

## Auf Geht's 8.2

### 8.2.1 Geschichte

The European Union (EU) is a union of the European countries

- Stronger association than a simple alliance
- Nations give up power here to be part of this

Founded in May 9, 1950 by Robert Schuman

Served as a Prime Minister and assisted the French resistance during WWI

European Union's original name was the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951

Pooled steel and coal resources from six countries

Recognized that importance of key resources for national security

### Treaty of Rome (1957)

Formed the European Economic Community (EEC)

"Common market" on 4 freedoms:

- Movements of goods
- Services
- Capital
- People

The six countries that found the EEC are: Belgien, Deutschland, Luxemburg, Frankreich, Italien, und die Niederlande

1973, Ireland and Great Britain joined the EEC

1981-1986, Greece, Spain, and Portugal joined

1995: Austria, Sweden, and Finland joined

Decisions made on referendum

2004: 10 new countries joined, most of which are Eastern European nations

2013: Croatia became the 28<sup>th</sup> member

The EU has become a major player in politics and economics

Germany still stands as the largest and richest of the countries

### 8.2.3

Malta: a small island near Sicily (only 8 miles wide)

Zypern: Cyprus, a large island south of Turkey

The 6 main languages in the EU are: German, Greek, English, French, Netherlands, and Swiss

Niederländisch = die Niederlande und Belgien

Deutsch = Deutschland, Österreich, und Luxemburg

Französisch = Frankreich, Belgien, und Luxemburg

Griechisch = Griechenland, Zypern

Schwedisch = Sweden, Finnland

Englisch = Irland, Großbritannien

#### 8.2.4 More on EU

Europäische Integration: the process of yielding power to the EU

#### 5 Institutions of Europäische Union

Europäisches Parlament: 766 members of all 28 countries elected every 5 years—like the US House of Representatives

- Every country has a weighted amount of representatives (equality)

- Representatives aren't well known in their countries

Europäischer Rat: similar to the US Senate

- Composed of ministers from each state

- It considers law (like the legislative branch) and it supervises the Europäische Kommission

Europäische Kommission: similar to executive branch of the US

- Each nation has a selected Kommissar to serve on the Kommission

- Kommission is responsible for negotiating international treaties, drafting laws, and representing the EU to the outside world

Europäischer Gerichtshof: judicial branch of EU

- Makes sure laws and actions of EU are legal

- In theory, this branch is above the member of the states

Europäischer Rechnungshof: financial watchdog

Makes sure all the money is being spent appropriately

Has a reputation of washing money away

### What the EU does

Erasmus-Program: designed to help university system of the member countries to work together by providing currency to exchange students in the EU countries

Außenpolitik: intervenes politically in the world

Fischen: works fishing rights, help control fisherman from trolling other country's waters

This is a very hot topic in Europe

Subvention: gives subsidies to farmers to continue production even though it may not be profitable to the world market

Often leads to overproduction

Butterberge: mountains of butter

Milchseen: lakes of milk

Note: farm subsidies has dropped over the years

### 8.2.5 The Euro

-The Euro replaced the Mark in 2002

-This is the currency in EU countries

-Exchange rate for a D-Mark to Euro is 1.9M (Euro almost double worth a mark)

Der Eichenzweig: oak branch similar to the old D-Mark coins; reminds Germans of their past

Das Brandenburger Tor: represents the reunification of Berlin between East and West

Der Bundesadler: eagle is the traditional symbol of Germany