European Union



European union foundation

- West European nations created the Council of Europe in 1949. It was the first step towards cooperation between them, but six countries wanted to go further.
- As of 1950, the European Coal and Steel Community began to unite European countries economically and politically in order to secure lasting peace.
- Founding members were: The Netherlands, France, Germany, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Consecutive Joinings to EU

-EU has 28 members and 6 candidate members.

1957: Germany (one of the founding members)

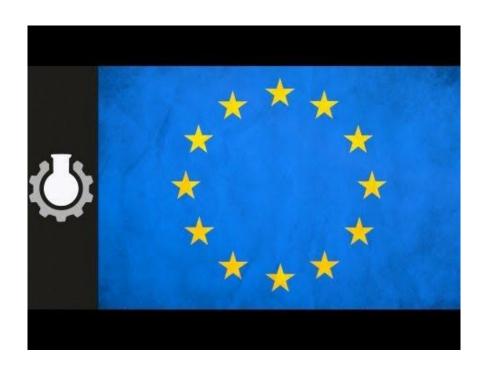
1986: Spain

1995: Finland

2004: Poland

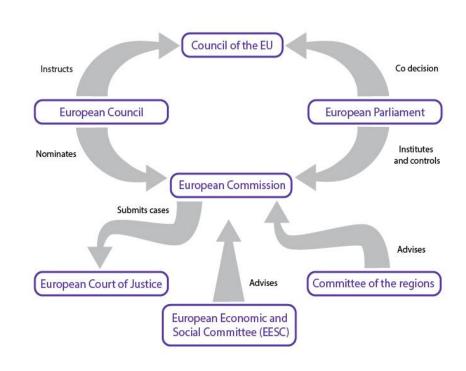


Consecutive Joinings to EU



Council of the EU

- Sets the EU's overall political direction
- -Represents EU internationally
- -Develops EU's foreign and defence policies
- -Connects police forces across the member countries



European Parliament

- -Represents EU's citizens
- -Debates and passes European laws with Council of the EU
- -Supervises the budget and accepts budgets
- -Makes sure that everything is done democratically

European Commission

- -Proposes laws to Parliament and the Council
- -Enforces EU laws
- -Manages the funds of budget
- -Is composed of 28 Commissioners, one from every EU country

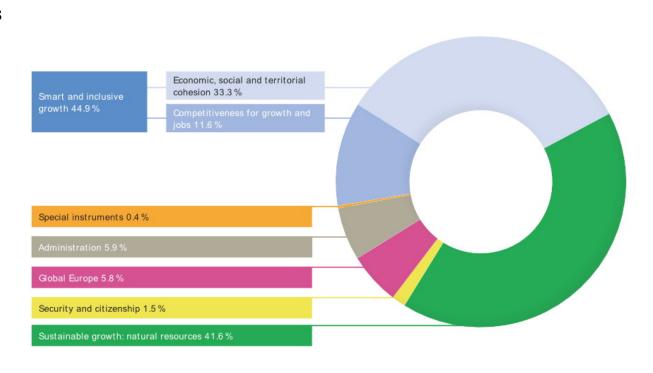
European Council

- -Sets the EU's general political directions and priorities.
- -Deals with complex issues that cannot be resolved at lower levels
- -It has meetings twice every 6 months

Main Economic Policies in EU

Main usage of resources

- -Creating growth and jobs
- -Protection of environment and society



Typical stereotypes of European countries a with hint of humour

Finland

Depressed and emotionless vodka drinkers

Rude, introverted and emotionless people who live in the woods and split their time between hitting themselves with birch branches in the sauna and hunting bears.

Germany

Car lovers and humourless hardworkers

Germans are regarded as hardworking who love their cars more than anything, efficient and disciplined, but also stiff and humourless.

Poland

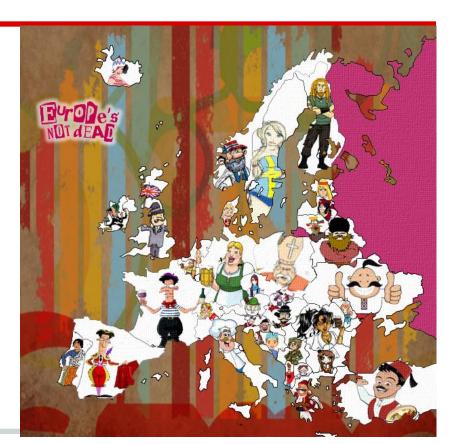
Hard-drinking Catholic zealots

Poles are mostly regarded as convinced Catholics and they drink lots of alcohol per citizen per year. This may be a consequence of the rough and turbulent reputation of vodka.

Spain

Fiesta, siesta and macho men?

Spanish people are said to be loud and lazy with a passionate character. There's the siestas in the afternoon, and the partying at night.



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