

**Subject : Junior Cycle History**  
**Teacher : Niall Lenehan**

**LESSON 24**  
**Ireland and the European Union**

**Learning Intentions**

1. Understand the history and role of the EU.
2. Understand Ireland's links with the EU.

**2.13** analyse the evolution and development of Ireland's links with Europe.

**3.12** evaluate the role of a movement or organisation, such as the European Union or United Nations, in promoting international cooperation, justice and human rights.

**Key Words - define these**

Unity

Human Rights

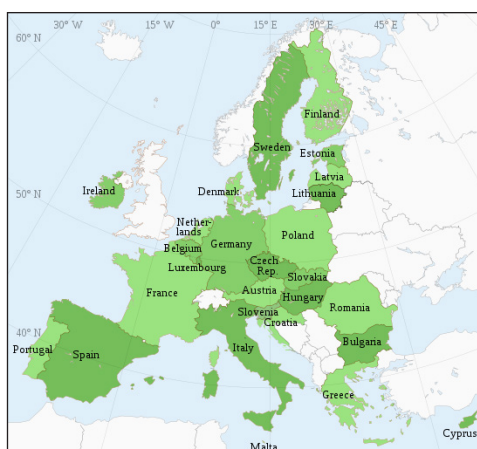
Brexit

Co-Operation

Maastricht Treaty

**What is the European Union?**

- The European Union is a political and economic union of **27 member states** that are located primarily in Europe.
- It was set up after WW2 so that countries could **work together** to avoid further conflict and **create European Unity**.



European Union member states

**Steps towards the European Union (EU)**

- After WW2, the **EEC (European economic community)** was established after the passing of the Treaty of Rome (1957).
- Its members included: France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Italy.



### Their aims were to:

1. Promote economic growth
2. Improve the standard of living in Europe
3. Bring member states closer together

### The Growth of the EU

- The EEC created a **common market** – This meant there were no trade barriers or tariffs between member states.
- **People, goods, services and money** could freely move between member states.
- Grants would be provided to member states to help develop agriculture and infrastructure.
- Over the next 30 years, would expand and many countries would join it, Ireland joined in 1973.



The goals of the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)

### Recap exercise 24.1

- Q1. Why was the European Union set up?
- Q2. How many member states does the EU have today?
- Q3. Who were the first member states of the EU (EEC)?
- Q4. What is meant by the 'Common Market'?
- Q5. When did Ireland join the European Union?
- Q6. Give three aims of the Common Agricultural Policy.

### The Maastricht Treaty

#### The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1991. This Treaty meant:

1. The European parliament had greater power in how its member states were run.
2. Set out plans for a new currency: The Euro
3. Made people in member states official citizens of Europe.
4. Police forces in each member state could cooperate.

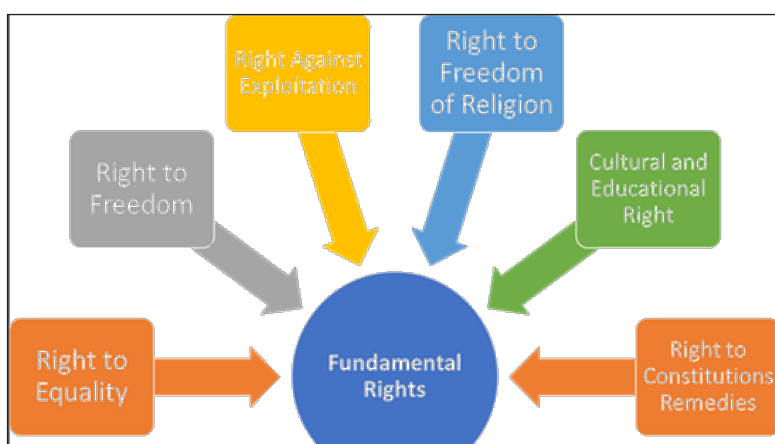
It also officially changed the name of the EEC to the European Union.



The signing of the Maastricht Treaty

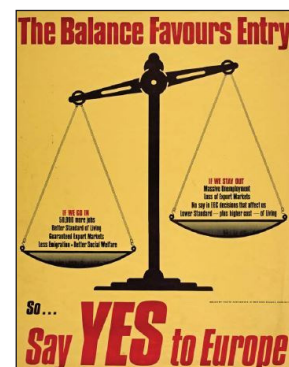
## The European Union and Human rights

- Following the European **Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000)** and the **Treaty of Lisbon (2009)**, the EU began to officially promote justice and human rights.



## Ireland's links with Europe

- Ireland joined the EEC in 1973. Many Irish people were keen to join the EEC to help the Irish economy.
- Others were opposed to joining the EEC as they felt Ireland would lose some independence.
- But why did Ireland join the EEC?
  - Ireland needed to broaden its trading opportunities and not solely rely on Britain.
  - Ireland's farmers would benefit from the **CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)**.
  - It would give Ireland access to the **European markets**.
  - Foreign companies would be **more likely to invest in Ireland**.
  - It would **create more jobs** in Ireland.



## The impact of the EU on Ireland

- Irish trade with Europe is over 100 times greater than it was before 1973.
- Irish citizens can freely live, move, and work in any EU member state.
- Irish citizens working in other EU countries have equality when it comes to accessing employment, working conditions, social and tax advantages.
- Ireland's membership to the EU has helped to transform us from an old-fashioned, agriculture-dependent country into one driven by hi-tech industry and global exports.



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### 24.2 Exam prep

**Q1.** Name an international movement or organisation that you studied.

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**Q2.** Explain the origins and formation of that movement or organisation.

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**24.3 Homework Correction****Q1. What were three key differences between Unionists and Nationalists during the time of the Troubles in Northern Ireland?**

Nationalists were mainly Catholics who wanted to end partition and create a United Ireland in which the 6 counties which were part of the UK would join the 26 counties of the Republic.

Unionists were mainly Protestants who wanted the 6 counties to remain as part of the United Kingdom. They rejected the idea of a United Ireland.

Nationalists and Unionists also had separate identities. They worked in different jobs and often played different sports (Nationalists played GAA while Unionists played soccer and Rugby).

During the troubles, Nationalists struggled for basic civil rights. Nationalists struggled to access education, housing and social welfare as they were considered to be a minority. Unionists were often wealthier and had access to better jobs such as Harland and Wolff shipyards.

**Lesson 24 Homework Correction****Q1. Name an international movement or organisation that you studied.**

The European Union

**Q2. Explain the origins and formation of that movement or organisation.**

After WW2, the EEC (European economic community) was established after the passing of the Treaty of Rome (1957). Its members included: France, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Italy. It was established after WW2 so that countries could work together to avoid further conflict and create European Unity.

**Q3. Describe how that movement or organisation contributed to the promotion of international co-operation, justice and human rights.**

The European Union or EEC created a common market which meant there were no trade barriers or tariffs between member states. People, goods, services and money could freely move between member states. Grants were provided to member states to help develop agriculture and infrastructure. The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1991 which further strengthened relations between member states. Following the European Charter of Fundamental Rights (2000) and the Treaty of Lisbon (2009), the EU began to officially promote justice and human rights among its member states.

**Q4. Explain why joining the EEC was an important event for Ireland.**

Joining the EEC was a very important event for Ireland. It enabled Ireland to broaden its trading opportunities and not solely rely on Britain. It meant Irelands farmers would benefit from the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy). It would give Ireland access to the European markets. Foreign companies would be more likely to invest in Ireland which would create more jobs in Ireland.





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