European Union
Educational Outreach Program in the United States 2012
History of the European Union
The Original Purpose of the EU

To secure peace between former enemies

How?

By controlling the production of coal and steel
Key Milestones

1951
ECSC
Production of coal and steel put under control of a High Authority

1957
Treaty of Rome
Creation of the EEC and establishment of the common market
Key Milestones

1986
Single European Act
First major revision of the Rome Treaty: Single Market and European Political Cooperation

1989
Fall of the Berlin Wall
Reunification of Germany and democratisation of Eastern Europe

1992
Maastricht Treaty
Creation of the European Union and the pillar structure
The Treaty of Lisbon

- Entered into force on December 1\textsuperscript{st} 2009
- Amends current treaties without replacing them

Key improvements:

- Democracy and Transparency
- Rights and Values
- Visibility on the Global Stage
- Efficiency
The EU Today

- 501 million
- 23 languages
- 27 countries
The EU Today

- World Population: 7.5%
- World GDP: 30%
- World Official Development Aid: 56%
The Values of the EU

- Democracy
- Freedom
- Equality
- Rule of Law
- Respect for Human Rights
European Enlargement
Conditions of Membership

Political

- Stability of Institutions
- Rule of Law
- Human Rights
- Respect and Protection of Minorities
Conditions of Membership

Economic

Market Economy

Ability to Cope with Competitive Pressures
The Enlargement Process

- Acceptance of Application
- Accession Negotiations
- Accession Treaty and Ratification
History of Enlargement

Bulgaria

Romania

Slovenia
Malta
Cyprus
EU Candidate Countries

Acceding Country
• Croatia – joining in 2013

Candidate Countries
• fYROM
• Iceland
• Montenegro
• Serbia
• Turkey
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, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
- **2007**: Bulgaria, Romania
- **Future**: Candidates: Croatia, Iceland, FYR Macedonia, Turkey
  - Potential candidates: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo *

* under UNSCR 1244

Map: Wikimedia Commons
How the EU Works
Major EU Institutions

- European Council
- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the European Union
European Council

Composition

Heads of state or government from member states

Functions

Sets the general guidelines for EU policy
European Commission

Executive Branch of the EU

**Composition**

27 independent members, one from each EU country

**Functions**

- Proposes new legislation
- Manages EU’s day-to-day business and budget
European Parliament

Voice of the People

Composition

736 MEPs from all member states

Functions

Decides on EU legislation together with CoEU

Democratic supervision of all the EU’s work
Council of the European Union

Voice of the Member States

Composition

One minister from each member state

Functions

Decides on EU legislation together with parliament

Manages common foreign and security policy
European Court of Justice

The Judicial Authority of the EU

Composition

27 independent judges, one from each state

Functions

Rules on how to interpret EU law

Ensures EU countries apply laws in the same way
Economic and Monetary Union and the Euro
The Euro is the single currency of the EU, introduced in 1999. 12 of the then 15 members adopted it in 2002. Today 17 of the 27 countries use it. It has become an attractive world currency like the US dollar.
Economic, Monetary and Fiscal Policy in the EMU

- Coordination of economic policies
- Financial and budgetary discipline

- Set by the ECB

- Set by national governments of member states
The European Central Bank

- Ensures price stability
- Controls money supply and decides interest rates
- Works independently from governments
Joining the Euro: Maastricht Criteria

- Price stability
- Budget deficit
- Debt
- Interest rates
- Exchange rate stability
The EU on the World Stage
Common Foreign and Security Policy

- Common Security and Defense Policy
- European Security Strategy
- Peacekeeping and Crisis Management
- EU and NATO
European External Action Service

The EU’s foreign service

Improved coherence and efficiency

Led by HR Catherine Ashton
Trade and Development

Doha

Development Assistance
Democracy and Human Rights

Promoting:
- Election Monitoring

...and fighting:
- The Death Penalty
- Torture
- Human Trafficking
The EU-US Relationship
Shared Values

- Promoting peace, human rights and democracy worldwide
- Confronting global challenges, including security and non-proliferation
- Fostering prosperity and opportunity
- Advancing strategic cooperation on energy security, climate change and sustainable development

Natural Partners
Comparative Statistics

- **Population**
  - EU: 501 million
  - US: 310 million

- **GDP**
  - EU: US$ 16.4 trillion
  - US: US$ 14.3 trillion

- **Area**
  - EU: 1.8 million sq miles
  - US: 3.5 million sq miles
Trade and Economics

- More than 30% of global merchandise trade
- More than 40% of global service trade
- Largest bilateral trade relationship in the world
- We are each other’s main trading partner and source of FDI
- $4.3 trillion in trade every year
- Generates 15 million jobs in the EU and US
- 1% of global GDP
The Transatlantic Partnership

The Senior Level Group (SLG) comprises senior EU and US State Department Officials. They, together with the Joint Task Force, prepare for the Annual Summits. The Joint Task Force meets regularly to oversee the implementation of Summit decisions.

Joint Task Force + Senior Level Group = Transatlantic Economic Council

Annual Summit

Transatlantic Business Dialogue + Transatlantic Consumer Dialogue + Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue = Transatlantic Economic Council

EU-US Development Dialogue
EU-US Energy Council
Transatlantic Environmental Dialogue

EU-US Working Group on Employment and Labor
EU-US Counter-Terrorism Dialogue
Macroeconomic Dialogue

Biotechnology Research Task Force
Transport and Border Security Dialogue

EU-US Cooperation in Crisis Management, Conflict Prevention and Capacity Building
EU-US Education Policy Forum
EU-US Science and Technology Agreement

Takes place once a year between the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Council and the President of the US.
"I believe that a stronger and renewed EU will be an even better transatlantic partner of the United States."

(President Barack Obama)

"The relationship between the United States and Europe is the world’s strongest, most comprehensive, and strategically important partnership."

(President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso)
Thank you!

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Washington, DC

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Question & Answer