

EU SYMBOLS



THE EU MOTTO

"UNITED IN DIVERSITY" IS THE MOTTO OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. IT SIGNIFIES HOW EUROPEANS HAVE COME TOGETHER, IN THE FORM OF THE EU, TO WORK FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING ENRICHED BY THE CONTINENT'S



THE EUROPEAN FLAG

THE EUROPEAN FLAG IS THE SYMBOL NOT ONLY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION BUT ALSO OF EUROPE'S UNITY AND IDENTITY IN A WIDER SENSE. THE EUROPEAN FLAG CONSISTS OF 12 GOLDEN STARS IN A CIRCLE ON A BLUE BACKGROUND. THE STARS SYMBOLISE THE IDEALS OF

EUROPE DAY

THE IDEAS BEHIND THE EUROPEAN UNION WERE FIRST PUT FORWARD ON 9 MAY 1950 BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ROBERT SCHUMAN. THIS IS WHY 9 MAY IS CELEBRATED AS A KEY DATE FOR THE EU.



THE EUROPEAN ANTHEM

THE MELODY USED TO SYMBOLIZE THE EU COMES FROM THE NINTH SYMPHONY COMPOSED IN 1823 BY LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, WHEN HE SET MUSIC TO THE "ODE TO JOY", FRIEDRICH VON SCHILLER'S LYRICAL VERSE FROM 1785. THE ANTHEM SYMBOLISES NOT ONLY THE EUROPEAN UNION BUT ALSO EUROPE IN A WIDER SENSE. THE POEM "ODE TO JOY" EXPRESSES SCHILLER'S IDEALISTIC VISION OF THE HUMAN RACE BECOMING BROTHERS - A VISION BEETHOVEN SHARED. THE EUROPEAN ANTHEM IS NOT INTENDED TO REPLACE THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS OF THE EU COUNTRIES BUT RATHER TO CELEBRATE THE VALUES THEY SHARE.

