

# The European Union

Headings	Notes
<p><b>REASONS FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION</b></p> <p><b>EUROPE'S POST-WAR LEADERS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the Cold War began, Western European leaders were emerging who wanted to end war and the extremism that caused it, and to ensure that <b>Europe would work together in the future</b>.</li> <li>These leaders included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Konrad Adenauer</b> – Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs (West Germany)</li> <li><b>Robert Schuman</b> – Minister for Foreign Affairs (France)</li> <li><b>Alcide De Gasperi</b> – Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs (Italy)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>THE REASONS FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two World Wars had devastated Europe and killed millions. Many wanted to replace competition between states with <b>cooperation</b>, especially between <b>France and Germany</b>.</li> <li>The leaders believed that <b>only a united Europe</b> would be able to <b>compete with the two Cold War superpowers</b>. The Western countries needed to work together to stop the spread of communism.</li> <li><b>Europe needed to rebuild</b> after World War II. Increased trade and cooperation amongst states would boost their economies.</li> <li>The US wanted a <b>strong trading partner</b> and ally against communism.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION</b></p> <p><b>THE BENELUX AGREEMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>European Integration was a <b>gradual process</b> which began in <b>1947</b> when <b>Belgium, Luxemburg</b> and <b>the Netherlands</b> agreed to <b>abolish all customs duties</b> on imports and exports between them. This was known as <b>the Benelux Union (Be + Ne + Lux)</b> and it tripled trade amongst the three nations.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THE ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (OEEC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The OEEC was set up in <b>1948</b> to administer <b>Marshall Plan funds</b> to Europe on behalf of the US. This generated economic growth and raised living standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>1948</b>, the leaders of Western European states met at <b>the Hague Congress</b>. In <b>1949</b>, ten states set up <b>the Council of Europe</b> in Strasbourg. Its aim was to promote common ideals and values, and to further European unity.</li> </ul>
Keywords	Summary
<p>Konrad Adenauer</p> <p>Robert Schuman</p> <p>Alcide De Gasperi</p> <p>Benelux Union</p> <p>Marshall Plan</p> <p>The Hague Congress</p> <p>The Council of Europe</p>	

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<p><b>THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council's most significant actions were:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It passed the <b>European Convention Human Rights (ECHR)</b>, which guaranteed the <b>basic rights of all citizens</b> in Europe, for example to democracy, free speech, free media, fair trials and protection from torture.</li> <li>It also set up the <b>European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)</b> to rule on the Convention. Any citizen could take a case to the European Court of Human Rights if their rights had been violated by their own government.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>1949</b>, <b>NATO</b> is a <b>military alliance</b> against the Soviet Union that was formed by the <b>United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, and Denmark.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ECSC was the most important step towards European unity.</li> <li>By 1950, France feared the re-emergence of West Germany as a powerful state in Europe.</li> <li>In <b>1950</b>, French foreign minister Robert Schuman put forward <b>the Schuman Plan</b>. Under this, the <b>coal and steel</b> industries for <b>France and Germany</b> would be under a single <b>High Authority</b>.</li> <li>The Schuman Plan led to the <b>Treaty of Paris (1951)</b>, which set up <b>the European Coal and Steel Community (1952)</b>. This was signed by <b>West Germany, France, Italy</b>, and the <b>Benelux</b> countries.</li> <li>For the first time, these states had agreed to hand over some of their <b>sovereignty</b> (power and independence) to an outside body.</li> <li>Steel production increased and industrial production doubled.</li> </ul>
<p><b>THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY</b> <b>THE TREATY OF ROME</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b>1957</b>, the <b>Treaty of Rome</b> created the <b>European Economic Community (EEC)</b>. Their core aims were to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic activity and trade amongst its members.</li> <li>Raise the standard of living.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Keywords	Summary
<p>European Convention Human Rights</p> <p>European Court of Human Rights</p> <p>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation</p> <p>The European Coal and Steel Community</p> <p>EEC</p>	

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<b>THE TREATY OF ROME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create 'an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe'.</li> </ul>
<b>THE STRUCTURE OF THE EEC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EEC was made up of the following institutions which are still in place today:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Commission</b> runs the EEC on a day-to-day basis and implements treaties. It is made up of nominees of the member states, called <b>commissioners</b>.</li> <li>• The <b>Council of Ministers</b>: National ministers meet regularly to discuss common issues and make decisions.</li> <li>• The <b>European Parliament</b> represents the people of Europe. Since 1979, its members have been directly elected. Over time it gained equal powers with the Commission and Council.</li> <li>• The <b>Court of Justice</b> rules on interpretations of treaties and on any disputes between member states.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>MAIN POLICIES OF THE EEC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The following main policies were agreed in the <b>Treaty of Rome</b>:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Common market</b>: A free trade area created by eliminating tariffs and custom duties on trade on all goods amongst members. Common external tariffs would exist for goods coming into the free trade area.</li> <li>• <b>Freedom of movement</b> meant no restrictions on the movement of money, people, goods and services amongst member states.</li> <li>• The <b>Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)</b> guaranteed the prices paid to farmers for food produced and set high standards for production and food quality.</li> <li>• <b>Investment fund</b>: to improve less-developed areas of the EEC through funding from more prosperous states.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN UNITY AFTER 1958</b> <b>ENLARGEMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Phase 1: Britain, Ireland and Denmark (1973)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EEC was a tremendous success. Other states also wanted to join and enjoy the benefits.</li> <li>• In <b>1961</b>, Britain, Ireland and Denmark applied for membership. However, French President, <b>Charles de Gaulle</b>, believed that Britain was too close to the US and <b>vetoed</b> its application.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Keywords	Summary
Treaty of Rome Commission Council of Ministers European Parliament Court of Justice Common Market Freedom of movement Common Agriculture Policy Investment Fund	

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<p><b>ENLARGEMENT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland and Denmark had to withdraw their applications. In 1967, they tried again, with the same result.</li> <li>• In <b>1973</b>, the three states joined, making the EEC, not the <b>European Community (EC)</b>, a nine member club.</li> <li>• <b>Phase 2: Greece, Portugal and Spain (1981, 1986)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Only democratic states</b> could join the EC. After the dictatorships that ruled Greece, Portugal and Spain collapsed in the 1970s, they applied for EC membership.</li> <li>• In <b>1981</b>, <b>Greece</b> joined while <b>Portugal</b> and <b>Spain</b> joined in <b>1986</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Phase 3: Austria, Sweden and Finland (1995)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When communism collapsed in <b>1989</b>, <b>Austria</b>, <b>Sweden</b> and <b>Finland</b> applied to join.</li> <li>• In <b>1995</b>, they were admitted to the <b>European Union (EU)</b>, created by the <b>Maastricht Treaty of 1992</b>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Phase 4: Eastern Europe (2004-2013)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After the fall of communism in 1989, the EC loaned all of the <b>former communist states</b> in Eastern Europe large sums of money to <b>stabilise their economies</b> and promised membership to all of them.</li> <li>• In <b>2004</b>, <b>Poland</b>, <b>the Czech Republic</b>, <b>Slovakia</b>, <b>Estonia</b>, <b>Latvia</b>, <b>Lithuania</b>, <b>Hungary</b>, <b>Malta</b>, <b>Slovenia</b> and <b>Cyprus</b> joined the EU.</li> <li>• In <b>2007</b>, <b>Romania</b> and <b>Bulgaria</b> joined while <b>Croatia</b> joined in <b>2013</b>.</li> <li>• In 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU. It's departure (also known as '<b>Brexit</b>') became official in January <b>2021</b>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>FROM COMMUNITY TO UNION</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Treaty of Rome has been revised several times through acts and treaties.</li> <li>• The <b>Single European Act (1986)</b> created <b>the Single Market</b>, which removed all barriers to the movement of people, goods, money and services among member states.</li> <li>• The <b>Maastricht Treaty (1992)</b> was a significant move towards full European unity. It created the <b>European Union (EU)</b>, established the rules for a single currency (<b>the euro</b>) and gave more power to the European Parliament.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Keywords</b></p> <p>European Community European Union Maastricht Treaty Brexit Single European Act The Single Market The Euro</p>	<p><b>Summary</b></p>

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Headings	Notes
<b>FROM COMMUNITY TO UNION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Treaty of Amsterdam (1997)</b> and the <b>Treaty of Nice (2001)</b> reformed EU institutions to cater to so many new members.</li> </ul>
<b>SUCSESSES OF THE EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Peace has been maintained</b> in Europe.</li> <li>• <b>Prosperity</b> in Europe increased significantly and the EU leads the world in areas such as education, healthcare and welfare.</li> <li>• Memberships grew from 6 to 28 members (now 27, with the exit of the UK).</li> <li>• The EU is the world's <b>largest trading bloc</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Social and structural funding of over €1 trillion</b> has been spent to improve the economic conditions in poorer areas, including Ireland in the 1990s.</li> <li>• Workers have better protections due to <b>European laws</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>PROBLEMS OF THE EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some people feel that there is a lack of democracy in the EU institutions.</li> <li>• Some feel that their national identities are being lost within the EU.</li> <li>• The EU has so far failed to develop a common foreign policy.</li> <li>• Some states feel they are forced to do things against their preference.</li> <li>• A large gap still exists between the richest and poorest states.</li> </ul>
<b>IRELAND AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland had joined the <b>OEEC</b> in <b>1948</b> and the <b>Council of Europe</b> in <b>1949</b>.</li> <li>• In the 1950s, Ireland was following a protectionist economic policy.</li> <li>• <b>Seán Lemass</b> changed Irish economic policy to favour <b>exports and trade</b>. In <b>1961</b>, when Britain and Denmark applied to join the EEC, so did Ireland. In <b>1967</b>, when Britain reapplied (to no avail), Ireland had as well.</li> <li>• Ireland eventually <b>joined the EC in 1973</b>, alongside Britain and Denmark.</li> </ul>
<b>JOINING EUROPE</b>	
<b>THE IMPACT ON IRELAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ireland has benefited significantly from EU membership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irish <b>trade</b> with the rest of Europe is 150 times what it was in 1973.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Keywords	Summary
<p>Treaty of Amsterdam</p> <p>Treaty of Nice</p> <p>Largest Trading Bloc</p> <p>OEEC</p> <p>Council of Europe</p> <p>Seán Lemass</p> <p>EC</p>	

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<i>Headings</i>	<i>Notes</i>
<b>THE IMPACT ON IRELAND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irish <b>citizens can move, work and live</b> within any of the other member states.</li><li>• From 1973 to 2015, Ireland received over <b>€74.3 billion</b> from the EU.</li><li>• From 1973 to 2014, Irish farmers received <b>€54 billion</b> from the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).</li><li>• The EU helped to foster <b>peace</b> in Northern Ireland during the Troubles.</li><li>• Irish people have <b>benefitted from EU laws</b> such as equal pay, human rights, workers' rights and consumer safety in food, medicine and other goods.</li><li>• However, in <b>2001 (Treaty of Nice)</b> and <b>2008 (Lisbon Treaty)</b> Ireland <b>rejected European Treaties</b> in referendums. These treaties were subsequently <b>passed but with changes</b>.</li><li>• Ireland has also resisted moves towards a common European <b>defence policy</b>.</li><li>• Ireland has opposed European plans to set a common <b>tax rate</b> for businesses.</li></ul>
<i>Keywords</i> Freedom of movement Investment fund The Troubles Treaty of Nice Lisbon Treaty Defence policy Tax rate	<i>Summary</i>

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<i>Keywords</i>	<i>Definition</i>
<b>Accession</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process by which countries join the EU.</li> </ul>
<b>Brexit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the EU; the word is a shortened version of 'British exit'.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAP provides financial support for farms and rural development in the EU. It accounts for approximately 40% of the EU budget spending.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Fisheries Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CFP provides financial support for the EU fishing fleet and for EU fisheries development.</li> </ul>
<b>Common Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU member states trade freely with each other and agree common import duties on goods from non-EU countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Enlargement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase in the number of member countries in the EU</li> </ul>
<b>Equal Pay</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workers doing the same work would get the same pay.</li> </ul>
<b>Freedom of Movement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to move freely within the territory of the EU.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rights that belong to all human beings (people), irrespective of race, colour, religion or sex.</li> </ul>
<b>International Co-operation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-operation between countries; countries working together to achieve certain aims</li> </ul>
<b>International Relations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The political relations between two or more countries, based on each country's foreign policy.</li> </ul>
<b>Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The system of laws that judges people or the administration of laws in a country</li> </ul>
<b>NATO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An international military alliance between 30 North American and European countries. The alliance is based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.</li> </ul>
<b>OEEC, 1948</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established to administer the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.</li> </ul>
<b>Reunification of Germany</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• German Democratic Republic (East Germany) joined the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), and Berlin became one city again.</li> </ul>
<b>Single Market</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The free movement of goods, services, money and people between EU member states.</li> </ul>
<b>Sovereignty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A country's independence and power.</li> </ul>
<b>The Cold War</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An intense rivalry between countries that may include political and economic action, propaganda and proxy wars but does not involve direct warfare.</li> </ul>
<b>The Council of Europe 1949</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An international organization founded in 1949, dedicated to upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.</li> </ul>
<b>The Council of Ministers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting of government ministers responsible for a particular area from each member state.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Commission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each member state nominates one commissioner for a five-year term. They make proposals to the Council and the Parliament.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Convention on Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A treaty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe, drafted in 1950 by the Council of Europe.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting of the heads of government from each member state.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Court of Human Rights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A court in Strasbourg, France, that hears cases of alleged violations of the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Court of Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A court that ensures that EU law is applied the same way throughout the member states. It has one judge from each member state.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Economic Community</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An organisation established by the Treaty of Rome in 1957; the precursor to the European Union.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Parliament</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU citizens elect their representative every five years. Members of the European Parliament are called MEPs.</li> </ul>
<b>The European Union</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU is an international organisation formed by treaties between member states, involving political, economic and social co-operation.</li> </ul>
<b>The Eurozone</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU member states that use the euro as their official currency.</li> </ul>
<b>The Single Currency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The euro, the official currency of the European Union's Eurozone, used by 19 of the 27 EU countries.</li> </ul>
<b>The Treaty of Rome, 1957</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The international agreement that led to the founding of the European Economic Community (EEC) on 1 January 1958. It was signed on 25 March 1957 by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.</li> </ul>