

Read and complete the text with the following words: *accepted, taxes, own, harmony, cooperate, leaders, voted, economic, anthem, legislation*.

## THE EUROPEAN UNION



### WHAT IS IT?

The EU is a political \_\_\_\_\_ union of countries that are located on the European continent. Of the 50 countries in Europe, 27 belong to the European Union. It's a bit like a club. To be a member, countries have to agree to follow the rules and pay some money through \_\_\_\_\_. In return member countries get some benefits.

### WHY WAS IT CREATED and WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE EU?

After World War II the countries of Europe wanted to avoid future wars. Some European \_\_\_\_\_ thought that having their countries work together would help. The EU helps its member countries with issues such as trade, security, and the rights of citizens, that is, they \_\_\_\_\_ to build a better Europe. However, it's important to note that member countries are independent with their own governments, own \_\_\_\_\_ and own constitutions.

### CURIOS AND INTERESTING DATA

- Since 2013, the EU has had 28 members, but this changed the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 when United Kingdom decided to leave after 52% of its population \_\_\_\_\_ not to be a member any more. This historic event is known as Brexit.
- There are several countries such as Albania, Serbia or Turkey that are still waiting to be \_\_\_\_\_ to become a member of the EU.
- The European flag has a circle of 12 golden stars on a blue background which symbolize unity, solidarity and \_\_\_\_\_ among the European member countries.
- The European motto is 'United in Diversity'.
- The European \_\_\_\_\_ is a melody that was composed by German composer Ludwig van Beethoven in 1823.
- The European currency is the EURO for 19 countries of the EU while other European countries still use their \_\_\_\_\_ national currency such as Denmark and Sweden.