**THE EUROPEAN UNION**

* **DEFINITION**: International confederation of 28 European states
* **GOALS**:
* working together for peace and prosperity
* promoting cooperation
* increasing economic stability
* managing agriculture, energy, anti-terrorism and environmental problems
* **UNIQUE** because the EU states have delegated some of their powers to the EU institutions
* **ANTHEM**: Ninth Symphony by Beethoven
* **FLAG**: 12 stars in a circle on a blue background
* **EUROPE DAY**: 9th May
* **CURRENCY**: Euro (from 2002) – Few countries in the EU don’t use the euro
* **Eurozone** (created in 2005): countries that use the euro
* **Advantages**:
* More stable economy
* Easier to travel
* Easier to buy and sell things
* The **European Central Bank** (in **Frankfurt**) decides the monetary policy
* **HISTORY**
* **1951**: European Coal and Steel Community (6 members, included Italy)
* **1957**: Treaty of Rome established a common market
* **1993**: Treaty of Maastricht (border controls are eliminated), free movement of people and goods, products can be sold everywhere in Europe

**EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS**

**LEGISLATIVE POWER**

* **COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**
* Main legislative body
* Formed by the Ministers of the EU countries
* Leadership changes every 6 months
* Seat: **Brussels**
* **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**
* Second legislative body
* Members elected every 5 years by the European citizens
* Seat: **Strasbourg**

**EXECUTIVE POWER**

* **EUROPEAN COMMISSION**
* Seat: **Brussels**

**JUDICIAL POWER**

* **COURT OF JUSTICE**
* One judge per member state
* Decides legal disputes among EU states
* Seat: **Luxembourg**