

GET TO KNOW THE EU

beyond the economic crisis

The European Union is a unique political and economic partnership among 28 democracies united in their commitment to peace, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. The EU's Member States have shared some of their powers with EU institutions, and many decisions are now made at the European level.

5 IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE EU

1. The European Union has delivered more than 60 years of peace, stability, and prosperity in Europe, and has responded proactively to international crises through foreign development policies and dozens of civilian and military crisis management and conflict prevention operations around the world.
2. The EU is the United States' most important partner in terms of not only political and economic relations, but also in addressing global challenges like promoting energy security and efficiency, combating climate change, and helping developing nations lift themselves out of poverty.
3. The EU is the world's largest trading bloc, accounting for almost one-fifth of global trade. The EU's single market of more than 500 million consumers is the EU's main economic engine, enabling most goods, services, money, and people to move freely throughout its territory.
4. The EU and its Member States collectively are the largest providers of official development assistance around the world.
5. The EU has implemented the most ambitious set of climate and energy targets anywhere in the world.

OUR MOTTO

"united in diversity"

KEY

CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

ICELAND (not shown)
MONTENEGRO
SERBIA
TURKEY (not shown)

POTENTIAL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

ALBANIA
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA
KOSOVO (UNDER UNSCR 1244)

NON-EU COUNTRIES

* Map does not include all non-continental and overseas territories of Member States.



- AUSTRIA
- BELGIUM
- BULGARIA
- CROATIA
- CYPRUS
- CZECH REPUBLIC
- DENMARK
- ESTONIA
- FINLAND
- FRANCE
- GERMANY
- GREECE
- HUNGARY
- IRELAND
- ITALY
- LATVIA
- LITHUANIA
- LUXEMBOURG
- MALTA
- NETHERLANDS
- POLAND
- PORTUGAL
- ROMANIA
- SLOVAKIA
- SLOVENIA
- SPAIN
- SWEDEN
- UNITED KINGDOM

4.3 MILLION km²
1.7 MILLION SQUARE MILES

24 OFFICIAL LANGUAGES
ALONG WITH RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT FOR NUMEROUS REGIONAL AND MINORITY LANGUAGES

60+ YRS
DELIVERING PEACE, PROSPERITY AND STABILITY IN EUROPE

508 MILLION
TOTAL POPULATION

THE TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMY

The EU is a global player and the world's largest economic body. Its partnership with the US drives global economic growth, trade, and prosperity.

15 MILLION
WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE TRANSATLANTIC ECONOMY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC

APPROXIMATELY **\$3.3 TRILLION**
COLLECTIVE EU-US FDI STOCKS IN ONE ANOTHER'S ECONOMIES

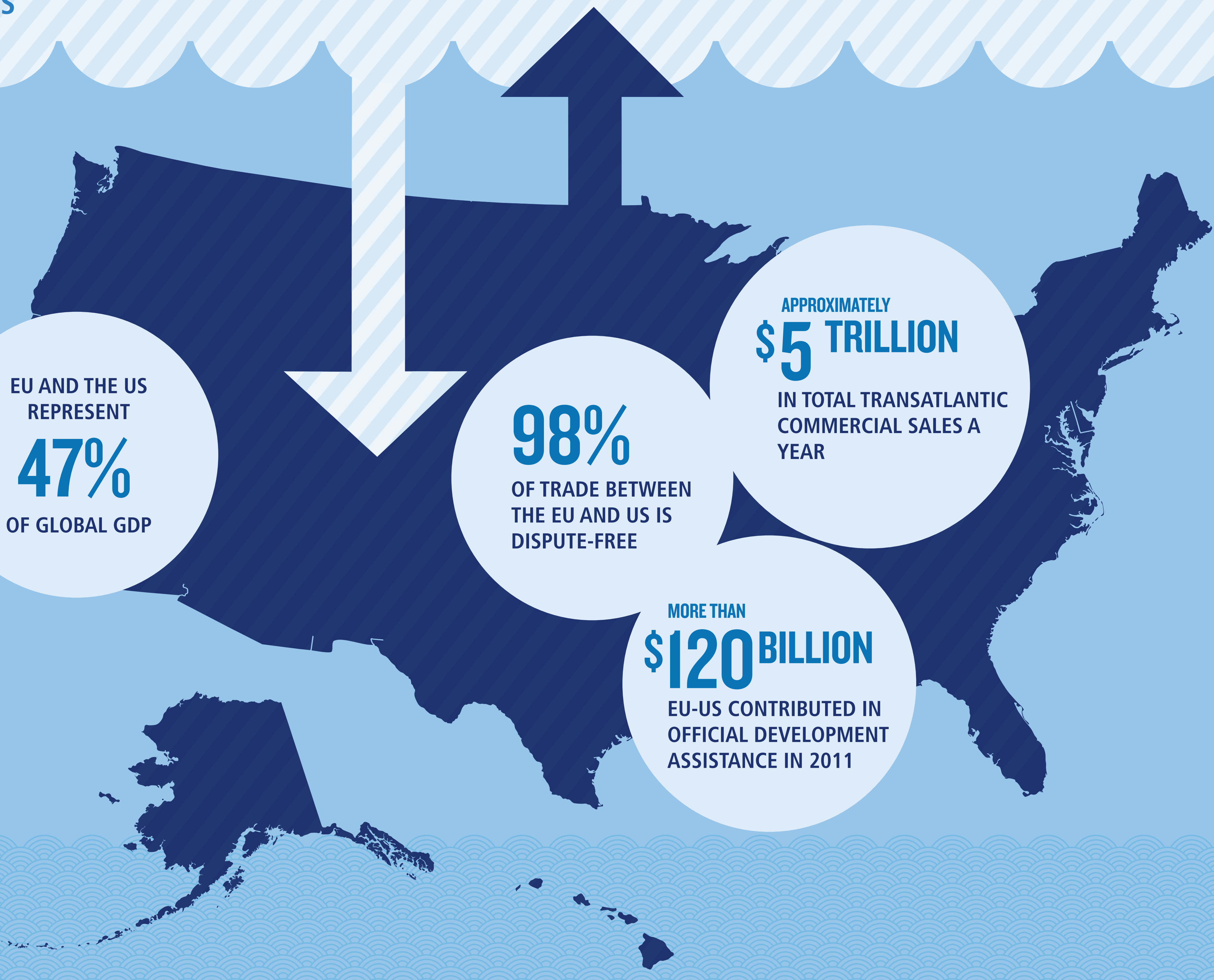
EU AND US TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR **58%** OF ALL GLOBAL R&D

EU AND THE US REPRESENT **47%** OF GLOBAL GDP

98% OF TRADE BETWEEN THE EU AND US IS DISPUTE-FREE

APPROXIMATELY **\$5 TRILLION** IN TOTAL TRANSATLANTIC COMMERCIAL SALES A YEAR

MORE THAN **\$120 BILLION** EU-US CONTRIBUTED IN OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN 2011



THE 2012 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE®

The EU is the 2012 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize® for contributing for more than six decades to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

OUR GOVERNANCE

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

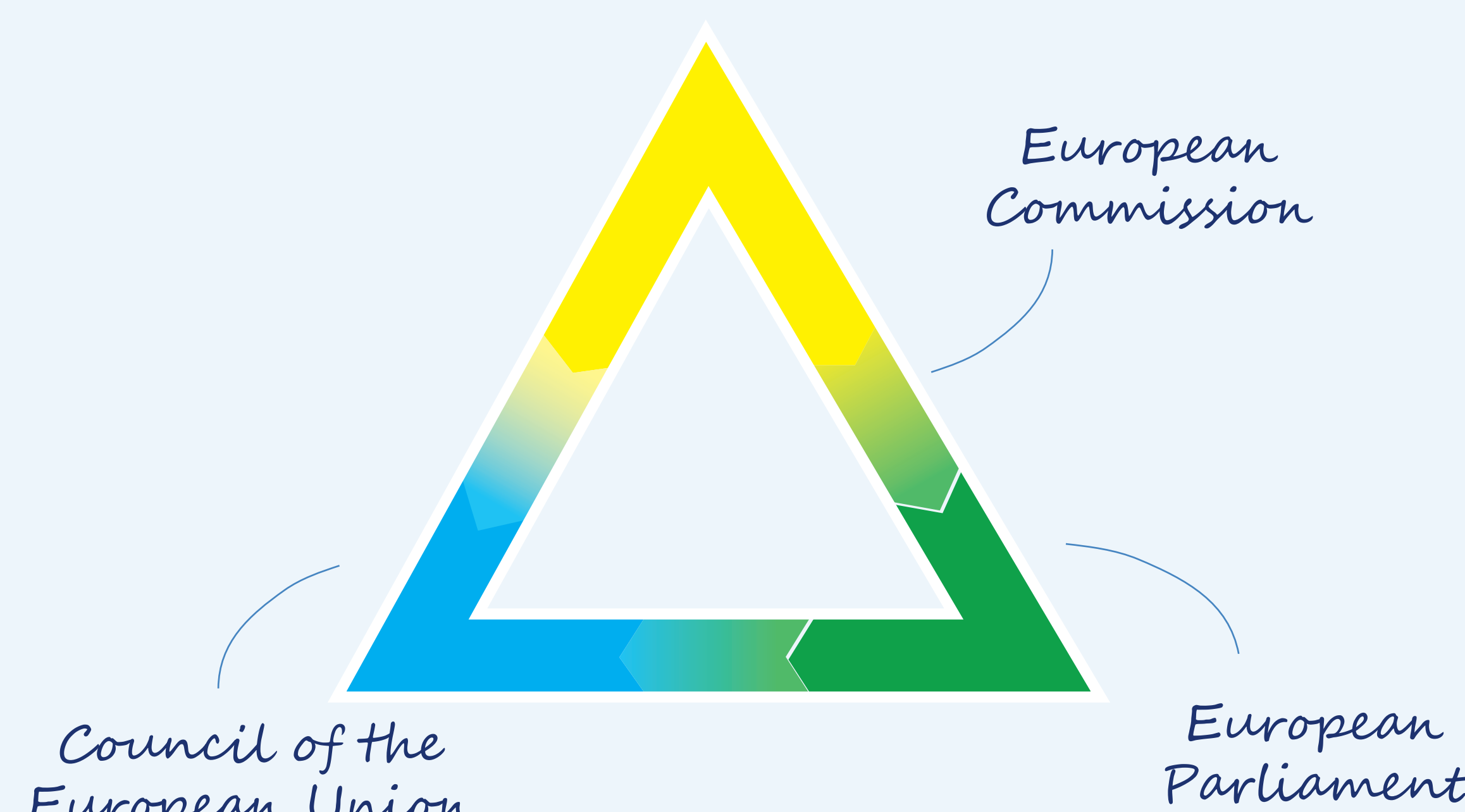
The European Council: Made up of the heads of state or government of the Member States, along with the presidents of the European Commission and European Council, sets overall EU policy and is the highest political authority in the EU.

European Commission: Proposes legislation, manages and implements EU policies and the budget, enforces European law, and negotiates internationally in areas falling within its jurisdiction.

Council of the EU: Adopts laws (with the EP), coordinates specified policies, develops foreign and security policy, and concludes international agreements.

European Parliament: Adopts laws (with the Council of the EU), voice of our citizens, directly elected by our people.

THE EU'S LAW-MAKING PROCESS INVOLVES THREE MAIN INSTITUTIONS



THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE IS THE EU'S OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC SERVICE



140+ WORLDWIDE
NUMBER OF EU DELEGATIONS

EU MEMBER STATES ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 1/4 OF THE ENTIRE GLOBAL ECONOMY

This means the EU represents 26% of the global Gross Domestic Product.

THE 12 STARS

12 stars in a circle symbolize the ideals of perfection, completeness, and unity. The number of stars does not reflect the number of members.

THE HISTORY OF THE EURO



- World's second most important international currency, after the US dollar.

- Used in more than one-third of all foreign exchange transactions.

THE EURO IS THE SHARED CURRENCY USED BY

18/28

EU MEMBER STATES.

Delegation of the European Union to the United States

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