Campion School
Model United Nations

European Union
Revisiting the main values of the EU treaties in the context of the future of the Union

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Introduction

The EU was founded after World War 2, in 1958, in order to foster economic cooperation. The idea was that if countries traded with each other they would become economically interdependent and thus conflict was less likely to occur. Since then the European Union has become a unique economic and political union with 28 European countries which together cover most of the continent and is involved in policy, from climate, environment and health to external relations and security, justice, migration.

In this committee, the EU will be examining the main values of the EU treaties in the context of the future of the union. This means you will be looking at values of EU and the role it has played in order to decide its future, so what changes should be made to its core treaties of the union to best represent the values of its member-states.

The main values of the EU are outlined in its constitution courtesy of [http://europa.eu/scadplus/constitution/objectives_en.htm](http://europa.eu/scadplus/constitution/objectives_en.htm):

Article I-2: The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

Article I-3: Covers the internal and external objectives of the Union, merges the provisions of the EU Treaty and those of the EC Treaty. These objectives must guide the Union in the defining and implementation of all its policies.

The main objectives of the Union are now to promote peace, the Union’s values and the well-being of its peoples.

These general objectives are supplemented by a list of more detailed objectives:

- an area of freedom, security and justice without internal frontiers;
- an internal market where competition is free and undistorted;
- sustainable development, based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
- the promotion of scientific and technological advance;
- the combating of social exclusion and discrimination, and the promotion of social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child;
- the promotion of economic, social and territorial cohesion, and solidarity among Member States.
Article I-4: Guarantees the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital within the Union (the famous "four freedoms") and strictly prohibits any discrimination on grounds of nationality.

Article I-5: Regards relations between the Union and the Member States, in particular the obligation to respect the national identities and the fundamental political and constitutional structures of the Member States. The principle of loyal cooperation is also included in this Article.

Article I-6: Devoted to Union law. It lays down the principle of the primacy of the law of the European Union over the law of the Member States. This principle, which has been developed by the Court of Justice in its case-law, has long been recognised to be a basic principle and a key aspect of the functioning of the Union. The Constitution simply gives it a higher profile by incorporating it into a key part of the Treaty.

Article I-7: Confers on the European Union legal personality. Following the merger of the European Community and the European Union, the new Union will therefore have the right to conclude international agreements, in the same way as the European Community can today, but without compromising the division of competences between the Union and the Member States.

Article I-9: Reproduces the guarantee of fundamental rights provided in the EU Treaty and refers to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR) and to the constitutional traditions common to the Member States.
Definition of key terms

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<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECHR</td>
<td>European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms</td>
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<td>EEC</td>
<td>European Economic Community</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>European Commission</td>
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<td>ESC</td>
<td>European Coal and Steel Community</td>
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<td>EFTA</td>
<td>European Free Trade Association</td>
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<td>EMS</td>
<td>European Monetary System</td>
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<td>SEA</td>
<td>Single European Act</td>
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<td>ERM</td>
<td>European Exchange Rate Mechanism</td>
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Timeline

1948- The European Union of Fed the UK rejects it.

1949- Nato is created.

1950- France and Germany decid join, so as to be more united, thus Declaration, named after the then

1951- France, Germany, Belgium Paris, which establishes European
1952- Actions of the ECSC include: guaranteeing German coal to the French steel industry, upgrades Belgian and Italian coal mines and dismantles Germany’s steel cartels.

1954- The European Defence Community is to be created, but France rejects the idea.

1957- The Treaty of Rome creates European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community Euratom. These were the first steps to a common market.

1958- The European Court of Justice comes into existence.

1960- European Free Trade Association (EFTA) is created.

1961- Britain, Denmark, and Ireland apply to join the EEC.

1963- France vetoes British membership.

1967- Treaty creating a single Council and a Commission for the three communities comes into effect.

1968- The European Community customs union is completed.

1973- Britain, Denmark, and Ireland join the European Community.

1979- The European Monetary System EMS introduces the European currency unit Ecu. All EC members join, apart from the UK.

1981- Greece joins the EC as its 10th member.

1986- Portugal and Spain join.

1987- The Single European Act modifies the Treaty of Rome aiming to complete the formation of a common market.

1988- Regional aid is doubled.

1990- Britain enters the ERM.

1991- The Maastricht treaty on European Union is signed. The treaty introduces European citizenship giving Europeans the right to live and vote in elections in any EU country and launches European cooperation in foreign affairs, security, asylum, and immigration.

1992- The UK is forced out of the ERM.

1995- The Schengen pact is introduced, thus borders fall.

1997- The Amsterdam Treaty is signed.

1998- Enlargement of the Union begins.

2002- 12 countries adopt the euro as their currency.

2004- The EU admits more members and a new constitution is signed.
### Topic discussion

The main discussion of this committee will concern the examination of the values of the EU, in order to think about its future. Delegates are welcome to look at successes and failures of the EU, as the actions of the Union are based on its values. The discussion may also include changes that Member-states may like to make to the Constitution, as their countries values may have changed.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>France and the Netherlands reject their government's plans to ratify the EU constitution, thus stopping it from passing.</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Turkey's EU bid stalls.</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Romania and Bulgaria join.</td>
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For more detailed information visit: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3583801.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3583801.stm)
This discussion has come to pass primordially because of Brexit, as with a major member-state leaving the Union, it is a good time to re-examine its core, which is centred around its values. Also, the refugee crisis has caused certain Member-states to question their membership in the Union, thus calling on discussion of the Union’s future.
Major countries and organizations involved

If possible, this committee may come up with changes to the values of the Union in order to best represent the needs and interests of its member-states, as well as perhaps deciding on whether it is necessary to continue to exist.

The European Union has 28 member-states, but it’s major members include Germany, France and Belgium. Germany is viewed as the backbone of the union, as it is Europe’s largest economy.

UN involvement: Relevant resolutions and treaties

The EU has its own delegation in the UN, so that its 28 Member States provide one joint opinion, thus affording them enhanced status. The EU is involved with the UN on a range of global issues, and is closely involved with...
Research questions

Some questions to research are the effectiveness of the Union and its successes and failures. Be sure to research your individual country’s stance and how content they are with the EU at the moment. Is your country interested in remaining a member of the EU? Also, further research on the values of the EU is recommended, as well as the various committees mentioned in this study guide.