

**'We are not bringing together states, we are
uniting people'**

(Jean Monnet 1952)



**The European Union won the Nobel Peace Prize
on Friday, 12 October 2012, for promoting
peace, democracy and human rights !**



What is EU citizenship?

Citizenship of the European Union(EU) was introduced by the Maastricht Treaty (signed in 1992, in force since 1993). “Every person holding the nationality of a member state shall be a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union shall be additional to and not replace national citizenship”.



European citizenship affords **rights** such as:

- the right **to vote every 5 years** in European elections across the E.U.
- the right **to travel, study, work and live** anywhere in the European Union.
- the right **to consular protection** from other EU states' embassies
- the right **to petition** the European Parliament and the Commission and complain to the European Ombudsman.

To help bring the EU closer to its citizens, the Treaty on European Union created the post of **Ombudsman**.



The European Parliament appoints the Ombudsman,
**The Ombudsman's role is to investigate complaints
against EU institutions and bodies.**



The European Union's Commitment was made clear at Nice in December 2000 when the European Council solemnly proclaimed the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union**.

Under six headings – **Dignity, Freedoms, Equality, Solidarity, Citizens' rights and Justice** – its 54 articles set out the European Union's fundamental values and the civil, political, economic and social rights of EU citizens.

European citizens recognize symbols of shared European identity



The idea of a 'citizens' Europe' is very new. Some symbols of a shared European identity already exist, such as the European passport, in use since 1985. EU driving license have been issued in all EU countries since 1996. Other symbols are:

The EU motto is "United in diversity"

The motto of the European Union, first came into use in 2000. 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 many different cultures, traditions and languages.



The European flag

It 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 number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.



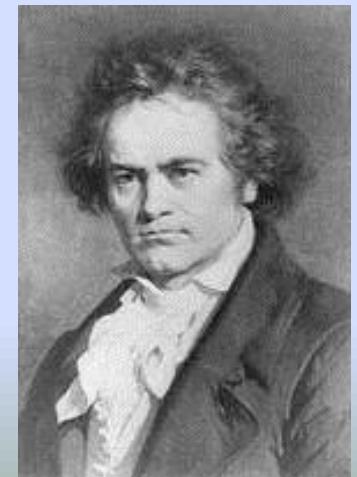
The European anthem



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.



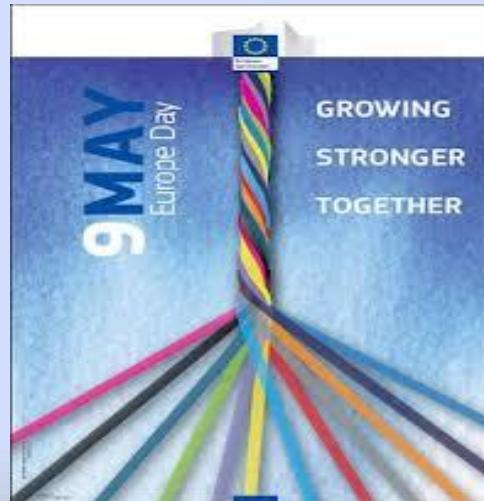
The anthem symbolizes not only the European Union but also Europe in a wider sense.



Europe Day, 9 May



The ideas behind the European Union were put forward on **9 May 1950** by the French foreign minister, Robert Schuman. This date is now celebrated as a key moment in the creation of the EU.





Single Currency :the euro

The euro is the **most tangible proof** of European **integration**. It is used in 17 out of 27 EU countries.

