

EUROPEAN UNION



What is the European Union (EU)?

- ◆ A unique economic and political partnership among 27 democratic European countries.

(Publications Office of the European Union)

What are its goals?

- ◆ Peace, prosperity and freedom for its 498 million citizens, in a fairer, safer world.

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What does this mean?

- ◆ Since the members of the European Union can speak with one voice, each country has the combined strength of the entire Union.
- ◆ This makes each country more powerful, both politically and economically.

What results so far?

- ◆ Travel without boundaries, the euro (the single European currency), safer food, a greener environment, better living standards in poorer regions, joint action on crime and terror, cheaper phone calls, millions of opportunities to study abroad...



How does it work?

The EU has set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are:

- ❖ The European Parliament (representing the people of Europe);
- ❖ The Council of the European Union (representing national governments);
- ❖ The European Commission (representing the common EU interest).