

Appendix: Definitions

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



European Commission:

The European Commission is the EU's politically independent executive arm. It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

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 a general cooperation between Member States to promote economic and social progress.

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

Supervisor: 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

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;

Euro area:

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 have Monaco, San Marino, Andorra and Vatican City have formal agreed with the EU to use the Euro as their currency.

**European Central Bank (ECB):**

The European Central Bank (ECB) is the central bank responsible for monetary policy of those European Union (EU) member countries which have adopted the euro currency. The principal goal of the ECB is to maintain price stability in the euro area, thus helping preserve the purchasing power of the euro.

Economic and Monetary Union (EMU):

The Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) represents a major step in the integration of EU economies. Launched in 1992, EMU involves the coordination of economic and fiscal policies, a common monetary policy, and a common currency, the euro. Whilst all 28 EU Member States take part in the economic union, some countries have taken integration further and adopted the euro. Together, these countries make up the euro area.

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 (above the state). The organization was first proposed by Robert Schuman as way to prevent further war between France and Germany.

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 as into Economic Community (EC).

European single market:

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. A functioning single market stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality, and helps cut prices. The European single market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier.

Maastricht Treaty:

The Treaty was signed at the 7 February 1992 by the members of the European Community in Maastricht, Netherlands. With the entry into force of the Treaty 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.

Lisbon Treaty (Treaty of Lisbon):

A treaty to make the EU more democratic, more 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 the EU member countries and are shared.

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.

Treaty of Rome:

The Treaty of Rome is establishing the European Economic Community (EEC). Two treaties were signed on 25 March 1957 - the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom). For both new Communities, decisions were taken by the Council on a proposal from the Commission. The Parliamentary Assembly is to be consulted, and give its opinions to the Council. The Assembly increases in size to 142 members. The European Parliamentary Assembly held its first session the following year, on 19 March 1958. With the Treaties of Rome, a specific provision is made for members to be directly elected (this was implemented in 1979).

Schengen Agreement:

1985 Agreement signed at Schengen, Luxembourg which 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.

Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU):

CJEU interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions.

It can also, in certain circumstances, be used by individuals, companies or organisations to take action against an EU institution, if they feel it has somehow infringed their rights.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

The mission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. The OECD sets international standards on a wide range of things, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals.

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. Political: NATO promotes democratic values and encourages consultation and cooperation on defence and security issues to build trust and, in the long run, prevent conflict. 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>

Economic sanctions and Embargoes:

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.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP):

It is a monetary measure of the market value of all final goods and services produced in a period (quarterly or yearly) of time. Nominal GDP estimates are commonly used to determine the economic performance of a whole country or region, and to make international comparisons. Nominal GDP per capita does not, however, reflect differences in the cost of living and the inflation rates of the countries; therefore using a basis of GDP per capita at purchasing power parity (PPP) is arguably more useful when comparing differences in living standards between different nations.

Gross national product (GNP):

GNP is an economic statistic that is equal to GDP plus any income earned by residents from overseas investments minus income earned within the domestic economy by overseas residents.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several

life-changing 'zeros', including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

Everyone is needed to reach these ambitious targets. The creativity, knowhow, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC or FCCC) is an international environmental treaty negotiated at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. It entered into force on 21 March 1994 and today it has near-universal membership. The 195 countries that have ratified the Convention are called Parties to the Convention.

The UNFCCC's main aim is the stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interferences with the climate system.

Conference of the Parties (COP):

The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP, at which they review the implementation of the Convention and any other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention, including institutional and administrative arrangements.

A key task for the COP is to review the national communications and emission inventories submitted by Parties. Based on this information, the COP assesses the effects of the measures taken by Parties and the progress made in achieving the ultimate objective of the Convention.

Greenhouse gases (GHG):

Greenhouse gas is any gas that has the property of absorbing infrared radiation (net heat energy) emitted from Earth's surface and reradiating it back to Earth's surface, thus contributing to the greenhouse effect. Carbon dioxide, methane, and water vapour are the most important greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases have a profound effect on the energy budget of the Earth system despite making up only a fraction of all atmospheric gases. Concentrations of greenhouse gases have varied substantially during Earth's history, and these variations have driven substantial climate changes at a wide range of timescales.

Greenhouse effect:

Greenhouse effect is a warming of Earth's surface and troposphere (the lowest layer of the atmosphere) caused by the presence of water vapour, carbon dioxide, methane, and certain other gases in the air.

The atmosphere allows most of the visible light from the Sun to pass through and reach Earth's surface. As Earth's surface is heated by sunlight, it radiates part of this energy back toward space as infrared radiation. This radiation, unlike visible light, tends to be absorbed by the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, raising its temperature. The heated atmosphere in turn radiates infrared radiation back toward Earth's surface.

Although the greenhouse effect is a naturally occurring phenomenon, it is possible that the effect could be intensified by the emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as the result of human activity.

Kyoto Protocol:

The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement that aimed to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and the presence of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. The Kyoto Protocol mandated that industrialized nations cut their greenhouse gas emissions at a time when the threat of global warming was growing rapidly. The Protocol was linked to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It was adopted in Kyoto, Japan on December 11, 1997, and became international law on February 16, 2005.

Paris Agreement:

The Paris Agreement, in full *Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, also called *Paris Climate Agreement* or *COP21*, international treaty, named for the city of Paris, France, in which it was adopted in December 2015, which aimed to reduce the emission of gases that contribute to global warming. The Paris Agreement set out to improve upon and replace the Kyoto Protocol, an earlier international treaty designed to curb the release of greenhouse gases. It entered into force on November 4, 2016, and has been signed by 197 countries and ratified by 187 as of November 2019.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs):

The Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions.

Climate neutrality:

Climate neutrality can be achieved if CO₂ emissions are reduced to a minimum and all remaining CO₂ emissions are offset with climate protection measures. If climate-damaging greenhouse gases are completely avoided or if gases that have already been emitted are saved elsewhere, this is referred to as "climate-neutral". In contrast to air pollution, it does not matter for the climate where greenhouse gases enter the atmosphere and where they are reduced. What is important is that global emissions decrease overall. This means a company in Germany or Switzerland can also become climate neutral by supporting international climate protection projects.