

The European Dream?

Test your knowledge of the EU. Try the quiz, then read the text and check your answers.

1. In which decade was the organization that was to become the EU formed?

2. Can you name three of the six original members?

3. How many member states are there now?

4. In which two cities does the European Parliament meet?

Complete the text with appropriate words. Use one word only in each gap.

The European Union

Origins and growth

In the aftermath of the Second World War, some political leaders in Western Europe believed that the only **way** to avoid war and conflict in the future was to unite the countries of Europe in an economic and political union. So, in 1952 six countries – France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg – formed **what** was to evolve into the European Union (EU). Since then a **further** 22 countries have joined the organization, bringing the total population of the EU to over 500 million.

How does it work?

The EU is not a federation like the United States. The member states of the EU remain independent sovereign nations but they pool their sovereignty in certain areas of policy. Pooling sovereignty means, in practice, that the member states delegate some of their decision-making powers to shared institutions they have created, so that decisions on specific matters of joint interest can be made democratically at European level.

The three main decision-making institutions are:

- ▶ The European Commission, consisting of 28 commissioners, one chosen by each member state. The role of the Commission is to propose new legislation, but it cannot pass laws by itself.
- ▶ The Council of the EU, consisting of one government minister from each country. The Council is the EU's main decision-making body. It votes on legislation proposed by the Commission.
- ▶ The European Parliament, based in Brussels and Strasbourg, and consisting of 785 MEPs directly elected by the citizens of the EU. Elections are held every five years. Like the Council, the Parliament votes on and passes laws proposed by the Commission.

Read the text and explain in your own words

1. What the founders of the EU hoped that it would achieve?

2. What 'pooling sovereignty' means?

3. How the European Commission, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament are made up, and what their roles are?

4. What Eurosceptics fear?

Find these nouns in the text and
complete the collocations with the
correct verbs

1. join an organisation
2. delegate powers
3. propose new legislation
4. pass a law
5. hold an election
6. bring benefits
7. deliver peace and stability
8. exercise control



Thank you
for your time!