

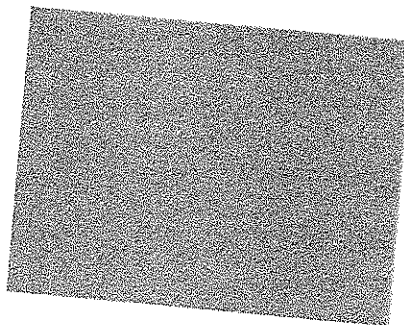
11-The freedom to move in Europe

The article 45 of the Charter of fundamental Rights of the Union says that “every citizens of the Union has the right to move and reside freely within the territory of the Member States”.

Europeans make increasing use of their freedom to move within the Union to work and study in other countries, creating businesses, paying taxes and contributing to forging a more dynamic society. About 16 million Europeans today live and work for an extended period in another country, perhaps permanently. 1.7 million people cross a border daily to work in another country. Beyond that, European society is increasingly integrating as a consequence of the ease with which people can travel, study, retire and do business with each other, with costs reduced and opportunities increased as a result of belonging to a border-free single market.

(Reflection paper on the Social dimension of Europe

- European Commission 31 May 2017)



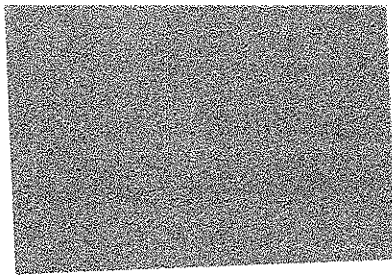
13-The European Flag

The European flag symbolises both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe. It features a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.

The history of the flag goes back to 1955. The Council of Europe - which defends human rights and promotes European culture – chose the present design for its own use. In the years that followed, it encouraged the emerging European institutions to adopt the same flag.

In 1983, the European Parliament decided that the Communities' flag should be that used by the Council of Europe. In 1985, it was adopted by all EU leaders as the official emblem of the European Communities, later to become the European Union. In addition, all European institutions now have their own emblems.

To mark the 30th anniversary of the decision by EU leaders to adopt the flag as an EU emblem, the 19 euro area countries are issuing a special commemorative coin. It comprises 12 stars that morph into human figures embracing the birth of a new Europe.



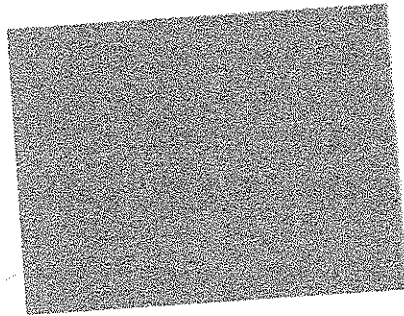
9-The future of the European defence

“New realities are emerging within and beyond our borders. To our east, countries are facing military, economic, political and energy-security related threats and vulnerabilities. Cross the Mediterranean and parts of sub-Saharan Africa, the spread of ungoverned spaces and conflict has left a vacuum for terrorists and criminals. We have witnessed a dramatic rise in civilian victims and refugees across the world, with more than 60 million people displaced.

Security threats are not far from our borders and citizens. Political leaders have already started responding to such trends. A set of initiatives are underway to implement the global strategy to develop stronger relations between the EU and Nato and to enable Member States to engage in defence research and develop defence capabilities together”

(Reflection paper on the future of the European defence

- European Commission 31 May 2017)

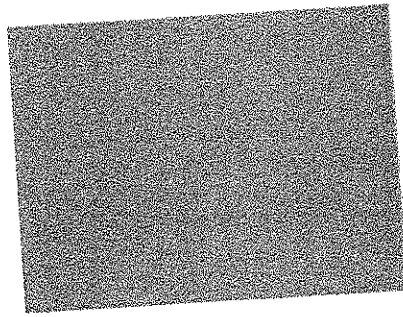


12-The Brexit Referendum

The Brexit referendum took place on 23 June 2016 in the United Kingdom and Gibraltar to ask the electorate if the country should remain a member of, or leave the European Union. Membership of the EU has long been a topic of debate in the United Kingdom. The country joined to the Union in 1973.

The referendum resulted in 51.9% of votes being in favour of leaving the EU. Although legally the referendum was non-binding, the government of that time had promised to implement the result, and it initiated the official EU withdrawal process on 29 March 2017, meaning that the UK was due to leave the EU before 11PM on 29 March 2019, UK time, when the two-year period for Brexit negotiations expired.

Immediately after the result, financial markets reacted negatively worldwide, and Cameron announced that he would resign as Prime Minister and Leader of the Conservative Party, having campaigned unsuccessfully for a "Remain" vote. It was the first time that a national referendum result had gone against the preferred option of the UK Government. Cameron was succeeded by Home Secretary Theresa May on 13 July 2016.

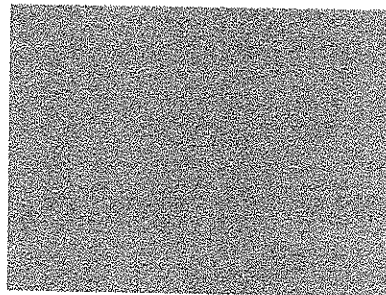


16- The European Commission

The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

It protects the interests of the EU and its citizens on issues that can't be dealt with effectively at national level; gets technical details right by consulting experts and the public; sets EU spending priorities, together with the Council and Parliament. Together with the Court of Justice, ensures that EU law is properly applied in all the member countries.

Political leadership is provided by a team of 28 Commissioners (one from each EU country) – led by the Commission President, who decides who is responsible for which policy area.

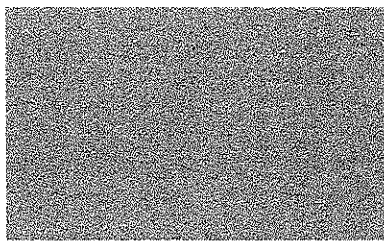


17-Languages

The European Union has 24 official languages. Important documents, such as legislation, are translated into every official language and the European Parliament provides translation for documents and plenary sessions.

Due to the high number of official idioms, most of the institutions use only a handful of working languages. The European Commission conducts its internal business in three procedural languages : English, French, and German. Similarly, the European Court of Justice uses French as the working language, while the European Central Bank conducts its business primarily in English.

Even though language policy is the responsibility of member states, EU institutions promote multilingualism among its citizens. English is the most widely spoken language in the EU, being understood by 51% of the EU population when counting both native and non-native speakers. German is the most widely spoken mother tongue (spoken by 16% of the EU population.) More than a half (56%) of EU citizens is able to engage in a conversation in a language other than their mother tongue.



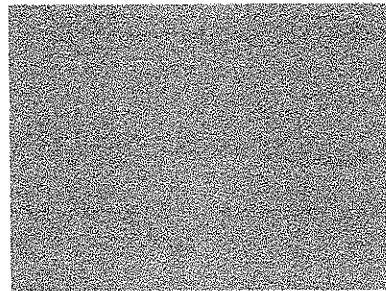
18-The European anthem

The melody used to symbolize the EU comes from the Ninth Symphony composed in 1823 by Ludwig Van Beethoven, when he set music to the "Ode to Joy", Friedrich von Schiller's lyrical verse from 1785.

The anthem symbolises not only the European Union but also Europe in a wider sense. The poem "Ode to Joy" expresses Schiller's idealistic vision of the human race becoming brothers - a vision Beethoven shared.

In 1972, the Council of Europe adopted Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" theme as its anthem. In 1985, it was adopted by EU leaders as the official anthem of the European Union. There are no words to the anthem; it consists of music only. In the universal language of music, this anthem expresses the European ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity.

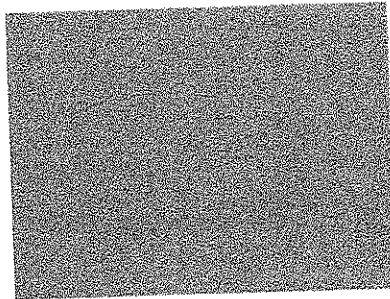
The European anthem is not intended to replace the national anthems of the EU countries but rather to celebrate the values they share. The anthem is played at official ceremonies involving the European Union and generally at all sorts of events with a European character.



4- Fundamental Rights of the European Union

The peoples of Europe, in creating an ever closer union among them, are resolved to share a peaceful future based on common values. Conscious of its spiritual and moral heritage, the Union is founded on the indivisible, universal values of human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity; it is based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law. It places the individual at the heart of its activities, by establishing the citizenship of the Union and by creating an area of freedom, security and justice. The Union contributes to the preservation and to the development of these common values while respecting the diversity of the cultures and traditions of the peoples of Europe as well as the national identities of the Member States and the organisation of their public authorities at national, regional and local levels; it seeks to promote balanced and sustainable development and ensures free movement of persons, goods, services and capital, and the freedom of establishment.

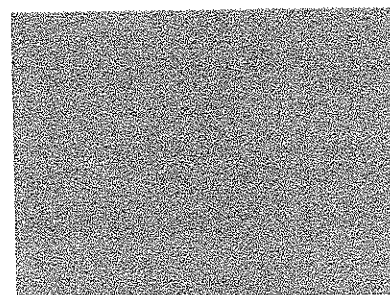
(Preamble to Charter of fundamental rights of the European Union- 18/12/2000)



14- The Court of Justice of the European Union

The Court of Justice of the European Union interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions. It can also, in certain circumstances, be used by individuals, companies or organisations to take action against an EU institution, if they feel it has somehow infringed their rights.

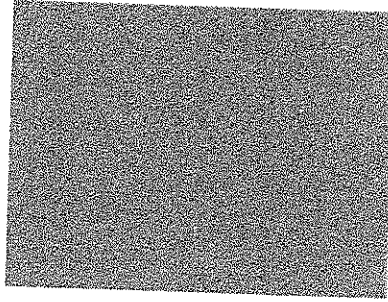
National courts of EU countries are required to ensure EU law is properly applied, but courts in different countries might interpret it differently. If a national court is in doubt about the interpretation or validity of an EU law, it can ask the Court for clarification. The same mechanism can be used to determine whether a national law or practice is compatible with EU law. The court can annul EU legal acts if an EU act is believed to violate EU treaties or fundamental rights.



5-The European Parliament

The European Parliament makes big decisions: how to grow the economy, how to control energy use, how to make sure that the food we eat is safe. When you vote, you choose who makes these decisions and what they mean for the sort of world you want to live in.

The Members of the European Parliament are elected every five years. The world's only directly elected trans-national assembly, the Parliament represents the interests of EU citizens at the European level. It elects the President of the European Commission. It passes laws for our protection and budgets on our behalf. It represents us abroad and acts on our petitions. The discourse of its Members shapes our political and social agenda upholding the values of the Treaty of the European Union

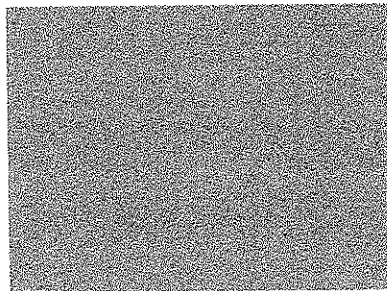
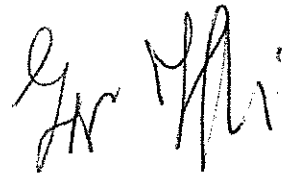


15- The European Council

The European Council brings together EU leaders to set the EU's political agenda. It represents the highest level of political cooperation between EU countries.

One of the EU's 7 official institutions, the Council takes the form of summit meetings between EU leaders, chaired by a permanent president, who is elected by the European Council itself for a once-renewable two-and-a-half-year term. It's located in Brussels.

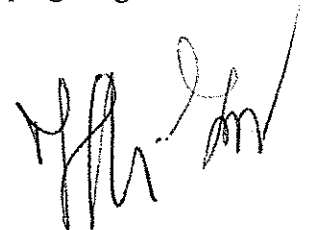
The Council decides on the EU's direction and political priorities, deals with complex or sensitive issues that cannot be resolved at lower levels of intergovernmental cooperation, sets the EU's common foreign and security policy, taking into account EU strategic interests and defence implications. Nominates candidates to certain high profile EU level roles, such as the the Commission.



7-The composition of the European Parliament

In the days immediately following the results, the new Members of the new Parliament work to form political groups. The political composition of the new Parliament may require new allegiances to be formed and new groups may emerge. At its first plenary session, the new Parliament will elect a new President of the European Parliament. The new Parliament will then elect the new President of the European Commission and later will examine and approve the entire Commission.

Although elected by country, Members of the European Parliament sit in political groups based on a shared platform and identity, which gives individual Members greater influence. Parliamentary rules require that each group has at least 25 Members and represents at least a quarter of EU Member States. Political parties in the Member States generally confirm their allegiance to an existing group, or their intention to form or to join a new one, at the outset of the election and often campaign together to at least some extent. There are eight groups in the current Parliament.



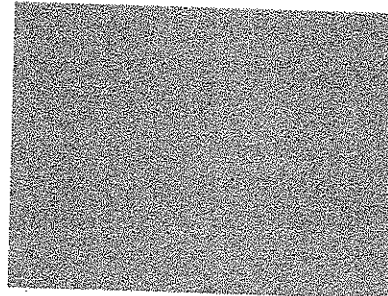


10-The debate about social dimension in Europe

Europe's social dimension is ever-changing, influenced by personal choice, economic reality, global trends and political decisions. We can choose to embrace and direct change, or be driven by it. In a modern society, everyone should be able to contribute fully and have access to new opportunities at different stages of their lifetime. This is a matter of social justice and social cohesion, just as much an economic imperative and a political requirement, because, while Europe has a wealth of experience to offer, it is clear that models and solutions cannot be transposed or exported in their entirety from one Member State to another with a different socioeconomic situation, cultural tradition and educational system. However, every European country is ultimately striving for the same thing: to create a fairer society based on equal opportunity.

(Reflection paper on the Social dimension of Europe

- European Commission 31 May 2017)



3-Peace in Europe

The longest period of peace and stability in Europe's written history-70 years since the end of World war II- started with the formation of the European Communities.

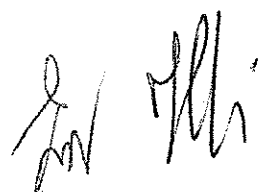
Even though a number of armed conflicts occurred on the European peninsula after 1945, none of them have been between members of the European Union.

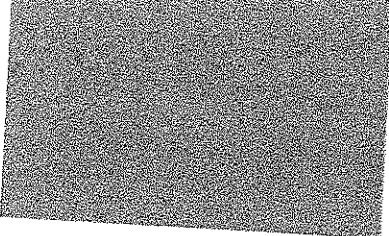
In recognition of its role in helping to transform most of Europe from being a continent of war to becoming a continent of peace, the European Union was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012, "for over six decades contributed to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe."

For Europe, peace matters everywhere: in a world with more than 40 ongoing armed conflicts, the EU is the largest contributor of contingents to United Nations peacekeeping missions.

(European Political Strategy Center for

the 60th Anniversary of the Treaties of Rome-1 March 2017)



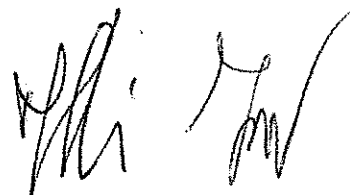
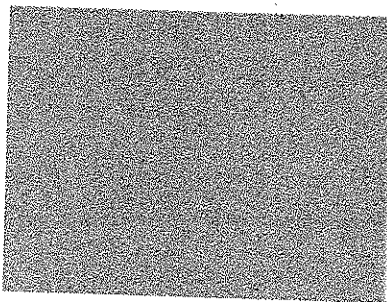


2-The euro: tangible benefits for citizens, businesses and Member States

For most Europeans, the euro is part of daily life. For the first "generation euro" it is the only currency they have ever known. Those with longer memories will remember the changes the euro has brought and will have seen first-hand its advantages.

Citizens no longer pay expensive charges to change currencies when crossing internal borders in the euro area. They no longer pay more for transferring money in another euro area country. Much more worldwide business can be done in euros today than was ever possible with the franc, lira or deutschmark. Euro area governments have saved EUR 50 billion in interest payments annually compared to a few years ago; that means extra money that could be used to reduce public debt or founding public investment or education spending.

(Reflection paper on the deepening of the economic and monetary union- European Commission 31 May 2017)



1-The euro

The euro is more than a currency. For a continent so long divided, euro notes and coins are tangible everyday reminder of the freedom, convenience and opportunities that the European Union offers. Today, the euro is shared by as many as 340 million Europeans in 19 Member States. Seven of the Member States that joined the European Union in 2004 have already adopted the Euro. And yet it is only 27 years since the Treaty of Maastricht paved the way for the single currency and only 17 years since the first coin was used. Since its launch, the Euro has become the second most used currency around the world. The euro is a success story on many levels but the tough times the euro area has endured over the years mean it is not always perceived as such. In adversity for the financial and economic crisis that started in the United States in 2008, Member States and the EU institutions took strong political decisions to preserve the integrity of the euro to avoid the worst.

(Reflection paper on the deepening of the economic and monetary union- European Commission 31 May 2017)

