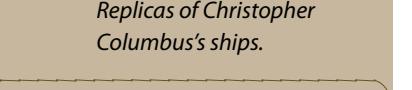
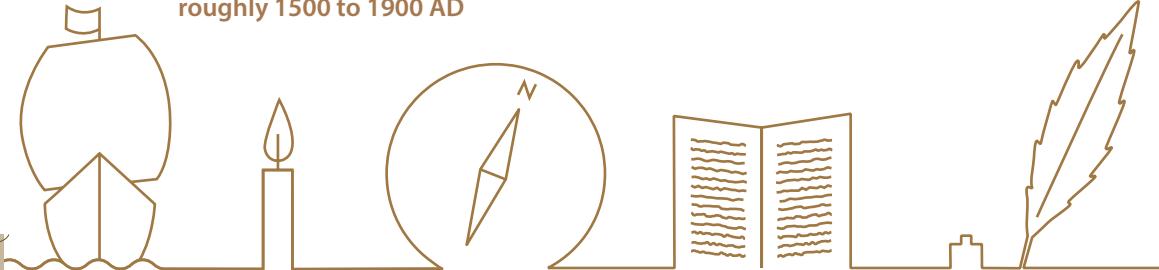


# Great discoveries and new ideas

roughly 1500 to 1900 AD



Replicas of Christopher Columbus's ships.



Vasco da Gama – the first man to sail from Europe to India.



The dodo, a flightless bird, once lived on an island in the Indian Ocean. It was driven to extinction by European colonists.



Voltaire, one of the great writers of the Enlightenment age.

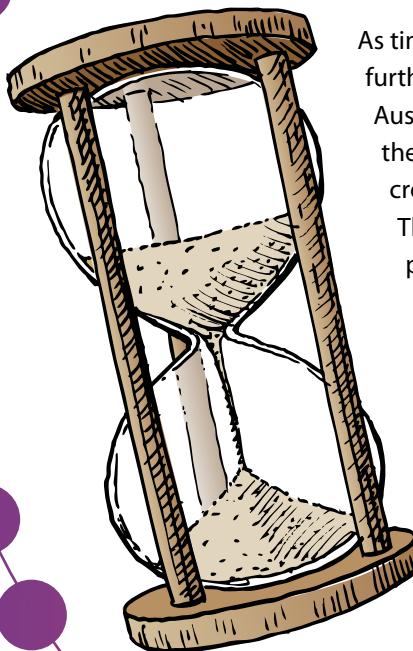
At the time of the Renaissance, trade with distant lands was becoming very important for European merchants. For example, they were selling goods in India and bringing back valuable spices and precious stones. But travelling overland was difficult and took a long time, so the merchants wanted to reach India by sea. The problem was, Africa was in the way – and it is very big!

However, if the world really was round (as people were beginning to believe), European ships ought to be able to reach India by sailing west. So, in 1492, Christopher Columbus and his sailors set out from Spain and crossed the Atlantic. But instead of reaching India they discovered the Bahamas (islands in the Caribbean Sea, near the coast of America).

Other explorers soon followed. In 1497–98, Vasco da Gama – a Portuguese naval officer – was the first European to reach India by sailing around Africa. In 1519, another Portuguese explorer – Ferdinand Magellan, working for the King of Spain – led the first European expedition to sail right round the world!

Before long, Europeans were exploring the Caribbean islands and America (which they called the 'New World') and founding colonies there. In other words, they took over the land, claiming it now belonged to their home country in Europe. They took their beliefs, customs and languages with them – and that is how English and French came to be the main languages spoken in North America, and Spanish and Portuguese in Central and South America.

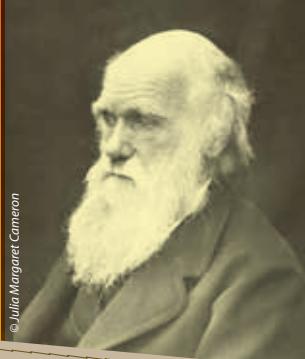
As time passed, Europeans sailed further and further – to China, Japan, South-East Asia, Australia and Oceania. Sailors returning from these distant lands reported seeing strange creatures very different from those in Europe. This made scientists keen to explore these places and to bring back animals and plants for Europe's museums. In the 1800s, European explorers went deep into Africa and by 1910 European nations had colonised most of the African continent.



Meanwhile, back in Europe, scientists were finding out more and more about how the universe works. Geologists, studying rocks and fossils, began wondering how the Earth had been formed and how old it really was. Two great scientists, Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (in France) and Charles Darwin (in England), eventually concluded that animals and plants had 'evolved' – changing from one species into another over millions and millions of years.

In the 1700s, people were asking other important questions too – such as how countries should be governed, and what rights and freedoms people should have. The writer Jean-Jacques Rousseau said that everyone should be equal. Another writer, Voltaire, said the world would be better if reason and knowledge replaced ignorance and superstition.

This age of new ideas, called the 'Enlightenment', led to great changes in some countries – for example the French revolution of 1789, when the people decided they would no longer be ruled by kings and queens. One of their revolutionary slogans was 'freedom, equality and brotherhood' – which eventually became the French national motto.



Charles Darwin published his theory of evolution in 1859.

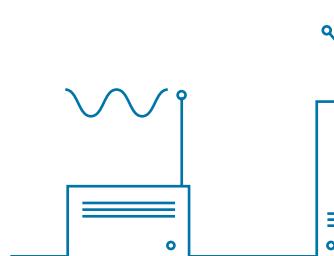


The first telephone – invented by Scottish-born Alexander Graham Bell. Today, Europe makes the latest mobile phones.

## The modern world

roughly 1880 until today

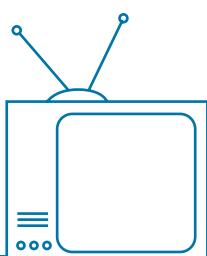
Other European inventions from the 19th and 20th centuries helped create the world we know today. For example:



1886 The petrol engine

1901 First radio messages

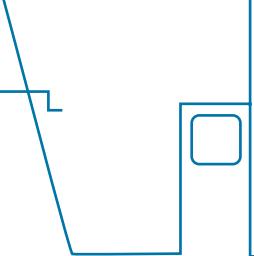
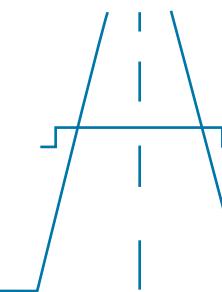
1909 Bakelite, the first plastic



1912 Neon lighting

1920s Television and motorways

1935 Radar and the biro pen



1937 Instant coffee

1939 First jet aircraft

1940s First computer

Today, roughly a quarter of the people working in Europe are producing things needed for the modern world: food and drinks; mobile phones and computers; clothes and furniture; washing machines and televisions; cars, buses and lorries and lots more besides.

About 7 out of every 10 European workers have 'service' jobs. In other words, they work in shops and post offices, banks and insurance companies, hotels and restaurants, hospitals and schools, etc. – either selling things or providing services that people need.



# Learning the lessons of history

Sadly, the story of Europe is not all about great achievements we can be proud of. There are also many things to be ashamed of. Down the centuries, European nations fought terrible wars against each other. These wars were usually about power and property, or religion.

European colonists killed millions of native people on other continents – by fighting or mistreating them, or by accidentally spreading European diseases among them. Europeans also took millions of Africans to work as slaves.

Lessons had to be learnt from these dreadful wrongdoings. The European slave trade was abolished in the 1800s. Colonies gained their freedom in the 1900s. And peace did come to Europe at last.

To find out how, read the chapter called 'Bringing the family together: the story of the European Union'.

## War

Regrettably, there have been many quarrels in the European family. Often they were about who should rule a country, or which country owned which piece of land. Sometimes a ruler wanted to gain more power by conquering his neighbours, or to prove that his people were stronger and better than other peoples.

One way or another, for hundreds of years, there were terrible wars in Europe. In the 20th century, two big wars started on this continent but spread and involved countries all around the world. That is why they are called world wars. They killed millions of people and left Europe poor and in ruins.

Could anything be done to stop these things happening again? Would Europeans ever learn to sit down together and discuss things instead of fighting?

The answer is 'yes'!

That's the story of our next chapter: the story of the European Union.

## and peace

We Europeans belong to many different countries, with different languages, traditions, customs and beliefs. Yet we belong together, like a big family, for all sorts of reasons.

Here are some of them.

- > We have shared this continent for thousands of years.
- > Our languages are often related to one another.
- > Many people in every country are descended from people from other countries.
- > Our traditions, customs and festivals often have the same origins.
- > We share and enjoy the beautiful music and art, and the many plays and stories, that people from all over Europe have given us, down the centuries.
- > Almost everyone in Europe believes in things like fair play, neighbourliness, freedom to have your own opinions, respect for each other and caring for people in need.
- > So we enjoy what's different and special about our own country and region, but we also enjoy what we have in common as Europeans.

# The story of the European Union

The Second World War ended in 1945. It had been a time of terrible destruction and killing, and it had started in Europe. How could the leaders of European countries stop such dreadful things from ever happening again? They needed a really good plan that had never been tried before.



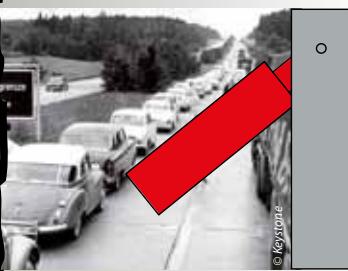
## A brand new idea

A Frenchman called Jean Monnet thought hard about this. He realised that there were two things a country needed before it could make war: iron for producing steel (to make tanks, guns, bombs and so on) and coal to provide the energy for factories and railways. Europe had plenty of coal and steel: that's why European countries had easily been able to make weapons and go to war.

So Jean Monnet came up with a very daring new idea. His idea was that the governments of France and Germany – and perhaps of other European countries too – should no longer run their own coal and steel industries. Instead, these industries should be organised by people from all the countries involved, and they would sit around a table and discuss and decide things together. That way, war between them would be impossible!

Jean Monnet felt that his plan really would work if only European leaders were willing to try it. He spoke about it to his friend Robert Schuman, who was a minister in the French government. Robert Schuman thought it was a brilliant idea and he announced it in an important speech on 9 May 1950.

The speech convinced not only the French and German leaders but also the leaders of Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They all decided to put their coal and steel industries together and to form a club they called the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). It would work for peaceful purposes and help rebuild Europe from the ruins of war. The ECSC was set up in 1951.



Bored at the border...  
Queues like this used to  
be part of normal life in  
Europe.

## The common market

The six countries got on so well working together that they soon decided to start another club, called the European Economic Community (EEC). It was set up in 1957.

'Economic' means 'to do with the economy' – in other words, to do with money, business, jobs and trade.

One of the main ideas was that the EEC countries would share a 'common market', to make it easier to trade together. Until then, lorries and trains and barges carrying goods from one country to another always had to stop at the border, and papers had to be checked and money called 'customs duties' had to be paid. This held things up and made goods from abroad more expensive.

The point of having a common market was to get rid of all those border checks and delays and customs duties, and to allow countries to trade with one another just as if they were all one single country.

## Food and farming

The Second World War had made it very difficult for Europe to produce food or to import it from other continents. Europe was short of food even in the early 1950s. So the EEC decided on an arrangement for paying its farmers to produce more food, and to make sure that they could earn a decent living from the land.

This arrangement was called the 'common agricultural policy' (or CAP). It worked well. So well, in fact, that farmers ended up producing too much food and the arrangement had to be changed! Nowadays, the CAP also pays farmers to look after the countryside.

Machines like this are  
used to harvest wheat  
and other crops.

## From EEC to European Union

The common market was soon making life easier for people in the EEC.

They had more money to spend, more food to eat and more varied things in their shops. Other neighbouring countries saw this and, in the 1960s, some of them began asking whether they too could join the club.

After years of discussions, the United Kingdom, Denmark and Ireland joined in 1973. It was the turn of Greece in 1981, followed by Portugal and Spain in 1986, and Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995.

So now the club had 15 members.

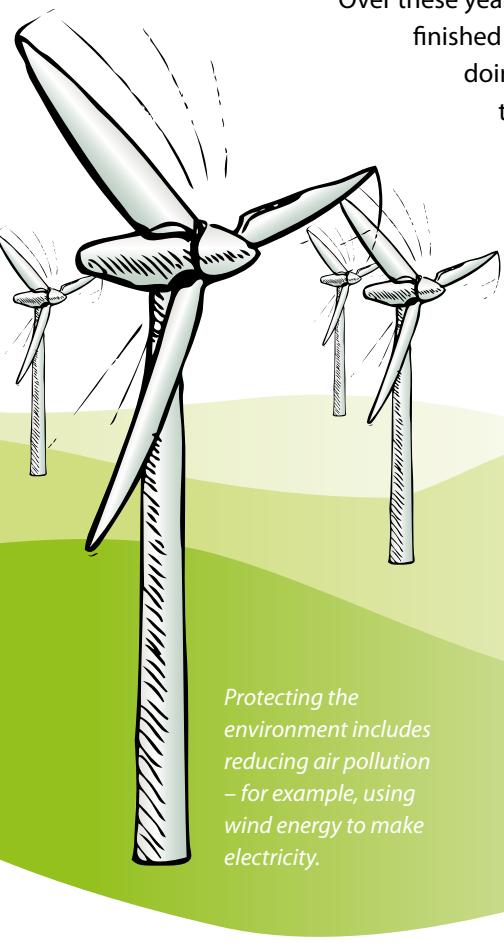
Over these years, the club was changing. By the end of 1992 it had finished building the 'single market' (as it became known), and it was doing a lot more besides. For example, EEC countries were working together to protect the environment and to build better roads and railways right across Europe. Richer countries helped poorer ones with their road building and other important projects.

To make life easier for travellers, most EEC countries had got rid of passport checks at the borders between them. A person living in one member country was free to go and live and find work in any other member country. The governments were discussing other new ideas too – for example, how policemen from different countries could help one another catch criminals, drug smugglers and terrorists.

In short, the club was so different and so much more united that, in 1992, it decided to change its name to the 'European Union' (EU).



Joining the club. In this picture, Greece signs up for membership.



Protecting the environment includes reducing air pollution – for example, using wind energy to make electricity.



A policeman and his dog check luggage for drugs.

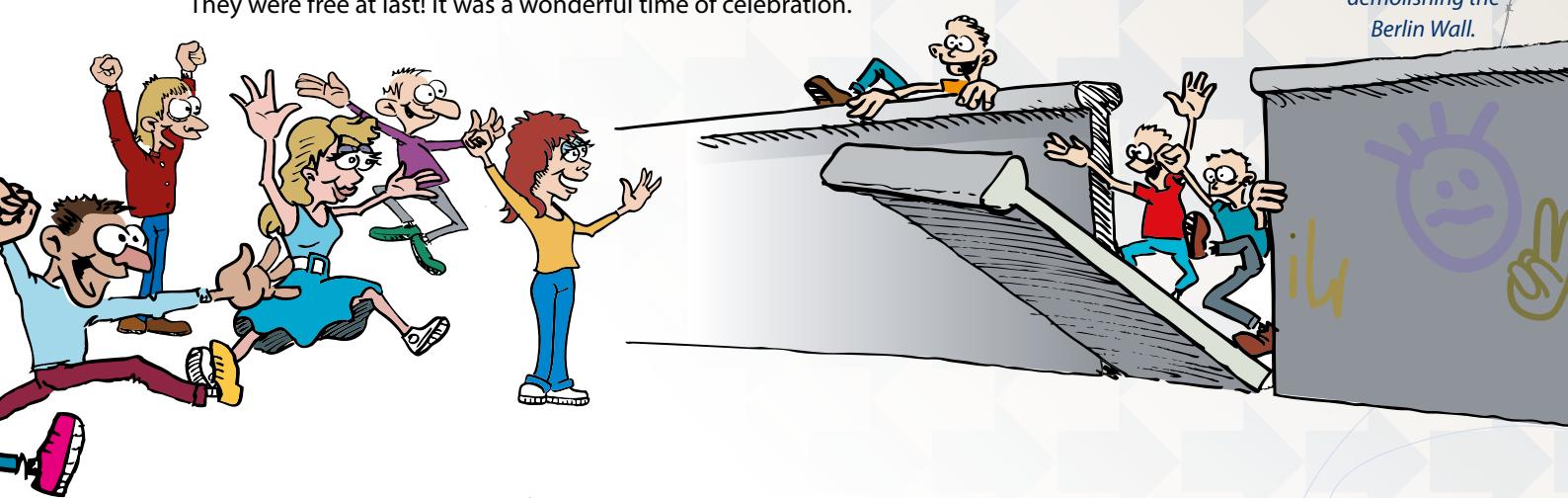
## Bringing the family together

Meanwhile, exciting things were happening beyond the EU's borders. For many years, the eastern and western parts of Europe had been kept apart. They weren't at war, but their leaders disagreed strongly. The rulers of the eastern part believed in a system of government called 'Communism' which did not allow people much freedom. Because of the way they were governed, those countries were poor compared to western Europe.

The division between east and west was so strong it was often described as an 'iron curtain'. In many places the border was marked by tall fences or a high wall, like the one that ran through the city of Berlin and split Germany in two. It was very difficult to get permission to cross this border.

Finally, in 1989, the division and disagreement ended. The Berlin Wall was knocked down and the 'iron curtain' ceased to exist. Soon, Germany was reunited. The peoples of the central and eastern parts of Europe chose for themselves new governments that got rid of the old, strict Communist system.

They were free at last! It was a wonderful time of celebration.



1989:  
demolishing the  
Berlin Wall.

The countries that had gained freedom began asking whether they could join the European Union, and soon there was quite a queue of 'candidate' countries waiting to become EU members.

Before a country can join the European Union, its economy has to be working well. It also has to be democratic – in other words, its people must be free to choose who they want to govern them. And it must respect human rights. Human rights include the right to say what you think, the right not to be put in prison without a fair trial, the right not to be tortured, and many other important rights as well.

The former Communist countries worked hard at all these things and, after a few years, eight of them were ready: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

They joined the EU on 1 May 2004, along with two Mediterranean islands – Cyprus and Malta. On 1 January 2007, two more former Communist countries, Bulgaria and Romania, joined the group. Croatia joined the EU on 1 July 2013, bringing the total to 28 countries.

Never before have so many countries joined the EU in such a short time. This is a real 'family reunion', bringing together the eastern, central and western parts of Europe.



The flags of the 28  
members of the EU.

# What the EU does

The EU tries to make life better in all sorts of ways.

Here are some of them.



*Pollution crosses borders,  
so European countries work  
together to protect the  
environment.*



*The euro is  
used in many EU  
countries.*



*Students from different  
countries study together,  
with help from the EU.*

## Climate change and the environment



The environment belongs to everyone, so countries have to work together to protect it. The EU has rules about stopping pollution and about protecting (for example) wild birds. These rules apply in all EU countries and their governments have to make sure they are obeyed.

Climate change – also known as global warming – is another problem that countries cannot tackle alone. EU countries have therefore agreed to work together to lower the amount of emissions they produce that harm the atmosphere and cause global warming. The EU is also trying to influence other countries to do the same.

## The euro

In years gone by, each country in Europe had its own kind of money, or 'currency'. Now there is one single currency, the euro, which all EU countries can share if they wish. Having one currency makes it easier to do business and to travel and shop all over the EU without having to change from one currency to another. Today, more than two thirds of the EU's citizens are using the euro instead of the old currencies.

If you compare euro coins you will see that on one side there is a design representing the country it was made in. The other side is the same for all the countries.

## Freedom!

People in the EU are free to live, work or study in whichever EU country they choose, and the EU is doing all it can to make it simple to move home from one country to another. When you cross the borders between most EU countries, you no longer need a passport. The EU encourages students and young people to spend some time studying or training in another European country.



*Training people to do new jobs is very important.*

## Jobs

It's important for people to have jobs that they enjoy and are good at. Some of the money they earn goes to pay for hospitals and schools, and to look after old people. That's why the EU is doing all it can to create new and better jobs for everyone who can work. It helps people to set up new businesses, and provides money to train people to do new kinds of work.



*The EU helps pay for new roads.*

## Helping regions in difficulty

Life is not easy for everyone everywhere in Europe. In some places there are not enough jobs for people, because mines or factories have closed down. In some areas, farming is hard because of the climate, or trade is difficult because there are not enough roads and railways.

The EU tackles these problems by collecting money from all its member countries and using it to help regions that are in difficulty. For example, it helps pay for new roads and rail links, and it helps businesses to provide new jobs for people.



*The EU delivers food to people in need.*

## Helping poor countries

In many countries around the world, people are dying or living difficult lives because of war, disease and natural disasters such as droughts or floods. Often these countries do not have enough money to build the schools and hospitals, roads and houses that their people need.

The EU gives money to these countries, and sends teachers, doctors, engineers and other experts to work there. It also buys many things that those countries produce without charging customs duties. That way, the poor countries can earn more money.

The European flag.



## Peace

The European Union has brought many European countries together in friendship. Of course, they don't always agree on everything but, instead of fighting, their leaders sit round a table to sort out their disagreements.

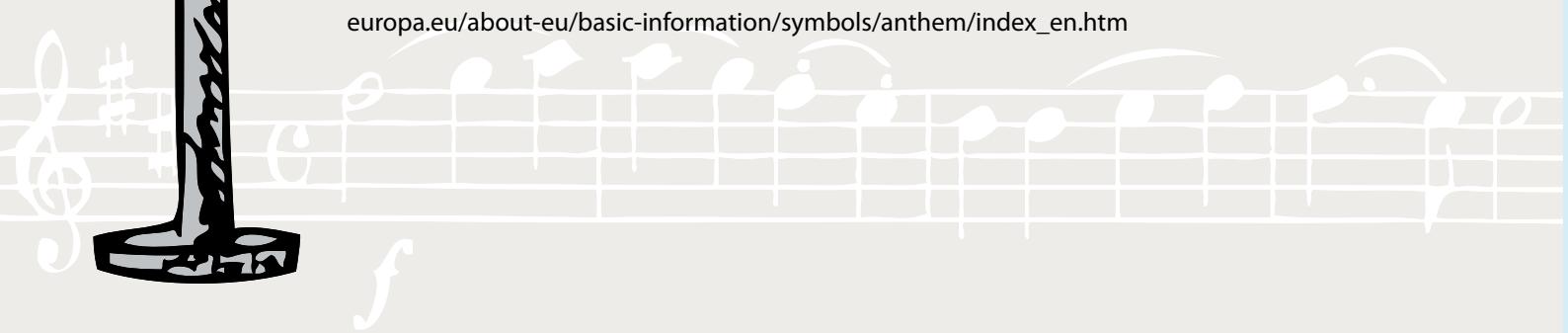
**So the dream of Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman has come true.**

The EU has brought peace among its members. It is also working for lasting peace among its neighbours and in the wider world. For example, EU soldiers and police officers are helping keep the peace in the former Yugoslavia, where there was bitter fighting not many years ago.

These are just some of the things the EU does: there are many more. In fact, being in the European Union makes a difference to just about every aspect of our lives. What things should the EU be doing, or not doing? That's for the people in the EU to decide. How can we have our say? Find out in the next chapter.

Europe has its own flag and its own anthem – *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's ninth symphony. The original words are in German, but when used as the European anthem it has no words – only the tune. You can hear it on the Internet:

[europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/anthem/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/anthem/index_en.htm)



# The EU and its neighbours

► Match the capital cities with their countries ?

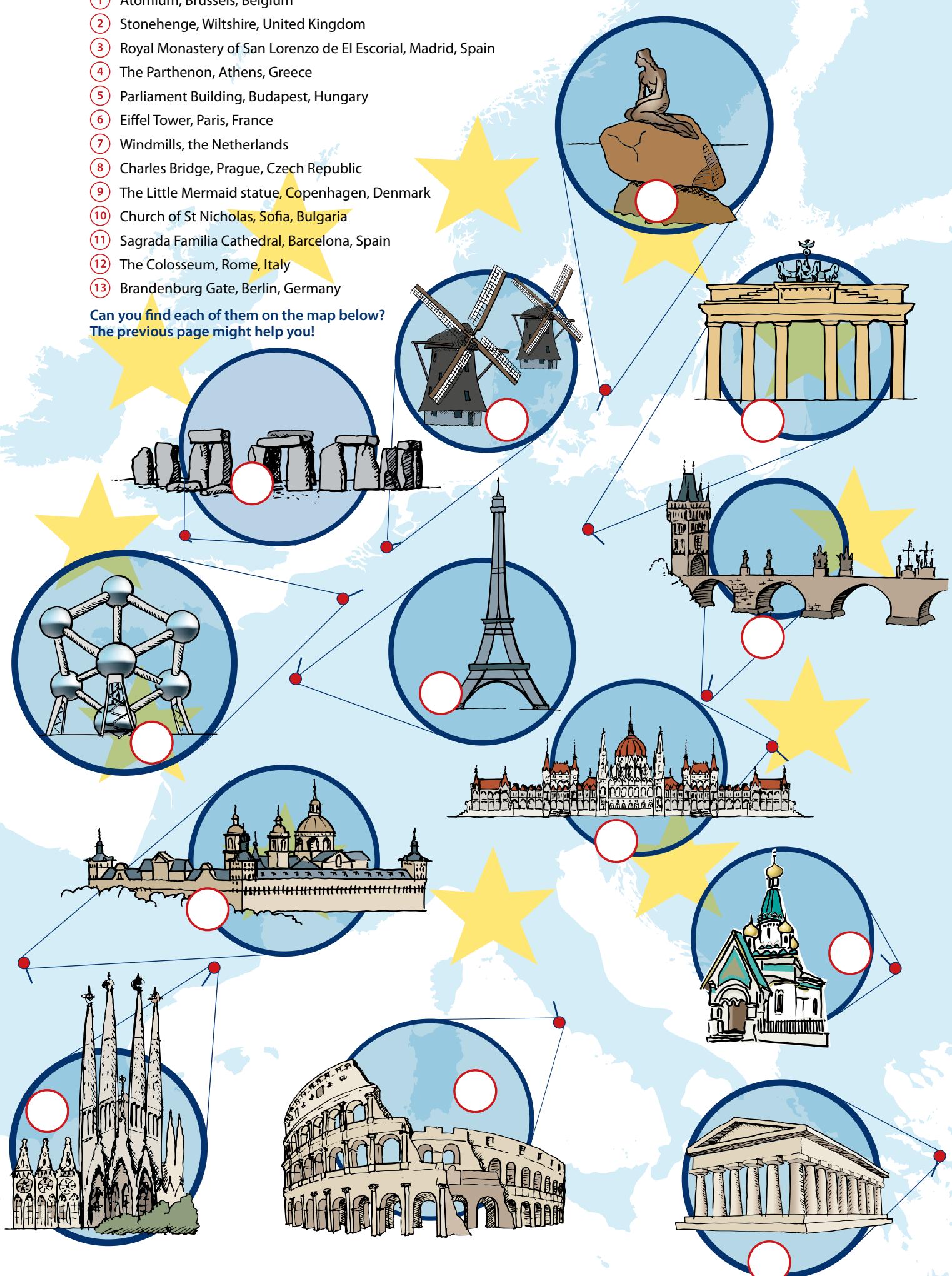
- 1 Brussels
- 2 Sofia
- 3 Prague
- 4 Copenhagen
- 5 Berlin
- 6 Tallinn
- 7 Dublin
- 8 Athens
- 9 Madrid
- 10 Paris
- 11 Zagreb
- 12 Rome
- 13 Nicosia
- 14 Riga
- 15 Vilnius
- 16 Luxembourg
- 17 Budapest
- 18 Valletta
- 19 Amsterdam
- 20 Vienna
- 21 Warsaw
- 22 Lisbon
- 23 Bucharest
- 24 Ljubljana
- 25 Bratislava
- 26 Helsinki
- 27 Stockholm
- 28 London





- 1 Atomium, Brussels, Belgium
- 2 Stonehenge, Wiltshire, United Kingdom
- 3 Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain
- 4 The Parthenon, Athens, Greece
- 5 Parliament Building, Budapest, Hungary
- 6 Eiffel Tower, Paris, France
- 7 Windmills, the Netherlands
- 8 Charles Bridge, Prague, Czech Republic
- 9 The Little Mermaid statue, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 10 Church of St Nicholas, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 11 Sagrada Familia Cathedral, Barcelona, Spain
- 12 The Colosseum, Rome, Italy
- 13 Brandenburg Gate, Berlin, Germany

Can you find each of them on the map below?  
The previous page might help you!



# The European Union countries

The countries are in alphabetical order according to what each country is called in its own language or languages (as shown in brackets).

Flag	Country (Name in English/ French/German)	Capital city	Population
	Belgium (Belgique/België)	Brussels (Brussel/Bruxelles)	11.0 million
	Bulgaria (България/Bulgaria)	Sofia (София/Sofija)	7.3 million
	Czech Republic (Česká republika)	Prague (Praha)	10.5 million
	Denmark (Danmark)	Copenhagen (København)	5.6 million
	Germany (Deutschland)	Berlin (Berlin)	81.8 million
	Estonia (Eesti)	Tallinn (Tallinn)	1.3 million
	Ireland (Éire/Ireland)	Dublin (Baile Atha Cliath/Dublin)	4.6 million
	Greece (Ελλάδα/Elláda)	Athens (Αθήνα/Athinai)	11.3 million
	Spain (España)	Madrid (Madrid)	46.2 million
	France (France)	Paris (Paris)	65.4 million
	Croatia (Hrvatska)	Zagreb (Zagreb)	4.4 million
	Italy (Italia)	Rome (Roma)	60.8 million
	Cyprus (Κύπρος/Kypros) (Kibris)	Nicosia (Λευκωσία/Lefkosia) (Lefkosa)	0.9 million
	Latvia (Latvija)	Riga (Rīga)	2.0 million
	Lithuania (Lietuva)	Vilnius (Vilnius)	3.0 million
	Luxembourg (Luxemburg)	Luxembourg (Luxemburg)	0.5 million
	Hungary (Magyarország)	Budapest (Budapest)	10.0 million
	Malta (Malta)	Valletta (Valletta)	0.4 million
	Netherlands (Nederland)	Amsterdam (Amsterdam)	16.7 million
	Austria (Österreich)	Vienna (Wien)	8.4 million
	Poland (Polska)	Warsaw (Warszawa)	38.5 million
	Portugal (Portugal)	Lisbon (Lisboa)	10.5 million
	Romania (România)	Bucharest (Bucureşti)	21.4 million
	Slovenia (Slovenija)	Ljubljana (Ljubljana)	2.0 million
	Slovakia (Slovensko)	Bratislava (Bratislava)	5.4 million
	Finland (Suomi/Finland)	Helsinki (Helsinki/Helsingfors)	5.4 million
	Sweden (Sverige)	Stockholm (Stockholm)	9.5 million
	United Kingdom (*) (United Kingdom)	London (London)	63.0 million

(\*) The full name of this country is 'the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland', but for short most people just call it Britain, the United Kingdom or the UK.

Population figures are for 2012.

Source: Eurostat

# Let's explore Europe! Quiz

(Hint: you can find the answers to all these questions in this booklet)

1. How many continents are there in the world?
2. Which two cities does the Channel Tunnel connect?
3. What do you call it when birds fly south in autumn and spend the winter in warmer regions?
4. What do you call it when farmers water their fields with water from the ground or rivers?
5. Name a type of marine animal that can be farmed.
6. What does 'democracy' mean?
7. Which material, used to power steam engines, made the Industrial Revolution possible?
8. Which historic event took place in 1789?
9. In which decade was the computer invented?
10. How many countries are part of the European Union?
11. Where is the EU Court of Justice based?
12. How often do European elections take place?

Want to play games, test your knowledge and explore Europe further?  
Go to: [europa.eu/europago/explore](http://europa.eu/europago/explore)

Ministers from all EU governments meet to pass EU laws.



# How the EU takes decisions

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of effort by a lot of people to organise the EU and make everything work. Who does what?

## The European Commission

In Brussels, a group of women and men (one from each EU country) meet every Wednesday to discuss what needs to be done next. These people are put forward by the government of their country but approved by the European Parliament.

They are called 'commissioners', and together they make up the European Commission. Their job is to think about what would be best for the EU as a whole, and to propose new laws for the EU as a whole. In their work they are helped by experts, lawyers, secretaries, translators and so on.

Once they have agreed what law to propose, they send their proposal to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union.

## The European Parliament

The European Parliament represents all the people in the EU. It holds a big meeting every month, in Strasbourg (France), to discuss and decide the new laws being proposed by the European Commission.

There are 766 members of the European Parliament (MEPs). They are chosen, every five years, in an election when all the adult citizens of the EU get the chance to vote. By choosing our MEP, and by talking to him or her, we can have a say in what the EU decides to do.



## The European Council

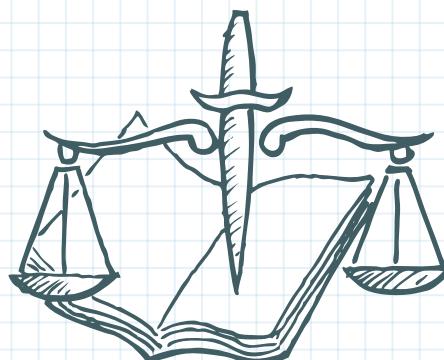
This is where all the leaders of the EU countries get together regularly at 'summit meetings', to talk about how things are going in Europe and to set the strategy for Europe. They don't discuss things in great detail, such as how to word new laws.

## The Council

New laws for Europe have to be discussed by government ministers from all the EU countries, not only by the members of the European Parliament. When the ministers meet together they are called 'the Council'.

After discussing a proposal, the Council votes on it. There are rules about how many votes each country has, and how many are needed to pass a law. In some cases, the rule says the Council has to be in complete agreement.

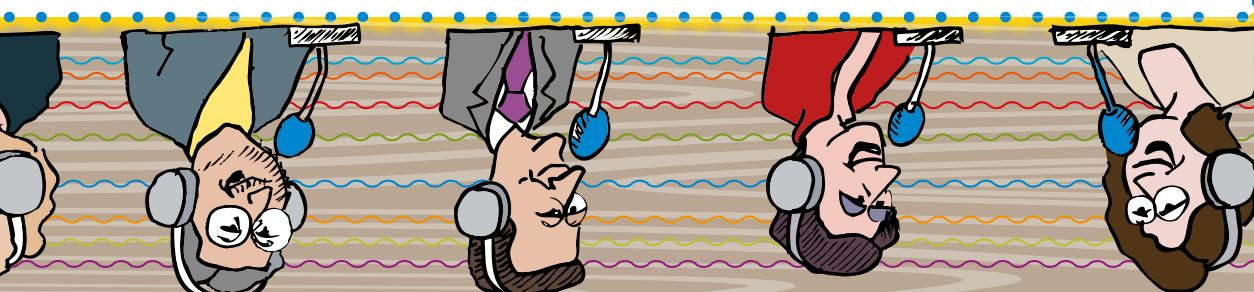
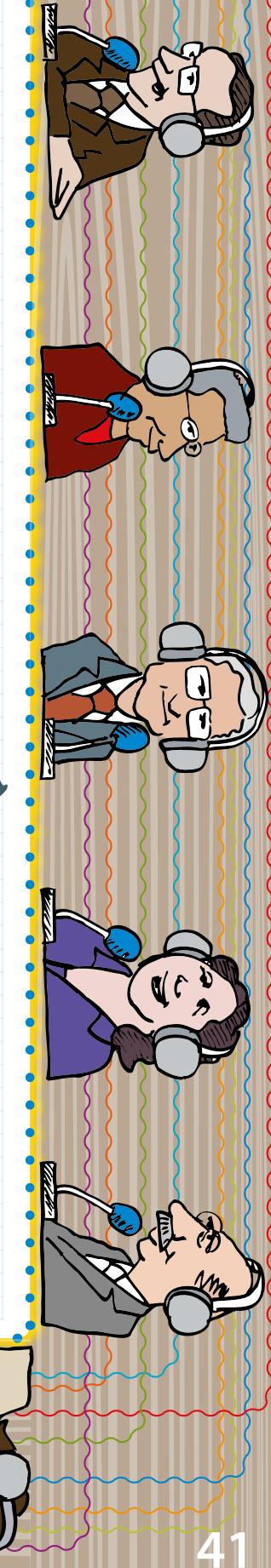
Once the Council and the Parliament have passed a new law, EU countries have to respect it.



## The Court of Justice

If a country doesn't apply the law properly, the European Commission will warn it and may complain about it to the Court of Justice, in Luxembourg. The Court's job is to make sure that EU laws are respected, and are applied in the same way everywhere. It has one judge from each EU country.

There are other groups of people (committees of experts and so on) involved in taking decisions in the EU, because it's important to get them right.



# tomorrow...

One of the challenges facing Europe today is how to make sure that young people can have jobs and a good future. It's not easy, because European firms have to compete for business with companies in other parts of the world that may be able to do the same job more cheaply.

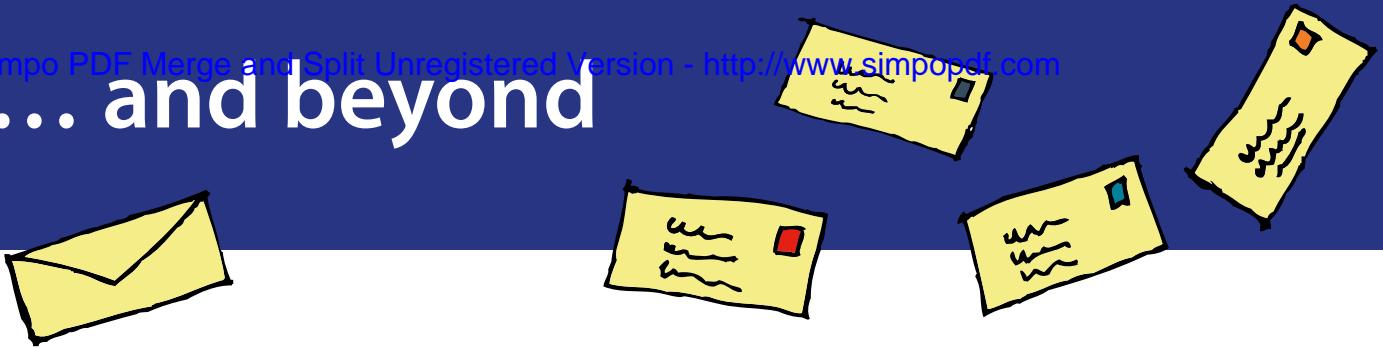
There are other big problems today which can only be tackled by countries around the world working together, for example:

- > pollution and climate change;
- > hunger and poverty;
- > international crime and terrorism.

The European Union is working on these problems, but it's not always easy for so many different governments and the European Parliament to agree on what to do. It doesn't help that the EU's decision-making rules are rather complicated.

What's more, many people feel that just voting for their MEP once every five years doesn't give them much of a say in what gets decided in Brussels or Strasbourg.

# ... and beyond



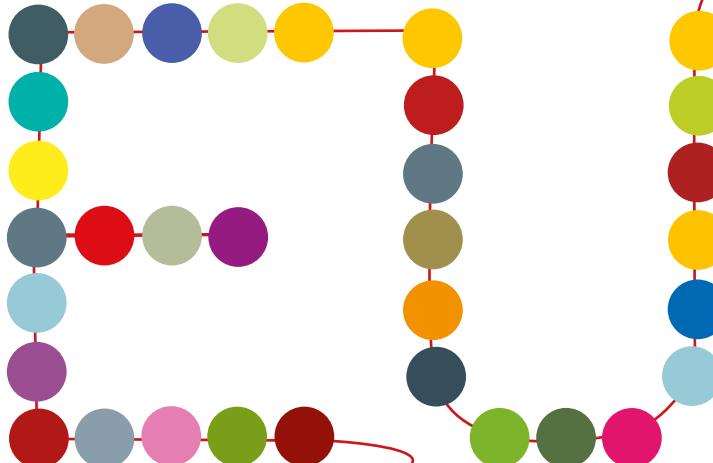
So we need to make sure that everyone can have their say in what the European Union decides.

How can we do that? Do you have any good ideas? What are the most important problems you think the EU should be dealing with, and what would you like it to do about them?

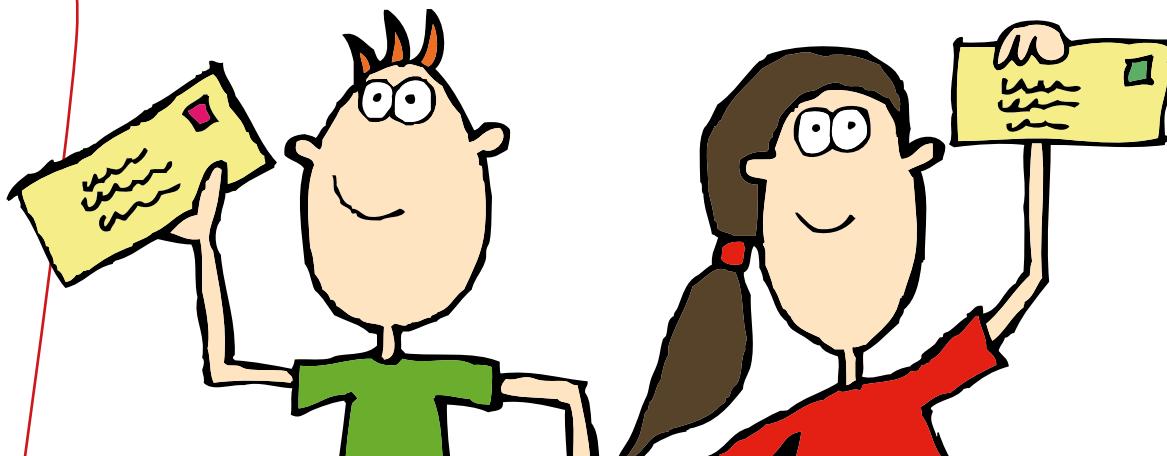
Why not discuss and jot down your ideas with your teacher and your classmates and send them to your MEP? You can find out who he or she is and where to write to them on the following website: [europarl.europa.eu/](http://europarl.europa.eu/)

You can also contact the European Commission or Parliament at one of the addresses at the end of this book and perhaps even arrange for your class to visit the two institutions.

We are today's European children: before long we'll be Europe's adults.



The future is for us to decide – together!



# Useful links

## For you

Why not test what you have learned in this book and play the Let's explore Europe game online?

Go to:  
[europa.eu/europago/explore](http://europa.eu/europago/explore)

## Kid's Corner



You can find out fun facts about each of the EU countries and learn more about the EU on Kids' Corner. It's packed with games and quizzes too!

[europa.eu/kids-corner](http://europa.eu/kids-corner)

&

## For your teacher

### Teachers' Corner



The European Union's online Teachers' Corner is a one-stop resource centre for a wide range of teaching material

about the European Union and its policies. The material has been produced by various EU institutions and other government and non-government bodies. Whether you're looking for inspiration for your lessons or for existing educational material about European history and culture, or even specific topics such as climate change and reducing energy consumption, you should find something useful tailored to the age group of your pupils at the following address:

[europa.eu/teachers-corner](http://europa.eu/teachers-corner)



# Getting in touch with the EU



## ONLINE

Information in all the official languages of the European Union is available on the Europa website:  
[europa.eu](http://europa.eu)



## IN PERSON

All over Europe there are hundreds of local EU information centres.

You can find the address of the centre nearest you at: [europedirect.europa.eu](http://europedirect.europa.eu)



## ON THE PHONE OR BY MAIL

**Europe Direct** is a service which answers your questions about the European Union. You can contact this service by freephone: **00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11** (certain mobile telephone operators do not allow access to 00800 numbers or may charge for these calls), or by payphone from outside the EU: **+32 2 2999696**, or by e-mail via [europedirect.europa.eu](mailto:europedirect.europa.eu)



## READ ABOUT EUROPE

Publications about the EU are only a click away on the EU Bookshop website: [bookshop.europa.eu](http://bookshop.europa.eu)

## You can also obtain information and booklets in English about the European Union from:

### EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIONS

#### **Representation in Ireland**

European Union House  
18 Dawson Street  
Dublin 2  
IRELAND  
Tel. +353 16341111  
Internet: [www.ec.europa.eu/ireland/](http://www.ec.europa.eu/ireland/)  
E-mail: [eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eu-ie-info-request@ec.europa.eu)

#### **Representation in the United Kingdom**

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32 Smith Square  
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UNITED KINGDOM  
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9 Alva Street  
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74 - 76 Dublin Road  
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Internet: [www.ec.europa.eu/uk](http://www.ec.europa.eu/uk)

**Delegations in the United States**

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Tel. +1 212 3713804  
Internet: [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org)

222 East 41st Street, 20th floor  
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Internet: [www.eurunion.org](http://www.eurunion.org)

### EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFICES

#### **Office in Ireland**

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E-mail: [eplondon@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:eplondon@europarl.europa.eu)

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E-mail: [epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:epedinburgh@europarl.europa.eu)

There are European Commission and Parliament representations and offices in all the countries of the European Union. The European Union also has delegations in other parts of the world.

## Let's explore Europe!

Europe: a beautiful continent with a fascinating history. It has produced many of the world's famous scientists, inventors, artists and composers, as well as popular entertainers and successful sports people.

For centuries Europe was plagued by wars and divisions. But in the last 60 years or so, the countries of this old continent have at last been coming together in peace, friendship and unity, to work for a better Europe and a better world. This book for children (roughly 9 to 12 years old) tells the story simply and clearly. Full of interesting facts and colourful illustrations, it gives a lively overview of Europe and explains briefly what the European Union is and how it works.

Go to the website: [europa.eu/kids-corner](http://europa.eu/kids-corner)

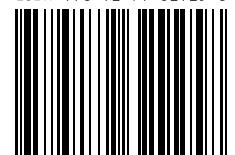
You'll find lots of fun quizzes and games to test your knowledge!

Have fun exploring!



Publications Office

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# Forty famous faces, A to Z

Many of the world's great artists, composers, entertainers, inventors, scientists and sports people have come from Europe. We mentioned some of them in earlier chapters. We can't possibly include all of them in this book, so here are just 40 more names, in alphabetical order and from various European countries.

There is a blank space at the end for your own personal choice. It could be someone famous from your own country, or your favourite European sports team or pop group. Why not find a picture of them and stick it into the blank space, along with a few facts about them?



**Abba**

© IFPA

**Pop group: Sweden**

*Their songs were big hits around the world in the 1970s and have remained so, inspiring the famous musical and film *Mamma Mia!**

**Simpo PDF Merge and Split Unregistered Version****Agatha Christie**

© NME/TASS

**Writer: United Kingdom**

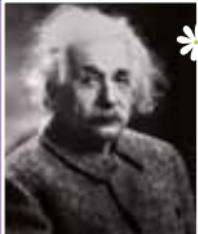
*She is best remembered for her detective novels, which have given her the title 'Queen of Crime' and made her one of the most important and innovative writers in the genre.*

**Aki Kaurismäki**

© Stephane Rebois/For Picture/Corbis

**Film director: Finland**

*His most famous film *The Man Without A Past* was nominated for an Oscar and won an award at the Cannes Film Festival in 2002.*

**Albert Einstein**

© Philippe Halsman/Beoga/AFP

**Scientist: Germany**

*In 1905 he discovered 'relativity' – in other words, how matter, energy and time are all related to each other.*

**Anne Frank**

© From the Jewish Chron

**Writer: The Netherlands**

*She is one of the most renowned Jewish victims of the Holocaust, whose diary has become one of the world's most widely read books.*

**Antonio Vivaldi**

Wikimedia

**Composer: Italy**

*He wrote many pieces, including *The Four Seasons* (1725).*

**Astrid  
Lindgren**



**Writer: Sweden**

*She wrote a number of famous children's books including Pippi Longstocking. Her books have been translated into nine languages and have sold over 100 million copies worldwide.*

**Carmen  
Kass**



© AGF

**Fashion model: Estonia**

*She has featured on the cover of Vogue magazine and posed in campaigns for brands such as Chanel and Gucci.*

**Christo**



© Pierre Vauthey/Sygma/Corbis

**Artist: Bulgaria**

*Famous for wrapping buildings, monuments and even trees, in fabrics, as he did with the German parliament in 1995.*

**Dun Karm  
Psaila**



Wikimedia

**Poet: Malta**

*He explored the history of Malta in poetry to confirm its cultural and national identity; his verses later became the lyrics of the national anthem.*

**Franz  
Liszt**



Wikimedia

**Composer: Hungary**

*He wrote some of the world's most difficult piano music, such as the Transcendental Studies.*

**Fryderiyk  
Chopin**



Wikimedia

**Composer and pianist: Poland**

*He wrote many piano pieces including his famous Nocturnes.*

*Gabrielle  
'Coco'  
Chanel*



© Man Ray

**Fashion designer: France**  
*Her pioneering menswear-inspired clothing made her an important figure for modern fashion.*

Simpo PDF Merge and Split Unregistered Version

*George  
Michael*



© AP/XP/PP

**International pop star: Cyprus**  
*He rose to fame with hits such as Last Christmas and has sold over 80 million singles.*

*Georges  
Remi  
(Hergé)*



© Belga/AFP

**Comic book writer: Belgium**  
*Most famous for his comic strip The Adventures of Tintin, which he wrote from 1929 until his death in 1983.*

*Hans  
Christian  
Andersen*



© AKG

**Writer: Denmark**  
*His marvellous fairytales – such as The Ugly Duckling and The Little Mermaid – have delighted generations of children around the world.*

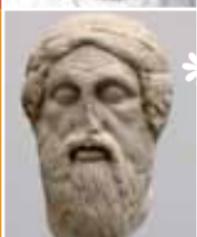
*Helena  
Rubinstein*



© Interfoto

**Businesswoman: Poland**  
*She founded the Helena Rubinstein cosmetic company, which made her one of the richest and most successful women of her time.*

*Homer*



Wikimedia

**Poet: Greece**  
*A legendary ancient Greek poet, traditionally said to be the author of the epic poems The Iliad and The Odyssey.*

Ivana  
Kobilca



Wikimedia

**Artist: Slovenia**

*Slovenia's most important female painter,  
she produced realist and impressionist still life paintings,  
portraits and landscapes.*

Jean  
Monnet



© EU

**Political figure: France**

*Developed the core ideas for forming  
the European Union and helped establish  
the European Coal and Steel Community.*

J. K.  
Rowling



© Sean Tait/Sygma/Corbis

**Writer: United Kingdom**

*Author of the famous Harry Potter book series,  
which have sold over 400 million copies  
worldwide.*

Joan  
of Arc



Wikimedia

**Historical figure: France**

*She led the French army to several important  
victories during the Hundred Years' War and was  
later captured and burned at the stake aged 19.*

Krišjānis  
Barons



© Janis Reikts

**Scientist: Latvia**

*Known as the father of the 'dainas' –  
traditional Baltic music and lyrics – his is the only  
portrait to appear on Latvian bank notes.*

Leonardo  
da Vinci



Wikimedia

**Painter, sculptor, architect, scientist,  
inventor and philosopher: Italy**

*He painted the famous portrait of the Mona Lisa and  
designed the first helicopter model as early as 1493.*

Luka  
Modrić



**Football player: Croatia**

*He has played for top teams Tottenham Hotspur and Real Madrid as well as for Croatia in several World Cup and European Championships.*

Marie  
Curie  
(Maria  
Sklodowska)



© Bettmann/Corbis

**Scientist: Poland**

*With her husband Pierre she discovered radium – a radioactive metal. They were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1903.*

Marlene  
Dietrich



© ChernoffPhoto/Corbis

**Actress: Germany**

*She starred in many films, including the original version of Around the World in 80 Days (1956).*

MC Solaar



© Visual Press Agency

**Rapper: France**

*He is one of the most internationally popular and influential French rappers.*

Mikalojus  
Konstantinas  
Čiurlionis



© RIA Novosti

**Painter and composer: Lithuania**

*One of Lithuania's most famous artists, he composed 250 pieces of music and produced 300 paintings.*

Nadia  
Comănești



© Wally McNamee/CORBIS

**Athlete: Romania**

*The first person ever to score full marks (10 out of 10) for gymnastics at the Olympic Games in 1976.*

**Pablo  
Picasso**



**Artist: Spain**

*Famous for his paintings in the 'Cubist' style.*

**Penélope  
Cruz**



© Ralph Gatti

**Actress: Spain**

*She has starred in many international box office hits and worked with famous directors such as Woody Allen and Pedro Almodóvar.*

**Robert  
Schuman**



© NGC Collection

**Politician: Luxembourg**

*Although he was born in Luxembourg, he went on to become Prime Minister of France. Considered to be the 'father of Europe' the Schuman Declaration was made on 9 May 1950 and to this day 9 May is designated 'Europe Day'.*

**Štefan  
Banič**



© EU

**Inventor: Slovakia**

*He invented the parachute in 1913.*

**Steffi  
Graf**



© SXC

**Tennis player: Germany**

*She is a former number one and the only player to have won all four Grand Slam singles tournaments at least four times each.*

**U2**



© Massimo Barchetta

**Rock band: Ireland**

*Their songs have been big hits around the world since 1980.*

Vaclav  
Havel



© Masters/Alamy

**Playwright, politician: Czech Republic**

*Former dissident playwright who criticised the Communist regime and who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize twice. He became the first President of the Czech Republic and the first President of the Czech Republic.*

Vasco  
da Gama



© Leemage

**Explorer: Portugal**

*One of the most successful explorers during the European Age of Discovery, he commanded the first ships to sail directly from Europe to India.*

Vivienne  
Westwood



© Stephen Cardinale/Sygma/Corbis

**Fashion designer: United Kingdom**

*She brought punk and new wave fashion into the mainstream in the 1970s and continues to be an important player in the fashion world today.*

Wolfgang  
Amadeus  
Mozart



Wikimedia

**Musician: Austria**

*A composer of classical music, Mozart produced over 600 works and wrote his first opera in 1770, when he was just 14 years old.*

My  
choice: