



WHY EUROPE MATTERS

THE ADVANTAGES OF THE EU FOR ITS CITIZENS



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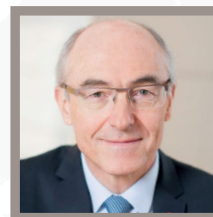
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INTRODUCTION



Why Europe Matters

In Europe's long history, there have been many pivotal moments. Right now, it feels like we are at another fork in the road. Since the decade began, Europe has been challenged by many difficulties with the Euro, low growth, high unemployment and the growing threat of terrorism.

However, even in these difficult times, we must not forget how Europe has benefited us economically and socially. Peace has settled over our countries for seventy years now, while businesses have flourished, and families have become more prosperous, thanks to closer ties between people and institutions across Europe. Our continent has benefited immeasurably from our European Union, and it must be allowed to continue to do so.

But we must not be starry-eyed about every aspect of the European Union. We need the European Union to be wired for constant improvement and must strive to always make it fully accountable to the people it represents. But, as the facts in this booklet clearly demonstrate, our union is the bedrock of prosperity and quality of life.

By highlighting the daily benefits of the European Union, we would like to demonstrate where the EU makes a real difference to the lives of its citizens. This booklet covers an extensive number of themes, each one supported by examples showing the material advantages to the everyday person or family.

This booklet demonstrates that Europe has a positive impact on our lives.

It is time we started acknowledging it.

Benoît Potier

Chairman, ERT
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Air Liquide
May 2016

¹ Change of CEO in May 2016

PEACE AND DEMOCRACY



War between EU Member States is now unthinkable.

Countries and people that suffered under dictatorship and communism now benefit from democracy.

THE SINGLE MARKET



 **500 million** 

generate

 **€14 trillion** 

The largest economy in the world with GDP of:

€25,000 / 

The **Single Market includes** 21 million small and medium-sized enterprises, the **dynamic backbone of the economy.**

SINGLE MARKET FOR GOODS AND SERVICES

- **Wider choice** of goods and services.
- More competition, **higher quality** products and services at **lower prices**.
- In many areas, EU businesses benefit from a **single set of rules** rather than 28 different national rules.

**500 million
customers**



FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE FOR WORK, LEISURE AND STUDY



- **13.6 million EU citizens live** in an EU Member State other than their country of citizenship (2013).
- In 2013 alone, more than **7 million EU citizens** were working and living in an EU country other than their own.
- Over 400 million Europeans can have **passport free travel** in the Schengen Area. The area includes 26 European countries that have abolished passport and other controls on mutual borders.
- More than 3 million students studied abroad with **Erasmus**, the EU student exchange programme.

THE EURO



A SINGLE CURRENCY

used by

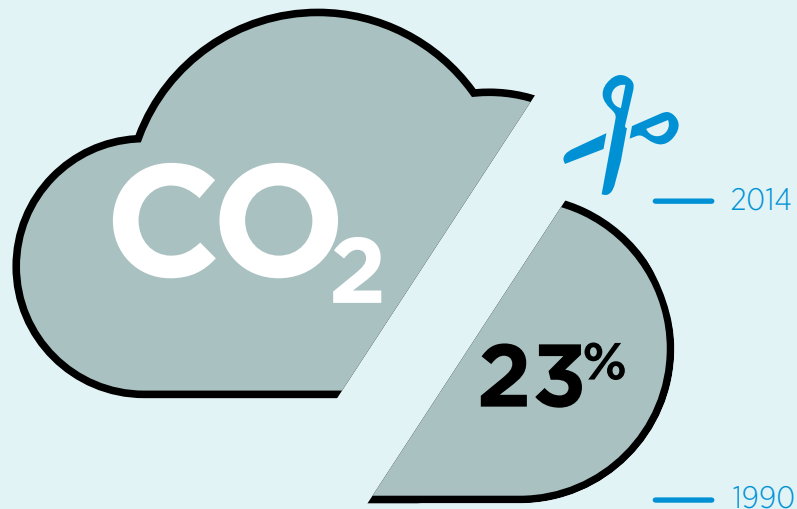
>330 million 
IN 19 COUNTRIES

71% 

of Europeans think the euro is a good thing for the EU.

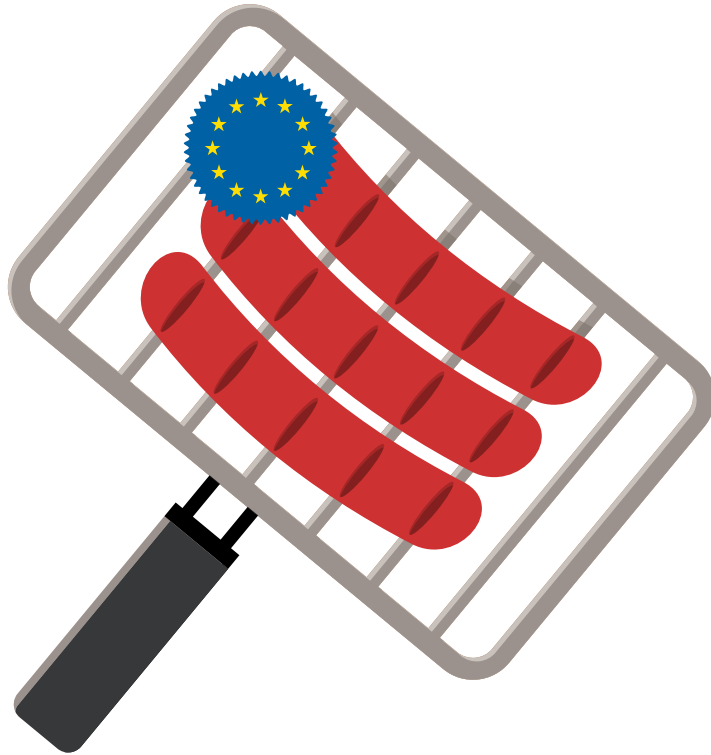
- Eliminating the risk of changes to exchange rates between different currencies and offering price transparency and stability.

THE ENVIRONMENT



- The EU is **leading global action on climate change** with its ambitious policies on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency and renewable energy.
- **EU environmental policy has:**
 - guaranteed safe drinking and bathing water across Europe
 - reduced emissions of harmful pollutants and improved air quality
- EU waste policy encourages **recovery, recycling and reuse of waste.**
- Through the Natura 2000, a network of nature protection zones, the EU created a network of 26,000 protected natural areas, covering almost 20% of the EU's land mass.

FOOD SAFETY



- **High safety standards** apply to food produced inside the EU and to food imports.
- The European Food Safety Agency provides **independent scientific advice** on risks associated with the food chain.
- Food product **traceability** means it is easy to find out where something is produced and processed and allows for **quick recall** across the EU in case of contamination.

CONSUMER PROTECTION



- High product safety standards and consumer assurance by the **CE conformity mark** which indicates that a product has been assessed to meet high safety, health and environment protection regulations.
- **Understandable food labelling** requirements including “guideline daily amount” of nutrition.
- Requirement to provide supporting evidence to **substantiate nutrition and health claims** such as “low fat” or “no added sugar” on a food label with scientific evidence.
- **Guaranteed 14 day return period** for online products.

Standardised mobile phone charger by 2017



- **Liberalisation of EU telecom markets** led to higher quality services.
- EU research programmes and decisions led to the successful **GSM standard** as well as the establishment of a European based mobile industry.
- In recent years, citizens have benefited from very attractive roaming deals within the EU contributing to the development of the Single Market. From June 2017, citizens will be able to “**roam like at home**” within fair use limits.

ALMOST
€80bn  BUDGET
EU R&D 2014-2020

“...for science and technology projects addressing common societal challenges: ageing populations, food security, cleaner transport and low-cost sustainable energy.”

TRANSPORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE



- **Better transport network connections** between East and West, North and South Europe. Building motorways, high-speed railways, airport and ports.
- New EU transport infrastructure policy has a budget of over **€24 billion** between 2014 and 2020.
- **Cheaper flights** and **more choice** of routes due to the establishment of the EU's Single Market for aviation.
- **EU air passenger rights** guarantee compensation in the event of flight delays or cancellation.

HEALTHCARE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

- **European Medicines Agency** approves medicines for patients across the EU.
- Minimum EU employment rights including **equal pay** and treatment and **protection of the employee** in the event of a change of ownership or insolvency of the company or organisation they work for.
- **The European Health Insurance Card** allows over **200 million EU citizens** to receive medical treatment while on holiday in another EU country.
- Employees can claim **pensions in all countries where they have worked**.

THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM AGAINST POVERTY



20 MILLION

out of poverty and social exclusion

BY 2020

REGIONAL FUNDS

2007 → 2014

€347bn budget



- An estimated **940,000** new jobs were created.



- **5.9 million** citizens benefited from modernised water supply.



- Almost **5,000 km** of roads were built and approximately **25,000 km** were reconstructed.

2014 → 2020

€350bn budget

- Poorer regions in the EU receive investment and financial support from the EU's regional funds for cultural facilities, business centres, urban transport and rural communication networks.

GLOBAL TRADE



- The **European Union** is the **world's largest trader** of manufactured goods and services.
- **31 million EU jobs** depend on the ability to trade with the rest of the world.
- EU Trade Agreements make available a **wider choice of products at lower prices**.
- The EU **defends European industry** against international trade distortions including dumping and counterfeiting.

EU IN THE WORLD



- The EU and its members are collectively the world's **largest development aid donor** – in 2013, the EU spent **€56.2 bn** on development aid.
- The EU is committed to helping victims of man-made and natural disasters worldwide. It **helps over 120 million people each year**.
- The EU is committed to **human rights** and has made it a central aspect of its foreign relations.

ENERGY

- Further **integration of EU electricity and gas markets** is needed to enhance security of energy supply.
- In 2016, the EU countries agreed to **invest €217 million** in key trans-European energy infrastructure projects.



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