

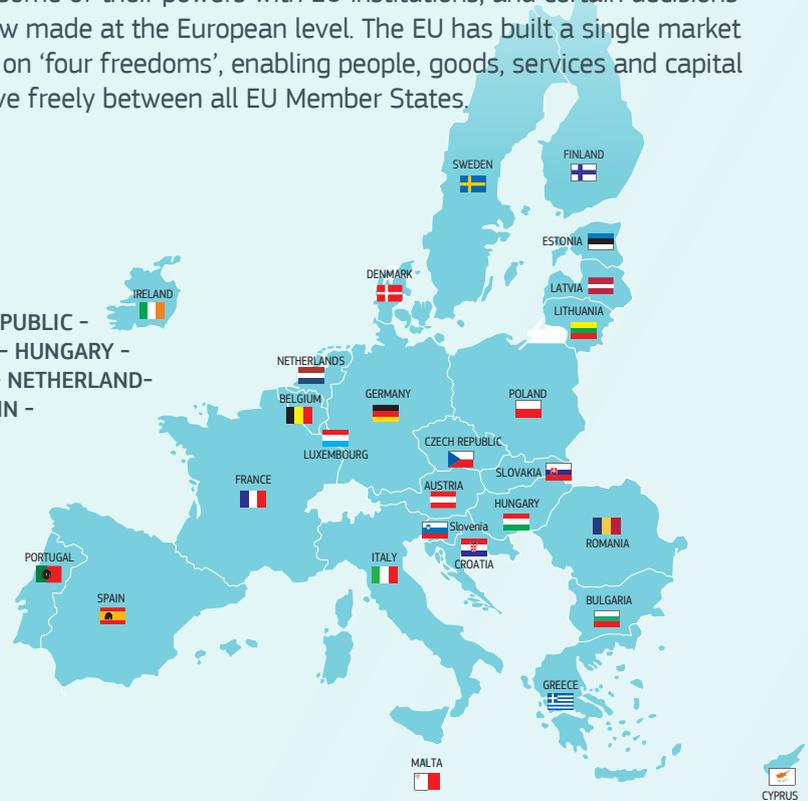


# WHAT IS THE EU

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 Member States united in their commitment to peace, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. The EU's member states share some of their powers with EU institutions, and certain decisions are now made at the European level. The EU has built a single market based on 'four freedoms', enabling people, goods, services and capital to move freely between all EU Member States.

## 27 MEMBER STATES

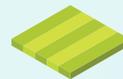
AUSTRIA - BELGIUM - BULGARIA - CROATIA - CYPRUS - CZECH REPUBLIC - DENMARK - ESTONIA - FINLAND - FRANCE - GERMANY - GREECE - HUNGARY - IRELAND - ITALY - LATVIA - LITHUANIA - LUXEMBOURG - MALTA - NETHERLAND - SPOLAND - PORTUGAL - ROMANIA - SLOVAKIA - SLOVENIA - SPAIN - SWEDEN



## 24 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

along with recognition and support for numerous regional and minority languages

446 MILLION PEOPLE



OVER 4 MILLION KM<sup>2</sup>

## 5 IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE EU

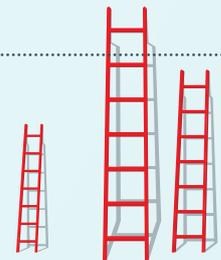
**1.** The European Union has delivered more than 60 years of peace, stability, and prosperity in Europe. It has responded proactively to international crises through foreign development policies, dozens of civilian and military crisis management and conflict prevention operations around the world.



**2.** The European Union is the most important actor in terms of not only political and economic relations, but also in addressing global challenges. This includes promoting energy security and efficiency, combating climate change, and helping developing nations lift themselves out of poverty.



**3.** The European Union is the world's largest trading bloc, accounting for almost one-fifth of global trade. The EU's single market of more than 500 million consumers is the EU's main economic engine, enabling most goods, services, money, and people to move freely throughout its territory.



**4.** The European Union and its Member States collectively are the largest providers of official development assistance around the world.

**5.** The European Union has implemented the most ambitious set of climate and energy targets in the world.



EUROPEAN UNION



# EUROPE IS A MAJOR EXPORTER OF QUALITY FOOD



**THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE** IS THE EU'S OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC SERVICE WITH **140+** WORLDWIDE NUMBER OF EU DELEGATIONS



## THE HISTORY OF THE EURO

- The world's second most important international currency, after the US dollar.
- Used in more than one-third of all foreign exchange transactions.

**THE EURO IS THE SHARED CURRENCY USED BY 17 of the 27 MEMBER STATES.**

## THE 2012 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE®

The EU is the 2012 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for contributing for more than six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.



## THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Made up of the heads of state or government of the Member States, along with the presidents of the European Commission and European Council, sets overall European Union policy and is the highest political authority in the European Union.



## COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Adopts laws (with the European Parliament), coordinates specific policies, develops foreign and security policy, and concludes international agreements.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Proposes legislation, manages and implements EU policies and its budget, enforces European law, and negotiates internationally in areas falling within its jurisdiction.



## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Adopts laws (with the Council of the European Union), voice of European Union citizens, directly elected by the people.

