

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.

CURIOUS AND INTERESTING DATA

- Since 2013, the EU has had 28 members, but this changed the 31st 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.