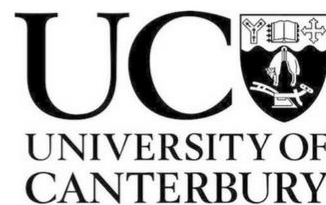


# UN+ CERTAIN



Canterbury Model European Union 2017  
University of Canterbury, 7–8 September



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# WHAT IS THE EUCN?

The **New Zealand European Union Centres Network (EUCN)**, is a network of all eight New Zealand universities that aims to combine the three elements of research, teaching and outreach under a unique thematic umbrella focused on the impact, role and understanding of the European Union within New Zealand and the wider Pacific region.

The Network is multidisciplinary in orientation and open to all New Zealand universities with an interest in European Union Studies. The 1999 EU-NZ Joint Declaration – involving economics, politics, security, innovation, development, democratic values and people and cultures – defines the scope of the Network's activities.

It organizes academic research and administers scholarships for students studying the EU. Events, seminars and conferences are open to the public and often available via online login.

For more information visit our website, [www.eucnetwork.org.nz](http://www.eucnetwork.org.nz), or email Yvonne Grosch at [yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz). The EUCN is co-funded by a European Commission Grant.



[EUCN - New Zealand European Union Centres Network](http://www.eucnetwork.org.nz)



New Zealand European Union Centres Network





# WHAT IS THE NCRE?

The **National Centre for Research on Europe (NCRE)** brings together students, teachers, graduates and academics from around the world to research and study the EU and Europe- related issues and topics. The centre belongs to and runs the '*European Studies Association of New Zealand*' and the '*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Asia-Pacific*'.

The NCRE also performs a wider societal role and serves as a key element in the EU's outreach within New Zealand and the Pacific. Raising critical awareness of the EU, informing government, the media and public opinion play an equally important part in the NCRE's core functions.

Above all, the NCRE encourages and promotes a new generation of New Zealand graduates who have a high level of expertise and interest in the EU.

Visit our website at: <http://www.europe.canterbury.ac.nz/>



[National Centre for Research on Europe](http://www.europe.canterbury.ac.nz/)



# WHAT IS UN YOUTH NEW ZEALAND?

United Nations Youth New Zealand, or UN Youth, serves as the youth arm of the United Nations Association of New Zealand, a member of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA). WFUNA has consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Despite only being in existence since 1999, UN Youth creates amazing opportunities for youth to express themselves, learn about the United Nations and provide positive solutions for what is, ultimately, their future.

UN Youth Canterbury is the regional division of UN Youth New Zealand and our boundaries extend from Nelson, to the West Coast, down to Timaru and back up to Christchurch where the Regional Council is based. We run a range of Model UN events in Christchurch as well as the outer areas of the region. Make sure you keep an eye out for other opportunities on offer!

Visit our website: <https://unyouth.org.nz/regions/canterbury/>

Get the latest from our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/UNYouthNZCanterbury/>

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Welcome to Canterbury Model European Union 2017! I'm really excited that we are able to hold this event again in our region. I hope that over the course of the conference you all have a fantastic time learning more about the world around you, meeting other amazing young global citizens and engaging with the educational material. Apply yourselves, and I know that you will gain so much from this unique opportunity. I hope that this conference is one of your best UN Youth experiences, and that you have as much fun taking part in it as the committee had putting it together!

Best of luck,

Ashley Stuart & the Canterbury Model EU 2017 Committee.



# WHAT IS JEAN MONNET?

**Jean Monnet Actions** promote excellence in teaching and research in the field of European Union Studies worldwide. The Actions foster dialogue between the academic world and policy-makers, in particular with the aim of enhancing governance of EU policies.

European Union studies comprise the study of Europe in its entirety with particular emphasis on the European Integration process in both its internal and external aspects. The discipline also covers the role of the EU in a globalized world and in promote active citizenship and dialogue between peoples and cultures.

The NCRE holds a Jean Monnet grant to organize this Model EU Training and Simulation event.

## WHY IS THIS USEFUL?

Jean Monnet actions aim to integrate EU topics into the existing curriculum. New Zealand is geographically distanced from the EU and often not directly affected by its day-to-day reality which makes it hard to understand this multifaceted organisation. Model EU events use participatory and experimental learning to engage with complex EU concepts, processes and issues. You receive this handbook prior to the event and are expected to prepare for your individual roles.

Your participation gives you the opportunity to learn about the success of the EU as well as its difficulties. Preparation and participation in this Model EU event will help you with critical thinking, problem solving and decision making.

<http://www.ec.europa.eu/education/opportunities/jean-monnet>



# THANK YOU!

Before we get into further conference details, we would like to say a couple of heartfelt THANK YOU's to a few organisations and people:

**NCRE** – Thank you NCRE, and in particular Dr Serena Kelly for your help and support over many years now! Kirsty Newman for helping us with the room bookings and lots of other UC-negotiation items.

**UN Youth** – A big THANK YOU to Ashley Stuart from the Canterbury Regional Council for making this event happen. We also want to especially thank all the volunteers and conference assistants that work tirelessly on top of their everyday commitments! Thank you – without you we wouldn't be able to bring this great event to so many participants.

**EU Delegation to New Zealand in Wellington** – for their continued support of the Model EU Training and Simulation event and generous sponsorship

**All Volunteers**, Topic Experts, Conference Assistants, Chairs, Secretaries, Welfare Team, Photographers and all those making this great event happen. THANK YOU!!!

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### WHERE?

The Canterbury Model European Union 2017 will be held at the University of Canterbury.

For maps of UC please go to: <http://www.canterbury.ac.nz/maps/home>

*Should you get lost at any stage please approach a staff member to call Security or ring Security on 0800 823 637 or 03 364 2888 who will be able to assist.*

### WHEN?

Thursday 7 September 2017: Registrations start from 8:30am, Programme starts at 9:00am.

Friday 8 September 2017: Registrations start from 8:30am, Programme starts at 09:00am.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

## DR SERENA KELLY

Lecturer, NCRE

University of Canterbury

Dr Serena Kelly is a lecturer and postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand. Her PhD thesis was one of the first to examine the proposals included in the European Union's Lisbon Treaty to establish the European External Action Service (EEAS). Its focus was on the potential impact of the EEAS in the Asia-Pacific region.



Since 2006, Dr Kelly has worked on 8 EU perceptions projects (including media, elite interviews and public opinion surveys) and currently leads the New Zealand research team which studies perceptions on the European Union. Dr Kelly also holds a prestigious Jean Monnet teaching grant from the European Commission.



# HOW TO PREPARE?

To get the most out of the Model EU you will need to do some preparation before arriving. Being well informed about your allocated party, its position, and your committee will make you more confident and at ease when presenting your party's viewpoints.

## COUNTRY

Research your country's position on the Brexit referendum and proposed policies; this will enable you to inform your party's position on the draft Directive. Your country's position will only have a limited impact in the committee as you are now a Member of the European Parliament (MEP)<sup>1</sup> and you need to prioritise your party's viewpoint accordingly.

## DIRECTIVE

Read through the draft Directive to get the general idea of what it is saying. Make sure you understand what every word means – look it up in the dictionary if you do not understand something.

Find out what your party's interests are and its opinion on the matter. Is it blatantly opposed to it? Does it like certain parts but not others?

Read through your committee description and make sure you know which parts of the Directive you will be debating - your committee section and the plenary section.

Remember: short, sharp, snappy speeches are classy and leave more time for debate. They get your point across in the most direct fashion and are likely to have the greatest effect. Remember, too, that there will be a prize for the best MEP in each of the six committees.

## WHAT TO BRING?

Pen and paper, any research you have done about your country or the Directive, plus the Directive itself! Also, bring a water bottle and any medication that you normally take.

Laptops are permitted but an internet connection cannot be guaranteed.

## WHAT TO WEAR?

Formal school uniform or formal business attire.

## ANY QUESTIONS?

For any questions on:

- Accommodation email: [yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:yvonne.grosch@canterbury.ac.nz)
- Registrations or general queries email: [charlotte.hollywood@unyouth.org.nz](mailto:charlotte.hollywood@unyouth.org.nz)

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are directly elected by the people of the EU's Member States and represent their political interests. For more information please see the section on 'EU Institutions in brief' and 'Member of the European Parliament (MEP)' in the Appendix.

# TIMETABLE OF EVENTS

## DAY ONE – THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER

8:30 AM	Registrations Open
9:00 AM	Opening/Welcome
9:30 AM	Guest Speaker
10:15 AM	Morning Tea
10:45 AM	Education
12:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM	Committee
3:00 PM	Afternoon Tea in Committee Rooms
3:15 PM	Committee
5:00 PM	Dinner in the Undercroft
5:30 PM	Debate
6:15 PM	Quiz
7:30 PM	Day Finishes

## DAY TWO – FRIDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

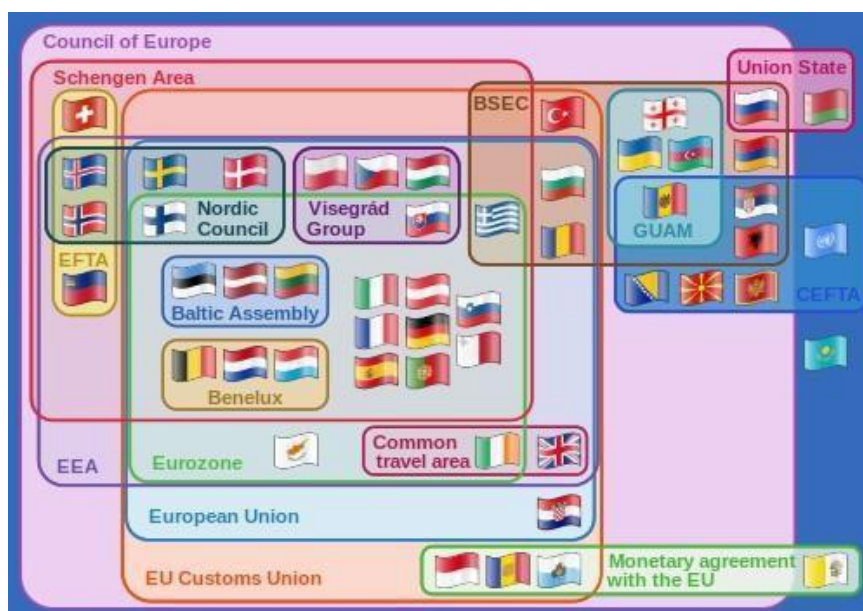
8:30 AM	Registrations Open
9:00 AM	Welcome
9:30 AM	Committee
10:30 AM	Morning Tea in Committee Rooms
11:00 AM	Committee
12:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Plenary
3:00 PM	Thanks and Closing
3:30 PM	Day Finishes

# INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE EU, EUROZONE AND EUROPE?

The *European Union (EU)*<sup>2</sup> is a politico-economic union of 28 Member States. Geographically *Europe* consists of different countries, including those 28 and many others. Many countries in Europe are not members of the European Union, for example Switzerland, Norway, Albania and Armenia, amongst others.

The *eurozone*<sup>3</sup> (preferred: euro area) is a group of EU Member States that share the euro as their common currency and the single monetary policy conducted by the European Central Bank. Today the euro area includes 19 of the 28 European Union Member States. That is why, for example, Germany and France use the euro (EUR) and the UK uses the Great British Pound (GBP).



## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE EU

After the Second World War, between 1945 and 1950, a few courageous statesmen including Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, Alcide de Gasperi and Winston Churchill set about persuading Europe to enter a new era. New structures would be created in western Europe, based on shared interest and founded upon the guaranteed rule of law and equality for all countries.

Robert Schuman<sup>4</sup> (French Foreign Minister) took up an idea originally conceived by Jean Monnet and, on 09 May 1950 proposed to establish a *European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)*<sup>5</sup>. Between countries that once fought each other, the production of coal and steel would be pooled under a common high authority.


<sup>2</sup> European Union: [http://europa.eu/european-union/index\\_en](http://europa.eu/european-union/index_en).

<sup>3</sup> Euroarea: [http://ec.europa.eu/economy\\_finance/euro/adoption/euro\\_area/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/euro/adoption/euro_area/index_en.htm).

<sup>4</sup> The Schuman Declaration: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration_en).

<sup>5</sup> ECSC: [https://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/decision-making/treaties\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/eu-law/decision-making/treaties_en).

The formation of the *European Single Market*<sup>6</sup> was another big development, coming into effect in 1992. The Single Market refers to the EU as one territory without any internal borders or other regulatory obstacles to the free movement of goods and services between the individual Member States. This stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality and helps cut prices.

 Founding Member States: Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.



In 1993 the *Treaty of Maastricht*<sup>7</sup> created the European Union (EU, removing the EEC) by opening the way to political integration. The European Union treaty is based on three pillars: the European Communities, the Common Foreign and Security Policy<sup>8</sup> (CFSP) and police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters (Justice and Home Affairs Council<sup>9</sup>, JHA). The Treaty introduced the concept of European citizenship, reinforced the powers of the European Parliament and launched Economic and Monetary Union<sup>10</sup> (EMU). For example, with European citizenship every person who is a citizen of a Member State can move, work, vote and run for office in local and European Parliament elections in the EU country in which he or she lives, regardless of his or her nationality.

The *Lisbon Treaty*<sup>11</sup> came into force in 2009 and amended the Maastricht Treaty, Treaties of Rome and other documents to simplify and streamline the institutions that govern the EU. For example, the treaty gave the European Council<sup>12</sup> (EC) a permanent President and created the post of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

1939 -1945	Second World War
1951	European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) is set up by the six founding members
1957	Treaties of Rome: setting up the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
1973, 1981, 1986, 1995, 2004, 2007, 2013	Further states join the EU
1992	The European Single Market proposed in 1985 comes into action.
1993	Treaty of Maastricht established the European Union
2002	The EURO comes into circulation
2004	Biggest Enlargement of the EU with the inclusion of 10 countries (mostly from Eastern Europe)
2009	The Lisbon Treaty comes into force, changing the way the EU works

<sup>6</sup> The European Single Market: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market_en).

<sup>7</sup> Treaty of Maastricht: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:xy0026> and <https://www.britannica.com/event/Maastricht-Treaty>.

<sup>8</sup> Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP): [https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/common-foreign-security-policy-cfsp\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/common-foreign-security-policy-cfsp_en).

<sup>9</sup> Justice and Home Affairs Council (JHA): <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/configurations/jha/>.

<sup>10</sup> Economic and Monetary Union (EMU): [https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/economic-and-monetary-union\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/economic-and-fiscal-policy-coordination/economic-and-monetary-union_en).

<sup>11</sup> Lisbon Treaty: <https://www.britannica.com/events/Lisbon-Treaty>.

<sup>12</sup> European Council (EC): <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/>.

## EU INSTITUTIONS IN BRIEF

The EU's unique institutional set-up includes (but is not limited to) the European Council, European Parliament, the European Commission and the Council of the European Union, each of which have different areas of focus:

- The EU's broad priorities are set by the **European Council**, which brings together national and EU-level leaders
- Directly elected MEPs represent EU citizens in the **European Parliament**
- The interests of the EU as a whole are promoted by the **European Commission**, whose members are appointed by national governments
- Governments defend their own country's national interests in the **Council of the European Union**



The **European Council**<sup>13</sup> sets the EU's overall political direction - but has no powers to pass laws. Led by its President and comprising national heads of state or government and the President of the Commission, it meets for a few days at a time at least twice every 6 months.

The **European Parliament**<sup>14</sup> is the EU's law-making body and an important forum for political debate and decision-making at EU level. The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are directly elected by voters in all Member States every five years to represent people's interests with regard to EU law making and to make sure other EU institutions are working democratically.



The European Parliament has three main roles:

1. Legislative
  - Passing EU laws, together with the Council of the EU, based on European Commission proposals
  - Deciding on international agreements
  - Deciding on enlargements
  - Reviewing the Commission's work program and asking it to propose legislation

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<sup>13</sup> European Council: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-council\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-council_en).

<sup>14</sup> European Parliament: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-parliament\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-parliament_en).



## 2. Supervisory

- Democratic scrutiny of all EU institutions
- Electing the Commission President and approving the Commission as a body.
- Possibility of voting a motion of censure, obliging the Commission to resign
- Examining citizens' petitions and setting up inquiries
- Discussing monetary policy with the European Central Bank
- Election observations

## 3. Budgetary

- Establishing the EU budget, together with the Council
- Approving the EU's long-term budget, the "Multiannual Financial Framework"

In the **Council of the EU**, government ministers from each EU country meet to discuss, amend and adopt laws, and coordinate policies. The ministers have the authority to commit their **governments** to the actions agreed on in the meetings.<sup>15</sup>



The **European Commission (EC)**<sup>16</sup> is an institution of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the EU treaties and managing the day-to-day business of the EU. The Commission operates as a cabinet government, with 28 members of the Commission (one per Member State).

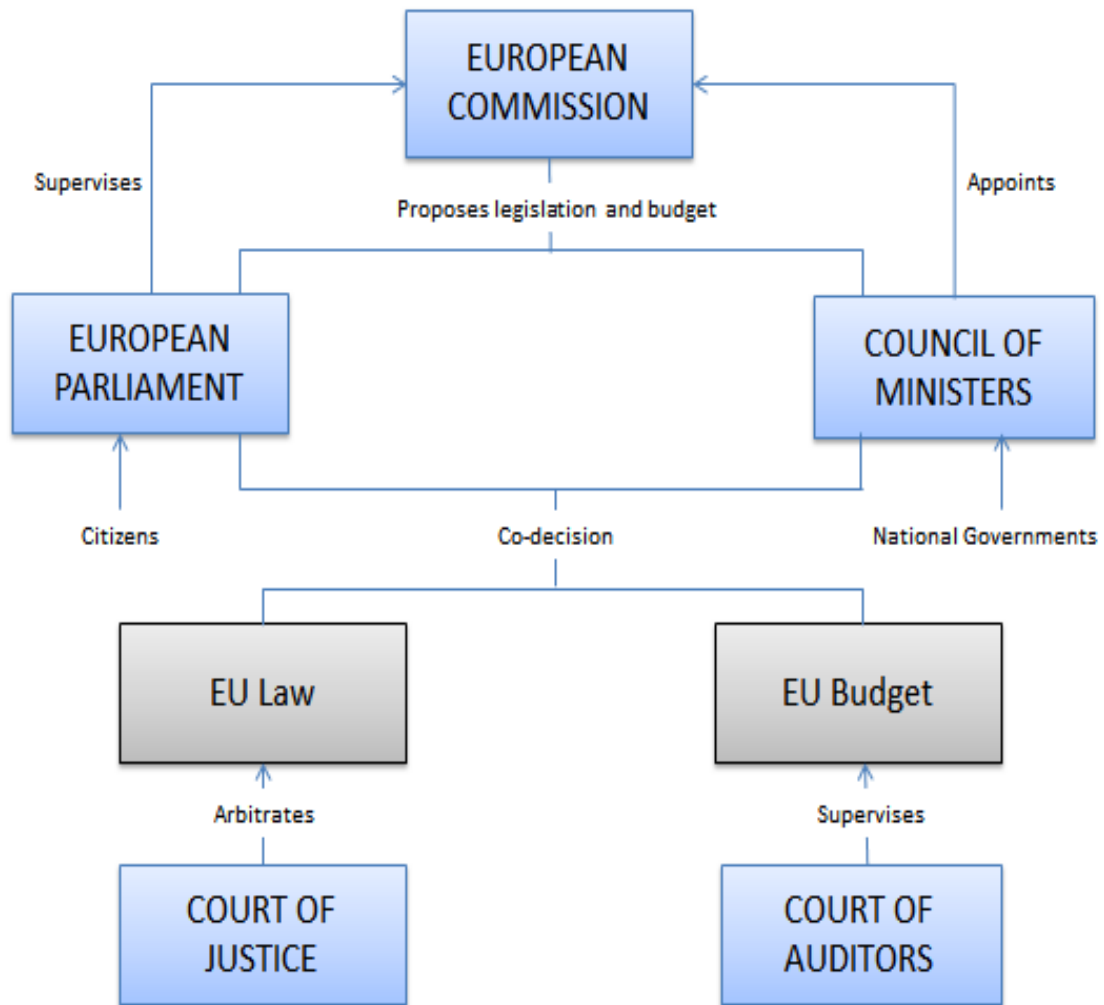


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<sup>15</sup> Council of the European Union: [https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/council-eu_en).

<sup>16</sup> European Commission: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2014-2019_en).

## DECISION-MAKING IN THE EU



# The **ABC** of the European Parliament

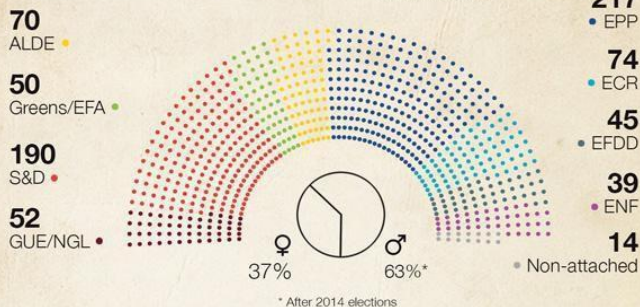
8th parliamentary term

**751**  
MEPs elected by direct  
universal suffrage for  
a five-year period

**1**  
President

**14**  
Vice-Presidents

## MEPs by political group September 2015



## How to create a political group



MEPs are divided up among  
a number of specialised  
standing committees

**20** Committees | **2** Subcommittees | **1** Special committee



Source: European Parliament

# ABC of the EU institutions



## European Parliament

The only directly-elected EU body. Represents the EU's 500 million inhabitants.  
Plays a key role in electing the President of the European Commission.  
Shares power over EU budget and legislation with Council of the European Union.

**751**  
MEPs

## Seats per country from 2014

21	17	21	13	96	6	11	21	54	74	11	73	6	8	11	6	21	6	26	18	51	21	32	8	13	20	73	
BELGIUM	BULGARIA	CZECH REPUBLIC	DENMARK	GERMANY	ESTONIA	IRELAND	GREECE	SPAIN	FRANCE	CROATIA	ITALY	CYPRUS	LATVIA	LITHUANIA	LUXEMBOURG	HUNGARY	MALTA	NETHERLANDS	AUSTRIA	POLAND	PORTUGAL	ROMANIA	SLOVENIA	SLOVAKIA	FINLAND	SWEDEN	UNITED KINGDOM



## European Commission

The EU's executive body, responsible for proposing and implementing EU laws,  
monitoring the treaties and the day-to-day running of the EU.



## Council of the European Union

Government ministers who share budgetary and legislative power with European Parliament.

## European Council

Heads of state or government of EU Member States.  
Strategic body that decides the EU's political direction.



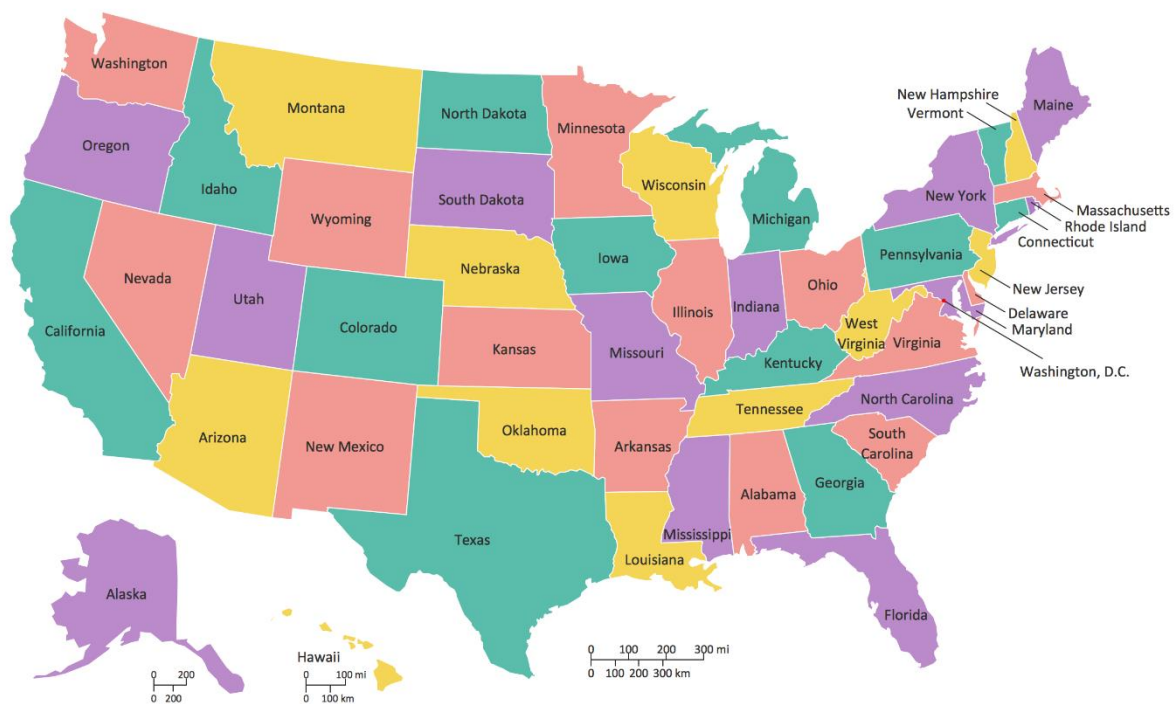
Source:  
European Parliament

# INTRODUCTION TO THE THEME: DONALD TRUMP AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

## THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: OVERVIEW

The United States of America is a sovereign nation of approximately 320 million citizens primarily located on the North American continent. The US is a constitutional republic, made up of 50 states and various unincorporated territories – each with their own government structures – and a federal government based in Washington, DC. It has the largest national<sup>17</sup> economy in the world as measured by GDP,<sup>18</sup> as well as the largest and most technologically advanced military.<sup>19</sup>

The United States' position as one of the 'P5' members of the United Nations Security Council, as well as a leading financial contributor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and other supra-national organizations ensures that its voice always carries significant weight when it comes to international governance. Additionally, given its size, economic strength, military capacity, and diplomatic outreach, the United States is a major player in almost all global affairs.



Source: <http://www.conceptdraw.com/How-To-Guide/picture/Geo-Map--USA.png>

<sup>17</sup> The EU's 28 Member States outperform the US.

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/01/weodata/index.aspx>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/Trends-world-military-expenditure-2016.pdf>.



# THE STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

The structure of the United States Government is laid out in the Constitution of the United States, adopted in 1789. It is peculiar, and unlike most national governments in the world. At the national level, the U.S. federal government is divided into three co-equal branches, each with its own rights and responsibilities. These are the **legislative branch**, the **executive branch**, and the **judicial branch**. In theory, a system of checks and balances ensures that no one branch of the government can become more powerful than another.

The **legislative branch**<sup>20</sup> of the US Government is made up of the two houses of the US Congress – the *House of Representatives* and the *Senate*. The primary purpose of the legislative branch is to enact the laws which govern the US. It is the only branch which can enact legislation, although the President of the United States – who heads the **executive branch** – often makes suggestions or proposes draft legislation for the Congress to work on. The *House of Representatives* and the *Senate* must work together to pass legislation, but beyond that each has its own responsibilities. The *House* whose members are elected from each of the 50 states every two years, is in charge of the federal budget and impeaching federal officials. The *Senate*, whose members are elected from the states every six years, is the only body which can ratify treaties with other countries, and is in charge of confirming any presidential appointments which require confirmation – such as justices in the US Supreme Court.

The **executive branch**<sup>21</sup> is the generally the most visible of the three branches of the US Government. It exists primarily to implement and enforce the laws written by the US Congress, and is headed by the President of the United States. The President acts as the United States of America's head of state, and the Commander-in-Chief of its armed forces. The President is advised by his or her Cabinet and by the heads of federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), or Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The executive branch is responsible for the day-to-day enforcement and administration of federal laws. While the President cannot create laws, they can sign 'executive orders' which instruct the government to interpret existing laws in a particular way.

The **judicial branch**<sup>22</sup> is responsible for interpreting laws, determining how they apply in real life situations, and whether they violate any of the provisions of the US Constitution. It is made up of the federal courts system, at the top of which sits the US Supreme Court. The US Supreme Court is made up of nine judges called justices who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Supreme Court justices are appointed for life and can only be removed by impeachment in the US Congress. The inferior courts are constrained by the decisions of the Supreme Court — once the Supreme Court interprets a law, inferior courts must apply the Supreme Court's interpretation to the facts of any case they may be hearing. A Supreme Court ruling can only be altered by a future Supreme Court ruling which examines the same issue.

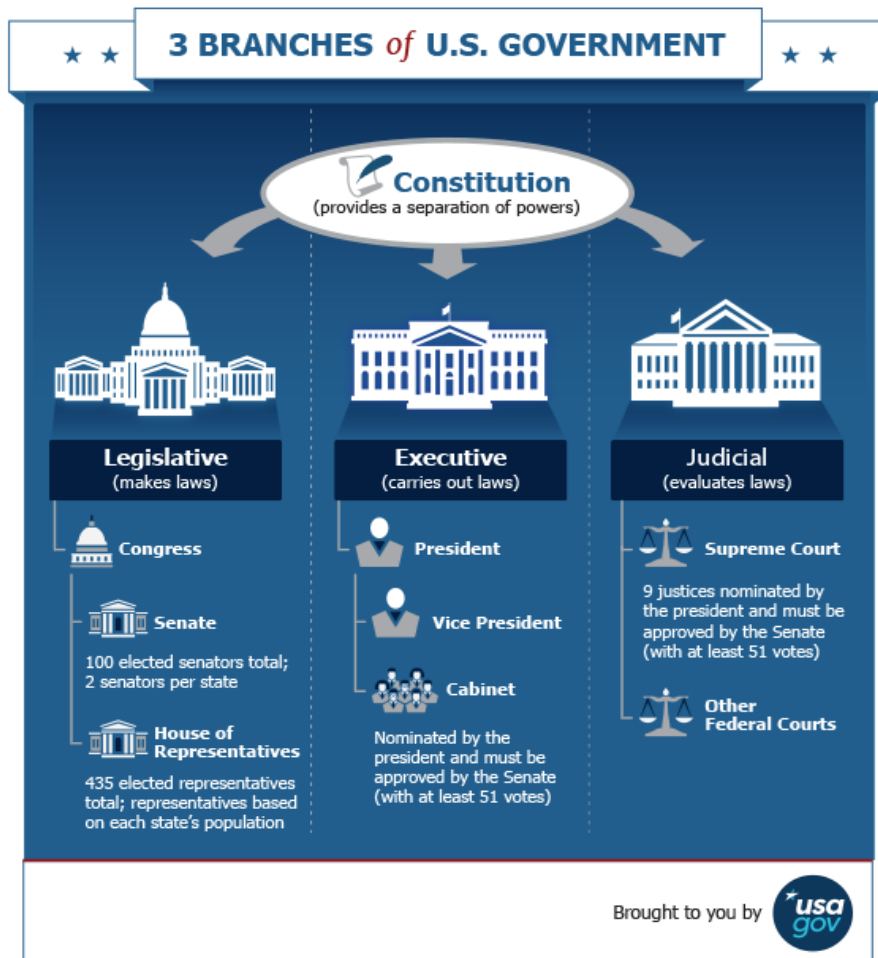
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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/legislative-branch>.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/executive-branch>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/judicial-branch>.





Source: [www.usa.gov/branches-of-government](http://www.usa.gov/branches-of-government)

## THE UNITED STATES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

The relationship between the United States and Europe is long and complex. The US began life as a collection of British (and also Spanish) colonies, before declaring independence in 1769 and subsequently defeating the United Kingdom in the American Revolutionary War. Although relations between the United States and the countries of the European continent were challenged throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, the US has generally been considered one of Europe's staunchest allies.

The roots of the strong European/American ties that exist today began with the end of World War II. In 1947, with Europe facing near complete devastation following years of warfare, the US launched what is known as the Marshall Plan – an economic recovery program which funnelled US\$13 billion to the struggling continent.<sup>23</sup> The role that the United States played in the War, combined with the Marshall Plan, created a favourable impression of America in the minds of many Europeans, and the plan itself created excellent conditions for American private-sector investment on the continent.

The intensity of the 1947-1991 Cold War between the Soviet Union and the so-called 'Western bloc'

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/marshall-plan>.

of states caused European/American diplomatic, military, and economic relations to expand throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. During this period, many American Presidents (notably John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan),<sup>24,25</sup> publicly proclaimed America's commitment to good relations with Europe.

Today, the US and the EU are the two largest economies in the world, accounting for over 50% of global GDP and 30% of global trade. In 2009, the Transatlantic trade and investment relationship between the two amounted to \$4.4 trillion, and European capital was 64% of total foreign direct investment in the US. Also in 2009, over 50% of total US investment in foreign countries went to members of the European Union.<sup>26</sup> Economically, the US and EU are joined in the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) – a body which aims to deepen cooperation between the United States and the European Union by promoting economic growth through increased trade and job creation. A comprehensive free trade agreement, the **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)** is currently being negotiated. Militarily, European states and the US often engage under the auspices of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, which was formed in 1949. Diplomatically, relations between the US and the European Union were often strained during the years of George W Bush's administration, from 2000-2009. This was in large part due to his administration's decision to intervene militarily in Iraq – a decision which did not enjoy a great deal of European support and split divided Europe between 'old' Europe and 'new'. Under the administration of Barack Obama (2009-2017) relations stabilised, and Obama enjoyed great popularity in many European nations.



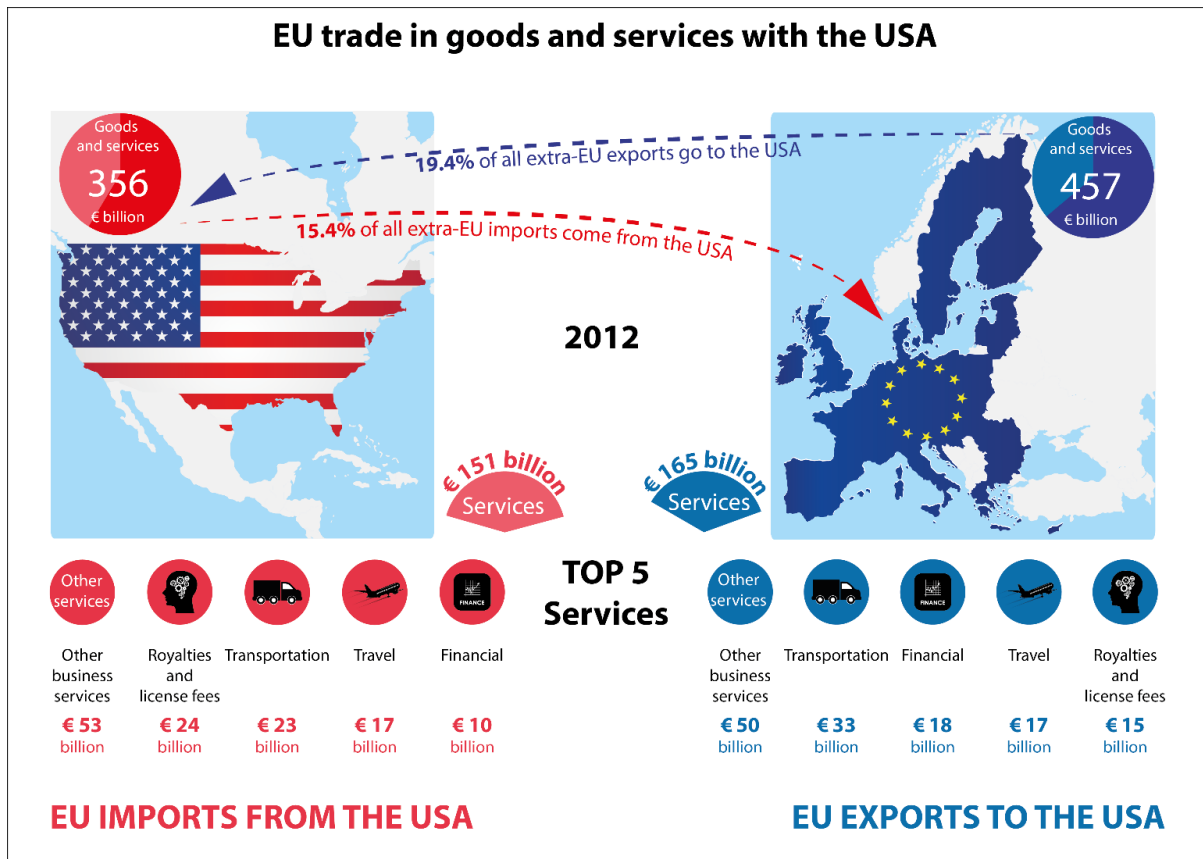
NATO Member States

Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North\\_Atlantic\\_Treaty\\_Organization\\_\(orthographic\\_projection\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:North_Atlantic_Treaty_Organization_(orthographic_projection).svg)

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2013/08/the-real-meaning-of-ich-bin-ein-berliner/309500/>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://diplomacy.state.gov/berlinwall/www/exhibitions/tear-down-this-wall.html>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/20/fact-sheet-united-states-relationship-with-european-union-enduring-partn>.



Source: [https://epthinktank.eu/2014/07/11/overcoming-transatlantic-differences-on-intellectual-property-ipr-and-the-ttip-negotiations/eu-us\\_trade\\_in\\_goods\\_and\\_services/](https://epthinktank.eu/2014/07/11/overcoming-transatlantic-differences-on-intellectual-property-ipr-and-the-ttip-negotiations/eu-us_trade_in_goods_and_services/)

## THE ELECTION OF DONALD J TRUMP

Businessman and reality television star Donald John Trump announced that he would pursue the office of President of the United States on June 16, 2015. Although he had never run for political office before, Trump had, in the years prior, begun to build a domestic political profile by repeatedly making the false claim that President Barack Obama's birth certificate was illegitimate, and that Obama was therefore not American.<sup>27</sup>

Upon entering the presidential race, Trump easily dispatched with the 16 other major candidates who sought to be the Republican Party's nominee for President of the United States<sup>28</sup>. Despite the relative ease with which he won his party's nomination, Trump's campaign was marred by accusations of racism,<sup>29</sup> sexism,<sup>30</sup> and, at times, fascism<sup>31</sup>.

These accusations continued as Trump moved into a general election campaign against Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton. Both Trump and Clinton proved to be deeply unpopular and divisive

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/17/us/politics/donald-trump-obama-birther.html>.

<sup>28</sup> <http://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-polls-2015-408614>.

<sup>29</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/donald-trump-is-a-bigot-and-a-racist/2015/12/01/a2a47b96-9872-11e5-8917-653b65c809eb\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.de8edaf0b567](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/donald-trump-is-a-bigot-and-a-racist/2015/12/01/a2a47b96-9872-11e5-8917-653b65c809eb_story.html?utm_term=.de8edaf0b567).

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.bustle.com/articles/131835-the-9-most-sexist-donald-trump-quotes-from-2015-are-honestly-just-the-tip-of-the>.

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/03/opinion/campaign-stops/is-donald-trump-a-fascist.html>.

figures,<sup>32</sup> and the 2016 election campaign was one of the most contentious in the history of American presidential politics.<sup>33</sup> Trump ultimately proved victorious, winning the electoral college by a count of 304 to Clinton's 227. Trump won 30 states and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional district of Maine, while Clinton won 20 states, the District of Columbia, and the popular vote.<sup>34</sup> Trump was sworn in as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

In the aftermath of the election, the American intelligence community – led by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), National Security Agency (NSA), and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – reached the unanimous conclusion that the sovereign nation of Russia, led by President Vladimir Putin, had attempted to interfere in the American electoral process. Russian operatives sought to aid Trump, denigrate Clinton, and undermine American confidence in their government.<sup>35</sup> Although the American intelligence community is in agreement on these facts, President Trump has publicly disputed these claims while offering no evidence in support of his position.<sup>36</sup>

## TRUMP'S POLITICAL POSITION – BREXIT AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

*"For the first time in post-war history we have an American president giving the impression he is not interested in European affairs" - Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission.<sup>37</sup>*

Donald Trump is a proponent of BREXIT, and has indicated that he believes it will be such a success that other nations may wish to withdraw from the European Union. He also described the European Union as an instrument of German domination that has been designed for the explicit purpose of taking advantage of the United States in trade deals. He has thus, at times, indicated that he is indifferent as to whether the European Union remains intact.<sup>38</sup> Trump's relationship with some European leaders, such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel<sup>39</sup> and French President Emmanuel Macron<sup>40</sup>, has been openly adversarial. However, Trump's relationship with European leaders who lean right politically and/or have been supportive of his policy positions (such as Andrzej Duda of Poland), has been fairly good.<sup>41</sup> European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has been critical of Trump, arguing that his support of Brexit is 'annoying' and that Trump's awareness of European history and politics is limited.<sup>42</sup>

## MOVING FORWARD

Since assuming the Presidency, Trump has shown a desire to pursue many of his campaign promises – his 'Travel Ban' executive order and repeal of environmental regulations are examples of this. However, his reversal of opinion on whether NATO is obsolete, and other decisions, have

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<sup>32</sup> <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/americans-distaste-for-both-trump-and-clinton-is-record-breaking/>.

<sup>33</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-divided-country-gets-a-divisive-election/2016/01/09/591bfccc-b61f-11e5-a842-0feb51d1d124\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.143996a0a14e](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/a-divided-country-gets-a-divisive-election/2016/01/09/591bfccc-b61f-11e5-a842-0feb51d1d124_story.html?utm_term=.143996a0a14e).

<sup>34</sup> <http://www.npr.org/2016/11/08/500927768/2016-presidential-election-results-for-each-state>.

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/apps/g/page/politics/the-intelligence-community-report-on-russian-activities-in-the-2016-election/2153/>.

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/07/06/politics/trump-intelligence-agencies-russia/index.html>.

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/938452b6-1072-11e7-a88c-50ba212dce4d>.

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-15/trump-calls-nato-obsolete-and-dismisses-eu-in-german-interview>.

<sup>39</sup> <http://time.com/4797241/angela-merkel-us-german-tensions-g7-summit/>.

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/12/world/europe/france-trump-visit-macron.html>.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/06/world/europe/donald-trump-poland-speech.html>.

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/938452b6-1072-11e7-a88c-50ba212dce4d>.

shown that he is capable of evolving his viewpoints in some situations. These points, combined with Trump's penchant for disregarding presidential norms means that even after six months it remains difficult to predict what America's long-term outlook will be on many policy issues under a Trump Administration. In addition, Trump remains a tremendously divisive figure domestically, has shown little ability to marshal legislative support for his agenda in the US Congress, and continues to face the spectre of multiple investigations into his ties to Russia – investigations which could eventually lead to impeachment. All of this leads to uncertainty for America's diplomatic partners, like the European Union.



# PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Each delegate will represent a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) within their allocated country and political party in one of the six Parliamentary Committees. The Committees meet to debate and amend their relevant section of the draft Directive provided. During the final Plenary<sup>43</sup> session all Members of the European Parliament debate, amend and vote on the final version of the Directive.

The six parliamentary Committees are based on existing committees in the EU:

1. Civil Liberties, Justice & Home Affairs
2. Foreign Affairs - Human Rights
3. Foreign Affairs – Security and Defence
4. Trade
5. Environment & Climate Change
6. Women’s Rights and Gender Equality

Following is a short introduction to each Committee and the challenges it faces in light of Brexit.

It is important to remember that at committee meetings you will be acting as a political representative that holds certain values and ideas based on your political party and how best to govern, elected directly by your country’s citizens. You may disagree with other MEPs and can voice these concern, but you must find a way to compromise.

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<sup>43</sup> European Parliament, ‘How Plenary works’:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/20150201PVL00011/How-Plenary-works>.

## CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS (LIBE)

*The LIBE Committee is responsible for the vast majority of the legislation and democratic oversight of Justice and Home Affairs policies. Whilst doing so, it ensures the full respect of the Charter of Fundamental Rights within the EU, the European Convention on Human Rights and the strengthening of European citizenship*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/libe/home.html>

The Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs committee is responsible for the protection and promotion of civil freedoms and fundamental human rights within the citizenship of EU Member States. This committee considers complex issues pertaining to the right to privacy, freedom of movement and immigration policy as well as the integrated management of common borders as well as police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

Standing bodies such as EUPOL (EU's law enforcement agency) and EUJUST (EU's judicial agency) ensure that the vast majority of legislation and democratic oversight of justice and home affairs are fully respected under the framework of the Charter of Fundamental Rights within the EU.

For the purpose of this particular discussion, please reflect upon Immigration policy in relation to the Brexit strategy.

### Questions to consider

Keeping in mind your political party's position and your country's position, please consider the following questions regarding the Civil Liberties part of the directive:

#### Travel Ban

President Trump signed an executive order on 27 January 2017 that establishes a temporary ban on immigration from six mainly Muslim countries (Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.)

- Considering your party's position on immigration, do you support this policy?
- Will the restrictions the US is placing on travel from some countries increase the risk of terror threats coming into Europe instead?
- Should the EU consider a similar ban?

#### Rule of Law

The EU is attached to principles of democracy, rule of law and fundamental rights and freedoms. Some of President Trump's actions have seemingly undermined these rights and freedoms.

- Considering your party's position do you agree with the directive's condemnation of Trump's actions?
- Is it the EU's place to comment on a third-country's internal policy actions? Or is it in effect undermining this country's sovereignty?

#### US/Russia Cyber-Security Task Force

President Trump has recently mentioned the idea of implementing a US/Russia bilateral working group with a focus on cybersecurity. Trump tweeted: "Putin & I discussed forming an impenetrable Cyber Security unit so that election hacking, & many other negative things, will be guarded and safe."

- How would this affect the EU's cyber security?
- Considering your party and country's position, do you consider Putin's Russia an ally or a threat?

## Visas

While most EU citizens can travel to the US without visa, five EU countries still require them (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania. Currently, US citizens require no visas to travel throughout the EU.

- What might be the consequences of re-establishing visas for US citizens?

## Charlottesville

On 12 August 2017 a 'Unite the Right' rally was held in Charlottesville, Virginia. This rally was attended by white nationalists, neo-Nazis, KKK members, and other groups identifying as the 'alt-right'. The rally was ostensibly organized to protest the removal of a monument to Robert E Lee, the Confederate States of America's leading general during the Civil War. Many protesters felt that the removal of the statue represented a symbolic attack on 'white identity'.<sup>44</sup> During the events of 12 August counter protesters clashed with the 'alt-right' groups. At one point a speeding car driven by a neo-Nazi sympathizer was driven into the counter-demonstrators, killing one and injuring many.

In the immediate aftermath of this event President Trump delivered a statement in which he condemned violence on 'many sides' but did not explicitly name neo-Nazis or white nationalists. Following that statement, many political commentators and politicians denounced his unwillingness to explicitly speak out against the condemn white nationalist groups. After two days of controversy Trump delivered a scripted statement condemning white nationalism. However, the following day Trump delivered a press conference in which he seemed to endorse elements of the white nationalist crowd and blame the counter-protesters for inciting violence.<sup>45</sup>

The US differs to many European countries with regard to freedom of speech. In the US, all speech is protected, including that of controversial groups such as the KKK and other white supremacist groups. By contrast, European countries tend to restrict freedom of speech more and ban the use of certain symbols such as the Swastika. For example, there are no laws against holocaust denial in the US, whereas most EU countries have criminalised it and it is part of EU law. Following the events in Charlottesville, Angela Merkel commented: "It is racist, far-right violence, and clear, forceful action must be taken against it, regardless of where in the world it happens."

- Taking into consideration your party's views, what kinds of restrictions on freedom of speech do you favour?
- Is it the EU's place to make a comment on President Trump's actions?

## Donald J Trump's Political Position – Justice Affairs and Courts

*"The courts are slow and political!"<sup>46</sup> – Donald J Trump*

President Trump has had a difficult relationship with the American court system and Department of Justice. As a candidate Trump suggested that a federal judge was incapable of impartially hearing a case involving Trump because of the judge's Mexican heritage.<sup>47</sup> As President, Trump

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.npr.org/2017/08/15/543730227/unite-the-right-charlottesville-rally-represented-collection-of-alt-right-groups>.

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2017/08/15/read-the-transcript-of-donald-trumps-jaw-dropping-press-conference.html>.

<sup>46</sup> <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/871679061847879682>.

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/article/2016/jun/08/donald-trumps-racial-comments-about-judge-trump-un/>.

has been extremely critical of the federal court system, particularly in relation to the rulings against his 'travel ban' policy.<sup>48</sup>

In addition to the courts, Trump has been embroiled in disputes with the United States Department of Justice and officials within the Department. This difficult relationship in large part stems from ongoing investigations of the government of Russia's relationship with the Trump campaign. As President, Trump fired James B Comey, director of the FBI, who was leading an investigation into Trump's ties to Russia. Trump admitted that the firing was due to Trump's feeling that the Russia investigation is illegitimate, setting off a chain of events which culminated in the appointment of an independent special counsel within the Department of Justice to continue the investigation of Trump's ties to Russia.<sup>49</sup> The firing of Comey also opened Trump to claims that he has actively obstructed justice.<sup>50</sup>

Robert Mueller's Russia Investigation Explained:

<https://www.vox.com/world/2017/7/24/16008272/robert-mueller-fbi-trump-russia-explained>

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/08/us/politics/donald-trump-immigration-ban.html>.

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.vox.com/world/2017/7/24/16008272/robert-mueller-fbi-trump-russia-explained>.

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/08/us/politics/obstruction-of-justice-trump-comey.html>.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS - HUMAN RIGHTS (FAHR)

*Human Rights (FAHR) is a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Its main responsibilities include all matters relating to human rights, the protection of minorities and the promotion of democratic values while its geographical remit covers countries outside the EU. FAHR's main objectives involve ensuring that human rights are at the forefront of European foreign policy and mainstreaming human rights across all policy areas.*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/droi/home.html>

### Questions to Consider

#### Torture

During his campaign, President Trump alluded to using waterboarding “and tougher” methods on terrorism suspects<sup>51</sup> during interrogations both within the US and in overseas missions. The EU has an exemplary and incorruptible stance on torture and the maltreatment of any human being, regardless of their crimes<sup>52</sup>.

- Facing the threat of global terrorism, should the EU consider the re-introduction of torture in interrogations with terror suspects?
- Should the directive go further and denounce the US’ continued use of capital punishment?

#### Travel Ban

President Trump signed an executive order on 27 January 2017 that establishes a temporary ban on immigration from six mainly Muslim countries (Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen).

- Considering your party’s position on discrimination, do you support this policy?
- Will the travel ban actually make the US safer, or does it simply create another issue around which radical Islamic terrorist groups can rally and use to prove the bias of the West against Muslims and with which terrorist groups can drive recruitment and incite violence?
- How should the EU react?

#### EU-US cyber dialogue

The third meeting of the EU-US Cyber Dialogue took place in Brussels on 16 December 2016. This dialogue reaffirms “that the same rights people have offline must also be protected online, in particular freedom of expression as well as the right to be free from arbitrary and unlawful interference with privacy. Both participants will continue to promote and protect existing international human rights law. Both participants support the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the safety of journalists, which calls for the safety for members of the media, and the resolution on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet, which both the European Union and the United States believe constitutes a milestone resolution as the Council unequivocally condemned “measures to intentionally prevent or disrupt access or dissemination of information online.”<sup>53</sup>

- Considering this dialogue includes no binding provisions, what can the EU do to make sure the US upholds its commitments?

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<sup>51</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38753000>.

<sup>52</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/anti-torture\\_measures\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/fpi/what-we-do/anti-torture_measures_en.htm).

<sup>53</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage\\_en/18132/EU-U.S.%20Cyber%20Dialogue](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en/18132/EU-U.S.%20Cyber%20Dialogue).



## Human Rights

On his first overseas trip as commander in chief, President Trump visited countries with poor human rights standards and high political controversy, such as Saudi Arabia and Israel. Previously, he praised the Philippines' president Duterte's "success" in his war on drugs, in which he openly encouraged his citizens to use vigilante justice, which violated basic human rights<sup>54</sup>.

- Should the EU criticize President Trump's foreign policy with regard to his apparent disregard of human rights principles and current issues?
- Bearing in mind your political party's stance on sovereignty and freedom of expression, is the EU playing a condescending role in its expectations?

## Donald J Trump's Political Position – Human Rights

*"People the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN! <sup>55</sup> That's right, we need a TRAVEL BAN for certain DANGEROUS countries, not some politically correct term that won't help us protect our people!<sup>56</sup> – Donald J Trump*

Many of Donald Trump's statements and policy proposals are at odds with the rights guaranteed by the United States constitution, and are out of alignment with the EU's stances on the protection of fundamental rights. In December 2015, candidate Trump called for temporary banning on Muslims from entering the United States,<sup>57</sup> and as President this policy has been enacted as an 'executive order' designed to prevent citizens of certain Muslim-majority countries from traveling to the US. This executive order entered into effect on June 29, 2017, but had been limited by several rulings against it in the American court system.<sup>58</sup> With regards to the Muslim community, Trump has also advocated for increased surveillance, both domestically and abroad,<sup>59</sup> and, at times, for a national database requiring the registry of a Muslims in the United States.<sup>60</sup> Trump has also advocated for waterboarding and other forms of torture, suggesting that such methods are effective means of combatting terrorism.<sup>61</sup> Trump has long criticized the free press, suggesting that it is inaccurate and unfair in its coverage of him. As President, the Trump Administration has confirmed that it has examined the expansion of libel laws which would allow Trump or other figures to take legal action against the press.<sup>62</sup>

Further reading: <https://www.vox.com/2017/6/29/15892378/muslim-ban-work-visa-airports-refugees>.

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<sup>54</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/may/24/trump-duterte-us-philippines-drugs-crackdown>.

<sup>55</sup> <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/871674214356484096?lang=en>.

<sup>56</sup> <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/871899511525961728>.

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/politics/first-draft/2015/12/07/donald-trump-calls-for-banning-muslims-from-entering-u-s/>.

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/07/18/trumps-travel-ban-relatives-hawaii/487416001/>.

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/15/politics/donald-trump-muslims-mosque-surveillance/index.html>.

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2016/11/17/the-evolution-of-donald-trump-and-the-muslim-database>.

<sup>61</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/01/25/politics/donald-trump-waterboarding-torture/index.html>.

<sup>62</sup> <http://fortune.com/2017/04/30/reince-priebus-libel-laws-trump/>.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS – SECURITY & DEFENCE (FASD)

*Security and Defence (FASD) is a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Our peace and security, never to be taken for granted, are increasingly threatened by events on our doorstep and beyond. The European Union Treaty provides the legal ground for effective action by Member States to tackle these threats in the EU's neighbourhood. From the establishment of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) in 1999 to the 30 civilian and military missions carried out since, the EU has contributed to stability and helped maintain peace in the Balkans, South Caucasus, Africa and the Middle East. In 2013 EU leaders set out a roadmap for more effective capabilities and a new impetus to the CSDP, while underlining our important relationship with NATO. The Security and Defence subcommittee has established itself as a key forum for fostering debate and examining CSDP developments in terms of institutions, capabilities and operations. It is an essential tool for holding to account CSDP decision-makers and for the policy to be understood by EU citizens.*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/sede/home.html>

The US has been formally involved with European defence through the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since 1949. The formation of NATO was envisaged to benefit to both the individual European nation states plus the US and Canada. The aim of NATO was to provide collective security to the Member States. This practice of collective self-defence was to allay European fears over the military power of the Soviet Union at the end of World War 2.<sup>63</sup>

The perceived failures of the EU to act in the Yugoslav wars of the 1990's was a catalyst in the signing of the Saint Malo Declaration of 1998. This focused on the need for the EU to have a capacity for autonomous action and the military forces to back up this action<sup>64</sup>. NATO and the EU have had institutionalised relations since 2001, to build greater European Responsibility in European Defence matters. Interestingly, NATO's headquarters are also in Brussels.

The 2002 NATO-EU declaration on the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) set out the principles of the relationship and reaffirmed EU assured access to NATO's planning capabilities for the EU's own military operations. The 2003 Berlin Plus agreement set the basis for the Alliance to support EU-led operations in which NATO as a whole is not engaged<sup>65</sup>. The future of NATO has been called into question with President Donald J Trump publicly scolding NATO members saying they owe 'massive' sums<sup>66</sup>.

### Donald J Trump's Political Position – Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence

*"I said it (NATO) was obsolete. It's no longer obsolete."*<sup>67</sup> – Donald J Trump

In general, Trump's foreign policy stance since assuming the presidency has wavered between contradictory and unclear. He campaigned on an "America First" platform of less foreign intervention and stronger borders, but has expanded American military operations in Afghanistan and Syria.<sup>68</sup> Trump has indicated that human rights will not be a major concern in terms of

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<sup>63</sup> <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/nato>.

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/French-British%20Summit%20Declaration,%20Saint-Malo,%201998%20-%20EN.pdf>.

<sup>65</sup> [http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\\_49217.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_49217.htm).

<sup>66</sup> <http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/06/05/trump-nato-speech-national-security-team-215227>.

<sup>67</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/04/12/trump-on-nato-i-said-it-was-obsolete-its-no-longer-obsolete/?utm\\_term=.e42d9da21740](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/04/12/trump-on-nato-i-said-it-was-obsolete-its-no-longer-obsolete/?utm_term=.e42d9da21740).

<sup>68</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/trump-shifting-alliances/?utm\\_term=.046fdcf3caf4](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/world/trump-shifting-alliances/?utm_term=.046fdcf3caf4).

American diplomatic relations<sup>69</sup>, and softened American rhetoric with regards to human rights concerns in places like Saudi Arabia<sup>70</sup>. He has also been highly critical of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran – stating that he would ‘tear up’ the deal when the opportunity presents itself.<sup>71</sup>

Trump has long advocated for a strong military, and as President has sought to increase US military spending.<sup>72</sup> He has also advocated for the modernisation of US nuclear arsenal<sup>73</sup>, indicated that he would consider using nuclear weapons in Europe and the Middle East<sup>74</sup>, and indicated that some non-nuclear countries such as Japan and South Korea would be better off if they developed nuclear capacity.<sup>75</sup>

Despite his military focus, Trump’s views on NATO have been of continuing concern in Europe. He has frequently referred to the military alliance as ‘obsolete’<sup>76</sup>, although he has recently reversed that position.<sup>77</sup> He has also, until very recently, refused to endorse NATO’s Article 5, a bedrock principle of the organisation which states that if one NATO member is attacked, all parties to the organization will defend one another. As President he has publicly and privately chastised the leaders of NATO nations for not living up to their commitments to fund the organization.<sup>78</sup>

### Questions to consider

- What is NATO? In what ways does NATO contribute to the defence of the EU?
- With the US being the largest contributor to NATO and President Donald J Trump publically criticising NATO members over payments, what effect will budgetary issues have on future EU-US collaborations?
- The UK was the largest NATO contributor in the EU, with their leaving the EU what changes will there be to the relationship between NATO and the EU?
- Can NATO still act quickly and decisively in a world with more cyber than physical threats?
- Not all EU members are a part of NATO, with the EU building up their own institutional capabilities through CSDP, is there still a need for NATO?
- Foreign aid has been used as a tool to for security and defence, should this count as part of the 2% defence budget required by NATO members?

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<sup>69</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/01/politics/trump-duterte-white-house-invite/index.html>.

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/06/17/politics/trump-human-rights-cuba/index.html>.

<sup>71</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-only-has-two-options-on-the-iran-nuclear-deal\\_us\\_5989c2b8e4b0f25bdfb31f94](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/trump-only-has-two-options-on-the-iran-nuclear-deal_us_5989c2b8e4b0f25bdfb31f94).

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/27/us/politics/trump-budget-military.html>.

<sup>73</sup> <http://www.latimes.com/politics/washington/la-na-essential-washington-updates-trump-makes-false-claims-about-u-s-1502296243-htmlstory.html>.

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.msnbc.com/hardball/watch/donald-trump-won-t-take-nukes-off-the-table-655471171934>.

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2016/nov/14/donald-trump/donald-trump-wrongly-tweets-he-never-said-more-cou/>.

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-15/trump-calls-nato-obsolete-and-dismisses-eu-in-german-interview>.

<sup>77</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/04/12/trump-on-nato-i-said-it-was-obsolete-its-no-longer-obsolete/?utm\\_term=.e42d9da21740](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/post-politics/wp/2017/04/12/trump-on-nato-i-said-it-was-obsolete-its-no-longer-obsolete/?utm_term=.e42d9da21740).

<sup>78</sup> <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/06/09/trump-discovers-article-5-after-disastrous-nato-visit-brussels-visit-transatlantic-relationship-europe/>.

## TRADE (TRAD)

*Since the implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, the EP has a decisive role to play in the definition of the Union's trade policy and acts as its democratic conscience. This is of particular importance since trade legislation and international trade agreements can only be implemented with the agreement of the EP.*  
<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/inta/home.html>

In the early 2000s, the difficulties in concluding the Doha WTO Round and the EU's interest to enhance trade liberalisation meant the EU has sought to enter into other markets by signing bilateral trade agreements. The EU aims to create growth and jobs for Europeans by increasing their opportunities to trade with the world. Nowadays, the EU priority is more activist trade policy with an accent on securing market access for its exporters through concluding FTAs. The EU strongly advocates for the continuous liberalisation of trade in the world and the progressive opening of the markets in different economic sectors.

The EU and US started to negotiate a modern, comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement called, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), in July 2013. There were many rounds of negotiations and talks are held in week-long cycles alternating between Brussels and the USA. The United States and the European Union together represent 60% of global GDP, 33% of world trade in goods and 42% of world trade in services.<sup>79</sup> The European Commission advocates that the TTIP would boost the EU's economy by €120 billion, the US economy by €90 billion and the rest of the world by €100 billion.<sup>80</sup> Also, TTIP would "liberalise one-third of global trade" and will create millions of new paid jobs. In November 2016, EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem said that negotiations will continue with the new US administration after November's elections and "TTIP is not dead, but TTIP is not yet an agreement."<sup>81</sup>[3] Currently, the TTIP is on hold.

With the TTIP trade talks frozen, the European Union has turned its focus to sealing deals with other partners: Japan, Mercosur and Mexico. The EU has an agreement with Mexico, called Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement which was concluded in 2000. This agreement represents traditional FTA and mostly focuses on the liberalisation of trade in goods. Recently, the EU initiated new talks with Mexico to modernise the agreement and cover to trade in services and access to public tenders. The FTA is of a great importance for Mexico, as the election of Donald Trump has reinforced Mexico's need to reduce its reliance on the U.S. imports and exports. Also, Trump has promised to renegotiate the NAFTA and impose higher import duties on Mexican goods. In 2015, The EU concluded a trade agreement with Canada, but it has not been ratified and has not yet been in force. The agreement represents "new generation" of FTAs which means that apart from the liberalisation of goods, includes liberalisation of services and investment, provisions on intellectual property, competition, capital payments and sustainable development.

In April 2017, Trump ordered for steel imports to be investigated in order to allow the executive branch to increase tariffs and place import restrictions on steel for national security reasons as steel and aluminium are vital for national defence and critical infrastructure. Further to this, in

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<sup>79</sup> "[Nominal 2012 GDP for the world and the European Union \(EU\)](#)". *World Economic Outlook Database*, October 2013. *International Monetary Fund*. Retrieved August 17, 2017.

<sup>80</sup> "[Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\) - Trade - European Commission](#)". *Ec.europa.eu*. Retrieved August 17, 2017.

<sup>81</sup> EU, US trade deal not dead yet: EU's Malmstrom. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-eu-trade-usa-idUSKCN12T095>. Retrieved August 17, 2017.

June, Trump announced that he is considering to increase tariff on imports of steel to 20% and possibly on many other goods. The EU has been angered by measures proposed as they could potentially have a negative impact on European businesses. Also, Trump has agreed to strike new sanctions on Russian energy companies which could hit projects being carried out in the EU. Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem has said that the EU is "making preparations" to repay to the US new measures, this will include an introduction of retaliatory tariffs on US exports.<sup>82</sup>

## Donald J Trump's Political Position – Economics and Trade

*"[The North American Free Trade Agreement] is the single worst trade deal ever approved in this country. NAFTA is the worst trade deal maybe ever signed anywhere, but certainly ever signed in this country."*<sup>83</sup>  
– Donald J Trump

### Questions to consider

- Should an activist trade policy with an accent on securing market access for its exporters through concluding FTAs be a priority of EU's trade policy? Should the EU strongly advocate for the continuous liberalisation of trade in the world?
- Should the EU apply tariffs to US goods and services entering the European Union whenever possible?
- Should the EU open negotiations for new trade deals with other partners such as Japan, Mercosur, Australia, Mexico and New Zealand?
- Should the EU propose that equivalent tariffs be applied to US imports into the European Union so long as steel tariffs remain in place? Should the EU impose tariffs of the import of US liquid natural gas?

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<sup>82</sup> European Union – EU slaps new import tariffs on Chinese <http://www.mediaboss.net/european-union-2/european-union-eu-slaps-new-import-tariffs-on-chinese-steel-to-express-co-uk.php>.

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/article/2016/sep/29/NAFTA-worst-trade-deal-ever-few-agree/>.

## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE (ENVI)

*The Environment & Climate Change Committee is leading the European Commission's efforts to fight climate change at both the EU and international level. It is responsible for a wide range of policy areas including leading international climate change negotiations, creating and implementing climate policies, monitoring member states emissions as well as being involved in waste and resource management, air and water quality and the protection of biodiversity.*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/envi/home.html>

Until Brexit, it was assumed the European Union would ratify the Paris Agreement quickly. But for the EU to ratify, every EU member must ratify within its own government – France and Hungary, for example, have already done that. The UK ultimately has two options. One: it can ratify now as an EU Member State, which would enable EU-wide ratification to go ahead, or two: postpone ratification. In this case, the EU would be unable to ratify as a bloc for as long as the Brexit negotiations persist, which risks a potential delay in the Paris Agreement's entry into force.

The UK has been a strong voice on climate change both globally and within the EU. Its absence within the EU could strengthen the position of European countries that are reluctant to take forceful climate action. Under the Paris Agreement, all EU members are committed to a 40% emissions reduction from 1990 levels by 2030, to be met collectively. The 2030 target was divided up through a process of 'burden-sharing' into targets for each Member State. The UK has been given a 37% reduction target to reduce carbon emissions. Eastern European countries, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, whose energy systems rely heavily on coal, will be reluctant to take on any extra emission cuts.

### Donald J Trump's Political Position – Environment and Climate Change

*"I believe in clean air. Immaculate air. But I don't believe in climate change."<sup>84</sup> - Donald . Trump*

Donald Trump has at various times, openly denied that climate change is real.<sup>85</sup> Upon assuming the Presidency, Trump dismantled the Obama Administration's Clean Power Plan – the mechanism by which the US intended to reduce its carbon emissions in order to meet its obligations under the Paris Agreement<sup>86</sup> – and subsequently withdrew the US from the Paris Agreement itself.<sup>87</sup> Trump has posted climate change sceptics and deniers throughout his Administration, including in important positions such as Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)<sup>88</sup>, Administrator of the Department of the Interior, and Administrator of the Department of Energy.<sup>89</sup> Under Trump, some federal agencies have been instructed to avoid using the term 'climate change' at all.<sup>90</sup> Beyond climate change, the Trump Administration has repealed or relaxed a number of environmental regulations covering things such as ozone standards and wildlife protections.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> <https://blogs.wsj.com/washwire/2015/09/24/donald-trump-i-dont-believe-in-climate-change/>.

<sup>85</sup> <http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/08/politics/trump-global-warming/index.html>.

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/27/science/what-to-know-about-trumps-order-to-dismantle-the-clean-power-plan.html?mtrref=www.google.com&gwh=5B4225100E23B5F3914BFF3BCCE7F813&gwt=pay>.

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/01/climate/trump-paris-climate-agreement.html>.

<sup>88</sup> <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/345937-epa-head-casts-doubt-on-supposed-threat-from-climate-change>.

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/dec/15/trump-cabinet-climate-change-deniers>.

<sup>90</sup> <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/departments-of-agriculture-tells-staff-not-to-use-climate-change-in-government-work/article/2630870>.

<sup>91</sup> <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/03/how-trump-is-changing-science-environment/>.



## Women's Rights & Gender Equality (FEMM)

*Despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in our social, cultural, political, and economic life where women are not equally treated. Our general concerns are voiced namely over pay gap, women's economic independence, female poverty, women's underrepresentation in decision making, sexual and reproductive health rights, trafficking and violence against women and girls. We want to bring a change and mainstream gender into all EU policies. In order to do this, we need the help of civil society and all organizations who contribute to the engagement for equal rights for all.*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/home.html>

Gender equality is one of the fundamental values of the European Union, dating back to 1957 when the principle of equal pay for equal work became part of the Treaty of Rome. Since then, the EU's achievements in fostering equality between men and women have helped to change the lives of many European citizens for the better. The EU has made significant progress over the decades, in particular through secondary legislation aimed at addressing inequalities in the fields of employment, social security, goods and services, and parental leave/ pregnancy. However, inequalities do still exist, most notably in the labour market due to gender pay gaps, overrepresentation of women in lower-paid sectors and underrepresentation of women in high-level positions. In addition, many women still experience discrimination when accessing goods and services (eg. sexual harassment on public transport, accessing sexual and reproductive health services, breastfeeding in public places).

The EU has also been at the forefront of promoting LGBTQ<sup>92</sup> rights by incorporating provisions relating to sexual orientation<sup>93</sup>, gender identity<sup>94</sup> and transgender<sup>95</sup> rights within legislative proposals. This has led to the prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, and the interpretation of "sex discrimination" as including discrimination arising from the gender reassignment<sup>96</sup> of a person. Despite these successes at the EU-level, there has been improper (or in some cases inadequate) implementation of EU Directives at the national level, resulting in a variety of interpretations and levels of protection for LGBTQ persons across the EU.

Despite gender equality being a fundamental value of the EU, most anti-discrimination legislation is passed as EU Directives. Directives do not automatically become part of the law of Member States – each Member State has to interpret and implement it themselves. This means that there is a lot of variation between each Member State as to what constitutes equal or unequal treatment.

- Considering your political party's perspective, should the EU have the competence to force all Member States to enact harmonised (ie the same) equality laws?

Currently, women in the EU earn on average 16.3% less per hour than men. This is due to a variety of reasons, including career disruptions due to having a family and women working in lower-paid sectors (healthcare, education etc).

- What could the EU do to lower this gap? Considering that the US has recently overturned legislation that was designed to expose the gender pay gap, do you think a joint US/EU

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<sup>92</sup> See Appendix: Definitions

<sup>93</sup> See Appendix: Definitions

<sup>94</sup> See Appendix: Definitions

<sup>95</sup> See Appendix: Definitions

<sup>96</sup> See Appendix: Definitions

task force would be effective?

The European Commission wants to extend the minimum parental leave period (currently 14 weeks) and require Member States to provide parental pay for four months. The US is the only developed nation that does not currently guarantee paid parental leave. Trump has proposed a policy to provide minimum six weeks paid parental leave, to be overseen by each state.

- Is this enough? Considering your country's position, do you agree with this extension?

The EU protects the rights of transgender persons. It has also interpreted "sex discrimination" to include discrimination based on a person's gender reassignment. However, there is **no uniform legal recognition of gender reassignment**. This means that in some countries a person can change gender by self-determination, in some they need to undergo surgery or sterilisation, and in others they are not even recognised!

- Should this be regulated at the EU level or should it be left to the Member States?

The US has recently rescinded protections for transgender students that had allowed them to use bathrooms corresponding with their gender identity. Also, Trump recently tweeted that transgender persons will no longer be allowed to serve in the military.

- As an advocate for transgender rights, should the EU condemn these discriminatory acts? Or would this undermine the sovereignty of the US? Considering your political party's perspective, should transgender persons be permitted to use sex-specific bathrooms and serve in the military?

The Global Gag Rule prevents NGO's outside the US from receiving money from the US Government if they provide safe abortions or provide information about abortions – usually provided to women in developing countries. Trump's order prevents them from receiving any US money if they provide these services - **even if they use their own money** for this purpose! Currently the US is the largest donor for family planning services.

- Considering the EU's fierce position on the rights of women to decide for themselves what happens to their body, should the EU be taking a stronger stance against the US position? Considering your country's and political party's position on abortion, should the EU commit more funding for family planning services in developing countries to fill the void?

### Donald J Trump's Political Position – Gender Equality and LGBTQ Rights:

*"Pregnancy is a wonderful thing for the woman, it's a wonderful thing for the husband, it's certainly an inconvenience for the business. And whether people want to say that or not, that fact is, it is an inconvenience for a person that is running a business."*<sup>97</sup> – Donald J Trump

Donald Trump is the subject of a number of ongoing lawsuits relating to sexual misconduct targeting women.<sup>98</sup> As President, Trump has signalled an intent to review gender equality policies within the various agencies of the US federal government. To date this has resulted in the disbandment of White House Council for Women and Girls<sup>99</sup>, the abolishment of the Teen

<sup>97</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2016/09/26/donald-trumps-10-most-outlandish-quotes-about-business-and-the-economy.html#slide=10>.

<sup>98</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-sexual-assault-apprentice-presidential-immunity\\_us\\_5963bf99e4b09b587d60f321](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-sexual-assault-apprentice-presidential-immunity_us_5963bf99e4b09b587d60f321).

<sup>99</sup> <http://www.politico.com/story/2017/06/30/donald-trump-white-house-council-for-women-and-girls->

Pregnancy Prevention Program<sup>100</sup>, and repeal of 2014 Fair Pay and Safe Workplaces executive order which was designed to prevent discrimination against women in the workplace.<sup>101</sup> Under Trump, the gender pay gap in the White House has more than tripled<sup>102</sup>. Prominent senior advisors to Trump have argued strongly against equal pay legislation and opposed paid maternity leave.<sup>103</sup>

Trump has announced his intention to ban transgender men and women from serving in the United States military<sup>104</sup>, and notably appointed anti-transgender activists to gender equality posts within the federal government.<sup>105</sup> The Trump Administration has also withdrawn federal guidelines on the rights of transgender students, leaving transgender rights decisions to the states.<sup>106</sup>

## Useful Links

- [http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/document/files/strategic\\_engagement\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/document/files/strategic_engagement_en.pdf)
- <http://tgeu.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Index-online.png> – Legal Gender Recognition
- <https://www.shedecides.com/>

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[239979](http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/346122-abrupt-trump-cuts-to-teen-pregnancy-program-surprise-groups).

<sup>100</sup> <http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/346122-abrupt-trump-cuts-to-teen-pregnancy-program-surprise-groups>.

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/trump-pulls-back-obama-era-protections-women-workers-n741041>.

<sup>102</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/07/05/white-house-gender-pay-gap-more-than-triples-under-trump/?utm\\_term=.2aedb247b1b3](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2017/07/05/white-house-gender-pay-gap-more-than-triples-under-trump/?utm_term=.2aedb247b1b3).

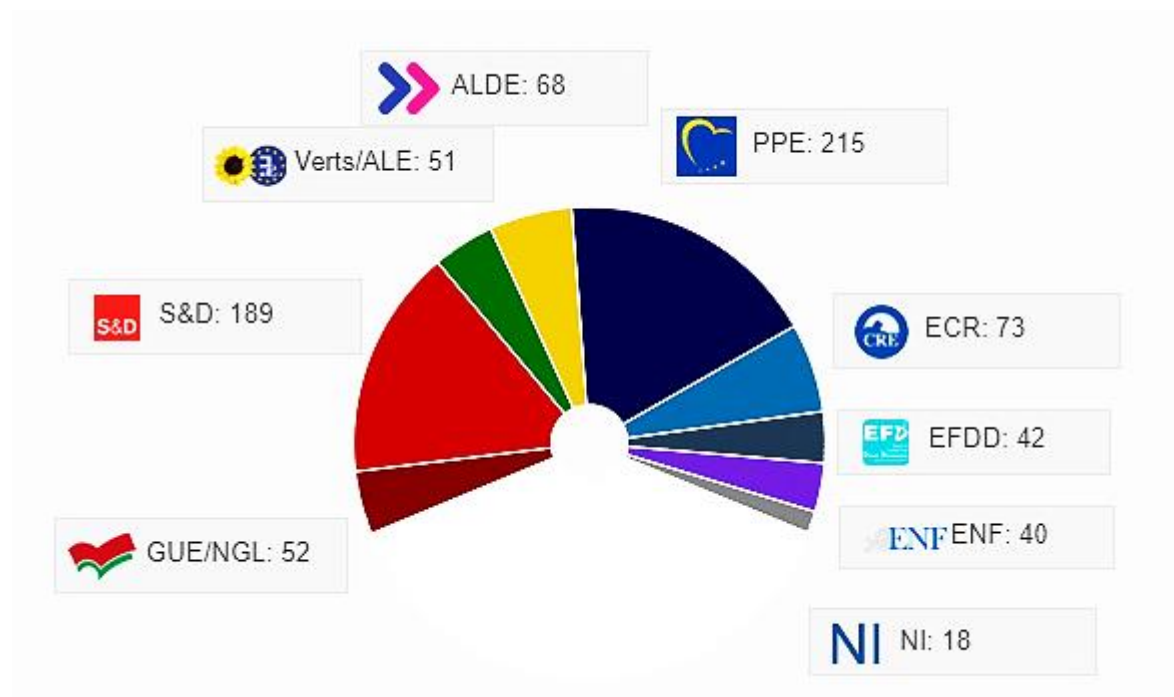
<sup>103</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/stephen-miller-womens-issues\\_us\\_58f0d523e4b0bb9638e331a4](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/stephen-miller-womens-issues_us_58f0d523e4b0bb9638e331a4).

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/26/us/politics/trump-transgender-military.html>.

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.bustle.com/p/the-trump-administration-hires-a-trans-rights-opponent-to-lead-gender-equality-efforts-67794>.

<sup>106</sup> [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/trumps-withdrawal-of-guidance-on-transgender-student-rights-leaves-bathroom-questions-up-to-schools-and-states/2017/02/23/f91e0c22-f9d2-11e6-9845-576c69081518\\_story.html?utm\\_term=.a8ede4cd32f2](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/trumps-withdrawal-of-guidance-on-transgender-student-rights-leaves-bathroom-questions-up-to-schools-and-states/2017/02/23/f91e0c22-f9d2-11e6-9845-576c69081518_story.html?utm_term=.a8ede4cd32f2).

# POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



**President:** Antonio Tajani

**Total:** 751 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) elected in the 28 Member States of the enlarged European Union

**Location:** Strasbourg (France), Brussels (Belgium), Luxembourg

*Groups in the European Parliament are organised by political views. Groups often include more than one European party and several national political parties that are not affiliated to any European political party. Further Reading: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/hemicycle.html>*

## THE EUROPEAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (EPP)

- <http://www.eppgroup.eu/>
- **Seats:** 217
- **Sub-parties:** European People's Party (EPP) + 1 unaffiliated national party + 4 independent MEP
- **Positon:** Christian Democrat/Centre right
- **President:** Manfred Weber

The EPP is the largest and most influential European-level political party of the centre-right, which currently includes 79 parties and partners from 41 countries, the Presidents of the European Commission, the European Council, 8 EU and 7 non-EU heads of state and government and 14 members of the European Commission.

**Security/defence:** "The safety of European citizens is our top priority," stressed President Weber. To secure Europe against its Southern Neighbourhood, the EPP is determined to improve EU capacities and to create a better institutional framework and smarter development cooperation in order to enhance security both at home and abroad.

**Trade:** In the resolution adopted on innovation, the EPP has stressed the importance of its role in creating the necessary circumstances to make it easier and cheaper for global companies to hire, invest and grow. The EPP supports the TTIP; although they do not always agree with the American allies on all issues, they share the same fundamental values and interests, not to mention the same challenges and concerns.

**Climate change:** For the EPP, climate change and the environment is a top priority. They say the European Parliament should develop a more integrated, cost-effective EU mechanism to support renewable energy technologies. However, European climate and energy policies must also protect industrial sectors facing fierce international competition.

**Foreign aid:** The EPP aims to help design the EU's external policies to promote external action based on democracy and rule of law, strengthen political relations with third countries, ensure an effective enlargement process, encourage the spread of fundamental principles and human rights, promote free trade and contribute to the eradication of poverty throughout the world.

**Human rights:** "Freedom" is an important human right, coupled with responsibility. The EPP aims to combat poverty and social exclusion, which affect millions of Europeans and threaten citizens' human rights.

Effective childcare, education and health systems, together with the provision of care for the elderly and people with disabilities, and the integration of marginalised communities, are crucial for the well-being of Europe's citizens and for inclusiveness in European societies.

**Gender equality:** "The promotion of equality between men and women has always been at the heart of the EPP's priorities. As regards education and access to work, for example, it is absolutely necessary to develop female entrepreneurship and reduce the wage gap which remains at 16.4%. Action must also be taken to increase the participation of women in political and economic decision-making", said Constance Le Grip, the EPP's Spokeswoman in the Gender Equality and Women's Rights Committee of the European Parliament.

**Immigration:** Many of the external developments in Europe's neighbourhood have direct consequences within EU Member States, for example, with home-grown terrorism. The EPP sees



mass migration to Europe as posing enormous challenges to European values and societies. Migration is a long-term concern and it requires a comprehensive and joint response at an EU level.

The EPP believes Europe needs to protect its borders and find a balance between minimising the threat of criminal activity and maximising ease and convenience for travellers. Strengthening external border security is an urgent necessity together with the creation of a European Coast Guard and the EU must also effectively cooperate with external countries' border security authorities.

## THE EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS (ECR)

- <http://www.ecrgroup.eu>
- **Seats:** 74
- **Sub-parties:** Alliance of European Conservatives and Reformists (AECR) + European Christian Political Movement (ECPM) + 1 unaffiliated national party + 2 independent MEP
- **Positon:** Conservatives/Right-wing/Soft-Eurosceptic
- **President:** Syed Kamall

As the third largest group in the European Parliament, the ECR believes the right future for Europe is neither a break-up nor a superstate. The ECR has grown substantially since its creation to include parties in 18 EU member countries.

**Security/defence:** The ECR has taken a leading role in legislating on security and terrorism within the European Parliament. They believe that the EU can help the EU's national police forces by exchanging information, which can help speed up the capture of criminals, and help prevent crimes committed across European borders.

**Trade:** ECR MEPs have championed on-going efforts to negotiate an ambitious free trade deal between the EU and the US, an agreement which could boost jobs and growth in the EU.

They will continue to push for the EU's free trade agenda, focusing on the world's most vibrant economies.

**Climate change:** One of the most significant conservation challenges Europe faces today is climate change. Europe needs solutions that are not to the detriment of jobs and growth. ECR parliamentarians have been leading efforts to support the move to a low carbon economy, while acknowledging the differing capabilities of Member States to develop climate solutions that are economically feasible and implementable.

**Foreign aid:** ECR MEPs support measured and tangible improvements to the lives of people in the world's poorest nations. They support the protection of democracy, rule of law, justice, equality and respect for human rights.

The ECR will continue to press for trade deals that grant developing nations access to EU markets, and help countries create the conditions in which innovation and enterprise can flourish. They will fight against restrictive trade barriers. ECR MEPs will address economic reform, tax avoidance and transparency in developing countries to lift the poorest out of poverty.

**Human rights:** The ECR is working with the EU and international partners to secure long-term stability and political reform in the Middle East and North Africa and Eastern Neighbourhood countries, including on energy security issues. They will also continue working to deepen alliances beyond the EU, particularly in North and Latin America, the Gulf, and South Asia.

**Gender equality:** The ECR supports voluntary measures to get more women into company boards and senior leadership roles within businesses. Rather than rules, regulations and sanctions, they encourage companies to make the workplace as flexible and family-friendly as possible. The ECR protects women in extremely vulnerable situations and stands up to eradicate all types of discrimination and violence against women (for example sexual abuse, female genital mutilation, forced marriages). They stand strongly to ensure that women who are victims of violence have access to an adequate standard of healthcare and emotional support.

**Immigration:** They believe that a “Firm but Fair” approach to immigration is the best one. Member States should seek to cooperate to protect Europe’s borders, to offer asylum to those who are genuinely in need of Europe’s help and protection, and to take a firm stance with those individuals who seek to exploit the system. The EU can support individual countries by helping them fulfil their international obligations, and provide support through returns programmes, resettlement programmes and the European Asylum Support Office.

## THE EUROPEAN FREEDOM AND DIRECT DEMOCRACY PARTY (EFDD)

- <http://www.efddgroup.eu>
- **Seats:** 42
- **Sub-parties:** Alliance for Direct Democracy in Europe (ADDE) + 1 unaffiliated national party + 1 independent MEP
- **Positon:** Hard-Eurosceptic
- **President:** Nigel Farage and David Borelli

Committed to the principles of democracy, freedom and cooperation among Nation States, the EFDD favours open, transparent, democratic and accountable cooperation among sovereign European States and rejects the bureaucratisation of Europe and the creation of a single centralised European superstate.

"The voters want less Europe. And we see this again and again when people have referendums and they reject aspects of EU membership. Just twenty percent want us to keep on allowing people in from Muslim countries, which means your voters have a harder line position on this than Donald Trump, or myself or frankly any party sitting in this Parliament and that is where we're going. The fact is the European Union has no future at all in its current form." – Nigel Farage.

**Security/defence:** In an external policy context, the EFDD stresses the need for national autonomy and rejects a common European foreign policy. But Russia is seen as a necessary partner in the fight against Islamic terrorism. Instead of provoking Russia in the Ukraine, it should solve international crises together with other European nations.

**Trade:** Like with security and defence, the EFDD stressed the need for national autonomy and published an EU brochure explaining the reasons why a state would not leave European markets if it leaves the EU.

The EFDD, however, is committed to a common single market and calls for increased European harmonisation.

**Foreign aid:** The EFDD advocates for development aid. However, the sovereignty of the individual countries must be respected.

**Human rights:** "We know that there are big transnational corporations from Europe that are responsible for human rights abuses in third countries. As the European Union always claims to be a champion of human rights, having legislation ensuring that European companies respect human rights abroad would send a great signal to the world." Ignazio Corrao (Member of EFDD)

**Gender equality:** "As always, these people are more interested in gender quotas and balances than tackling real world examples of abuses against women and girls. They do not have the courage to tackle the real issues women and girls face – [female genital mutilation], forced marriage, rape – these seem to fall by the wayside, forgotten in the politically correct haze of multiculturalism". Louise Bourse, Member of the EFDD. This speech was part of a debate on bringing in new gender regulations for companies across the EU.

**Immigration:** The fugitive crisis is a security catastrophe and endangers European culture, as well as the internal order of the national states. A European distribution key or asylum system is rejected and the EFDD calls for a re-examination of national borders to protect against migration.

## THE EUROPE OF NATIONS AND FREEDOM GROUP (ENF)

- <http://www.enfgroup-ep.eu/>
- **Seats:** 40
- **Sub-parties:** European Alliance for Freedom (EAF) + Movement for a Europe of Nations and Freedom (MENF) + 2 unaffiliated national parties + 1 MEP
- **Positon:** Right-wing/Hard-Eurosceptic
- **President:** Marine Le Pen & Marcel de Graaff

"As much EU as necessary, but as little as possible. I am of the opinion that any interference by one or more States in the internal affairs of another state is intolerable - and this also applies to any political interference by European institutions in the sovereignty of one of its Member States. The control of borders, currencies and trade is the natural right of the Member States and must be re-nationalized under all circumstances." Marcus Bretzell (MEP of the ENF)

"Day after day, the Europe of Brussels reveals its deadly plan: to deconstruct the nation states in order to create a new globalised order, one that threatens the security, prosperity, identity and very survival of the peoples of Europe." Marine Le Pen

**Security/defence:** Investment in police, surveillance and border protection are just as necessary as the restriction of EU internal migration, which is "economic migration" and leads to wage dumping.

**Trade:** The ENF are strictly against trade agreements – especially the TTIP. But they stand for a Europe of economic cooperation between nation states.

**Immigration:** Migration and immigration are regarded as an acute threat and the right to control and regulate them is the core of national competence. In particular, the advancing "Islamisation" is a threat to European culture and identity. In this context, the ENF wants an immediate end to Turkey's accession negotiations.

*Many views are similar to those of the EFDD. The ENF has no official position on certain points.*

## THE GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE (GREFA)

- <http://www.greens-efa.eu/en/>
- **Seats:** 51
- **Sub-parties:** European Green Party (EGP) + European Free Alliance (EFA) + 3 unaffiliated national parties + 2 independent politicians
- **Position:** Greens/Regionalist/Minority Activism
- **President:** Ska Keller and Philippe Lamberts

The Greens/European Free Alliance is made up of Greens and representatives of stateless nations and disadvantaged minorities. The Greens/EFA has 51 MEPs from 18 countries and 4 regions. It is the only group with a gender-balanced Co-Presidency.

**Security/defence:** Greens/EFA member of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs committee, Eva Joly, said about the new EU directive intended to support the fight against terrorism: "It appears that, for the sake of being seen to be tough on terror, the very freedoms that terrorists want to undermine will end up diminished. Rather than creating lists of new and unclear offences, the EU should establish mandatory and automatic exchange of information between Member States and ensure closer cross-border cooperation in investigating known suspects."

**Trade:** Greens/EFA say that TTIP is not about trade but about trading Europe's democracy. It is designed by corporations for corporations. Decisions are made out of sight, behind closed doors. Greens/EFA are continuing to expose what lies beneath these secretive talks.

**Climate change:** Greens/EFA has the opinion that tackling climate change with a Green energy revolution, preserving biodiversity, promoting a sustainable use of the EU's resources and protecting humans and the environment are the only responsible paths to take.

**Foreign aid:** "Supporting family farmers and smallholders would be the most effective way to fight hunger in many African regions. Instead, the EU contributes its scarce development funding to the New Alliance, which actually undermines sustainable small-scale food production and local food systems." – Greens/EFA member Maria Heubuch

**Human rights:** The EFA has presented amendments to a report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU from the European Parliament. Following the vote, MEP Josep-Maria Terricabras, spokesperson on the subject for the Greens/EFA, said: "There are still many attacks on the freedoms, rights and values upon which Europe is based. Our objective in this report has been to protest against the violation of human rights in asylum and migration, in respect of social and economic rights, of the rights of minorities and of linguistic rights, as well as LGBTI rights and women's rights amongst others."

**Gender equality:** Greens/EFA MEP Heidi Hautala said in March 2017: "The European Union has a clear role to play in standing up for women's rights across the world, especially in developing countries. The EU must look at all options available and come forward with concrete measures to ensure that, the decision of the Trump administration to implement the extended version of the so-called Global Gag Rule, does not undermine women's rights or put more women at the risk of unsafe abortions. We know that tens of thousands of women die each year already from unsafe abortions, and we must redouble efforts to make sure this ends."

**Immigration:** Greens/EFA has the opinion that following the decision of the Hungarian Parliament in March on the treatment of asylum seekers, the European Commission must launch infringement proceedings against Hungary. They also say that the existing EU policies on asylum



and migration are contributing to children, who have often travelled great distances to flee awful situations at home, being pushed out of the system with terrible consequences. Europe has to start putting the needs of children first, regardless of their migration status and family reunification procedures need to be clearer, faster and more effective.

## CONFEDERAL GROUP OF THE EUROPEAN UNITED LEFT/NORDIC GREEN LEFT (GUE/NGL)

- <http://www.guengl.eu/>
- **Seats:** 52
- **Sub-parties:** Party of the European Left (PEL) + The European Anti-Capitalist Left (EACL) + Nordic Green Left Alliance (NGLA) + 10 unaffiliated national parties
- **Position:** Communist/Soft-Eurosceptic/Social Democrat/Left-wing
- **President:** Gabi Zimmer

This is a group of 52 Members from 19 different political delegations and 14 Member States. For GUE/NGL, confederalism means respecting and preserving the diversity of identities and opinions of their members. They are fighting for more and better jobs and educational opportunities, for social security and social solidarity, for a respectful ways to treat Earth and its resources, for cultural exchange and diversity, for sustainable economic development and for a consistent, strong peace policy.

**Security/defence:** German MEP Sabine Lösing regards security and defence as very important. Human rights must not be neglected: "We are heading in only one direction: more arms, more money for weapons, merging internal and external security plus the very aggressive rejection of migrants and refugees. If we don't want to live with the consequences of our actions, then we would need a fundamental change in policy instead of more and more of the same erroneous approach."

**Trade:** GUE/NGL believes that the EU needs to control free trade and the free circulation of goods. They are opposed to all international trade agreements that are shaped by the interests of big businesses. The EU must change how it defines trade relations.

**Climate change:** At the global level, GUE/NGL works toward ambitious targets to tackle climate change and measures to help developing countries cope with global temperature increases. All Europeans must protect Europe's biodiversity and champion renewable energy. They believe Europe's future lies in wind power, wave power, and solar energy, not dirty polluting industries.

**Foreign aid:** GUE/NGL fights for sustainable development, access to education, improving maternal health, and supports the fight against malaria and AIDS. They also call for a trade policy that is based on development aims and not the other way round.

**Human rights:** GUE/NGL is specifically committed to several human rights. They consider that couples who are officially registered or married in one EU member state should not be discriminated against in another EU country. GUE/NGL welcomed the Parliament vote on the EU Citizens' Initiative, an EU regulation whereby one million citizens can call on the Commission to draft a new EU law.

**Gender equality:** Vice Chair of the Women's Rights and Gender Equality Committee, João Pimenta Lopes, said in March 2017: "Tackling and reversing inequalities can only be achieved with the emancipatory strength of women and the working class, by moving towards progressive policies that put the needs and ambitions of the people at their core."

**Immigration:** When the Parliament debated a Commission plan to allow member states to temporarily reintroduce border controls in the Schengen area, following an influx of North African refugees in the wake of the Arab Spring revolutions, GUE/NGL expressed its strong opposition to

this plan saying that the EU cannot and must not put Schengen to one side. GUE/NGL said free movement of people in Europe should not be called into question and national borders should not be re-established as a response to the "flow" of migrants that is hitting Europe since the Tunisian revolution.

## SOCIALIST & DEMOCRATS (S&D)

- <http://www.socialistsanddemocrats.eu/>
- **Seats:** 189
- **Sub-Parties:** Party of European Socialists (PES) +3 unaffiliated national parties
- **Position:** Social Democrat/Centre-left
- **President:** Gianni Pittella

S&D is the leading centre-left political group in the European Parliament and the second largest, with 191 members from all 28 EU countries. S&D stands for an inclusive European society based on principles of freedom, equality, solidarity, diversity and fairness.

**Security/defence:** S&D negotiator on the possible evolution of and adjustments to the current institutional framework, Jo Leinen, said: "Amid an expansionist Russia and a US government that questions the western security architecture and promotes protectionism, a strong and self-confident Europe is needed more than ever. In a globalised and rapidly changing world, no single EU member state is powerful enough to compete with the world's superpowers like China and the USA. Only a united Europe will be able to defend European interests and shape globalization, instead of merely being its subject."

**Trade:** S&D developed ten progressive principles for a new era of trade agreements and named them 'Trade for Good'. These include benefits for the many and not just the few, values-based policy, and transparency and citizen involvement,

**Climate change:** S&D have a vision for a sustainable future. Their ambition is to tackle climate change and leave a less polluted world for European children, and this goes hand-in-hand with tackling the financial crisis and creating sustainable new jobs.

**Foreign aid:** S&D underlines the need to find international solutions to finance development and negotiate a new framework of development goals. S&D spokesperson on international development, Norbert Neuser said: "The EU member states should finally do what they've promised to do since 2000; that is to commit 0.7 % of their GDP for Official Development Assistance."

**Human rights:** In 2016, S&D published a position paper on LGBTQ+ rights. LGBTQ+ rights are human rights: according to international human rights standards, every nation is obliged to protect all lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans and intersex people from torture, discrimination and violence. It is a priority for S&D to advance these principles.

**Gender equality:** S&D has a long-running campaign to guarantee women the same pay as men in the same jobs. They want the European Commission to present an ambitious strategy and revise the EU directive on the gender pay gap.

**Immigration:** S&D is for "no more walls in Europe". They call on the European governments to work together to achieve real progress, for example, humanitarian aid, fair burden sharing between countries, relocation of refugees and consequences for governments that refuse to honour their commitments, measures to protect Schengen, and a push to revise The Dublin Regulation.

## ALLIANCE OF LIBERALS AND DEMOCRATS FOR EUROPE (ALDE)

- <http://alde.eu/en/>
- **Seats:** 68
- **Sub-parties:** Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) + European Democratic Party (EDP) + 5 unaffiliated national parties
- **Position:** Liberal/Centrist
- **President:** Guy Verhofstadt

ALDE is committed to ensuring that the EU develops legislation in as decentralised a manner as possible, communicating with and listening to Europe's citizens in a systematic way.

**Security/defence:** ALDE advocates for the decision of EU Foreign Affairs Ministers to establish a military headquarters for military CSDP missions. ALDE MEP, Urmaz Paet said: "If we look at the current turbulent international environment, it is clear that Europe needs to do more for its own defence and security. The establishment of a headquarters for EU military operations is important in order to plan and carry out the EU's own operations as well as to facilitate cooperation with NATO."

**Trade:** Their opinion is that the EU should aim to preserve its quality of life, to offer its citizens prosperity and to be able to play a key role on the global stage. A transatlantic trade agreement should be an opportunity and an important geopolitical tool to strengthen Europe. The TTIP agreement, which is currently being negotiated, must be ambitious and develop the EU's strategic partnership with the US.

**Climate change:** The president of ALDE has a clear opinion on climate change and the USA: "Donald Trump has declared several times that our priorities are not his. Europeans have to stand united and work together to face the big challenges ahead of us such as the climate change. We cannot be dependent anymore on the US, we have to take charge of our own destiny. Europe should get its act together too and set its internal differences aside."

**Foreign aid:** ALDE believes that migration policy should not be a substitute for official development assistance. European Liberals and Democrats fully support the message sent to EU Governments by the European Parliament, on the EU Special Fund for Africa. In a report adopted by a large majority in plenary, MEPs, without disputing the need to fight against illegal immigration, are concerned that this Fund, will be funded by re-deploying existing money.

**Human rights:** ALDE supports human rights. They organise different conferences to discuss human rights, for example: "EU-Cuba Agreement: a new path for human rights and democracy" or "My Body My Rights".

**Gender equality:** On International Women's Day 2015, ALDE launched a special campaign under the title #claimyourseat, to highlight the under-representation of women in Europe, in education, the labour market, politics and in decision-making processes. ALDE urges women in Europe to claim their seats.

**Immigration:** ALDE has developed a blueprint that will be founded on three core foundations: a new centralised system for the processing of asylum applications and distribution of refugees between member states coordinated by an enhanced European Asylum Support office (EASO); a Smart EU Blue Card that acts as an EU wide work permit for both skilled and unskilled workers; and an enlarged mandate and increase in budget for Frontex to enable it to carry out rescue missions at sea.

# DRAFT DIRECTIVE FOR A RESOLUTION

The European Parliament,

*Having regard* to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, in particular Articles 6, 7, 8, 10 (1), 11, 12, 21, 47–50, 52 and 53 thereof,

*Having regard* to the long-established relationship between the United States and the European Union,

*Having regard* to the notification given by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom to the European Council on 29 March 2017 in accordance with Article 50(2) TEU, and the support of Brexit shown by President Trump,

*Whereas* the European Parliament represents all citizens of the European Union and will act in all ways to protect their interests,

*Whereas* it is the duty of all Member States to act in unity and defence of the European Union's interests and its integrity,

## CIVIL LIBERTIES, JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS

1. *Condemns* President Trump's executive order to ban travel to the United States for citizens from Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Yemen, Syria and Libya, and reasserts the EU's commitment to openness in its immigration policy;
2. *Reminds* the United States that independent judiciaries and freedom of the press are integral parts of any democratic society and should remain free of political interference;
3. *Notes with concern* the high rate of gun-related violence within the United States;
4. *Suggests* that the national foreign ministries of all EU Member States advise their citizens to remain vigilant in dealings with United States law-enforcement officers, particularly if the citizen is a person of colour;
5. *Notes with extreme alarm* President Trump's recent proposal of a joint US/Russia Cyber Security task force; praises those United States legislators who spoke out against the proposal; reminds the United States of Russia's history of interference in both European and American elections;
6. *Regrets* the United States' continued refusal to lift visa requirements on EU nationals from Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Poland and Romania; demands that visas for United States citizens visiting EU Member States be reinstated;
7. *Calls* on President Trump to condemn the actions of radical groups, following the events in Charlottesville, Virginia, on 12th August 2017, particularly those supporting neo-nazi ideologies and associated with the KKK.



## FOREIGN AFFAIRS – HUMAN RIGHTS

1. *Strongly discourages* President Trump's draft order on the legalisation of torture measures such as waterboarding in the interrogation of terrorism suspects by US troops;
2. *Denounces* the Travel ban's xenophobic nature and implores the United States government to follow the EU's example of non-discrimination against peoples based on their nationality, ethnicity and/or religious devotion;
3. *Notes with satisfaction* that 'Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Online' was a major topic of conversation during the most recent 'EU-US Cyber Dialogue' conducted in December 2016;
4. *Warns* that the current President of the United States may be in violation of the principles agreed to in the above-mentioned dialogue, and specifically expresses concern that the President consistently violates the UN Human Rights Council resolution on the safety of journalists, which calls for the safety for member of the media;
5. *Recognises* the Human Rights values shared between the EU and the United States; and demands that both entities publicly condemn the violations of these rights in international dialogues, including those with the Middle East;
6. *Regrets* President Trump's appraisal of President Duterte's violent anti-drug campaign, which disregarded Human Rights and resulted in numerous unnecessary civilian deaths.

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS – SECURITY AND DEFENCE

1. *Proposes* a commission to investigate the establishment of a standing army of the European Union;
2. *Supports* the United States' scepticism of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran and proposes that the JCPOA be dismantled as well as stringent economic sanctions be reapplied to Iran;
3. *Proposes* that, until such time as investigations into President Donald J Trump's ties to Russia are concluded, the European intelligence community limit its sharing of information with American agencies such as the CIA, FBI, or NSA;
4. *Suggests* that EU Member States explore the possibility of withdrawing from NATO;
5. *Regrets* President Trump's decision to get involved in Syria without a UN mandate;
6. *Reaffirms* the importance of CSDP and the importance of Community Level Security rather than Member State sovereignty and NATO;
7. *Reaffirms* the EU's position to decide the fate of refugees from Northern Africa with no input from a third country, such as the United States.

## TRADE

1. *Reaffirms* European support for the concept of 'free trade' and:
  - a. Expresses that free trade improves the lives of all European citizens,
  - b. Makes clear that protectionist economic policies are damaging to all EU Member States;
2. *Suggests* that in light of the United States' protectionist stance on trade issues the EU apply tariffs to US goods and services entering the European Union whenever possible;
3. *Condemns* the United States unwillingness to continue negotiating the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP);
4. *Proposes* that so long as TTIP negotiations remain on hold, EU Member States consider advising European businesses to direct trade and investment on the North American continent primarily towards Canada and Mexico;
5. *Condemns*, in the strongest possible terms, the United States' recent decision to impose tariffs on steel imports, and notes that such action may provoke a global trade war which will make all involved poorer;
6. *Proposes* that equivalent tariffs be applied to US imports into the European Union so long as steel tariffs remain in place;
7. *Praises* the United States' recent imposition of economic sanctions on Russia;
8. *Proposes* that if significant disruption of the energy market occurs as a result of US sanctions on Russia, the EU impose tariffs of the import of US liquid natural gas.

## ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

1. *Condemns* the United States withdrawal from the Paris climate change agreement;
2. *Mandates* that, in light of the inaction of the United States in terms of addressing climate change issues, the EU review its '2020 Climate & Energy' package;
3. *Recommends* that as part of this review, Member States take on additional carbon emissions cuts to offset the United States' withdraw from the Paris Agreement;
4. *Agrees* with United States Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt that the science of climate change is not settled and recommends the formation of a joint EU/US climate change council designed to debate the issue of climate change;
5. *Proposes* that, in recognition of the serious challenge posed by climate change, the EU-28 phase out coal power plants by the year 2030;
6. *Proposes* an exploratory committee to examine the feasibility of allowing US states to join the EU Emissions Trading Scheme;

7. *Proposes* that the import of US road vehicles into the European Union be prohibited until such time as the United States adopts more stringent domestic emissions standards for road vehicles.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

1. *Calls upon* Member States to ensure the adequate and effective implementation of existing European Union gender equality legislation;
2. *Reaffirms* the principle of equal pay for equal work as a fundamental principle of the European Union and proposes the creation of a joint US/EU task force designed to address the persistent problem of the gender pay gap in both the United States and the European Union;
3. *Criticises* the United States' proposed policy to provide six weeks of paid parental leave to new parents for its inadequacy and:
  - a. Calls upon Member States to adopt the European Commission proposal of March 2017 to extend the minimum parental leave period and to provide four months of paid parental leave to new parents;
4. *Noting* the inconsistent approaches of Member States regarding the legal recognition of transgender persons and urges all Member States to adopt uniform legislation which explicitly protects the rights of such persons;
5. *Expressing concern* with recent United States policies aimed at removing the rights of transgender persons and advises Member States to issue travel warnings for transgender EU citizens who intend on travelling in the United States;
6. *Recognises* that under the current administration, the United States may not be able to adequately meet the United Nations sustainable development goal five: *Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls*, and proposes that in order to aid the United States in meeting goal five, the European Commission's *Strategic Engagement for Gender Equality 2016-2019* should be presented to the United States' President at an appropriate diplomatic summit or forum;
7. *Reiterating* that women must have control over their sexual and reproductive health and rights and deplores the reinstatement and expansion of the Global Gag Rule by the United States Administration and:
  - a. Applauds the global movement *SHE DECIDES* and encourages all Member States to pledge their commitment to ensuring the right of women to decide matters relating to their body freely and by themselves.

# APPENDIX: DEFINITIONS

## **Common Defense and Security Policy (CSDP)**

The CSDP is a policy that enables the European Union to take a leading role in peacekeeping operations, conflict prevention and in the strengthening of the international security. It is an integral part of the EU's comprehensive approach towards crisis management, drawing on civilian and military assets. Since 2003 the EU has launched some 30 peace missions and operations through consensus among EU Member States. CSDP missions can currently only be deployed outside the borders of the EU.

## **Conditionality**

This is the practice of making the conclusion and implementation of agreements, cooperation, and assistance by the EU dependent on certain conditions being met. Conditionality is most often employed by the EU in trade and development agreements and enlargement policy. This ensures the implementation of core EU values within third countries such as democracy, human rights and the rule of law, in exchange for access to the European market or financial aid.

## **Council of Europe**

The Council of Europe is a European international organization founded on 5th May 1949 by the Treaty of London. Today, the Council of Europe includes 47 states with 820 million citizens. It is a forum for debates on general European issues. Its constitution provides for general cooperation between Member States to promote economic and social progress.

## **Economic sanctions and Embargoes**

Economic sanctions and embargoes are political and trade tools used to pressure a country into agreeing to certain terms. They comprise of trade barriers or tariffs, restrictions on financial transactions, or a combination of both. Embargoes are a type of trade barrier, the imposition of which results in the complete or partial restriction of trade with a particular country.

## **Euro area (Eurozone)**

The Euro area or also called Eurozone is a monetary union of 19 of the 28 European Member States. All their members adopted the euro (€) as their common currency. Additional to the 19 Member States, Monaco, San Marino, Andorra and the Vatican City have formally agreed with the EU to use the euro as their currency.



## **Eurojust**

The EU's judicial coordination unit is the Eurojust which was established to support and strengthen coordination between national investigating and prosecuting authorities in relation to serious intra-EU Crime.

## **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**

The ECSC was an international organization established in 1951 by the Treaty of Paris. Their goal was to unify the different European countries after World War 2. It was the first international organization which was based on the principles of supranationalism. The organization was first proposed by Robert Schumann as way to prevent further war between France and Germany.

### European Court of Human Rights (ECHR)

The ECHR is an international court set up in 1959. It rules on individual or State applications alleging violations of the civil and political rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights. Since 1998 it has sat as a full-time court and individuals can apply to it directly. The judgements are binding on the countries concerned and have led governments to alter legislation and administrative practice in a wide range of areas. The court is based in Strasbourg and from there monitors respect of the human rights of 800 million Europeans in the 47 Council of Europe Member States that have ratified the Convention. The ECHR is not to be confused with the 'Court of Justice of the European Union' and the 'International Court of Justice', the judicial organ of the United Nations based in The Hague.

<http://www.echr.coe.int/Pages/home.aspx?p=court&c>

### European Counter Terrorism Centre (ECTC)

Central information hub by which the Member States can increase information sharing and operational coordination. The ECTC was launched in January 2016 by a decision from the EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministers. The ECTC has aim to improve the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies and to ensure the Member States make a collective effort to fight terrorism more effective.

### European Economic Community (EEC)

The initial aim of the EEC was to bring further integration between their Member States: especially economic integration. It was established in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome. The founding members of the EEC were France, West-Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. In 1993 it was renamed to the Economic Community (EC).

### European Free Trade Association (EFTA)

The EFTA was established in 1960 as a counterpart to the EU. The former members were the UK, Austria, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and Switzerland. EFTA is a regional trade organization and a free trade area. Today only two of the founding members are still part of the organization. The other five joined the EU. In return Liechtenstein and Iceland joined the EFTA.

### European Parliament (EP)

The European Parliament is the EU's law-making body with legislative, supervisory and budgetary responsibilities. It has 751 MEPs (Members of the European Parliament). It is directly elected by EU voters every 5 years. The last elections were in May 2014. The EP has three main roles:

- *Legislative:* i.e. passing EU laws together with the Council of the EU based European Commission proposals or deciding on international agreements
- *Supervisory:* i.e. democratic scrutiny of all EU institutions, elections observations, examining citizens' petitions and setting up inquiries
- *Budgetary:* establishing and approving the EU's budget together with the Council

[https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-parliament\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-parliament_en)

### European Union

The European Union is a unique economic and political union between 28 European countries that together cover much of the continent. The EU was created after the Second World War as the European Economic Community (EEC) in 1958.

[https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu_en)



Canterbury Model European Union 2017

UN Youth New Zealand | National Centre for Research on Europe

## **EUROPOL**

EU's law enforcement agency whose main goal is to help achieve a safer Europe for the benefit of all EU citizens by assisting Member States in their fight against serious international crime and terrorism. The Europol headquarters is in The Hague, the Netherlands, and works closely with law enforcement agencies in the 28 EU Member States and in other non-EU partner states such as Australia, Canada, the USA and Norway.

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

## **Euroscepticism**

Literally Euroscepticism means criticism of the European Union. The main source is traditionally the notion that the further integration of the EU weakens the national state. Recently the euro crisis and migration crisis triggered the rise of Euroscepticism in several countries of the EU.

## **Extremism**

The holding of extreme political or religious views

## **FIU.net**

A decentralised computer network supporting the Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) in the European Union in their fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, by allowing the exchange of information between the European Union Member States' FIUs on financial transactions with a cross-border nature.

## **Foreign Fighters**

Individuals who join insurgencies abroad. Often their primary motivation is ideological or religious rather than financial.

## **Gender Equality**

The equal treatment of women and men in laws and policies, and equal access to resources and services within families, communities, and society. It connotes fairness and justice in the distribution of opportunities, responsibilities, and benefits available to men and women.

## **Gender Identity**

Refers to each person's deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender, which may or may not correspond with the sex assigned at birth, including the personal sense of the body (which may involve, if freely chosen, modification of bodily appearance or function by medical, surgical or other means) and other expressions of gender, including dress, speech and mannerisms.

## **Gender Perspective**

The gender perspective looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles and interactions. It is about the way different genders interact and their ability to access resources and opportunities, in their communities depending on their gender.

## **Gender Reassignment**

The term used to define the legal process whereby a person is formally recognised by the State in their "new" gender role.

## **Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS, IS, Daesh, ISIL)**

A terrorist group based in Syria and Iraq. It emerged from al-Qaeda, who formally broke off ties with the ISIS after it refused to kill less civilians. They have claimed jurisdiction over all Muslims worldwide.



**Islamophobia / Anti-Muslim sentiment**

The prejudice against, hatred, or bigotry towards the religion of Islam or Muslims. The term entered into common English usage in 1997 with the publication of a report by the Runnymede Trust condemning negative emotions such as fear, hatred, and dread directed at Islam or Muslims. While the term is now widely used, both the term itself and the underlying concept of Islamophobia have been heavily disputed. The causes and characteristics of Islamophobia are still debated. Some scholars have defined it as a type of racism. Some commentators have posited an increase in Islamophobia resulting from the September 11 attacks, while others have associated it with the increased presence of Muslims in the United States, the European Union and other Western nations. Not to be confused with criticism of Islam.

**Jihad**

In Arabic, the word means "effort" or "struggle." In Islam, it could be an individual's internal struggle against baser instincts, the struggle to build a good Muslim society, or a war for the faith against unbelievers. Jihadists may see violent struggle as necessary to eradicate obstacles to restoring God's rule on Earth and defending the Muslim community, or Ummah, against infidels and apostates.

**LGBTQ**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer.

**Lisbon Treaty (Treaty of Lisbon)**

A treaty to make the EU more democratic, efficient and better able to address global problems such as climate change with one voice. It gave more power to the European Parliament, a change of voting procedures in the Council, citizens' initiative, a permanent president of the European Council, a new High Representative for Foreign Affairs and a new EU diplomatic service. The Lisbon Treaty clarifies which powers belong to the EU, to EU member countries, and are shared.

**Maastricht Treaty**

The Treaty was signed at the 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands. With the Treaty entering into force in 1993, the European Union (EU) was created. The Treaty of Maastricht amended the former Treaties of Nice, Amsterdam and Lisbon. Furthermore, the Treaty established the three pillars: one supranational pillar created from three European Communities (which included the European Community (EC), the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community), the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) pillar, and the Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) pillar.

**Member State(s)**

Group of states forming the European Union, including the six founding states: Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. Six phases of accession followed: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom in 1973; Greece in 1981; Spain and Portugal in 1986; Austria, Finland and Sweden in 1995; Eight Eastern European countries, Malta, Cyprus in 2004; Bulgaria and Romania in 2007;

**Member of the European Parliament (MEP):**

The European Parliament (EP) is the EU's law-making body. Its members are directly elected by EU voters every five years. There are 751 MEPs. The number of MEPs for each country is roughly proportionate to its population, but this is by degressive proportionality: no country can have fewer than six or more than 96 MEPs and the total number cannot exceed 751 (750 plus the president). MEPs are grouped by political affiliation, not by nationality.

The European Parliament's work comprises two main stages:

Committees – to prepare legislation. The European Parliament numbers 20 Committees and two sub-Committees, each handling a particular policy area. The Committees examine proposals for legislation, and MEPs and political groups can put forward amendments or propose to reject a bill. These issues are also debated within the political groups.

Plenary Sessions – to pass legislation. This is when all the MEPs gather in the chamber to give a final vote on the proposed legislation and the proposed amendments. Normally held in Strasbourg for four days a month, but sometimes there are additional sessions in Brussels.

### **Money laundering:**

The process by which criminals conceal the illegal origin of the resulting property or income.

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)**

NATO is a political and military alliance with the essential purpose to safeguard the freedom and security of its members through political and military means. Politically NATO promotes democratic values and encourages consultation and cooperation on defence and security issues to build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict. In military, NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military capacity needed to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under Article 5 of the Washington Treaty - NATO's founding treaty - or under a UN mandate, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organisations.

<http://www.nato.int/nato-welcome/#basic>

### **Passenger Name Record (PNR)**

Unique set of data created whenever a reservation is made for a flight, consisting of all information on all components of that reservation. Will oblige airlines to hand EU countries their passengers' data for all flights from a third country to the EU and vice versa. PNR aids risk assessment of unknown individuals.

### **Radicalisation**

Process by which an individual or group comes to adopt increasingly extreme political, social, or religious ideals and aspirations that:

1. Reject or undermine the status quo or
2. Reject and/or undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom of choice

### **Refugee**

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their country. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

An internally displaced person (IDP) is a person who has been forced to flee their home for the same reason as a refugee, but remains in their own country and has not crossed an international border. Unlike refugees, IDPs are not protected by international law or eligible to receive many types of aid. As the nature of war has changed in the last few decades, with more and more internal conflicts replacing wars among countries, the number of IDPs has increased significantly.

A returnee is a refugee who has returned to his or her home country. The majority of refugees prefer to return home as soon as it is safe to do so, after a conflict and the country is being rebuilt. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) encourages voluntary repatriation, or return, as the best solution for displaced people.

A stateless person is someone who is not a citizen of any country. Citizenship is the legal bond between a government and an individual, and allows for certain political, economic, social and other rights of the individual, as well as the responsibilities of both government and citizen. A person can become stateless due to a variety of reasons, including sovereign, legal, technical or administrative decisions or oversights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights underlines that "Everyone has the right to a nationality."

When people flee their own country and seek sanctuary in another country, they apply for asylum – the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance. An asylum seeker must show that their fear of persecution in their home country is well-founded.

The 1951 Geneva Convention is the main international instrument of refugee law. The Convention clearly spells out who a refugee is and the kind of legal protection, other assistance and social rights he or she should receive from the countries who have signed the document. The Convention also defines a refugee's obligations to host governments and certain categories of people, such as war criminals, who do not qualify for refugee status. The Convention was limited to protecting mainly European refugees in the aftermath of World War II, but another document, the 1967 Protocol, expanded the scope of the Convention as the problem of displacement spread around the world.

For more information visit: <http://www.unrefugees.org/>

### **Rule of Law**

The rule of law is the legal principle that law should govern a nation, as opposed to being governed by decisions of individual government officials. It primarily refers to the influence and authority of law within society, particularly as a constraint upon behaviour, including behaviour of government officials. It is the restriction of the arbitrary exercise of power by subordinating it to well-defined and established laws.

### **Schengen Agreement**

1985 Agreement signed at Schengen, Luxembourg abolished many internal borders between European signatory states, enabling passport-free movement between those states. There are currently 26 signatory states comprising the Schengen Area - 22 of which are EU states and four non-EU States.

### **Sexual Orientation**

Refers to each person's capacity for profound emotional, affectional and sexual attraction to, and intimate and sexual relations with, individuals of a different gender or the same gender or more than one gender.

### **Terrorism**

There is no agreed definition of 'Terrorism' in the EU. The European Commission uses the definition provided by the International Organisation for Migration:

"The intentional and systematic use of actions designed to provoke terror in the public as a means to certain ends. Terrorism can be the act of an individual or a group of individuals acting in their individual capacity or with the support of a state."

**Terrorist financing**

The provision or collection of funds used to carry out any of the offences defined, such as the drawing-up of false administrative documents and the leadership of a terrorist group.

**Third Country**

A non-EU country. A country that is not a Member State of the European Union.

**Treaty of Nice**

The Treaty of Nice was signed in 2001 and came into force in 2003. It amended the Maastricht Treaty and also the Treaty of Rome. The Treaty reformed the institutional structure of the European Union.

**UK rebate**

The UK rebate or UK correction is a financial mechanism that reduces the United Kingdom's contribution to the EU budget in effect since 1985.

**Victims' Rights Directive**

A Set of binding rights for victims of crime and clear obligations for EU Member States to ensure these rights in practise. The new rules are applicable to all victims of crime, without discrimination, including nationality or residence status. The application of the Victims' Rights Directive is not limited to EU citizens.

**Xenophobia**

The fear of that which is perceived to be foreign or strange. Xenophobia can manifest itself in many ways involving the relations and perceptions of an in-group towards an out-group, including a fear of losing identity, suspicion of its activities, aggression, and desire to eliminate its presence to secure a presumed purity. Xenophobia can also be exhibited in the form of dislike or prejudice against foreigners or those from other countries, nationalities and ethnic groups.