

The European Union or EU is an international organisation of European states, established by the *Treaty on European Union* (the Maastricht treaty). Its current legal base is the *Treaty of Nice* which entered into force on February 1, 2003.

The total area (in Europe, South America and Africa) of the 25 member states (2004) of the European Union is 3,892,685 km². The EU have approximately 453 million citizens. The third largest in the world after India and China.

The important government cities of the E.U. cities are:

- **Brussels:** Council, Commission, Economic and Social Committee, Committee of the Regions
- **Strasbourg:** Parliament
- **Luxembourg:** Council, Court of Justice, Court of Auditors, Investment Bank
- **Frankfurt am Main:** Central Bank

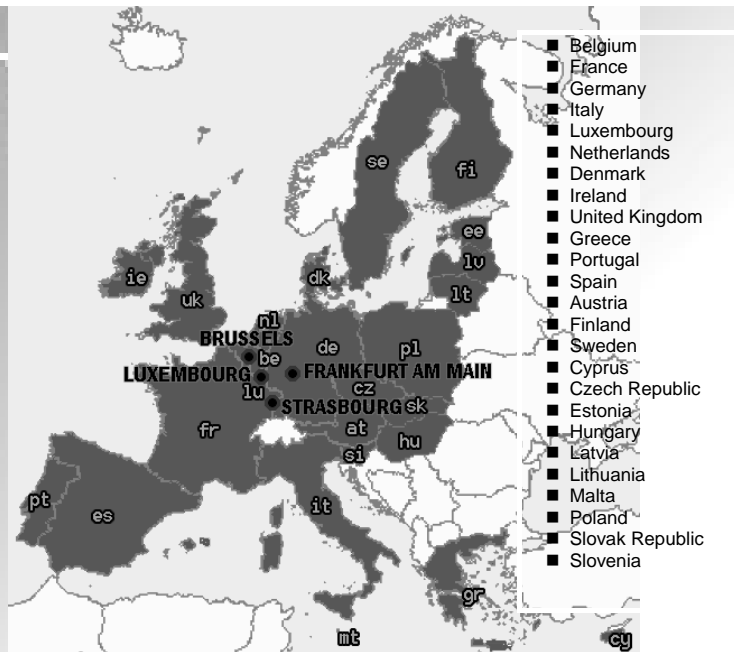
The flag of the Union shall be a circle of twelve golden stars on a blue background. The 12 symbolize the harmony and perfection and have nothing to do with the count of the members.

The motto of the Union shall be: United in diversity (*in varietate concordia*).

The currency of the Union shall is the Euro.

The **European anthem** is based on the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's ninth symphony, which is based on Friedrich Schiller's "**Ode an die Freude** (Ode to Joy)".

By Bennet Schulte (721625) K2 TFH, Berlin 2004 - UIN:59520994 www.benneten.de tfh@benneten.de



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