EUROPEAN UNION.

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ESAP

CETAP – SAN AGUTIN (HUILA)

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European Union

The European Union (EU) is a unique political and economic community with supranational and intergovernmental dimensions. It is composed of twenty-seven member states primarily located in Europe. In 1957, six European countries formed the European Economic Community (EEC) by the Treaty of Rome. Since then the EU has grown in size through the accession of new member states and has increased its powers by the addition of new policy areas to its remit. In 1993, the Maastricht Treaty established the base of the current legal framework.

The EU created a single market which seeks to guarantee the freedom of movement of people, goods, services and capital between member states. It maintains a common trade policy, agricultural and fisheries policies, and a regional development policy. In 1999 the EU introduced a common currency, the euro, which has been adopted by thirteen member states. It has also developed a role in foreign policy, and in justice and home affairs. Passport control and customs checks between many member states were abolished under the Schengen Agreement.

With over 492 million citizens the EU generates an estimated nominal GDP of €8.6 ($10.7) trillion in 2007. It represents its members in the WTO and observes the G8 summits. Twenty EU countries are members of NATO. Important institutions of the EU include the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the European Court of Justice and the European Central Bank. EU citizens elect the Parliament every five years.

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Questions about the text

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1. How many members has the EU?

- 6.
- 27.
- We don't know.

2. The euro is used in all the countries of the EU.

- True.
- False.
- We don't know.

3. Passport control between many member states was abolished.

- True.
- False.
- We don't know.

4. What is the estimated nominal GDP of the EU?

- €8,600,000.

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- ○ €8,600,000,000.
- ○ €8,600,000,000,000.

5. Only twenty EU countries are members of NATO.

- ○ True.
- ○ False.
- ○ We don't know.

Vocabulary: Acronyms

EU = European Union	UE = Unión Europea
EEC = European Economic Community	Comunidad Económica Europea
WTO = World Trade Organization	OMC = Organización Mundial del Comercio
G8 = Group of Eight (Countries)	G8 = Grupo de los Ocho (Países)
NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organization	OTAN = Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte
GDP = gross domestic product	PIB = producto interno bruto

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