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The EU Celebrates a Birthday: 50 Years of European Integration

A MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR JOHN BRUTON

The Treaty of Rome & the Modern EU

The signature of the Treaty of Rome in 1957 marked an historic first step in establishing the European Union, and its stated purpose of “an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe” echoed the 1955 Messina Declaration which saw economic integration as a step towards the “establishment of a United Europe.”



The six original members called on other Europeans to join in their efforts, but few who signed fifty years ago could have imagined that their European Union would now include 27 countries stretching from Ireland in the west to Cyprus in the east, and Finland in the north to Greece in the south. Enlargement took place in stages, each one unanimously approved by the pre-existing members—a truly remarkable political achievement.

European integration has brought unprecedented peace and stability to a continent shattered by two World Wars in the first half of the 20th century, and Europe now enjoys record prosperity in an open market in which people, goods, services, and capital move freely. Working together since 1957 has helped Europe adapt to globalization and the end of the Cold War, to combine successful and innovative growth with social cohesion, and to make lasting international partnerships. It has allowed Eastern and Southern European countries to step from the shadow of dictatorship and enjoy the freedom that EU membership brings. It

has provided a single currency and monetary system for 13 Member States.

The European Union with its directly-elected European Parliament helps legislate for 27 nations and 490 million citizens. And the influence of the EU goes far beyond European borders. It is the world’s largest donor of development assistance, it works closely with its partners to secure world peace and security, and it actively promotes human rights for all.

The EU and the United States: 50 Years of Partnership

A strong backer of European integration since the late 1940s, the United States was the first nation to recognize the European Coal and Steel Community (the forerunner to the EEC). American support has been vital to the subsequent development of the Union.

EU-U.S. ties run deep and strong. The transatlantic economic relationship is the world’s largest, accounting for over \$1.5 billion a day in trade and even more in investment. Despite a few high-profile differences, transatlantic trade is 98 percent trouble-free. The EU and the U.S. work closely together on issues ranging from poverty and disease to counterterrorism and global security. With the development of its Common Foreign and Security Policy, the EU is a key U.S. partner in working for peace and democracy around the world.

Fifty years after the Treaty of Rome, Europe is stronger and more stable than ever, and the EU-U.S. partnership is equally so. Please join me in wishing the EU a very Happy Birthday!

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Preamble to the Treaty Establishing the European Community

The Heads of State and Government of Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands,

“**DETERMINED** to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe,

RESOLVED to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action to eliminate the barriers which divide Europe,

AFFIRMING as the essential objective of their efforts the constant improvements of the living and working conditions of their peoples,

RECOGNISING that the removal of existing obstacles calls for concerted action in order to guarantee steady expansion, balanced trade and fair competition,

ANXIOUS to strengthen the unity of their economies and to ensure their harmonious development by reducing the differences existing between the various regions...

DESIRING to contribute, by means of a common commercial policy, to the progressive abolition of restrictions on international trade,

INTENDING to confirm the solidarity which binds Europe and the overseas countries and desiring to ensure the development of their prosperity, in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

RESOLVED by thus pooling their resources to preserve and strengthen peace and liberty, and calling upon the other peoples of Europe who share their ideal to join in their efforts,

DETERMINED to promote the development of the highest possible level of knowledge for their peoples through a wide access to education...

HAVE DECIDED to create a **EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**”

Rome
March 25, 1957

Who's Who in the European Union

The European Commission is the EU's day-to-day driving force and its executive branch. It also proposes legislation, manages the Union's regular business and budget, enforces anti-trust and other rules, and negotiates international trade agreements on behalf of the EU. Led by 27 Commissioners, each responsible for specific policy areas, the Commission represents the European interest as "Guardian of the Treaties" on which the EU was founded.

The Council of the European Union (commonly called the Council of Ministers) is the EU's main decision-making body, made up of ministers from the 27 Member State governments. The Council adopts laws, often in conjunction with the European Parliament, coordinates the Member States' broad economic policies, and develops the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The presidency of the Council rotates between the Member States every six months.

The European Council, the highest political authority in the EU and comprised of Member State heads of state and government, sets the agenda and priorities of the EU, meeting up to four times yearly to set overall policy and resolve issues not settled at the ministerial level.

The European Parliament, the voice of European citizens, has members (MEPs) directly elected by the people of the Member States for five-year terms. The Parliament and the Council pass laws and adopt the EU's annual budget. The Parliament approves the membership of the European Commission and its leadership.

The European Court of Justice is the highest EU judicial authority and ensures that EU laws and policies are interpreted and applied correctly by the European Commission and the Member States.

The European Central Bank is responsible for monetary policy in the 13-nation euro area. Operating independently of national governments, the ECB sets interest rates and works to ensure a stable euro.

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- The EU is the world's single largest aid donor, providing almost 60 percent of development assistance and humanitarian funding around the world.
- The EU accounts for 31 percent of global GDP.
- The EU created the world's first carbon-trading regime as part of efforts to combat global warming.
- The EU is opposed to the Death Penalty in all cases.
- The EU is by far the single largest foreign investor in the United States. European investment in Texas alone is more than total U.S. investment in Japan and China put together.
- The EU has sent civilian, police, and military personnel to help keep the peace and strengthen the rule of law in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Asia.



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The European Commission's External Service: Delegations Around the World

The European Commission's external service maintains a diplomatic presence through over 120 delegations around the world. Functioning much like embassies, but without consular services or a military attaché, European Commission delegations present and explain EU policy and analyze and report on policy developments in the host country.

The European Commission Delegation to the United States. Like others around the world, the European Commission Delegation in Washington, although a part of the Commission structure, in practice serves European Union interests

as a whole, working closely with the European Union Presidency, which rotates between the Member States.

Headed by Ambassador John Bruton and staffed by both Brussels-based diplomats and locally-hired personnel, the Washington Delegation communicates directly with Congress and the Executive Branch as well as the policy, lobbying, and academic communities in Washington. Delegation representatives, led by Ambassador Bruton, regularly travel throughout the United States to address matters of interest to the U.S. and get to know America better.

For more information: www.eurunion.org/euinsight