

Teacher's Handout #2: Definitions

Article 50: The procedure outlined by the Lisbon Treaty by which a member state could legally leave the EU. Under this article a member state is given two years to negotiate their way out of the EU before being cut off from the Single Market.

Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA): A free trade agreement between the European Union and Canada which eliminates 98% of tariffs between the two parties. It was provisionally applied in September 2017 and must be ratified by every EU member state before it can be completely applied.

Democracy: A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives.

Debt Crisis: A proliferation of massive public debt relative to tax revenues. In the case of the Eurozone Crisis, some member states had such high public debt that they could not pay it off, even by selling every state asset.

EU Budget: The amount of money utilised by the EU to complete their goals, such as funding projects in the poorer EU member states, subsidizing farms and food production, environment, administrative costs and others. Decisions on how the money is spent is made by the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Union Council. The EU's 2018 budget is €160.1 billion, which they estimated to be 1% of the wealth generated by EU economies in 2017.

EU Membership Fees: The amount of money a member state sends to the EU in exchange for access to the Single Market and other benefits of being in the EU. This usually comes from import duties, the EU value-added tax, and a lump-sum based on a member's gross domestic product (GDP).

EU Treaties: There are five legal treaties which have created and changed aspects of the EU. The Treaty of Rome created the basis of the EU, known as the European Economic Community in 1957 and the EU was officially created under the Treaty of the European Union in Maastricht in 1992. Three more treaties signed in 1997, 2001, and 2007 have provided amendments to the Maastricht Treaty.

European Court of Human Rights (ECHR): An international court established outside of the EU by the European Convention of Human Rights. The court primarily hears cases pertaining to a state's alleged breach of human rights.

Euroscepticism: Criticism of the European Union and European integration. It can also mean opposition to and total rejection of the EU.

Eurozone: A monetary union within the EU which saw the creation of a new currency called the euro. The monetary union was announced in 1992 and was officially established in 1999. It currently has 19 members.

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Eurozone Crisis: A debt crisis within the Eurozone, especially in Greece, Cyprus, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Ireland, that has been ongoing since 2009. This resulted in bailouts by the International Monetary Fund and the EU institutions.

Far-right parties: Political groups who tend to utilise nationalism and populism to gain power. Their main goals are usually a return to traditional norms and values, economic prosperity, and the oppression of and/or deportation of certain ethnic or religious groups that are viewed as a threat to the nation. Modern examples include the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) in the UK, Front National in France, Alternativ für Deutschland in Germany, and the League in Italy.

Lisbon Treaty: Contains both a new treaty called the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and an amendment to the Treaty on the European Union which was signed in 2007 and came into effect in 2009. It allowed for the first time a procedure by which a member state could leave the EU.

Maastricht Treaty: Formally known as the Treaty on the European Union, it was signed in 1992. It created the European Union as we know it today and established the goal of a future European monetary union.

Migrant Crisis: Beginning in 2015, this crisis was caused by a sudden influx of refugees and migrants fleeing the war in Syria, violence, and economic stagnation in the Middle East and Northern Africa. The number of migrants overwhelmed the EU's mechanisms for processing asylum seekers and several member states refused to take in any migrants. The crisis was eventually controlled through agreements with Turkey and increased patrolling of the Mediterranean Sea to intercept boats carrying migrants crossing illegally.

National Healthcare System (NHS): The public health service in the United Kingdom established in 1948. It is a publicly funded subsidised healthcare system providing universal treatment to all residents of the UK, similar to that of Canada's.

Net Contribution: The amount of money that remains after subtracting all necessary deductions. In the case of Brexit, it was estimated that the UK had an £8 billion net contribution to the EU, meaning that they were paying more money than they were receiving.

Populism: A political approach which emphasises the role and plights of ordinary people and sets them in opposition to the current government and upper class, often calling them "elites".

Schengen Area: A group of 26 European countries who have officially abolished passport and border control between each other and share a common external border. It operates as a single jurisdiction for international travel and has a common visa policy. 22 EU member states are part of this area.

Single Market: A free trade area within the European Union where member states have access to the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labour. This is not exclusive to EU member states since Switzerland, Norway, and Iceland have agreements to gain access to the market as well.

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