The European Union in a Global Context
A world player

World

Population 6.6 billion
http://europa.eu/abc/index_en.htm

Land mass 148,940,000 sq.km.

GDP (2006) $65 trillion

EU

490 million

3,860,137 sq.km.

$13.5 trillion

Sources: EU website; CIA World Factbook; IMF; World Bank
27 in 2007

http://europa.eu/abc/history/animated_map/index_en.htm

- 1958 - Germany, Italy, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Luxembourg
- 1973 - United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark
- 1981 - Greece
- 1986 - Spain, Portugal
- 1995 - Austria, Finland, Sweden
- 2004 - Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia
- 2007 - Bulgaria, Romania
Union Institutions

Commission: executive/civil service, one member per state, draft legislation, president nominated by Council and elected by Parliament

Council: ½ of legislative system; national ministers responsible for the area of EU law being addressed (e.g., Ag Ministers)

European Council: Heads of 27 states; meet quarterly; Presidency rotates every 6 months

European Parliament: ½ of legislative system. 785 members, Direct Elections every five years

European Court of Justice: supranational legal system, 27 judges, Court of First Instance, European Court of Auditors (budget)

European Central Bank: 13 member states
The Strategy: Functional Economic Integration First

- Rome treaty and the common agriculture policy (CAP)
- European Monetary System to the Euro and a Central Banking System
- Single European Act: an internal market
- The Schengen Agreement and Labor mobility
- A regional trade bloc
- EU role in closing the global development gap
The (intended?) outcome: supranational state

- European Coal and Steel Act (July 23, 1952)
- Rome Treaty (January 1, 1958)
- Single European Act (July 1, 1987 - internal market)
- Maastricht treaty (November 1, 1993 - Three pillars: economic, defense, justice and home affairs = European Union)
- Amsterdam Treaty (May 1, 1999 - merging prior treaties)
- European Constitution adopted June 2004 based on Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in 2000; the Treaty of Nice (February 1, 2003), the European Convention (finished July 2003), and the IGC (10/2003-6/2004); 16 ratified - Spain 2/2005 and Finland 12/2006; French and Dutch reject in 2005
Integration depth: Education

- **ERASMUS** (European Regional Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students): higher education program established in 1987 and forms a major part of the EU Socrates II program; increase mobility: 1.4 millions

- Socrates II programme in 2000. Other educational programs include Leonardo (secondary schools), Grundtvig (adult learning) and Arion (teaching decision-makers).

- **Bologna process** (1999): create a European higher education system by making degree standards and quality assurance standards more comparable and compatible throughout Europe

- The EU is also sponsoring a large number of research projects aimed at academics and institutes, organised in frameworks of calls. From 2007 the EU has opened its 7th framework for grant applications.


- [http://www.eurydice.org/portal/page/portal/Eurydice](http://www.eurydice.org/portal/page/portal/Eurydice)
Immediate concerns

**ECONOMIC**
- Integrating new and future members
- CAP budget
- The Euro: from 13 to 27?
- Economic impacts of EU leadership on Global Warming - the Kyoto Protocol
- Regional Inequalities and development gaps

**POLITICAL**
- The democratic deficit: transparency and a political constitution
- The Constitution
- National to Regional Sovereignty
- Common Foreign and Security Policy: autonomy from NATO?
- [http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-eu/index.html](http://www.nato.int/issues/nato-eu/index.html)
The cultural road

**The Cultural Legacy**

- Distinct histories
- Many languages: 23 Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Irish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish
- Longstanding Religious diversity: Christianity (Roman Catholic, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox), Judaism
- Securalism, Atheism, Agnosticism

**New Cultural Points**

- New religious diversity: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Baha’i, and Sikhism
- Immigration from the former colonies
- Turkey
Paths to Political Union

Political Will
Multiculturalism
Hybridity
European citizenship
Youth and the EU

- Citizenship -
  http://ec.europa.eu/youth/yia/index_en.html
- What drives youth?
- Blogs
- Sport
- Sex
- Music
- Transportation
- Family
- Religion
- Career