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Issu: 01
10 EURO
August, 2015

EU REVIEW



Join the EU:
Impact On
Our Lives

*"EU remains focused
on making its
institutions to be
more transparent and
democratic"*

EUROPEAN UNION MAGAZINE
First edition

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❖ Joining EU, impact on our lives

The European Union (EU) is a political partnership between 28 countries. It was established after WW II with the idea that countries that trade with one another would become economically independent. What began as an economic union has now developed into something much more - a gathering of economy, law, aid development, policy, environmental care. For half a century EU has delivered peace, stability, prosperity, and even launched its own currency – the euro. Some of the main goals of the EU are to promote freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect human rights. These are the core values of the EU!

EU is based on the rule of law and binding agreements. As it continues to grow the EU remains focused on making its institutions to be more transparent and democratic. European Union operates through a system of institutions and negotiated decisions by its member states. The institutions are: the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European

Council, the Court of Justice of the EU, the EU Central Bank, the European Court of Editors and the European Parliament. The EU parliament is elected every five years by EU citizens.

There are many advantages and disadvantages of joining the European Union. The advantages include:

- European Single Market – free trade within the EU
- Freedom of movement – going through Europe without visa needed
- Cooperation between national organizations – including trafficking, cyber- crime and other criminal issues.
- European Health Insurance Card- every European citizen has a right of health care in any member country.
- EU borders – no need to pay double tax
- Labor market – every EU citizen can apply for a job in any member country

As pointed out above, the EU offers many social, financial and political benefits to its citizens while building an intercultural identity. From the point of view of a citizen, the freedom of movement has many positive sides, since it cultivates a more open-minded and acceptable/adaptable community. But on the other hand there's the fear of the so-called "Brain drain", which means educated and qualified people permanently moving away from their country in search for better work conditions, income and recognition. It is a legitimate fear, but don't forget that knowledge exchange works both ways. The benefit of being part of the EU is that the transfer of "Brains" occurs within EU borders, therefore the knowledge, experience and technology stays in EU.

Another practical difference when a country joins the EU is the reduction of

prices due to the increase of competition. Foreign, international companies/organizations will invest and develop in EU countries by increasing the quality of products and services while decreasing the prices. On the other hand this also causes many problems to local businesses which have smaller capital and less international connections for flourishing and maintaining their customers/consumers.

Changes on the social and political balance of the EU have positive and negative impacts on its member states, therefore if each of us keeps on working towards a better future, and being active on our civil and social duties, means that we choose to participate and improve both our country and our other EU member countries.

❖ Losing your economical indecency? What actually Eurozone means.

- Which countries are in the Eurozone?
- Which are entering the Eurozone in the future?
- Benefits/disadvantage of sharing/ having a common currency?
- Conclusions
- Labor market – every EU citizen can apply for a job in any member country

The Member States of the Eurozone are confronted with a political choice with far-reaching consequences: either they commit without delay to a federal political Union, or they accept the disintegration of the Eurozone and the demise of the euro. Since currency was first created three thousand years ago, we know that minting money is a sovereign act.

Hence the urgent need to consolidate the Eurozone, to equip it with efficient instruments and decision-making

processes and also place it under the supervision of Union. Only a political authority in the form of a European Union will be able to guarantee a way out of the crisis, the future of the euro and the development of the European Union. It is also the only way for Europe to strengthen its position within the new global balance of power.



The Eurozone is still functioning according to the intergovernmental method, whereas the 27/28-member Union mainly uses the community method. Therefore this gap should be bridged immediately by exercising enhanced cooperation or by adopting new methods of functioning, as demonstrated by the establishment of the Summit of the 17/18 Eurozone members. These adjustments would serve to increase the efficiency of the decision-making process, the European Parliament's involvement and overall transparency. As a result the Eurozone, which represents a subgroup of the European Union, will benefit from the improvements written into the Lisbon Treaty.

❖ Are you Gay? You are not welcome in the EU countries.









Human rights are moral principles that describe certain standards of human conduct. They are based on peace, equality, democracy and freedom. Many of the basic ideas that animated the human rights movement developed in the aftermath. The EU has accepted to respect the human rights with the European convention on human rights in 1950. Some of the basic human rights are:

- Right to LIFE
- Freedom from torture
- Freedom of movement
- Right to welfare
- Freedom from slavery
- Freedom of speech
- Collective rights – the protection against genocide
- Freedom of sexual orientation and gender identity (LGBT rights)

For most of the EU citizens, the freedom to water, freedom of speech,

movement, welfare etc. is something they take for granted. However, even though Same-sex sexual activity is legal in all EU states and discrimination in employment has been banned with various measures (since 2000), as a community we still haven't accepted them in our everyday life. EU member states, have different laws when it comes to any greater protection, same-sex civil union, same-sex marriage and adoption by same-sex couples. For example openly gay people are allowed to serve in the military of every country except Cyprus even though this is contrary to European law and is rarely enforced. In the case of same sex marriage, Croatia has constitutionally banned it since the 2013 referendum; Bulgaria also constitutionally banned it since 1991; and Poland since 1997. However, even though Croatia and Bulgaria banded the same sex marriage, they allow to LGBT individuals to adopt children, but joint adoption is forbidden.

○ LGBT rights in the EU:

LGBT rights in:	Same-sex sexual activity	Recognition of same-sex unions	Same-sex marriage	Adoption by same-sex couples	LGB allowed to serve openly in military?	Anti-discrimination laws concerning sexual orientation	Laws concerning gender identity/expression
 European Union	 Legal in all 28 member states.	 Legal in 19/28 member states.	 Legal in 12/28 member states.	 Joint adoption legal in 13/28 member states. Step-child adoption legal in 16/28 member states.	 Legal in 27/28 member states.	 Membership requires a state to ban anti-gay discrimination in employment only.	 Legal in all 28 member states.

EU with YOU
Training Project
LONDON
(August, 2015)