



# **European Union**





- The European Union (EU) is a family of democratic European countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity.
- 28 countries and 24 official languages



## Goals of the EC

- To continue to improve Europe's economy by regulating trade and commerce.
- To form a single market for Europe's economic resources.
- As these goals were accomplished, other goals were developed:
  - Environmental movements
  - Regulatory acts
  - Human rights concerns.

# The European Union



1992: the *Maastricht Treaty* was ratified, which rechartered the EC as the **European Union**.



## Principal Objects of the EU

- Establish European Citizenship
- Ensure freedom, security, and justice
- Promote economic and social progress
- Assert Europe's role in the world



## **The EU is run by six institutions, each playing a specific role:**

- **European Parliament**
- **Council of the Union**
- **European Commission**
- **Court of Justice**
- **Court of Auditors**
- **European Central Bank**



## European Parliament



- Voice of European citizens.
- Members elected for five-year terms.
- With the Council, passes EU laws and adopts EU budgets.
- Approves EU Commissioners.



## **Council of the European Union** *voice of the member states*

- One minister from each EU country
- Presidency: rotates every six months
- Decides EU laws and budget together with Parliament
- Manages the common foreign and security policy







## The European Commission promoting the common interest



*27 independent members,  
one from each EU country*

- Proposes new legislation
- Manages and implements EU policies and budget
- Guardian of the treaties
- Represents the EU on the international stage



## The European Court of Justice upholding the law



- Rules on how to interpret EU law
- Ensures EU countries apply EU laws in the same way

**27 independent judges,  
one from each EU country**



# The European Court of Auditors

## getting value for your money



- Checks that EU funds are used properly
- Can audit any person or organization dealing with EU funds

**27 Independent members**



## The European Central Bank managing the euro



- Ensures price stability
- Controls money supply and decides interest rates
- Works independently from governments



## The EU symbols

The European flag



The European anthem



Europe Day, 9 May



The motto: United in diversity



## The European Union - Symbols

### The flag and its history



The flag of the European Union: a circle of twelve golden stars on the site hours on a clock face on an azure background. The number of stars is unchanged.

The stars symbolise the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.



## The Anthem - Ode to Joy

The anthem of the European Union is a piece of the Ninth Symphony composed by Ludwig van Beethoven in **1823**, the text of Friedrich Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy" of **1785**.

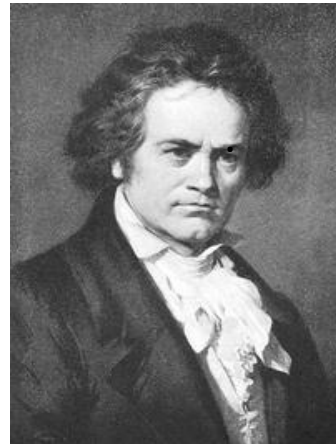
An instrumental version of the anthem reflects the European ideas of freedom, peace and solidarity.

**In 1972**, the Council of Europe adopted a fragment of Beethoven's IX "Ode to Joy" as the anthem.

Fryderyk  
Schiller



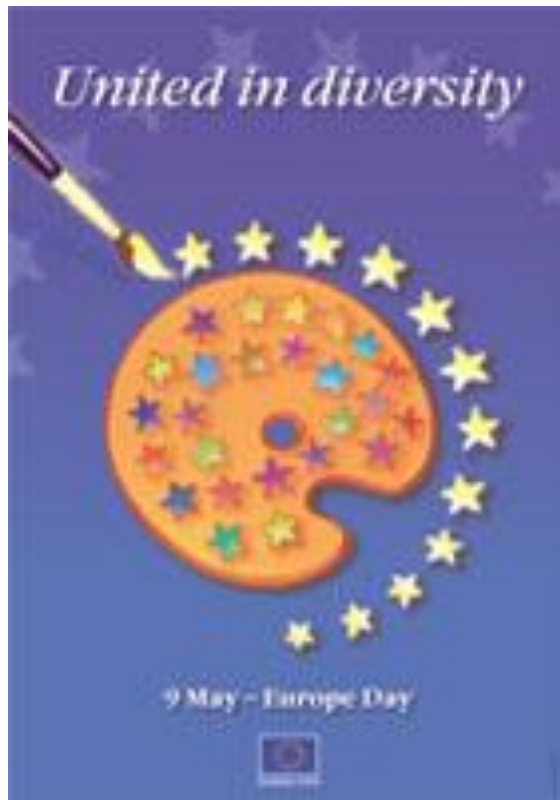
Ludwik van  
Beethoven





## The European Union - Symbols

**The EU motto - "United in diversity"**

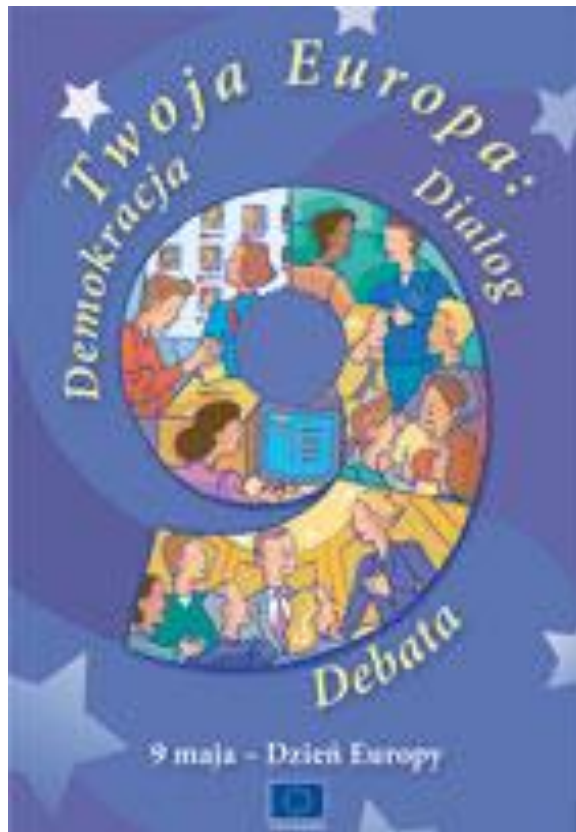
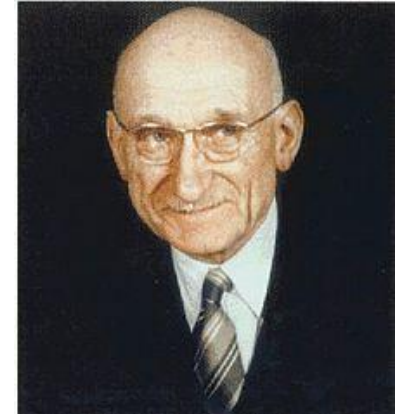


For the first time the motto was used in **2000**.





## 9 May - Europe Day



On 9 May 1950, Robert Schuman - French foreign minister, proposed the creation of an organized Europe, as a prerequisite for the maintenance of peaceful relations.

This proposal, known as the "Schuman declaration", is considered to be the beginning of the creation of the present European Union.



## Common currency – The EURO

The euro is the official currency of 18 out of 28 member states of the European Union (EU).



## The euro

coins and banknotes entered circulation on **1 January 2002**.



- **What is EU?**
- The European Union (EU) is a family of democratic European countries, committed to working together for peace and prosperity.
- **How many countries are in the EU?**
- 28
- **How many official languages are in the EU?**
- 24
- **In what year was established EU?**
- 1992
- **What are the main EU institutions?**
- European Parliament, Council of the Union, European Commission, Court of Justice , Court of Auditors, European Central Bank
- **What are the symbols of the EU?**



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