



▶ **GET TO KNOW THE EU** ◀



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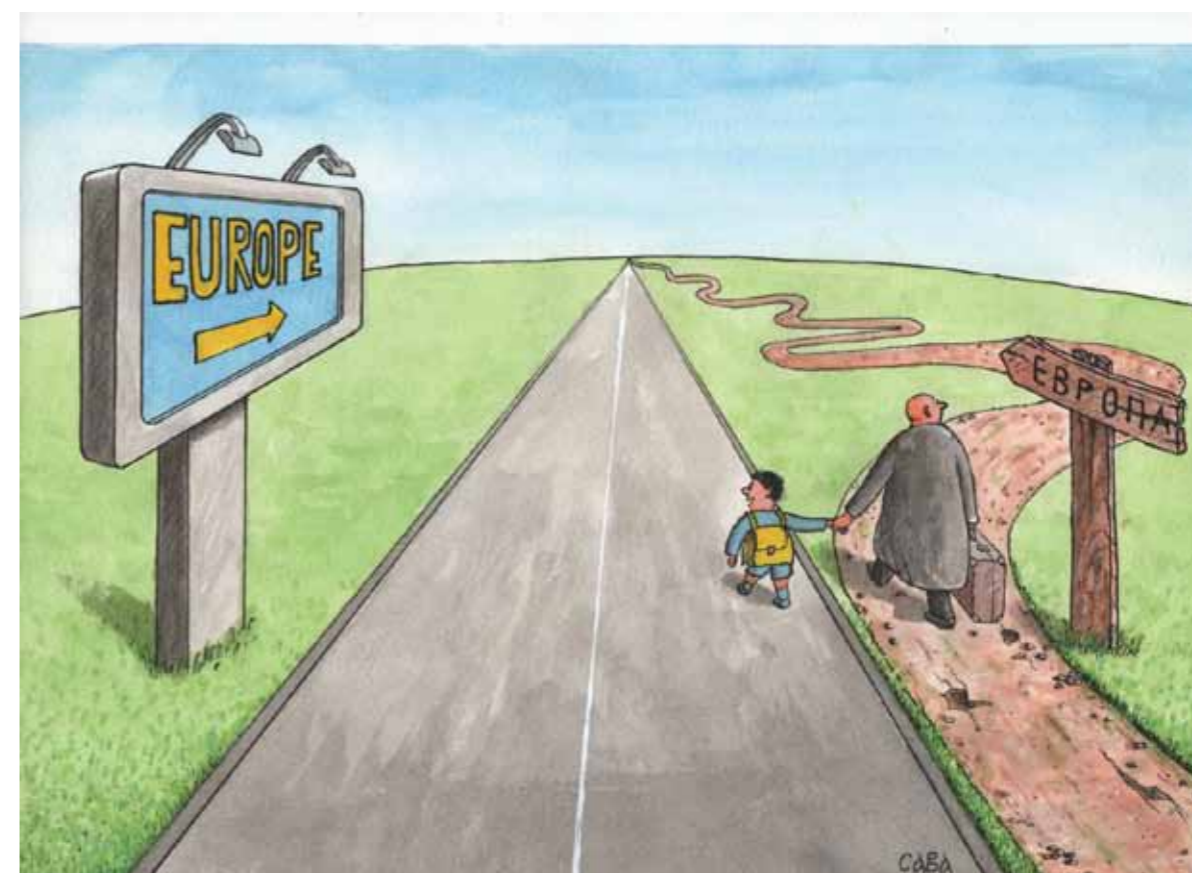
## ▶ Get to know the European Union

The European Union (EU) is a historic project based on a vision of united Europe, its global role and responsibility. Successive enlargements have consolidated peace and prosperity in Europe and increased the EU's role and responsibilities in the world.

As every country and nation that embarks on the path of EU accession, people in Serbia naturally have some concerns about what does this mean to them. Some tend to see the EU as a "bureaucracy", while many others want to know more about what they personally and Serbia in general would gain from the EU accession.

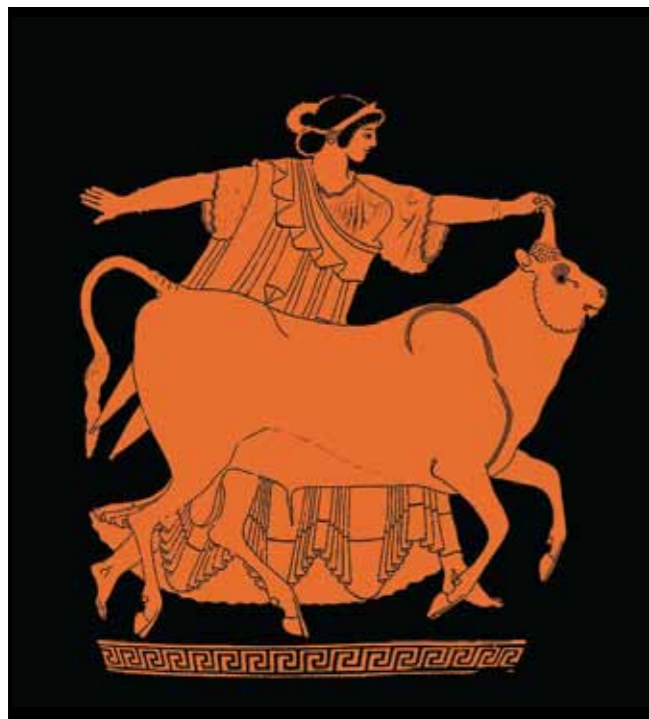
We hope this short brochure will help better understand the EU and Serbia's accession, and explain some of the typical "myths". We hope that the reader will also enjoy the cartoons coming from the competition organised in Serbia in 2013 and 2014.

Finally, we would like to thank Mr Velimir Čurgus Kazimir for kindly permitting to use some previously published material.



Sava Babić

# Europe: from myth to European Union



Europe started as a myth. In Greek mythology, Europa was a Phoenician princess from the coast of modern Lebanon and Syria whom god Zeus, disguised as a white bull, charmed and took to the island of Crete. There she gave birth to king Minos, the legendary founder of the Minoan civilisation. The night before, Europa had a dream that two continents, in the form of women, argued over Europa: Asia claimed that since Europa had been born in Asia she belonged to it, while the other nameless woman said that Zeus would give Europa to this (nameless) continent. Europa's brother Cadmus, the legendary founder of Thebes, was credited by the ancient Greeks with introducing the Phoenician alphabet to the Greeks.

The idea of Europe was shaped by the Greek and Hellenistic tradition of perceiving themselves (and Europe) as distinct from Asia (Persia) and Africa (Egypt). The father of history Herodotus portrayed the conflict between the Achaemenid Empire and the Greek city-states in the 5th century BC as one between the forces of slavery (the Persians) on the one hand, and freedom (the Athenians and the confederacy of Greek city-states) on the other.

The ideas behind the EU, conceptualised by French political economist and diplomat Jean Monnet, were put forward on 9 May 1950 by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman. The governments of France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg (the Founding Member States) agreed that pooling their coal and steel

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and ICJ advisory opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

production under supranational authority, the predecessor of the European Commission, would make terrible wars in Europe "not merely unthinkable, but materially impossible". Merging of economic interests to help raise standards of living was the first step towards united Europe. Therefore 9 May is celebrated as Europe Day. In 1951, the Treaty of Paris was signed, creating the European Coal and Steel Community. The name "European Union" was officially adopted in November 1993.

Today the EU includes 28 Member States. Six countries have a candidate status: Albania, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo are potential candidates. Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are closely associated with the Union through their membership in the European Economic Area. They participate in the EU's Internal Market without being members of the EU. Switzerland, where over 900,000 EU citizens live and work, participates in the EU's single market via a series of bilateral agreements.

## Did you know that...

Serbia has taken decisive steps towards joining the European Union. In March 2012 Serbia became a candidate country. In April 2013 in Brussels, then Serbian Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and Kosovo\* Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi reached a landmark agreement aimed at normalising relations. Concrete results in the implementation of this agreement should bring about a brighter future and lasting stability to the region. In December 2013, the European Council adopted the negotiating framework with Serbia. On 21 January 2014, the 1st Intergovernmental Conference took place in Brussels, signaling the formal start of Serbia's accession negotiations.

### Founding Members

Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands

### Enlargements

1973: Denmark, Ireland, and the United Kingdom

1981: Greece

1986: Portugal and Spain

1995: Austria, Finland, and Sweden

2004: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia

2007: Bulgaria and Romania

2013: Croatia

## Signing of the Rome Treaty in March 1957

A Belgian official was put in charge of organising the signature of the treaty establishing the European Economic Community in Rome, just negotiated in Brussels. He carried the material needed (typewriters, paper, mimeograph machines) in a train to Rome in a separate wagon. The wagon was lost on the way to Rome and a lot of time was wasted before it was found.



The work of putting on paper the Rome Treaty began in the basement of a historical building. To catch up, Italian students were hired, but two days later, they went on strike, so secretaries from Luxembourg were brought in.

When everything was finally ready, because of humidity, the paper was wet and had to be put on the floor for one night, in order to dry out the Treaty.

The official went to sleep and came back the next morning. But in the meantime the cleaning maids had visited the basemen, finding it full of what they saw as disposed paper. So they had all this "dirt" removed, including the stencils (which represented the original), so new copies could not be made.

The only solution was to sign the Treaty on a blank sheet, with only one page where the names of the heads of state and government appeared at the top. The properly prepared text was quickly added after signature of the Treaty.



As this story shows, the history of the European Union has never been a smooth ride, but all obstacles have been overcome, again and again.

## Opinion

### Serbia is better off staying neutral, by entering the EU Serbia would lose Kosovo, join NATO...

Serbia already neighbours four EU Member States – Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary and Romania – and all its other neighbours are determined to join the EU. Joining the EU would allow Serbia to enjoy the same benefits of membership that are already accessible to, or sought by, all of its neighbours.

In the EU, Serbia will have greater influence on the world stage via common trade and investment policy and the network of more than 130 EU Delegations around the world. Along with other Member States, it will be able to shape the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and reap the benefits of special relations with other global players and strategic partners – the USA, China, Japan, Brazil, Russia, India, Canada, Mexico, South Korea and South Africa.

Since the early 1950s, the EU has been a pioneer in regional integration and the most successful model of it. Many other regional groupings in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America adopted economic integration objectives and institutional designs that resemble, at least in their form, some of the features of the EU model. The most well-known cases include the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Mercosur in South America, the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU), and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Most recently, the Customs Union of Russia-Kazakhstan-Belarus and their Eurasian Economic Union (common market) were inspired by the success of the EU. Its Eurasian Economic Commission, established in January 2012 in Moscow, was closely modelled on the European Commission based in Brussels.

Most EU Member States have recognised Kosovo's independence, but some have not. In the framework of the EU facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, both sides are solving the problems of the day with strong assistance from the EU in order to achieve a comprehensive normalisation of their relations and improve daily lives of the people. Before accession, Belgrade will need to demonstrate that its relations with Pristina will not run counter to its obligations as a future member of the EU and will not create any dysfunction in the EU. Belgrade and Pristina have the EU as a living example of an organisation that knows well from its own experience how to turn historical conflicts and rivalries into constructive collaboration and solidarity that benefits all Europeans.

NATO membership is not a requisite for EU membership and therefore it is not a requirement for Serbia. Ireland, Austria, Finland, Malta, Cyprus and Sweden are EU Member States which are not NATO members.

Nonetheless, Serbia has been participating in NATO's Partnership for Peace Programme since 2006. There is no EU army and each Member State retains control over its defences. At the same time, Member States have committed themselves to a Common Foreign and Security Policy, which includes the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP).

A senior adviser to Herman Van Rompuy, the first full-time President of the European Council, who had summoned leaders to discuss relations with China, India, Russia and America in September 2010, was asked how to define a "strategic partnership". "It's like love, you know it when you see it," - he replied.



Predrag Koraksić Corax



Špiro Radulović

## Who does what in the EU?



Three main institutions are involved in making EU legislation: **the European Parliament**, which represents the EU's citizens and is directly elected by them; the Council of the European Union, which represents the governments of the individual member countries; and the European Commission, which is the civil service of the EU. In principle, the Commission proposes new laws, and the Parliament and Council adopt them. The Commission and the Member States then implement them, and the Commission ensures that the laws are properly applied and implemented.

Every six months, each Member State has the honour to hold the Presidency of **the Council of the European Union**. The presidency's function is to chair meetings of the Council of ministers of Member States responsible for specific areas, determine its agendas, set a work programme and facilitate dialogue both at Council meetings and with other EU institutions. Italy holds the presidency in July - December 2014, succeeded by Latvia and Luxembourg.

**The European Commission** is responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and day-to-day running of the EU. It has 28 Commissioners - one from each Member State - appointed every five years. It is based in Brussels with some offices in Luxembourg, and it also has offices (representations) throughout the EU.

**The European Council** of the heads of state or heads of government of the EU Member States provides the general political directions and priorities of the Union, although it has no powers to pass laws. It meets

at least twice every six months in Brussels in what are commonly referred to as EU summits. The European Council was established as an informal body in 1975 and became an official EU institution in 2009.

The first direct, democratic elections to the European Parliament were held in June 1979 and take place every five years (the last elections were in May 2014). During the election, 400 million eligible voters across 28 countries choose representatives for a joint assembly of 751 members. Voting is mandatory in Belgium, Cyprus, Greece and Luxembourg. Since 1992 every citizen of the EU has the right to vote for and stand as a candidate in municipal and European Parliament elections in whichever EU country she/he resides, under the same conditions as nationals.



**The Court of Justice** of the EU reviews the legality of the acts of the institutions of the EU; ensures that the Member States comply with obligations under the Treaties; and interprets European Union law at the request of the national courts and tribunals. In cooperation with the courts and tribunals of the Member States, it ensures the uniform application and interpretation of European Union law.

**The Court of Auditors** checks the financing of the EU's activities; both are in Luxembourg. **The European Central Bank** located in Frankfurt manages the euro - the EU's single currency - and safeguards price stability in the EU. It is also responsible for framing and implementing the EU's economic and monetary policy. **The European Economic and Social Committee** represents civil society, employers and employees of Member States. The **Committee of the Regions** represents regional and local authorities. They have a strong advisory role in adopting EU legislation.

A number of agencies deal with specific technical, scientific or managerial tasks. For example, the European Food Safety Authority in Italy provides independent scientific advice on all matters related to food safety.

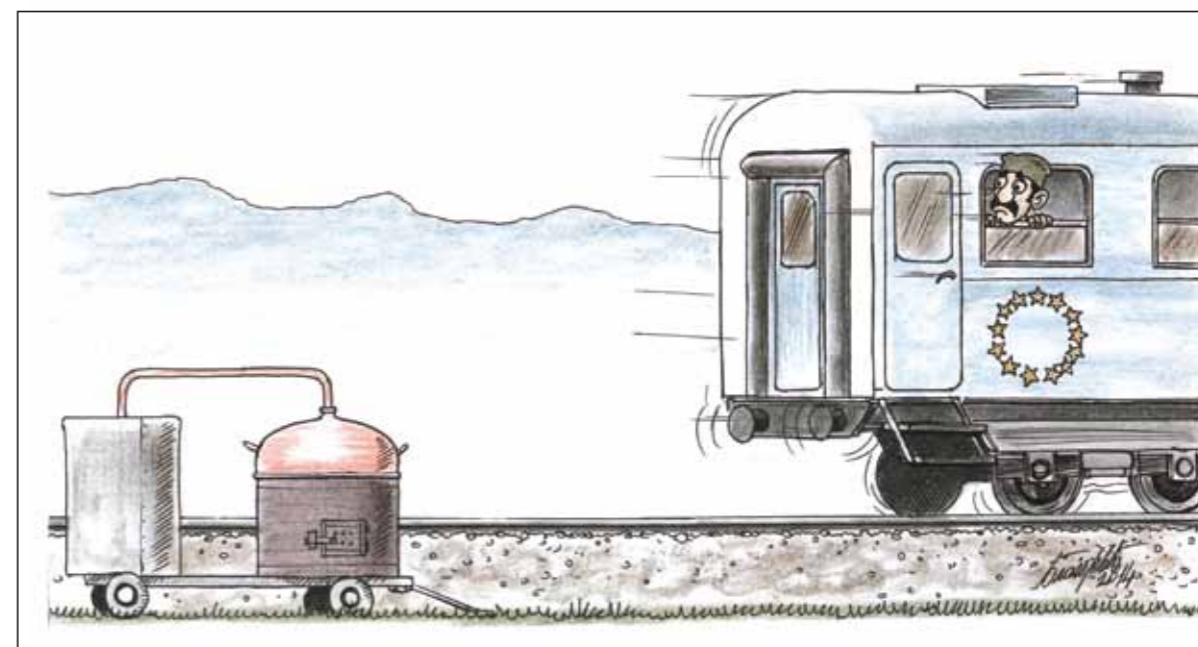
In the world, the EU is represented through more than 130 Delegations and Offices. They report both to the Commission and the European External Action Service in Brussels, EU's diplomatic corps supporting the EU foreign affairs chief in conducting EU foreign and security policy. The Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia is headed by Ambassador Michael Davenport who in addition to many other languages speaks fluent Serbian.

### Did you know that...

EU citizens have access to all EU documents in the official language of their country, have the right to write to the European Commission, and receive a reply in that language. Members of the European Parliament can speak any of the EU's 24 official languages when speaking in Parliament. The European Commission and the European Parliament have some of the largest translation and interpreting services in the world.

Careers with the EU institutions attract talented people from across Europe, selected through highly competitive examinations (currently 1 out of 1,000 applicants gets a permanent job as official). More than 50,000 people serve and work in the EU institutions, the biggest number - around 33,000 - in the European Commission. This is similar to the administrations of big cities, e.g. Stockholm employed 40,000 people in 2013. When compared to national ministries of big Member States, Commission services (called Directorates General) are often significantly smaller.

The Directorate General of Enlargement of the European Commission has approximately 900 staff members in Brussels and in the EU Delegations in eight 'enlargement countries'. They deal with all aspects of the accession process, assist the candidate countries and potential candidates in meeting the membership criteria, help implement the EU's stabilisation and association policy in the Western Balkans, manage the EU's bilateral relations and also the bulk of the EU's financial assistance.



Saša Blagojević

## EU symbols and values



In the European flag, the 12 golden (yellow) stars on an azure background in a circle symbolise the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. **"United in diversity"** is the motto of the European Union. The melody of the European anthem comes from the Ninth Symphony composed in 1823 by Ludwig Van Beethoven in Vienna. It was completed in 1824 when Beethoven was completely deaf. The final movement of the symphony provides a setting for "An Die Freude" (Ode or Hymn to Joy) written by German poet, playwright and historian Friedrich Schiller 39 years before, who was enthusiastically celebrating the brotherhood and unity of all mankind. Some researchers believe that the poem was originally an 'Ode to Freedom'; however, the word 'Joy' (Freude instead of Freiheit) was officially used.

**Human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights:** these are the core values of the EU



which are set out at the beginning of the Treaty of Lisbon, the latest in line of treaties that regulate functioning of the EU (set into force in December 2009). They are common to all Member States, and any European country wishing to become a member of the Union must respect them. Promoting these values, as well as peace and the well-being of the Union's peoples are the main objectives of the Union. These general objectives are supplemented by a list of more detailed ones, including the promotion of social justice and protection, and the fight against social exclusion and discrimination. Abolition of the death penalty is a prerequisite for EU membership. The EU actively promotes a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Belarus is the only country in Europe that still have death penalty stipulated by the law.

In 2012 the EU received the Nobel Peace Prize for contribution to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights. EU High Representative Catherine Ashton, then-Prime Minister Ivica Dačić and Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi were nominated for the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize, for their contribution in reaching the Brussels agreement on normalisation of relations between Serbia and Kosovo.

### Opinion

#### Serbia risks losing its traditions and national identity...

The EU respects its members' sovereignty and fosters their cultural diversity. In the EU, Serbia will have plenty of opportunities to showcase its culture, customs and gastronomy.

EU programmes support significant European cultural initiatives and events, help developing rural areas and regions, and foster national specificities and tourist attractions. Furthermore, there are 24 official languages in the EU, giving the same right and importance to each national language. Serbian (with its official Cyrillic script) will be recognised as an official EU language, and all official EU documents and lots of other information will be translated into Serbian every day.

### Opinion

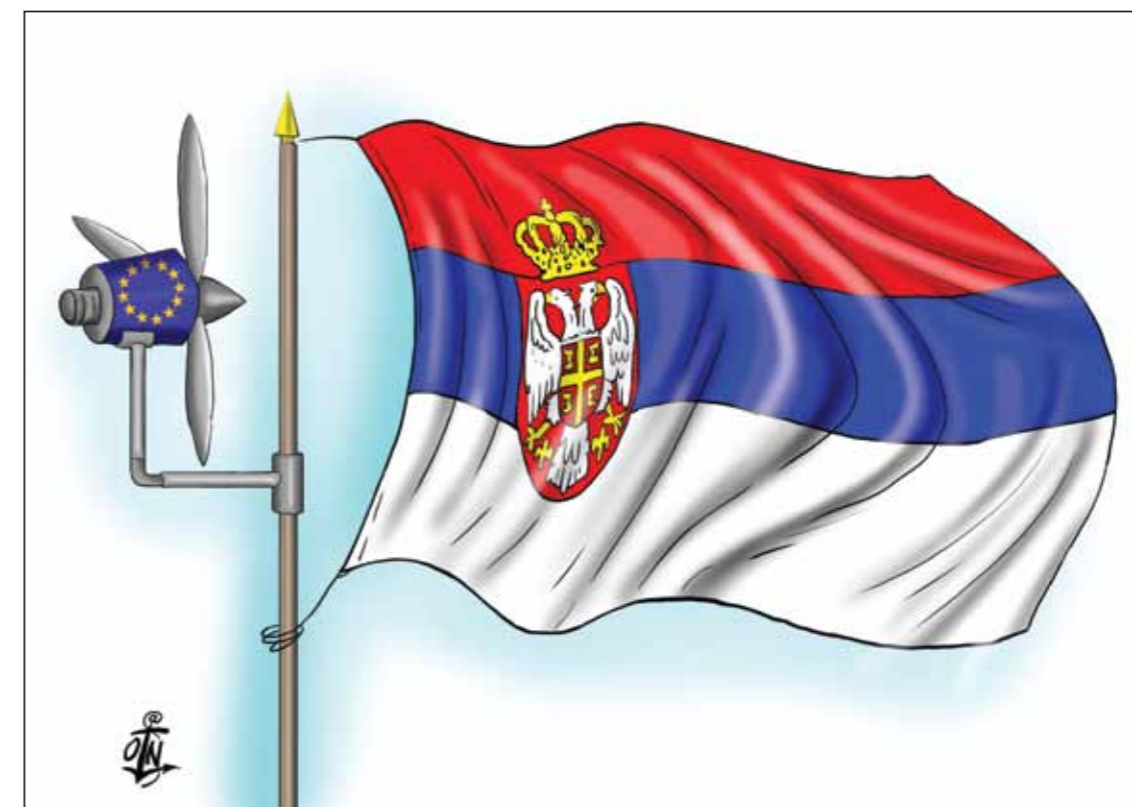
#### It is the EU in Brussels which will decide for our lives.

#### Serbia is small and cannot influence EU policies...

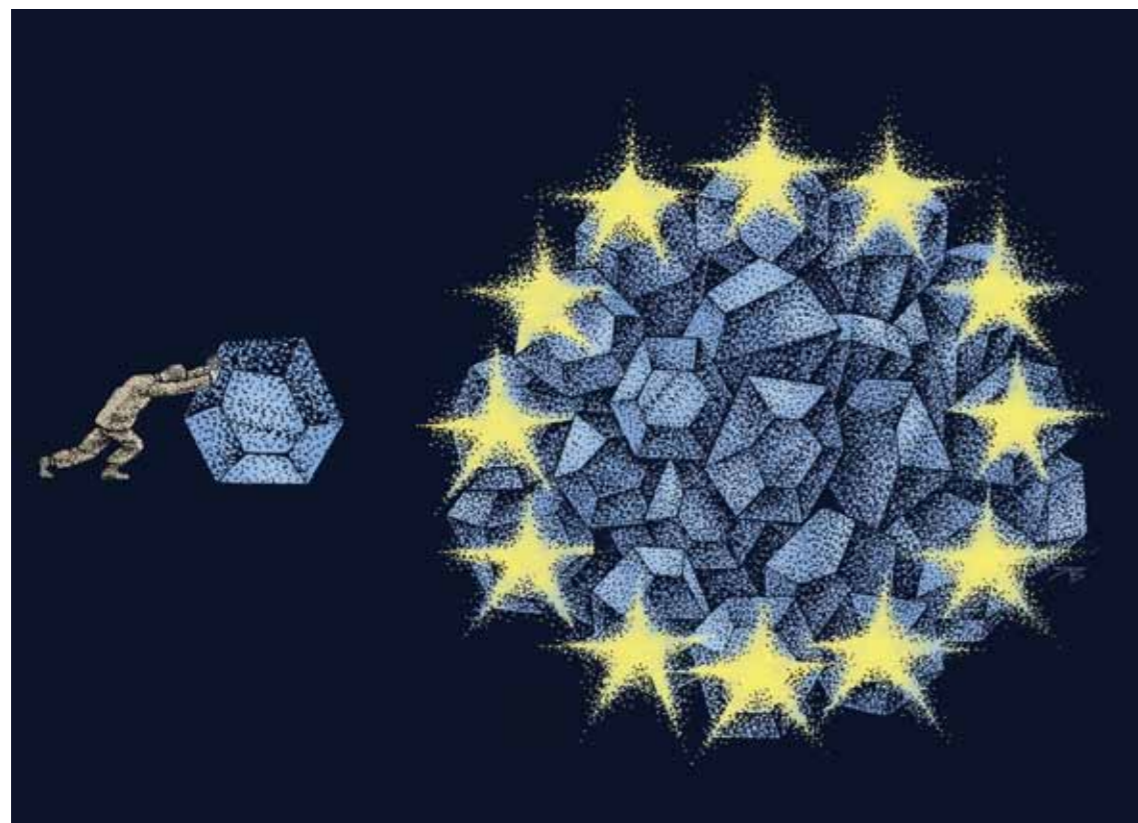
The accession to the EU is a democratic process. The citizens will have the last word and ultimately decide by referendum on Serbia's EU accession. The EU and its institutions are accountable to both its Member States as well as to citizens. In the EU, Serbian people's voice will be heard through their representatives in the EU institutions including directly elected Members of European Parliament. Serbia and its citizens will influence decisions made in Brussels, just like other Member States.

Checks, balances and solidarity give small countries a strong voice in the EU. Many measures must receive support from at least half of all countries to pass. Qualified majority voting enables that smaller countries are actually given more votes per head of population within the Council of Ministers – which represents national interests in the EU. For example, Germany (population: 80.4 million) has 1 vote per 2.8 million people, while Malta (population: 400,000) has 1 vote per 140,000 people. The European Parliament also favors small countries: Bulgaria, which has a similar population as Serbia, has 18 representatives, while eleven times more populous Germany has 96 MEPs.

"The stabilizing part played by the EU has helped to transform most of Europe from a continent of war to a continent of peace." – The Nobel Committee, when awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the EU, 12 October 2012



Nikola Otaš



Jugoslav Vlahović

## ▶ The European Union is the most successful peace project in modern history



Countries that once fought devastating wars now form a close union based on common values, with a robust single market, its own legal system, decision making and institutions. The mere idea of an armed conflict between its members is unthinkable.

Successive EU enlargements have extended this area of peace, stability and democracy across the European continent. The accession of Spain, Portugal and Greece in the 1980s strengthened democracy in these countries after the transition from authoritarian regimes; the 2004-2007 accession of countries in Central and Eastern Europe finally reunited a large part of our continent after the fall of the iron curtain, bringing stability and strengthening democracy in the region. The accession of Croatia in July 2013 has anchored stability in the Western Balkans – a region where memories of war in the 1990s are still fresh.

Enlargement has proven to be one of the most important instruments for European security. It reflects the essence of the EU as a civilian power, extending the area of peace and prosperity, liberty and democracy. The EU's gravitational pull has been a key stabilising factor on our continent.

The history of the EU proves that there is no contradiction between widening the Union and deepening its integration. The EU has done both.

▶ Since 1973, the EU has enlarged seven times to take in 22 new countries.

▶ At the same time, it has developed the Single Market, created the Schengen area of passport-free travel, adopted the euro, created a new model of economic governance and developed a host of other new policies, including a stronger foreign policy.

Studies note the remarkable continuity of the institutional architecture of the EU. The – sometimes apocalyptic – pronouncements of a 'break-down', 'blockage' or 'collapse' of the enlarged EU have clearly turned out to be wide off the mark. The Union has proven to be a flexible system, demonstrating the capacity to adapt to a new environment with increased membership and, arguably, increased political diversity. The Union is focussing on rationalising integration, addressing jobs and growth issues, and ensuring that future enlargements are supported both within the EU and in candidate countries.







Nebojša Vukeljić

## ▶ The rule of law is a founding pillar of the EU



The rule of law is the backbone of modern democratic societies and one of the cornerstones of EU membership. It is part of the founding values of the EU and it is part of the Copenhagen criteria<sup>1</sup> that any country has to fulfil before it is allowed to join the EU.

The rule of law is now at the heart of the enlargement process, it is addressed from the very start of accession negotiations. Citizens of the countries wishing to join the EU benefit from improvements in the judiciary, the fight against organised crime and corruption. Accession mechanism helps candidate countries to develop a solid track record of reform implementation, thereby ensuring that reforms are deeply rooted and irreversible.

Primary responsibility for upholding the rule of law and preserving democracy lies with the national authorities. However, **the EU Treaties set out core principles and procedures should a Member State not respect the rule of law:**

- ▶ The EU has 'soft' instruments such as the EU Justice Scoreboard to monitor and evaluate justice systems in Europe, and ensure that the rule of law is being followed effectively.
- ▶ The European Commission has an early warning system in case of a systemic breakdown which adversely affects the integrity, stability and proper functioning of the institutions and mechanisms established

<sup>1</sup> Copenhagen criteria are conditions for membership adopted at the 1993 EU Summit held in Copenhagen. Those are three criteria: political, economic and legal.

at national level to secure the rule of law. This would serve as an early warning tool that could help prevent the escalation of any threats to the rule of law.

- ▶ The Commission can start infringement procedures and ultimately bring any Member State to the European Court of Justice for breach of EU legislation. For instance, there is EU legislation that protects individuals from being discriminated against on the grounds of nationality, age, race or ethnic origin, or religious belief.
- ▶ The Lisbon Treaty contains an unprecedented political instrument (Article 7) which, at its most severe, allows for the suspension of voting rights in case of a "serious and persistent breach" of EU values by a Member State.

### Opinion

#### EU is in crisis, it could disintegrate...

EU solidarity allowed Member States severely hit by the economic crisis to avoid bankruptcy, cope with high unemployment, stabilise public finances, and launch reforms that put them on the path of economic recovery. The EU is coming out of one of the deepest economic crises the world has witnessed with new confidence and a set of tools for better coordination of economic policies and resistance to economic shocks. The EU institutions and Member States are working hard to improve EU's global competitiveness and create jobs. The EU remains one of the most attractive places in the world to live, study and work.



Snežana Čomor

## ► Economy – a positive sum game



**The EU is now the largest integrated economic area in the world, making it a stronger player on the world stage.**

- The EU is among the five richest economies in the world and accounts for a quarter of the world's GDP, compared to 14.2% in 1956 for the six founding members. In 2012 the EU had a lower government debt (85.3% of GDP) than the United States (106.5%).
- The EU is the largest player in global trade, with 16.4% of world exports. The European Commission negotiates trade agreements with other countries on behalf of the entire EU.
- The EU is the largest source and destination of foreign direct investment in the world measured by both stocks and flows, attracting investments worth €225 billion from the rest of the world in 2011 alone. By 2010 outward stocks of FDI amounted to €4.2 trillion or 26.4% of the global FDI stock, while EU inward stocks accounted for €3 trillion or 19.7% of the global total.
- The EU has one of the highest standards of living in the world, thanks to the social market economic model. Not only is the EU amongst the top 5 best performing economies in the world, with average GDP per person of around €26,000 in 2012. It also accounts for more than half the world's social protection spending (58%).

**Although the global financial and economic crisis slowed down economic development in all member states, a bigger, more integrated EU is better able to address the challenges together.**

- While growth in the Member States that joined prior to 2004 stalled after the recession, EU12 countries had recovered all output lost by 2011.
- The recovery, which started in mid-2013, is boosted by the higher growth potential of the countries that joined after 2004, forecast to be around 2% in 2015.
- The labour market is also stronger thanks to a quicker rebound in the recently joined countries, where unemployment on average has remained significantly lower.

- According to the World Health Organisation, most countries in the world where people can expect to live to 82 or longer are European (France, Spain, Sweden...).
- On the UN's human development index, Estonia, Slovakia and Greece outrank Qatar, despite its wealth.
- Greek income per capita is double Brazil's, more than three times China's and 15 times India's, according to the World Bank.
- Europe accounts for seven of the top nine countries on the World Economic Forum's index measuring gender equality, six of the top eight in Transparency International's corruption perception index and the 17 countries with most income equality.

## Opinion

### Foreigners will buy all Serbian agricultural land...

Similar fears were expressed during previous enlargements of the EU, but they turned out to be exaggerated. Already, there are no restrictions on renting land to foreigners. Before the entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement on 1 September 2013, EU companies or nationals could – if they bought or registered a Serbian company – (indirectly) own agricultural land in Serbia. This has however not happened on a large scale.

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement – as of its entry into force – enables the purchase by EU nationals and subsidiaries of EU companies of real estate, including agricultural land, in Serbia. Within four years from the entry into force of this agreement, Serbia would guarantee equal treatment between EU nationals and its own citizens in the acquisition of real estate. In fact, acquisition of agricultural land by subsidiaries of EU companies or by EU nationals could bring efficiency, modern technologies and know-how to the Serbian agricultural sector. This can in turn increase the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture, boost export, generate economic growth and create new jobs. As an additional safeguard, some Member States set a minimum area of agricultural land that foreign citizens and legal entities can acquire without restrictions.

## Did you know that...

The Single Market of the EU initially benefited 345 million people in 1992 and over 500 million people today. There are more than 20 million small and medium enterprises in the EU which represent 99% of businesses, create two-thirds of private sector jobs, and account for nearly 60% of output.

▶ The EU is the biggest aid donor in the world providing almost two thirds of all global aid. Thanks to EU, in 2004-2012 more than 67 million people in developing countries gained access to drinking water and more than 23 million improved their sanitation.

▶ Serbia is one of the biggest recipients of EU funds in the world, and the biggest recipient of EU funds from the whole region of the Western Balkans with €200 million per year and more than €2.6 billion (as of January 2014) in grants provided in the period 2000-2014 (more than €350 per citizen).

▶ Within European manufacturing, the agri-food sector is the biggest employer with 4.2 million jobs and a turnover of €954 billion. The EU can claim to be the world's number one importer and exporter of agri-food products.

▶ The European Social Fund (ESF) from 2007 - 2011 helped 12.5 million people with job training or other forms of assistance; 2.4 million found



a job within 6 months after that. Some 800,000 young Europeans entered the workplace thanks to EU Youth Employment Initiative in 2013.

## Opinion

### The EU does not help Serbia, ordinary people will not feel any benefits ...

The EU is by far the largest donor to Serbia. Since the year of 2000 the EU, together with its Member States, has contributed 75% of all donations received by Serbia (in comparison, Russia provided about 3%). Serbia also benefits from inexpensive loans provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as well as the European Investment Bank. The EU has supported Serbia's transport infrastructure (Sloboda, Zvezdara and Gazela bridges, roads and border crossings), health care (ambulance cars, mammographs, medical waste treatment), air and water quality, solid waste (Subotica, Sremska Mitrovica, Uzice, Pozarevac), accessing EU programmes such as Erasmus (for education, training, youth and sport), reforming the public administration to deliver better services to citizens, helping to build an independent and effective justice system, fighting corruption, increasing competitiveness, regional and rural development. In recent years support is increasingly oriented towards preparations for EU membership.

A mark of special trust in EU-Serbia relations is that in 2014 Serbia took over management of EU funded projects. There are currently over 600 on-going projects under implementation covering a wide range of sectors for the overall benefit of Serbian citizens. Most of these projects are smoothly implemented and have the full commitment of the Serbian authorities and final beneficiaries.

The financial assistance is mostly provided through EU's Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA) which helps Serbia to prepare for assuming and effectively implementing obligations of its future membership in the EU. Unlike loans provided by other institutions or countries, these grants do not have to be repaid. This assistance has a strong impact on the modernization of Serbia and the reform process. In terms of investments, Europe also is the strongest partner of Serbia (65% of

investments come from the EU's countries), as well as concerning trade relations which are all generating growth and jobs. Over 63% of Serbia's trade is with countries of the EU.

The Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Serbia entered into force in September 2013. This agreement, and the previous Interim Agreement on trade and trade related matters, has contributed to the large increase of Serbian exports to the EU: over 60% between 2010 and 2013. Foreign direct investments coming from the EU accounted for 76% of all investment to Serbia from 2005 to 2012 and this trend has continued.

Serbia's trade surplus in exchange of agricultural products with the EU has risen from around €200 million in 2009 to over €300 million in 2013. Upon accession to the EU, Serbia's regions and farmers will receive funds for the development of regions from the Cohesion Fund and the Common Agricultural Policy, which together account for 73% of the EU budget.

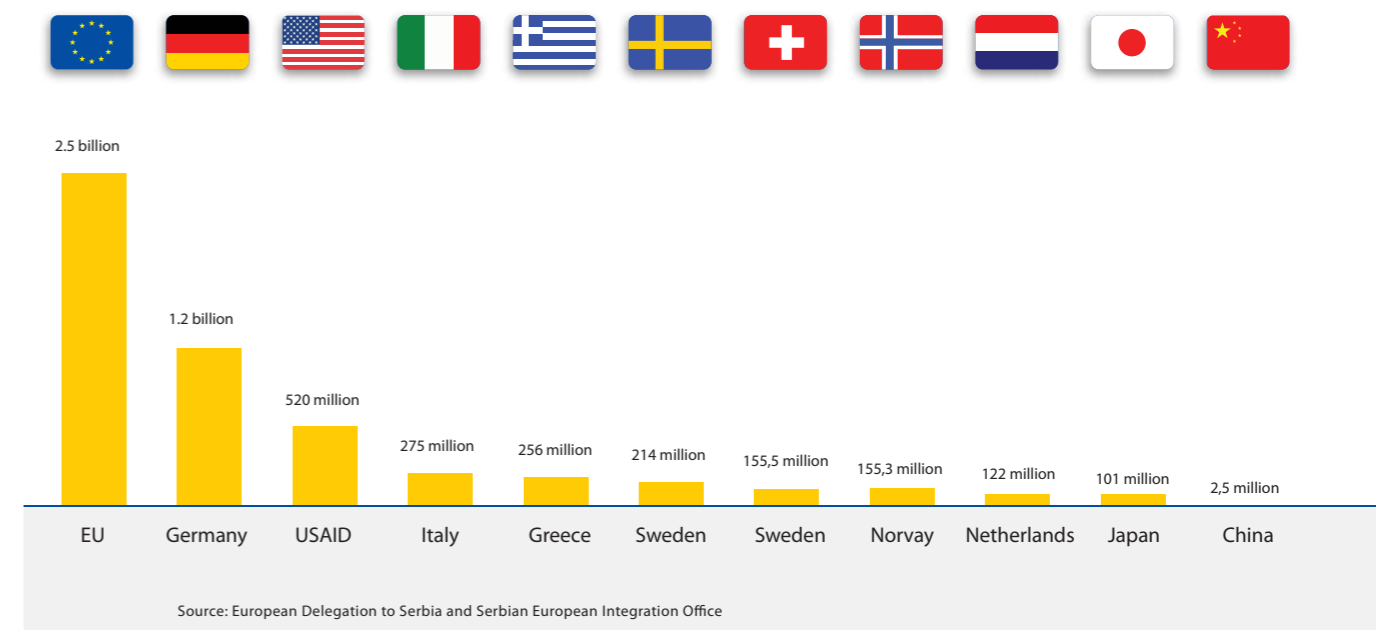
Small and medium enterprises have access to affordable loans provided by European banks. Serbian students can participate in a European student exchange programme for studying in another European country from 3 months to a maximum 24 months.

EU membership would bring Serbian citizens freedom to travel, live, work, retire or study anywhere within the EU and would also allow Serbian companies to operate across the world's largest market more easily. Membership would mean that consumers would be protected more. Increased competition will result in a greater variety of goods offered in the Serbian market which can be expected to lower prices. Infrastructure such as road and rail networks will improve, and quality of air and water will increase. All countries that have joined the EU have seen an increase in living standards, life expectancy and a large range of social and health indicators.

When catastrophic floods hit Serbia and other countries in the region in May 2014, the EU and its Member States provided immediate, massive and comprehensive support, sending rescue teams with specialised equipment, humanitarian aid, helping coordinate assistance and assess damage. The EU is the biggest supporter of the reconstruction with multi-million assistance package. Serbia has applied for payments from the European Solidarity Fund, to which it already has the same right of access as EU member states.

## Donors to Serbia from 2000 to 2013

### Grants to Serbia in period 2000-2013, real amounts in €



TNS Medlum Gallup  
Public presentation 04.04.2014.  
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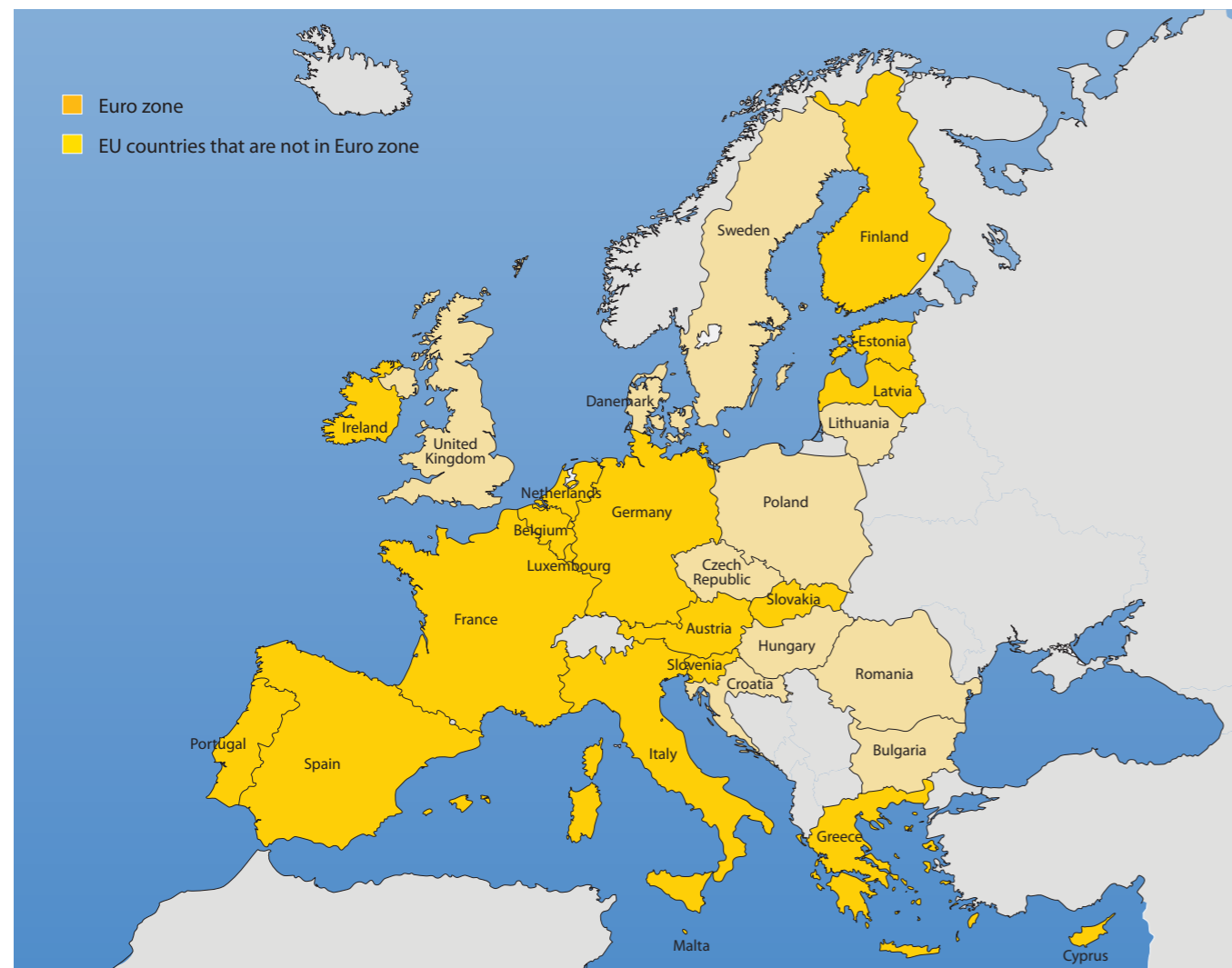
Research funded by the EU



## Did you know that...

Euro (€) entered circulation in 12 Member States on 1 January 2002. Today it is the sole currency of 18 Member States and six non-EU members (Monaco, San Marino, Vatican, Andorra, Montenegro and Kosovo\*). More than 200 million people worldwide use currencies pegged to the Euro. Maintaining price stability is the primary objective of the Euro system, which aims at inflation rates of below, but close to, 2% over the medium term.

The single currency Euro is doing well. Latvia joined the Euro area in January 2014 and Lithuania is set to become the 19th member of the Eurozone in January 2015.



► Euro zone, 2014 (source: <http://eurozone.europa.eu/>)



Ivan Jevtić

## ▶ The economic benefits of enlargement



**Economically, enlargement has benefitted all EU Member States.** It has strengthened the EU's position as a global economic player. It has created a larger and more integrated internal market, to the benefit of all Member States. In particular, it has boosted growth and improved living standards in the 12 countries that have joined the EU in 2004 and 2007, and provided new export and investment opportunities for the 15 countries that were already members. While the crisis has affected growth and jobs in all Member States, the enlarged EU has been better able to weather the storm together.

**Enlargement has broken down trade barriers in Europe, creating a bigger, more integrated and more prosperous internal market. It has made the EU more competitive as a whole and more attractive for global investors.**

- ▶ From 1992-2008, the single market generated an extra 2.77 million jobs and an additional 2.13% in GDP for its members.
- ▶ Goods exports within the EU (intra-EU trade) were valued at €2.8 trillion in 2012, 1.7 times as high as the value of goods exported outside the EU. This is thanks in part to significant rises in countries that joined since 2004, where intra-EU goods exports went from 34.1% of GDP to 41.6% in just eight years.
- ▶ The value of EU exports to the rest of the world rose by 50% between 2004 and 2012, and the value of services exported went up

by 81% in the same period. By 2013, net exports of both goods and services were the main contributor to growth in the EU as a whole.

- ▶ A larger single market is more attractive to investors: The stock of FDI from the rest of the world to the EU27 has doubled in the last decade to 30.5% of GDP in 2012.
- ▶ The single market has supported the creation of strong regional value chains. This is illustrated by the successful integration of companies such as Czech Škoda, which is wholly owned by Germany's Volkswagen AG, or Romania's Dacia, which is now part of Renault.



### Success story: Car manufacturing

**Škoda Auto used to be the butt of jokes in the 1980s: Why do Škodas have rear window heating? So your hands do not freeze while pushing them.** In 1989, the company sold about 150,000 cars in the former Czechoslovakia, despite having a monopoly. In 1991, Volkswagen AG bought a 30 percent stake in Škoda Auto, and by 2000 it had taken over the company. The subsidiary initially made the simpler parts that VW required for its cheaper cars. Škoda now makes more complicated transmissions and even engines for its parent. But it still makes its own cars—more than 750,000 of them in 2010—in plants at home in the Czech Republic and in the Slovak Republic, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and India. Škoda tops consumer satisfaction surveys in the United Kingdom and India, beating Ford, Honda, and Toyota and inspiring loyalty instead of derision. And the company made almost \$2 billion in profits for Volkswagen last year.

Škoda's success is symbolic of the progress in the manufacturing trade in Central and South-eastern Europe. German, Swedish, Swiss, French, and other manufacturers have been offshoring production, increasing the productivity of subsidiaries in emerging Europe and the profitability of their parents. Romania's Dacia is doing the same for Renault. Italy's Fiat has found it profitable to look east too: it now owns two-thirds of Serbia's Zastava Automobiles - known for producing the Yugo - and produces bestselling minivans in collaboration with TOFAS in Turkey.

**The 12 countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 have seen significant improvements in growth and living standards, which has led to more economic and social cohesion in the EU as a whole.**

- ▶ GDP per capita in these countries rose from 40% of the EU15 average in 1999 to 52% in 2008. Despite the crisis, GDP per capita has continued to rise, in 2012 reaching 60% of the 15 Member States that were in the EU before 2004.
- ▶ Cohesion funding from the EU budget directly created more than half a million jobs in the 12 Member States in 2007-2012 and increased GDP by an estimated 1.5% a year since 2007. The European Commission estimates that this trend will remain and may even increase to 2.4% of GDP a year in 2016-2025.
- ▶ The amount of foreign direct investment flows to the 12 countries from the rest of the EU increased from €5 billion in 2003 to €50 billion in 2006.
- ▶ Competitiveness has improved in the run-up to and since enlargement. For example, in Estonia, labour productivity in the tradable sector increased by 10.9% in 1999-2003 and 6% in 2004-2012; in Slovakia it went up by 10.3% in 1999-2003 and 6.3% in 2004-2012.
- ▶ The share of productive public expenditure (in research and development, energy, transport, education, health and environment) increased in almost all of the 12 countries after accession.

### Did you know that...

In half a century, the EU has achieved peace and a remarkable degree of stability and prosperity. One statistic figure sums it all – people in the EU live 12 years longer than the average citizen in the world: the average life expectancy in Europe is 78.9 years (69 in Russia). According to opinion polls, Danes are the happiest people in the world. Denmark is also considered to have the lowest level of corruption in the world.

Despite its advanced industry and high density of population, European carbon dioxide emissions (7.5 tonnes per capita) are less than half of the emissions per capita of the US (17.3), Australia (19), Canada (16.2) and China (7.6). Austria, Sweden and France are among the world's top ten cleanest countries.

### Opinion

**If Serbia joins the EU, small businesses will go under due to intensive competition...**

On the contrary. Following previous enlargements, trade between "old" and "new" Member States grew rapidly, creating many new opportunities for small entrepreneurs and new jobs. There is no reason why Serbia should not benefit in the same way. In addition to that, the EU has a supporting policy for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); it helps them to solve problems, access finance, find partners or go international. In 2013 the European Investment Bank (EIB) has signed two finance contracts totaling €50 million in Serbia with Crédit Agricole Group to finance the projects of SMEs promoted by local authorities and final beneficiaries in the areas of knowledge economy, energy, environment protection, industry, health, education and services.



Filip Karan

## Free movement of people is a fundamental right, bringing benefits to the economy and society as a whole



The four freedoms come together like four sides of a square. You cannot have free movement of services and capital, but not of persons. Can you imagine a situation where goods, capital and services could move from Nis to Novi Sad, but people could not? The same applies in the EU.

**Free movement benefits the economy.** Despite the economic crisis, 2 million jobs in the EU remain unfilled. Free movement means that these vacancies can be filled by workers with the necessary skills, lowering unemployment and making the EU more productive and competitive. It has been shown that mobile workers pay more in taxes than they claim in social benefits.

**Free movement benefits individuals.** EU citizens can choose to live, work and study anywhere in the EU. That means that entrepreneurs can go where the opportunities are greatest; workers can go where their skills are needed; citizens can choose where they would like to live; and quality education anywhere in the EU is much more accessible.

**Free movement is a right, but it comes with responsibilities.** Any abuse must be tackled firmly. Member States can refuse, terminate or withdraw the right to free movement in the case of abuse and fraud. They can also decide which benefits they wish to grant under which

conditions, so long as they don't discriminate. At the EU level, the Commission has taken action to clarify anti-abuse rules, for instance on entitlement to benefits and on sham marriages. The European Social Fund is also available to provide financial support in cases where there is extra pressure on local services.

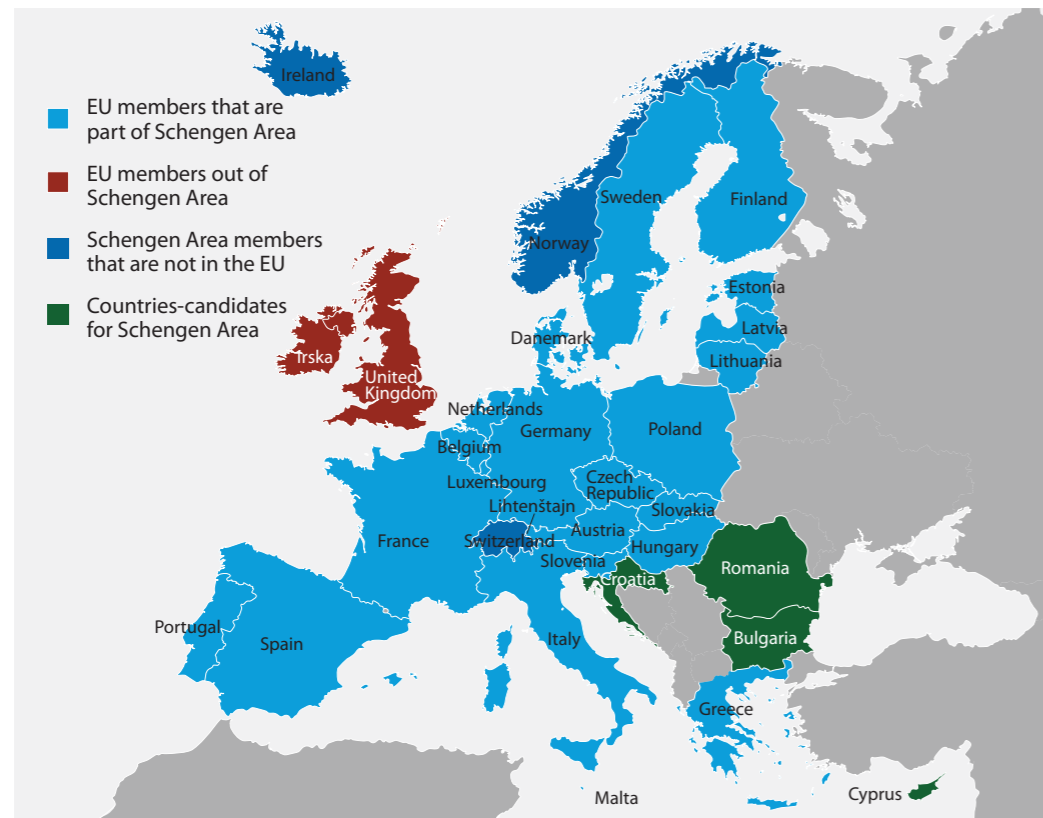
Although migration is a serious concern in some Member States, just 2.8% of the total EU population (14.1 million) are mobile EU nationals. Even in the 'old' Member States (EU15), mobile EU nationals make up just 4.1% of the labour force on average. And compared to both Australia and the US, the annual cross-border mobility rate in the EU is actually relatively low: just 0.29%, compared to 1.5% in Australia and 2.4% in the US.

**The border-free Schengen Area** guarantees free movement to more than 400 million EU citizens, as well as many non-EU nationals, businessmen, tourists or other persons legally present on the EU territory. Twenty two EU Member States are part of the Schengen Area, and also Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. Any person, irrespective of nationality, may cross the internal borders without being subjected to border checks. The Schengen agreement facilitates the free movement of persons, a fundamental right guaranteed by the EU to its citizens.

## Did you know that...

The EU protects the rights of air passengers: if boarding is denied, flight is cancelled or arrives more than 3 hours late at an EU airport, the passenger is entitled to compensation of €250 – 600. Airlines in the EU can no longer refuse transportation because of disability. Websites that sell flights are required to eliminate hidden charges. Due to competition and EU regulation, roaming charges on mobile

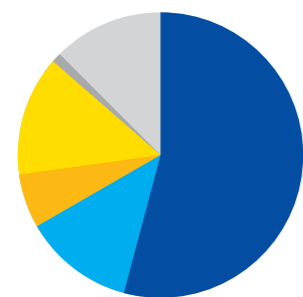
calls inside the EU have decreased dramatically, up to 91% compared to 2007. From July 2014, EU mobile phone users will no longer be charged extra when receiving a call on their mobile phone while travelling in another EU country. International call charges would be capped at the price of a long-distance domestic call, and intra-EU mobile calls at €0.19 per minute (plus VAT), a reduction of 21%. Roaming charges for downloading information have been reduced by 56%, to 20 eurocents per megabyte. The roaming charges should disappear by 2016.



► Schengen Area (source: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs>)

### Facts and Figures

Mobile EU citizens in the EU-27 in 2012 (excluding DE & UK)



■ Employed ■ Jobseeker ■ Student  
■ Retired ■ Disabled ■ Other

### EU Support to Member States

- Fighting marriages of convenience.
- Clarifying social security rules.
- Tackling social exclusion.
- Helping local authorities share knowledge and improve their understanding of free movement rules.
- A minimum of 20% of the European Social Fund allocation for 2014-2020 to be spent on promoting social inclusion and combatting poverty and discrimination.



Milan Rogulja

## EU quality of life



**Being part of the EU helps to improve quality of life.** Countries that wish to join the EU cooperate in areas such as energy, transport, the fight against crime, food safety, environmental protection and climate change.

For example, high environmental standards are applied across the EU. This reduces the risks of the EU being affected by cross-border pollution or energy shortages.

**The EU is tackling major issues such as greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution.** Greenhouse gas emissions in the EU are significantly lower now than they were in 1990 (approx. 83% of 1990 levels). In Latvia and Lithuania for example, emissions are now less than 50% of their 1990 levels. Despite a growing population, air pollution has fallen significantly from 1990 levels across the EU. Energy consumption in the EU is now falling, following a peak in 2006. Today's energy consumption in the EU is only 0.9% higher than it was in 1990.

### Opinion

#### In the EU, there is little healthy nature...

EU environmental standards are strict and allocations for environment protection are substantial. The EU is actively helping Serbia to reach EU environmental standards in all areas – installing filters at power stations, securing clean drinkable water, improving waste management, etc. Over decades, the EU has made huge investment to improve

the quality of air and water and reduce pollution. There is much more recycling and use of renewable energy sources. Water at nearly all of Europe's beaches – and most of its rivers and lakes – are clean to swim in. Forests and other wooded land cover more than 35% of the EU's surface area. Expansion of the EU's forest area exceeds the loss of forest land to infrastructure and urban uses. This trend, starting in the 1950s (earlier in some countries), is driven by a range of factors. Several countries have expanded their forest cover by plantation programmes on agricultural land which is no longer cultivated. This positive development sets the EU apart from many other global regions which suffer deforestation.]

#### The reunification of Europe has improved transport connections so that citizens can move more easily around the EU:

▶ As part of the Trans-European Transport Network policy (TEN-T), good quality transport links are being built to improve the infrastructure network across the whole of Europe, in particular reconnecting the Western and Eastern part of Europe.

▶ TEN-T projects include improved railway axes stretching from Poland-Finland, from France-Slovakia and from Greece-Germany, as well as projects to improve the safety and navigability of rail, road and waterway connections.

▶ One example: the annual number of rail passengers between Vienna and Bratislava increased from 20,000 to 2,000,000 passengers in ten years.

#### Thanks to EU safety laws, travel has also become safer:

▶ Between 2006 and 2011, accident fatalities amongst rail passengers halved in 12 countries that joined in 2004 and 2007, despite the fact that the total number of rail passengers increased.

▶ The number of fatalities on roads in the 10 Member States that joined in 2004 halved in the decade since then. Across the whole of the EU, there has been a 46% reduction in the number of fatalities on the road.

▶ These reductions in the number of fatalities have been brought about in large part by the safety management and monitoring requirements of EU law, by measures encompassing education and training, by the enforcement of traffic rules and by safer infrastructure and safer vehicles.

#### Safer food and better protection - more consumers:

The adherence to the EU's food safety policy and control systems means that consumers enjoy access to a much wider variety of quality food. For example, between 2002 and 2012 trade has increased ten-fold in milk products, two-fold in fishery products and four-fold in meat products.

Exchanging warnings on unsafe products and information on reactions from public authorities increases the safety of consumers. This is done through the EU rapid alert system which has been operating since 2004. The countries that joined the EU in 2004 and 2007 fully took part from the beginning to the benefits of all citizens.

### Ten-T projects:

With the support of the Cohesion Fund and the ERDF, the EU12 invested around € 40 billion in major TEN-T projects between 2007 and 2013

Contry	Total TEN-T investment	EU contribution, EUR million	Average funding rate
Czech Republic	3,861.2	2,217.2	56%
Estonia	215.5	194.6	81%
Cyprus	0	15.8	0%
Latvia	631.5	477.1	65%
Lithuania	121.6	117.6	73%
Hungary	1,951.8	1,480.6	74%
Malta	134.3	92.5	68%
Poland	2,098.7	13,196.7	63%
Slovenia	1,963.4	594.1	39%
Slovakia	2,092.3	1,095.8	52%
TOTAL	31,958.6	1,948.2	61%
Bulgaria	181.9	1,251.7	41%
Romania	5,042.2	3,054.9	48%
TOTAL	40,687	23,788.6	58%

### Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

CEF is a very good example of European 'added value' that the EU budget can deliver, especially in the newer Member States. Investing in infrastructure constitutes a highly effective engine of job creation, firstly in infrastructure works, but also induced by the indirect economic effect of the use of the new infrastructure.

€11.3bn have been transferred from the Cohesion Fund to the Connecting Europe Facility. This amount is to be spent as a complement to the Cohesion Fund, for projects of high European added value, such as cross-border sections and bottlenecks on the core network, especially in the rail and inland waterway sectors. This mechanism will reinforce the connections between the Eastern and the Western part of the continent, thereby fostering the European territorial integration and increasing the competitiveness of the cohesion Member States.



## Opinion

### Serbian national food, like kajmak, white cheese and rakija will be forbidden, EU will make us eat genetically modified food...

All traditional food and beverages still exist in the EU, and local varieties of rakija are produced in Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. Accession to the EU would raise the profile of the rich Serbian gastronomic heritage, and would hopefully lead to kajmak, dunjevac and kiseli kupus being available across Europe. EU food safety standards are rigorous and include all phases of the food production process. These standards represent an integral part of the consumer protection system. Products from various countries are sold across the EU if they pass the necessary norms. High standards will only help Serbian citizens to enjoy national food safely. Moreover, kajmak, rakija and other Serbian national food products will find new markets and increase farmers' income.

Food in the EU is now safer than anywhere in the world. The EU sets stringent rules for organic produce, and prevents the use of inaccurate or unsubstantiated claims by food manufacturers. EU legislation on food labelling aims to give consumers all the background they need in order to make informed purchasing choices. The EU consumers enjoy high food safety standards which, for example, ban imports of bleached chicken or hormone beef. People in the Netherlands enjoy some of the most nutritious and healthy food in the world.

In the EU, compared to some countries in the world, the approach to GMOs is cautious and reflects a well-developed culture of human and animal health. The EU applies safety assessment of the highest possible standards before any GM food and feed is placed on the market. It also ensures clear labelling of GM food and feed in order to respond to consumers' concerns and enable them to make informed choices based on clear and correct information. The EU labelling requirements provide farmers with accurate information on the composition and properties of feed.

To help prevent contamination of conventional crops by GM crops, the European Commission has worked out guidelines on the co-existence of genetically modified, conventional and organic crops. Member States can adopt measures to avoid such contamination.

In addition, a number of Member States have invoked a 'safeguard clause' enabling them to provisionally restrict or prohibit the use and/or sale of the GM product on their territory. However, the Member State must have justifiable reasons to consider that the GMO in question poses a risk to human health or the environment. Six Member States currently apply safeguard clauses on GMO: Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Germany and Luxembourg.

## Did you know that...

The minimum duration for maternity leave in the EU is at least four months and mothers are paid their full salary. Both parents of new born babies are entitled to leave. In some Member States paid maternity leave is much longer. In Sweden both parents are entitled to 480 days of parental leave when a child is born or adopted.

EU workers have the right to four weeks holiday a year if working full-time. According to expert estimates, the average family in Serbia spends from one hour to ninety minutes of "quality time" together. The results do not deviate much from global trends, for example the British spend 81 minutes per day with their children. The number of holidays in Member States ranges from 8 in the Netherlands to 14 in Malta, and vacations range from 20 to 25 days. At the same time, the average citizen of Serbia spends more than five hours in front of the television.

The EU operates two long-running school schemes that offer subsidised milk and fruit to European pupils. The new "Eat well - feel good" initiative proposes to bring together the School Fruit Scheme and the School Milk Scheme. The aim is to counter the declining consumption of fruit, vegetable and milk and to fight obesity. The new joint scheme would have a budget of €230 million per school year.

Due to EU wide anti-tobacco campaign and regulations, from 2009-2012 the actual tobacco exposure rates for EU citizens visiting bars and pubs dropped from 46% to 28%. Belgium, Spain and Poland are examples of countries where the adoption of comprehensive legislation led to very significant drops in tobacco smoke exposure within short time period.



Nikola Kostandinović

## ▶ Important terms and concepts



### Accession of new Member States

A state that wishes to become a member of the Union must be a European state and must respect the common values of the Member States and undertake to promote them. These are human dignity, liberty, democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights including minorities.

The candidate state informs the European Parliament and national parliaments of the Member States of their intention to accede to the EU. The Council must agree unanimously on accession, after consulting the Commission and receiving assent by qualified majority of the European Parliament.



The conditions and date of accession, any transition periods required and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded must be agreed in the form of an accession treaty between the candidate country and the Member States. This treaty is ratified by all the Member States and the candidate country in accordance with their own constitutional rules. There is a pre-accession period of varying length, during which the candidate countries adapt their institutions, standards and infrastructure to enable them to meet their obligations as Member States at the time of accession.

### Withdrawal clause

The Treaty of Lisbon provides for a mechanism for voluntary and unilateral withdrawal from the European Union. A Member State wishing to withdraw notifies its intention to the European Council, which provides guidelines for the conclusion of an agreement setting out the arrangements for its withdrawal.

This agreement is concluded on behalf of the European Union (EU) by the Council, acting by qualified majority, after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament.

The Treaties cease to apply to the State in question from the date of entry into force of the agreement, or within two years after notification of the withdrawal. The Council may decide to extend that period. Any State which has withdrawn from the EU may apply to rejoin by undergoing the accession procedure once again.

### Citizenship of the Union

Anyone who is a national of a Member State is considered to be a citizen of the Union and therefore has the right to:

- ▶ move and take up residence anywhere in the Union;
- ▶ vote and stand in local government and European Parliament elections in the country of residence;
- ▶ diplomatic and consular protection outside the Union from the authorities of any Member State if the country of which the person is a national is not represented;
- ▶ petition to the European Parliament and appeal to the European Ombudsman;
- ▶ address the European institutions in any one of the official languages and to receive a reply in the same language;
- ▶ non-discrimination on the basis of nationality, gender, race, religion, handicap, age or sexual orientation;
- ▶ invite the Commission to submit a legislative proposal (citizens' initiative);
- ▶ access the documents of the European institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, subject to certain conditions (Article 15 of the TFEU).

Following the consent of the European Parliament, the Council acting unanimously may in the future add to these rights.

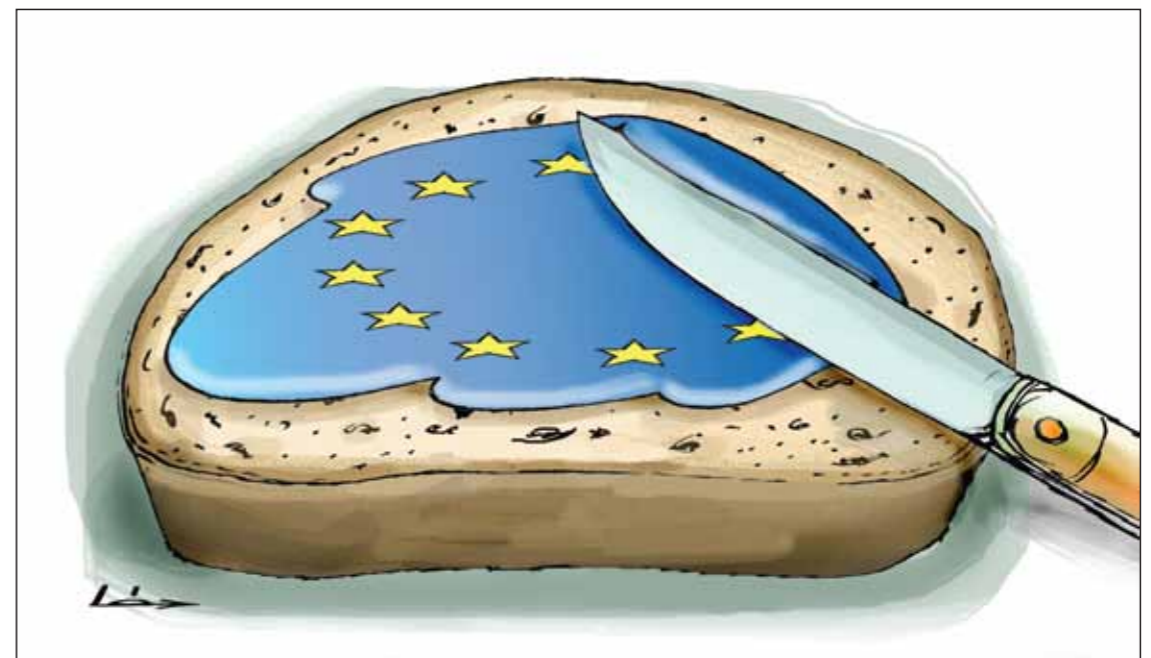
The notion of Union citizenship does not replace national citizenship: it is an addition to it. This gives citizens a deeper and more tangible sense of belonging to the Union.

### Community acquis

The Community acquis is the body of common rights and obligations which bind all the Member States together within the European Union. It is constantly evolving and comprises:

- ▶ the content, principles and political objectives of the Treaties;
- ▶ the legislation adopted in application of the treaties and the case law of the Court of Justice;
- ▶ the declarations and resolutions adopted by the Union;
- ▶ measures relating to the common foreign and security policy;
- ▶ measures relating to justice and home affairs;
- ▶ international agreements concluded by the Community and those concluded by the Member States between themselves in the field of the Union's activities.

Applicant countries have to accept the Community acquis before they can join the Union. Derogations from the acquis are granted only in exceptional circumstances and are limited in scope. To integrate into the European Union, applicant countries will have to transpose the acquis into their national legislation and implement it from the moment of their accession.



Lephart Pal



## Distribution of competences

The Treaty of Lisbon clarifies the division of competences between the Union and the Member States. Alongside the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality (see below), it includes the principle of conferral. This principle provides that the Union shall act only within the limits of the competences conferred upon it by the Member States in specified areas.

There are three types of competences:

**Exclusive competences:** only the Union may legislate in these areas, such as the customs union, competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market, monetary policy for the Member States whose currency is the euro, common commercial policy. The Union may also conclude some international agreements to exercise one of its exclusive competences.

**Shared competences:** both the Union and Member States may legislate in these areas. Member States may exercise their competence as long as the Union has not exercised its competence or when the Union decides not to exercise it. Member States may also request the Commission to repeal an adopted legislative act in one of the shared areas in order to better ensure compliance with the principles

of subsidiarity and proportionality.

**Areas where Member States remain competent,** but where the Union may complete their action by carrying out, supporting or coordinating actions. Additional powers may be given to the Union by the Member States when the means necessary for achieving one of its objectives have not been provided for in the Treaties.

The principles of subsidiarity ensure compliance with this distribution of competences. National parliaments shall have a role in monitoring compliance with the subsidiarity principle.



## Subsidiarity

The principle of subsidiarity ensures that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that constant checks are made to verify that action at Union level is justified in light of the possibilities available at national, regional or local level. Specifically, it is the principle whereby the Union does not take action (except in the areas that fall within its exclusive competence), unless it is more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level. It is closely bound up with the principle of proportionality, which requires that any action by the Union should not go beyond what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties.

The principle of subsidiarity is respected in all draft legislative acts and allows national parliaments to object to a proposal on the grounds

that it breaches the principle, as a result of which the proposal may be maintained, amended or withdrawn by the Commission, or blocked by the European Parliament or the Council. In the case of a breach of the principle of subsidiarity, the Committee of the Regions may also refer directly to the Court of Justice of the European Union.

## Proportionality principle

Similarly to the principle of subsidiarity, the principle of proportionality regulates the exercise of powers by the European Union. It seeks to set actions taken by the institutions of the Union within specified bounds. Under this rule, the involvement of the institutions must be limited to what is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Treaties. In other words, the content and form of the action must be in keeping with the aim pursued.



Zoran Tovirac Toco

## Conclusion



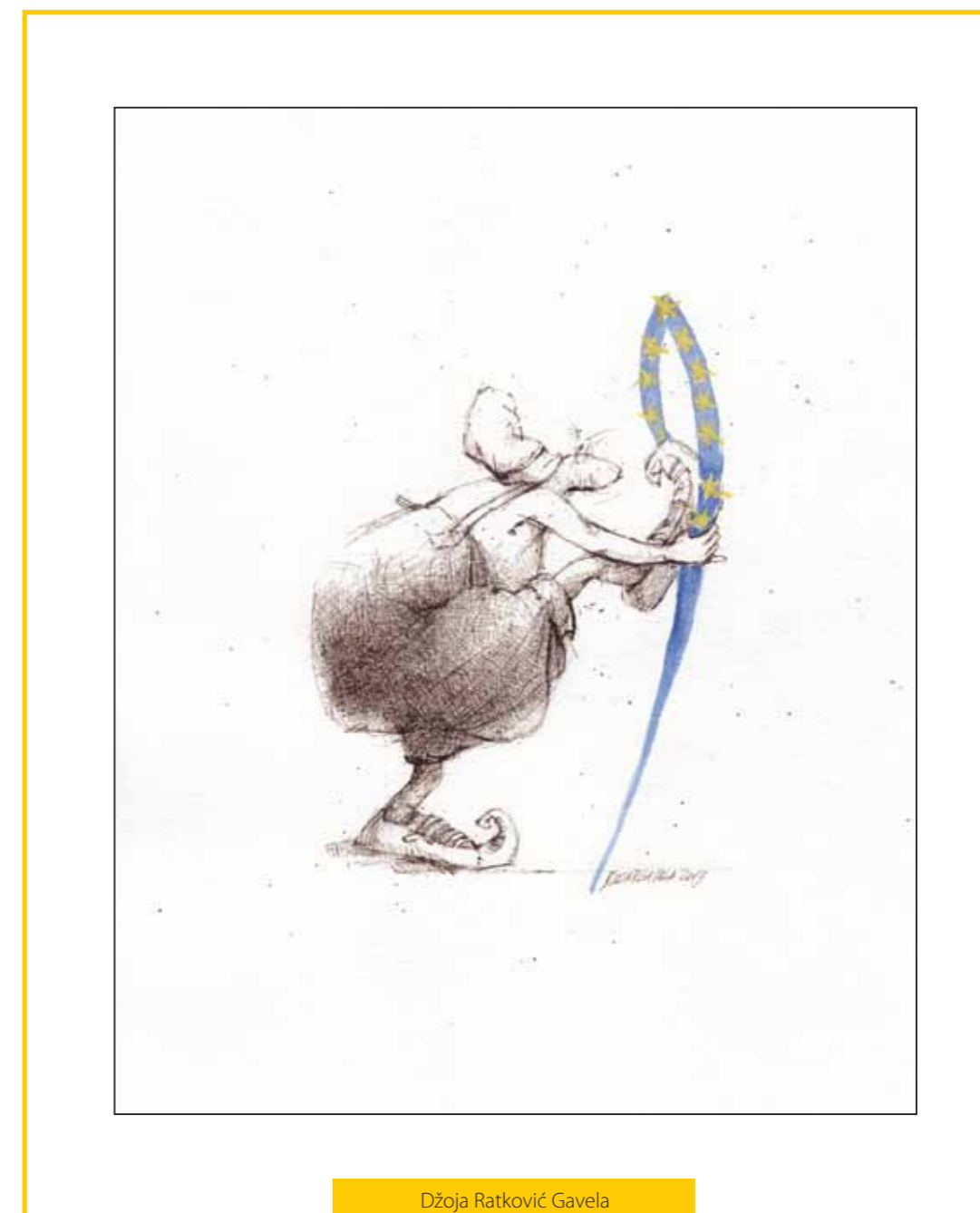
The EU ceased to be a myth more than 60 years ago. Today it is a reality that every day brings concrete benefits to its citizens.

Serbia has a very important, central role for European Union and its 28 Member States. EU is committed to continuation of the enlargement proces, through accession of all Western Balkans countries, including Serbia. This is of the utmost importance for achieving prosperity, security and stability, as well as cooperation and reconciliation, in the entire region.

For Serbian citizens, negotiations with the EU will be the opportunity to learn more about the Uninon, its history, values, practice and advantages of the membership. Succesful completion of negotiations and modernisation process in the country supported by the EU with

annual grants worth €200 million, will eventually finnish with full membership of Serbia in the EU.

Serbia is now firmly on track towards joining the Union with the support of the EU. The final word belongs to Serbian citizens who one day will vote in an accession referendum. Experience of previous enlargements shows that smart reforms done as part of the EU accession process can turn a country around in a decade or so. It takes political leadership, national unity, and sometimes very difficult decisions, but Serbia can do it with the support that it has from the EU and its Member States – including funding for projects, technical advice, improvements and changes in legislation and its implementation, advise on efficient and transparent public administration. Serbia has a historically unique chance to transform itself into a modern, affluent and dynamic society as it joins the EU.



Džoja Ratković Gavela

# European Union Information Centre



Since May 2011, the EU Information Centre, located in Dom omladine-Beograda, is a place where citizens can inform themselves about the EU and participate in various cultural events. The mission of the EU Info Centre is to offer answers on site, by phone or mail, to EU related questions and provide help in finding information and guidelines for

access to the EU projects, programmes and funds. The Centre aims to improve general awareness on the EU accession process and to bring European Union closer to Serbian citizens as well as to answer all their queries concerning the EU, its history and functioning.



EU Info Centre  
Decanska 1, hall  
Tel +38111 322 9922  
[www.euinfo.rs](http://www.euinfo.rs)  
[www.facebook.com/euinfo.rs](https://www.facebook.com/euinfo.rs)  
<https://twitter.com/EUICBG>

## Working hours

Monday-Friday 10:00-19:00  
Saturday: 10:00-15:00

EU Info Centre realises its mission by:

- ▶ organising debates on European values, policies and functioning of the EU institutions (simulation of European parliament session)
- ▶ developing partnership with organisations and institutions active in Serbia's European integration process
- ▶ bringing closer to Serbian citizens perspectives inherent to the EU accession process.

## Ask us

In the EU Info Centre you can find answers to all your questions related to the EU: from the history of the Union to the latest changes in EU laws. We are here to offer you help also in search of information about EU funded projects and programmes. You can ask us in the Centre or via e mail: [info@euinfo.rs](mailto:info@euinfo.rs). The information you will obtain are adapted to Serbian perspective and the needs of Serbian citizens as the EU Info Centre strives to get closer to citizens and what they really want to know.

## Visit us

The Centre is open for group visits; it organizes seminars, workshops, debates and other events on EU integration issues, as well as cultural events and art exhibitions. The Centre is accessible to all citizens of Serbia: all you need is to announce group visit in advance via e-mail or by phone.

## Library database

Almost 2000 publications and books (in Serbian and English) are at your disposal: fact sheets, booklets, brochures about the EU, its policies, enlargement, relations between Serbia and the Union, etc. All sorts of publications are available either in hard copy if you visit the Centre, or in electronic format which can be downloaded from the following websites: [www.euinfo.rs](http://www.euinfo.rs), [www.europa.rs](http://www.europa.rs) and [www.eubookshop.eu](http://www.eubookshop.eu).





Jakša Vlahović

