together to develop international standards:
 - Fighting terrorism and transnational crime
 - Advancing global trade liberalization
 - Combating piracy and intellectual property violations
 - Spreading benefits of globalization
- EU and its Member States are helping restore peace and stability in Afghanistan.
- EU and U.S. work together in the Middle East Quartet to advance the peace process.
- When the EU and U.S. agree, others tend to follow.

US and EU – Shared Values and Responsibilities

- **Freedom & Democracy**
Support free elections, good governance, human rights, and the rule of law around the world.
- **Security**
Cooperate to fight terrorism, limit the spread of nuclear weapons, and work for global peace.
- **Development**
Together, EU and U.S. provide 80% of global development assistance and an even larger share of global humanitarian aid in times of disaster and conflict.



EU Police Mission in the
Palestinian Territories

US and EU – A Dynamic Transatlantic Economy

- Together, the EU and the US account for nearly half of world GDP and generate more than a billion dollars in transatlantic trade every day.
- The transatlantic economy employs 15 million workers on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Since 2001, Europe has accounted for global investment flows into the U.S. – by far the most significant source of for investment in the U.S. economy.



**Good luck in the
Euro Challenge 2015!**

