

THE EVERYDAY GAZETTE



Things to know when traveling to another country

Make sure your passport and visa are up-to-date: Check the expiration date of your passport now, and if you need to renew, check it and renew.

Before your next trip, check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website for the most current information, including updates on COVID-19

to find out health information and vaccination requirements for your destination.

Make sure your credit card will work in the country you're visiting.

Register your trip with the State Department

Stock your wallet with acceptable methods of payment

Buy travel insurance and provide health insurance

Pay attention on your expensive things. Like Expensive jewelry could attract thieves who are experts at targeting tourists. If you do bring valuables, always travel with them in your carry-on, or keep them locked up in the hotel safe.

Leave a copy of your passport at home or with someone you trust.



Everyone should vote

One of the democratic characteristic is the principle of political equality. However, in order to understand what political equality really means, a reference must be made to a meaning, that is quite controversial nowadays; the people. Who are the people? The total population of a country? Well, the answer is way more complicated

In greek city- states, the political participation was limited to a small percentage of the population. More specifically, the voting right was given only to men over 20 years, excluding in this way the part of women and slaves. However this kind of restriction got continued till the recent years. In other words, very strict restrictions to the voting right were still applied in many western countries, until the 20th century. The voting right for all the people, without exception, was basically established in Great Britain just in 1928 and in USA in 1960. 3. Considering the above, we all understand that people should vote because voting is apparently both a fundamental right and an obligation of a citizen. In other words, voting provides the access to the government field, the opportunity to make serious decisions which are going to determine not only the people themselves, but also the faith of their society in general and future generations as well. In addition, provided that the elections are multi- party, the people via their voting right are able to expel the corrupted politicians who infect the political status. Therefore, in a democratic state, which provides the right of voting, politicians as the representatives of society, are answerable for their actions. Thanks to all the previous fights that were given in order to make this kind of rights a reality, nowadays people are able to control their own lives, despite the fact that they do not actually govern themselves (besides the elections take place every few years). Citizens via voting have access to the political discourse and agenda and they can also be informed about the ones who are gonna govern them.

There is no truth in the view that politicians are the only ones capable of solving the issues on which society is concerned. That point of view leads us to the conclusion that voting is the only option for making a positive impact. When people vote, they actually take an active role in deciding issues. If they don't, definitely someone else will do it for them. Let's make sure that our voices will be heard!



The EU is a good place because:

-Thanks to it, traveling in Europe has become much easier and more accessible. As a European citizen, each of us can travel freely to any of the EU Member States. As part of this system, every citizen receives a wide range of rights, protection, assistance and support if you need one. Thanks to the EU, many young people enjoy the right to full freedom of movement between EU countries.

- This leads us to the next opportunity that the EU gives us, namely the right of each of us to study and study anywhere in the EU under the same conditions as the citizens of the country concerned.

- Let us also not forget the opportunity to work anywhere in the EU and the opportunities offered by the labor market throughout the Union. Here, as an example, we can point to the Erasmus + program, thanks to which all this becomes even more accessible and easy. It creates new skills, builds many key partnerships and friendships between people from different countries and helps young people to develop both personally and professionally. Also, through the practice and skills that participants acquire, they can more easily make the transition to their future dream job.

-Thanks to the EU's single market, not only people can move freely within the EU, but also goods, services and capital. Let him clarify that under "Capital" we are talking only about money. The term also includes investments, loans and credits, as well as other operations with financial institutions. If we follow this logic, we can say that this makes it easier for EU companies to operate in more than one country and compete globally. They all have access to the national markets of all EU countries and to a large number of potential customers. Why is this good for us too? As consumers for us, greater competition leads to lower prices and greater choice of products and services.

- Also, if you have a European Health Insurance Card as an EU citizen, you receive the necessary medical care on the spot under the same conditions as the citizens of the country in which you are located.

- As one of the latest features of the EU, I will mention the possibility to use your mobile device freely without worrying that you will be charged additional fees. However, we already live in a time when all our activities are related to the use of the Internet and the conduct of many conversations every day.

- Let us not forget one very important detail, namely that many EU countries have a single currency, namely the euro. This has a number of advantages. One is that consumers can compare the prices of the goods they would like to buy. This eliminates the costs of carrying out the transactions themselves and eliminates exchange rate fluctuations.

I think that everything that has been said so far clearly shows why the EU is such an important and preferred place, both for business and for life, work and education.

Life without the EU

Predicting Europe's growing international irrelevance has become as common as mocking the follies of Brussels.

In fact, the consensus is that within a few short decades, the weight of European economies in the world is bound to plummet to less than half of what it is today.

Moreover, in recent years, it has become increasingly difficult to find a decision made by the European Union that is worthy of applause. Today's European project feels more like a jobs program for the Continent's professional middle class than an ideal that sparks hope and energizes people.

The inability to effectively address the economic crisis is only a symptom of deeper problems. Why has Europe suffered the most painful and prolonged consequences of the global financial crash?

Now, the crisis in Ireland and its potential spread to other weak European economies fuels further pessimism. "My current best guess," writes Gideon Rachman in the Financial Times, is that "the single currency will indeed eventually break up — and that the euro's executioner will be Germany." His calculus is that successive financial crises and their respective bailouts will exhaust Germany's patience. Germany, he writes, might then feel released from its historic obligation to "build Europe."

The collapse of the European monetary system could be an insurmountable blow to European unity. That this would be bad for Europe is obvious.

Less obvious is that a world without an influential and integrated Europe is a world made worse for everyone. Europe irradiates values and standards that are as necessary as they are rare in today's world. The old Continent's economic and political decline will diminish its positive influence on others.

We know about Europe's current repudiation of war, the legacy of its two terrible conflicts in the 20th century. And we also know how scornfully European pacifism is treated by those who confuse aversion to war with weakness or worse. But a world with a Continent that prefers to make mistakes trying to avoid war is better than a world where trigger-happy superpowers don't mind being mistaken when they decide to wage "pre-emptive wars."

If a government in Asia, Africa or Latin America starts violating human rights, "disappearing" political opponents and imprisoning journalists, who do you want with a strong voice in the international community? The Chinese Communist Party? Putin's Russia? Or Europe?

While for the last decade or so the United States has passively tolerated a massive redistribution of wealth from its poorest to its wealthiest citizens and while Russia and China celebrate a new oligarchy who accumulates unimaginable riches, Europe still has a huge aversion to inequality.

Which do you prefer: a world in which 5 percent of the population accumulates 95 percent of wealth and the rest remain poor and excluded or a world dominated by a vast, growing and politically powerful middle class? Europe still strives to achieve this second scenario.

The European welfare system is overly generous and many countries can no longer afford it. But a model in which millions of people lack health care or are condemned to poverty a few months after losing a job or upon becoming old and infirm may be equally unsustainable in the long run.

The European development aid to poorer countries is often inefficient, but Europe's commitment to humanitarian causes internationally has few peers. While religious extremism is thriving and dividing nations and societies everywhere, Europe's commitment to secularism and tolerance of all religions continues to be deeply rooted in what used to be the richest breeding ground of religious wars.

Globalization is rapidly expanding problems whose solutions require coordinated responses from several countries working together.

The European experiment of collective government is the most ambitious ever attempted. Its failure would lead many to dismiss the idea and refrain from trying something similar for a while. Losing this precious time in looking for ways to coordinate different nations is a luxury that we cannot afford at a time when too many global challenges require decisive and immediate multilateral action.

I do not know if the ambitious project of European integration will survive the enormous obstacles it currently faces. But I do know that if it fails, the entire world will pay the consequences.



1. How many countries are part of the European Union?

- A) 26
- B) 27
- C) 28

2. How many countries use the Euro?

- A) 19
- B) 21
- C) 22

3. 10% of the world population lives in Europe.

True / False

4. In which capital city can you find the Brandenburg Gate?

- A) Sofia
- B) London
- C) Berlin

5. When was the Brexit Referendum?

- A) 2017
- B) 2015
- C) 2016

6. Why are there 12 stars on the European flag?

- a) Europa, the mythical Greek Goddess had 12 sons
- b) To represent 12 member states
- c) It is a number that represents perfection and completeness

7. Is it True or False?

An Irish citizen who lives in Greece can participate in local Greek elections as well as European Parliament elections

8. What percentage of foreign investment in the U.S. comes from the EU?

- a) 35%
- b) 54%
- c) 62%



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission's support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents, which reflect the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

