

The European Union



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.

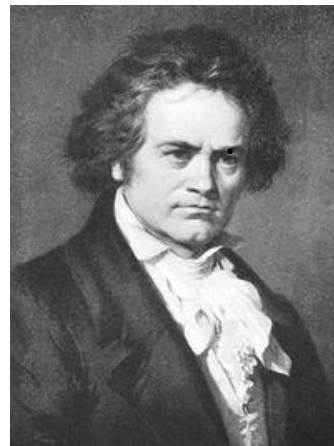
An instrumental version of the anthem reflects the European ideas of freedom, peace and solidarity.

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

Fryderyk
Schiller



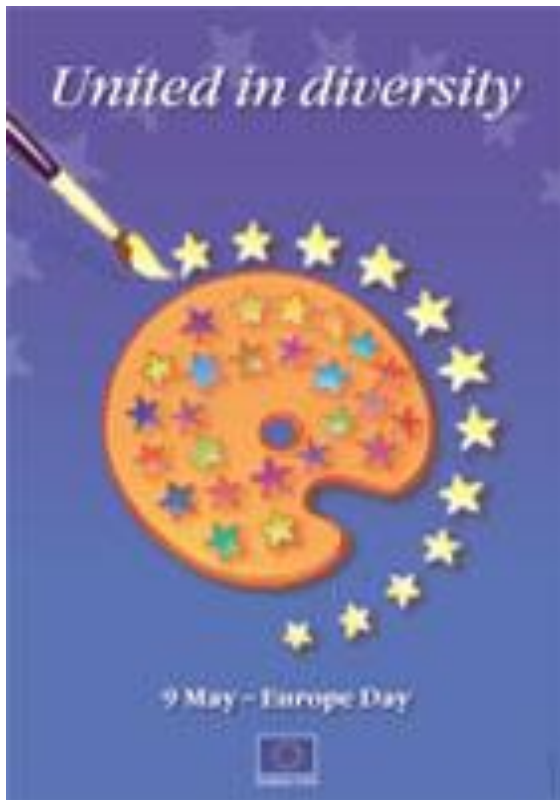
Ludwik van
Beethoven





The European Union - Symbols

The EU motto - "United in diversity"



For the first time the motto was used in 2000.

The European Union - Symbols

The European Union

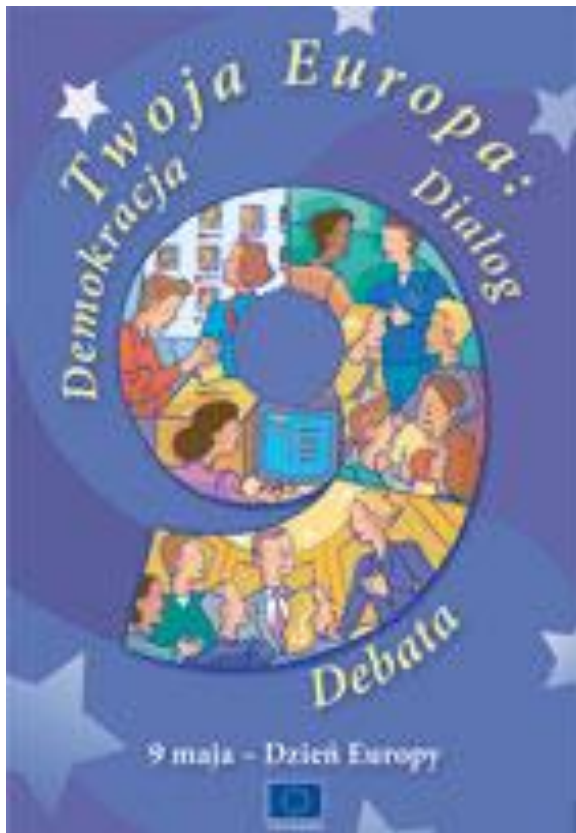


9 May - Europe Day



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?**



The EU symbols

The European flag



The European anthem



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