

EU MIRROR EN WIBBOB

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EU Rights

A part of the rights connected to EU citizenship have been guaranteed since the beginning of the integration process by the treaties, but the notion of European Union Citizenship has only been introduced by the Maastricht Treaty in 1993. This treaty integrated the notion into the article about EC in the relevant Treaty of Rome. The rights connected to EU citizenship are collected and recited (article 17-22). EU citizenship does not substitute or take place of national citizenship. Anybody, who is a citizen of a member state is a citizen of the EU at the same time.

Political rights

The EU citizen is much more, than a simple consumer or an economical or social actor. The EU citizen is a citizen of an EU member state, therefore it has unique political rights. Thanks to the Treaty of Maastricht, all citizens of all EU member states have the right to vote and can be elected at the general and European Parliament elections (in the member state they live in).

The Treaty of Amsterdam was a big step forward concerning the affirmation of fundamental rights, as it



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introduced a procedure that can suspend the membership of any states that violates the citizens fundamental rights. It extended the principle of anti-discrimination (not only national, but sexual, racial, age-based and concerning sexual-orientation discrimination).

The treaty affirmed the principle of equality between men and women. Finally, the Treaty of Amsterdam increased transparency on the field of policies and provides access for citizens to EU institutions' documents, in case it can be justified (reasons provided for individual or communal interests).

Rights concerning freedom of movement, employment and residence

Any EU citizen can find employment everywhere inside the EU. Discrimination based on nationality is forbidden. The governing EU principles adjusted the rules regulating freelance employment inside the EU, therefore licences of medical doctors, lawyers, vets, architects etc are accepted in every EU countries.



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Tough, several activities remained regulated by different laws in different member states. Because of this, 21. December, 1998 a principle has been accepted to mutually acknowledge each other's higher education degrees. This principle is valid in case of an at least 3 years long university education and it is also building on the mutual trust of national educational and training systems.

The EU citizen has right to travel, live, have residence, have employment and study in any member country. (In case of staying longer than three months, the member states have the right to oblige announcement concerning the residence, in this case the competent authorities provide certificate.)

An EU citizen's denial of entry (or expulsion) can only be justified with security or public health reasons. The primary right of EU citizens is therefore the right for free migration, employment and residence inside the EU.

The European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights

The EU's commitment towards civil rights was further affirmed in December 2000 in Nice, when the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union has been solemnly presented.

The Charter has been written by a Convent, consisting of: national and European members of parliament, members of national governments and a member of the Commission. It is obligatory to apply the Charter since the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect (exceptions: United Kingdom, Czech Republic and Poland).

It defines in six chapters –Dignity, Freedoms, Solidarity, Equality, Civil Rights, Justice- and 54 articles the basic values of the EU and also the rights of the EU citizens (political, economical, civil, social).

The first articles are about human dignity, right to life, right to personal integrity, freedom of speech and freedom of self-consciousness. The chapter about "Solidarity" discusses



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in an innovative manner the social and economical rights together; including the right to strike, employees' rights to information and consultation, right to reconcile private and professional life, right to medical care and right to social safety and social aid.

Furthermore, the Charter promotes equality between men and women and introduces new rights. (For example: right to data protection, prohibition of eugenic activities and cloning, rights of young and old people, and right to suitable administrative treatment.) The Treaty of Lisbon refers to the Charter as the Union's legally obliging guarantees and collection of that all the citizens of the EU must have.

European Ombudsman

Since 1979, the European Parliament is elected directly with general elections. The Treaty about the European Union has created the institution of Ombudsman. The ombudsman is elected by the European Parliament, its assignment is for the same time as the Parliament.



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It's duty is to investigate complaints handed in against EU institutions and organizations.

Any citizen of the EU and any person or organization living or operating in the EU can exercise the right to complain. Any person staying in any of the member states can hand in a petition to the Parliament.

In summary the rights due to EU citizenship are the following:

- during the course of European Parliament elections all EU citizens have active and passive election rights, meaning that everybody can elect and can be elected in case the requirements are met (age, conditions of nomination)
- during municipal elections all citizens have active and passive election rights in the EU where they have residence
- all EU citizens can turn to the institutions of the community using his or her mother tongue (one of the 23 official languages of the EU) and can expect answer on his or her mother.
- all EU citizens are authorized to hand in petition to the European Parliament and the European Ombudsman



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- all EU citizens are entitled to diplomatic and consular protection of other member states in third countries in case the given state does not have Hungarian diplomatic representation

- all EU citizens have the right to move and live freely inside the community

- all EU citizens can access the documents created by EU institutions (European commission, European Parliament and the Council)

- all citizens of the EU have the right to practice fundamental human rights (especially the ones in the charter of fundamental rights)

The text of the treaties can be found in the Information and Documents Center of the European Commission.

- discrimination based on citizenship is forbidden and the communal law



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The symbols of the EU



The flag of the EU

The European commission -which has been formed in 1949 with the task to fight for human rights and support European culture-, after a series of arguments, has accepted the plan of the flag (12 golden-yellow star, in a circle, on a blue background) that we use today.

In a number of folk traditions, the number 12 is a symbol of perfection –also the number months and numbers on the dial-, while the circle is the symbol of unity.

There is no relationship between the number of member states and stars, thus the number of stars do not increase should the EU be expanded.

The flag became the symbol of the ideal unity of the European nations.

The European commission later proposed that the European communities institutions´ accept the flag as their symbol and in 1983 the European Parliament voted the flag to become a symbol. Finally in 1985 all heads of



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states and governments of the EU – European Communities at the time-accepted it as official emblem.

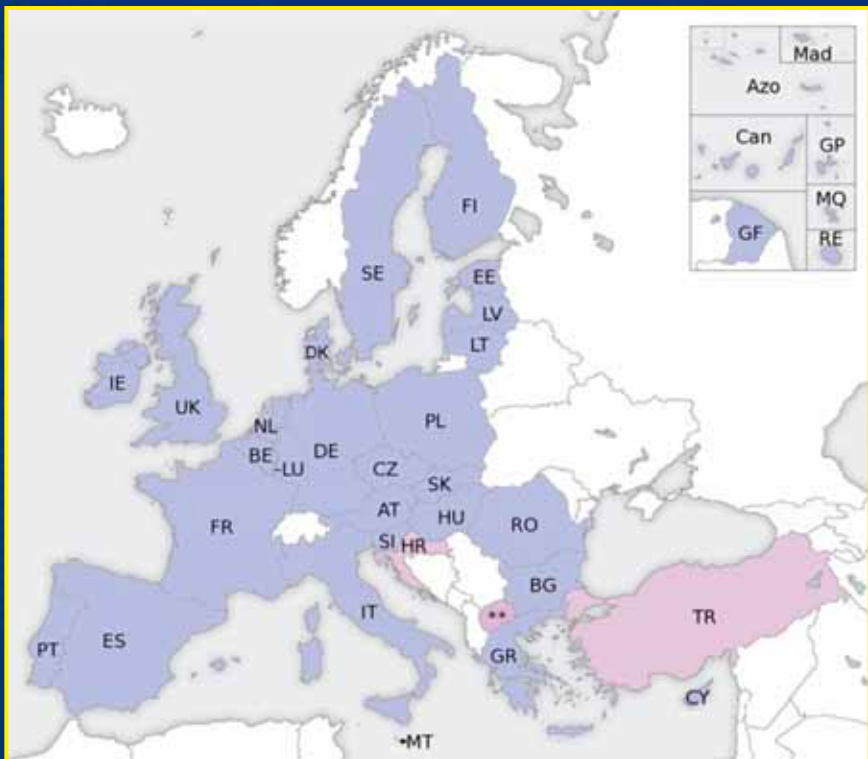
The flag with 12 stars is the official flag of the European Union since May 26, 1986.

The detailed guide of the publishing office about the flag can be read on this side and punctual information about the graphic details can be found here.

The European Anthem

The heads of states and governments of the EU have accepted Ludwig van Beethoven's IX. Symphony 's Ode of Joy as European Anthem at the 1985 Milan session.

At the same time on member states keep their own anthems as the aim of the European Anthem is not to take over the place of the member states national anthems but to ce-



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celebrate the unity and common values of the member states.

In the last item of the symphony Friedrich Von Schiller's Ode of Joy is set to music by Beethoven. The poem expresses Schiller's idealistic vision about the fraternity formed by people – this vision has been shared by Beethoven.

Motto

The Motto of Europe since May 4th 2000.: "United in diversity". The Motto has been announced based on a competition, in which 80,000 European young people -ten to twenty years old- took part from all of the member states of the European Union.

A grand European jury consisting of important people of the member states chose the motto from many incoming proposals.

Europe day

French foreign affairs minister Robert Schuman proposed the idea of a common European peace and common Europe on May 9, 1950.

The proposal, known as the Schuman declaration called to life the European communities.

Ninth of May became a European symbol and stands for political unity of the European Union. The day of Europe provides occasion for festivities that bring closer the nations of the Union and also Europe and its citizens.



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Euro the common currency

since 2002 first of January more than 300 million European citizens use the Euro on a daily basis. It took the EU only 10 years to get from the Maastricht Treaty -recording the principle of a common European currency- to you usage of actual euro banknotes and coins in 12 EU countries. On 1 January 1999 the euro became the common European and currency.

The euro banknotes and coins got into traffic first of January 2002 will stop.

the logo of the euro has been created on the basis of the Greek epsilon (the cradle of culture and European civilization) and the first letter of the word Europe. The two parallel lines stand for the stability of the euro.

The usage of EU symbols

Though the treaties do not contain the symbols and not even the Treaty of Lisbon (that will place the functioning of the EU on new grounds) will affirm them legally -because of the objection of a few member states-, they are accepted and used in every EU countries.

Attached to the Treaty of Lisbon is the 51st declaration in which "Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia"state that the flag (12 golden stars in the circle on the blue background) the Anthem (part of Ludwig Von Beethoven's 9th Symphony's



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Ode of Joy), the motto (United in diversity!), the euro (as the common currency of the European Union) and the day of Europe (9th May) are the symbols of the citizens relationship with European Union.

The European Parliament accepted as its own emblems the symbols of the Union with its resolution of October 8, 2008.

The procedure regulations of the European Parliament have been modified so a part was included that deals with the symbols of the Union. According to this the Parliament acknowledges and accepts as its own the following symbols of the Union:

- the flag that owns itself 12 golden stars forming a circle on a blue;
 - the Anthem that is based on Ludwig Von Beethoven's ninth Symphony's Ode of Joy
 - the motto : "United in diversity".
- The European Parliament celebrates the day of Europe on 9 May.

Flag of the Union has to be placed on all Parliamentary buildings and rooms of sessions. The Anthem has to be played at all forming and other



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The accession of the EU

The European Union grew in a couple of decades from a six-member Western European alliance to a 27 members big -covering most of Europe- alliance of countries as a first of January 2007 Bulgaria and Romania became full members of the

community. At the moment 2 countries membership is on the agenda: Turkey and Croatia.

The current procedure of accession is equivalent to the one applied in 2004. The condition of membership is to fit the so called Copenhagen Criteria that have been laid down in 1993:

- stability Democratic institutions, respecting minority and human rights, having a constitutional state
- fully functioning market economy that fits the EU competition
- full acceptance of communal legislation.

More and more can be heard about the so called fourth criteria which examines the absorbent capacity that is the EU's quality to accept new members according to Olli Rehn -responsible for enlargement of the EU- the EU will not accept new members until the end of the decade. Behind the date of 2010 draw many issues: the debates on the future of Europe, constitutional dilemma and the institutional system and the reform of the budget.



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Turkey

Turkey has signaled its intention to connect to the EU in 1963. It has signed more important commercial treaties with the European community until 1974, bought the July intervention of Cyprus setback negotiations for a long time.

The Turkish accession application has been re-examined again in the 80's box procedure has only accelerated in the middle of the 90s when the customs treaty in 1995 has created a customs union between the European Union states and Turkey.

The European Council has ejected in 1997 Turkey's official status of candidacy to member, but in 1999 in Helsinki finally it has happened to stop.

In 2001 and 2002 the Turkish parliament has accepted wide-scale reforms that made it possible politically to be a candidate member. As a result the European Council decided in 2002 December that in two years they're going to have a decision about the initiation of negotiations.



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The EU has validated on third of October 2002 the beginning of negotiations between the organization and Turkey about the country's EU accession.

The negotiations started on 20th of October 2005, with the so-called screening, that is the chapter-to-chapter review of the EU laws and the comparison of Turkish laws. Turkish accession negotiations are unique from more points of view. They are "open-ended" negotiations where the membership is not guaranteed.

Accession can only be realized after 2014, the costs of the Turkish membership have not been calculated into the EU's budget for the period Of 2007-2013.

The negotiations can be put on hold in case Durkee violates human rights or the principle of constitutional state. Finally, even if in the beginning not openly, Turkey has acknowledge the Greek government of Cyprus.

According to the EU-Turkish arrangement made in December 2004,

Turkey has to sign the records before the beginning of the negotiations in which the partnership is extended the 10 EU members who have joined in 2004. This did happen on first of August 2005.

Croatia

because of the Southern Slavic wars Croatia has only handed in the its request for accession in 2003 February, and the European commission gave the green light 2004 December to start the negotiations in 2005 spring (2005 March, 17), though



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one condition has been set: collaboration with the international Court of Haag to hand out for war-criminals (to specify: General Ante Gotovina). The Croatian accession negotiations could not start at that date, because the European Union decided to put off in the last moment.

After the international Court of the Haag gave reports to the foreign affairs ministers of EU member states that Croatia has been collaborating fully, the accession negotiations have re-started with Zagreb at the same time the Turkish negotiations solemnly restarted (third of October 2005).

Macedonia

The leaders of the European Union have formally accepted the request for accession (handed in 2004 March)from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2005 December. Though the day of the beginning of the negotiation has not yet been set.



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EU history

22 January 1972.

The accession contracts of Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom to the EEC are signed.

10 May 1972.

Ireland decides with a referendum to join the EC.

13 July 1972.

The British House of Commons approves the accession of the United Kingdom.

22 July 1972.

Treaties of free trade are signed with those EFTA states that did not ask for EU accession (Austria, Iceland, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland)

25 September 1972.

Norway denies EU membership with a referendum.

2 October 1972.

Denmark decides to join the EC with a referendum.

20 October 1972.

The heads of states and governments of the community agree to

transform the European communities to European Union, they accept the timing of the EMU (economic and monetary union).

19 December 1972.

Partnership contract of EC -Cyprus is signed.

1 January 1973.

Accession of Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom.

14 May 1973.

Norway signs a free-trade treaty with the European communities.

23 July 1973.

The four in the first hand in second report about the EPC (report of Copenhagen).

21 January 1974.

Ministers of employment and social affairs sent a new social action plan of the community.

10 December 1974.

Heads of states and governments decide in Paris about the assembly of the European Council (Council of



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heads of states and governments) and decide on regular meetings.

28 February 1975.

The first Lome Convent is signed in the EC and 46 ACP (African, Caribbean, Pacific Countries) countries. This treaty provides economical and technical help and commercial benefits.

11 March 1975.

First-time the heads of states and governments need to in Dublin at the European Council.

18 March 1975.

Establishing of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

5 June 1975.

The United Kingdom decides to stay in the EC with a referendum.

12 June 1975.

Greece requests accession to the EU.

27 July 1976.

The beginning of accession negotiations with Greece.

28 March 1977.

Portugal requests accession to the EU.

28 July 1977.

Spain requests accession to the EU.

7 July 1978.

The European Council approves the plan to create the European monetary system (EMS) and the European currency unit (ECU).

17 October 1978.

The accession negotiations with Portugal start.

5 February 1979.

The accession negotiations with Spain start.

13 March 1979.

The EMS comes into effect ex post facto to 1979 first of January .

28 May 1979.

Laws about the accession of Greece are ratified in Athens.

10 July 1979.

The first direct and general elections of the European Parliament.



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31 October 1979.

The second Lome Convent is signed by the EC and 58 ACP states in Lome.

2 April 1980.

The community signs a cooperation Treaty with Yugoslavia.

28 July 1980.

The community signs a cooperation Treaty with Romania.

1 January 1981.

Greece joins the European.

19 June 1983.

In Stuttgart, at the seat of the European Council, the declaration about the European Union is solemnly signed.

14 February 1984.

The European Parliament accepts the planned European Union contract of Spinelli as an initiative and sends it to the member states for opinion making.

17 June 1984.

Second general elections of the European Parliament.

26 June 1984.

The Fontainebleau session of the European Council, agreement on creating the Dooge-committee – concerning the institutional matters- and the Adonnino-committee –concerning the “Europe of citizens”.

8 December 1984.

The European community and 65 ACP states signed the third Lome Convent.

12 June 1985.

The accession documents Spain and Portugal are signed .

14 June 1985.

The commission submits the White Book on the fulfillment of the uniform market.

29 June 1985.

The Milan seat of the European Council makes a decision about an intergovernmental conference to amend Treaty of Rome.



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