



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
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Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA

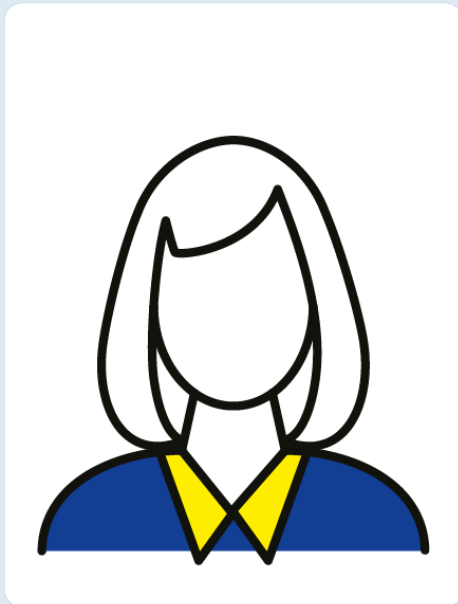
# The European Union



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## Identitätskarte / Carte d'identité Carta d'identità / Identity Card



EU2145865



**Name:**  
European Union

**Date of birth:**  
9 May 1950

**Place of birth:**  
Paris

**Place of residence:**  
Brussels

**Marital status**  
Economic and political union between member states

**Size:**  
27 member states / >445 million people / >4 million km<sup>2</sup>

**Weight:**  
Economy (GDP 2018): EUR 15,89 trillion

- Trade (2018):**
- Share of global imports of goods: 15.2%
  - Share of global exports of goods: 15.5%

**Official languages:**  
24

**Awards:**  
Nobel Peace Prize 2012



# Europe 74 years ago

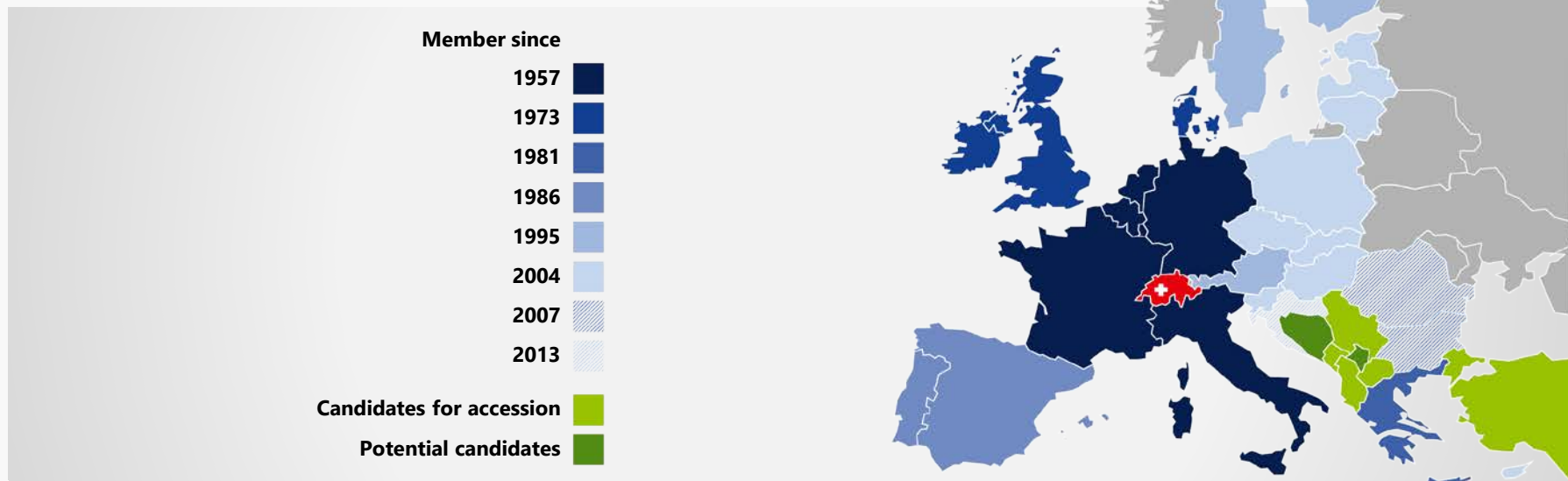
The EU emerged after the Second World War driven by the maxim '**never again war!**'.



Image: Berlin during the Second World War © FDFA



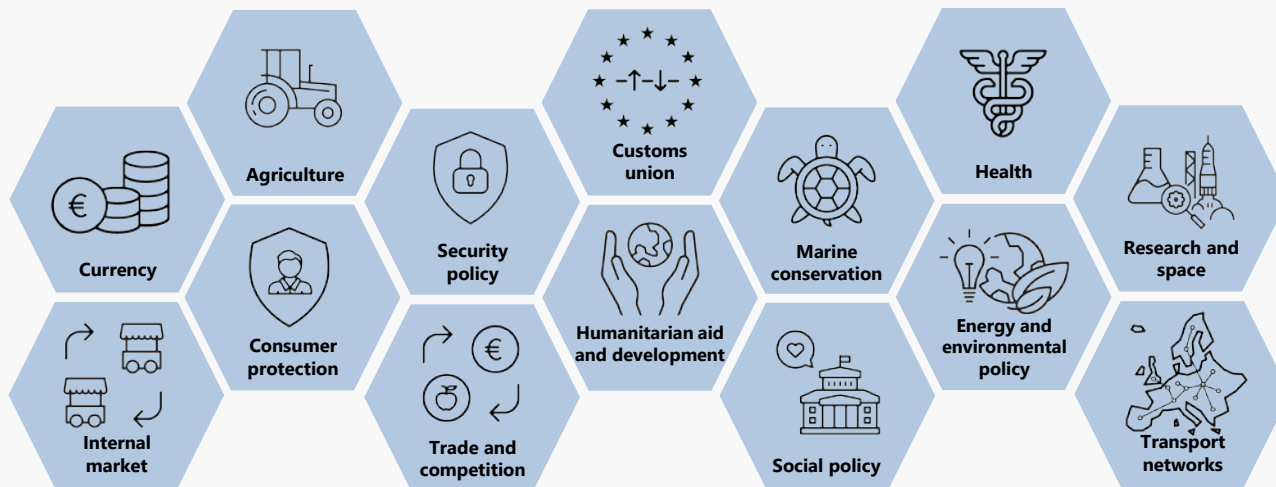
# EU enlargement



\* Withdrawal of the United Kingdom: 31.01.2020

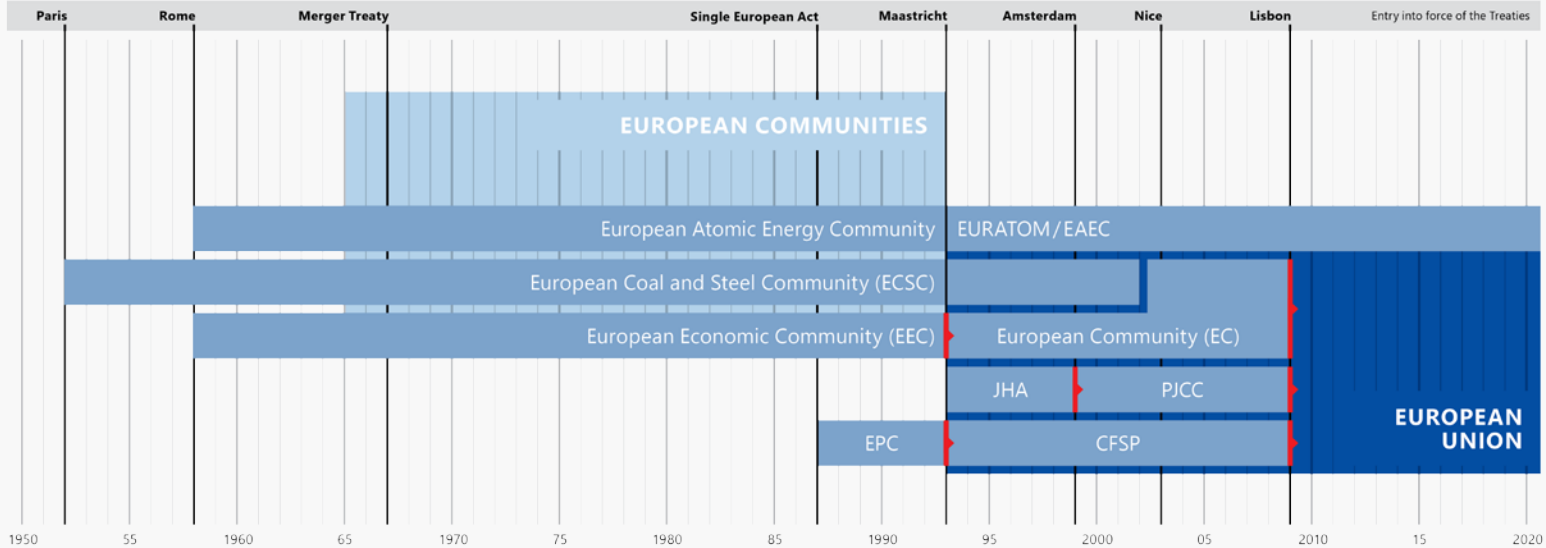


# Responsibilities





# EU treaties



Incorporation



# Treaty of Lisbon

## **Modern and efficient institutions**

- Majority voting widely used, Unanimity less common
- Permanent President of the European Council
- High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- European External Action Service

## **Simpler structure**

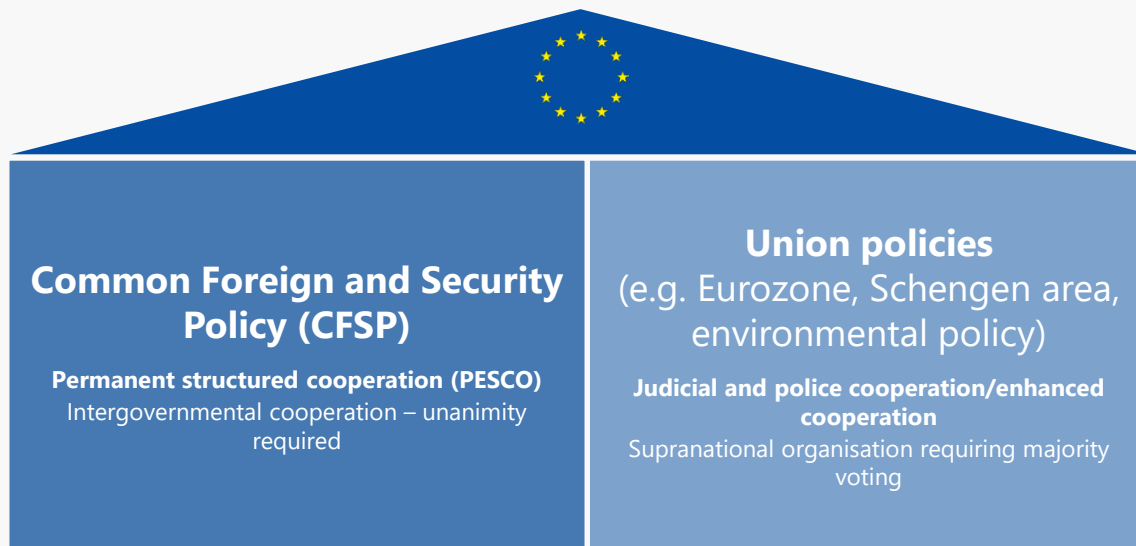
- 'European Communities' → 'European Union'

## **Democracy and bringing the Union closer to its citizens**

- European Parliament strengthened
- Citizens' initiative



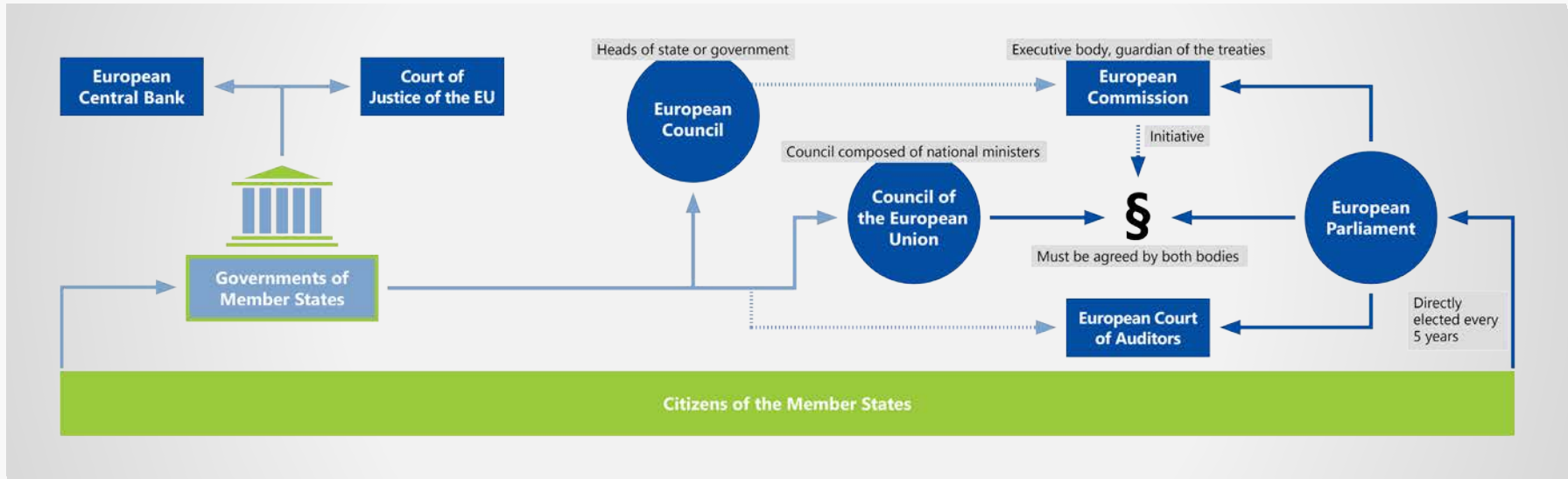
# EU policy areas







# EU institutions and bodies





# Other EU bodies



**Committee of the Regions  
(CoR)**



**European External  
Action Service (EEAS)**



**European  
Investment Bank  
(EIB)**



**European Economic  
and Social Committee  
(EESC)**



# Brexit

## Referendum

Referendum on the UK's membership of the EU ('Leave' won 51.9% of the votes)

## Notification

Formal notification under Article 50\* of the Treaty on European Union (TEU) triggers negotiations on the terms of the UK's withdrawal

## Withdrawal

UK's withdrawal with agreement and beginning of transition period

## End of transition period

Transition period until end of 2020 (can be extended once with the agreement of both parties)



### \*Art. 50 TEU

- Negotiations must be completed within a period of two years from the date of notification.
- The European Council, with the agreement of the UK, may decide unanimously to extend this period.



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# Thank you for your attention

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