

## Euro Scrabble Rules

In playing Euro Scrabble you can use any words with a connection to the EU. The following are some guidelines for words that might be used:

1. Name any EU country or region (e.g. France, Romania, Basque, Loire, Munster, Catalonia)
2. Names of towns/cities associated with EU institutions, treaties/policies e.g. Maastricht (Treaty), Amsterdam (Treaty), Nice (Treaty), Copenhagen (criteria – conditions for joining EU), Schengen (agreement), Rome (Treaty), Brussels, Strasbourg
3. Terms associated with the EU e.g. Aquis, Commission/Commissioners, Council, Summit, Presidency, Structural (funds)
4. Surnames of MEPs, Commissioners or significant Europeans past or present e.g. Solana, Cox, Schuman, Monnet, Barroso, Borrell, Delors, Pötte
5. Current European issues e.g. migration, enlargement, trade, education, integration
6. Miscellaneous: e.g. Euro, treaty, directive, agreement, act, border, vote, policy, Europol, constitution, forum, funds, petition, citizen, refugee, budget, Comenius, Erasmus, Socrates (education programs)
7. Relevant words in other European Languages (e.g. Douane/Zoll/Customs)
8. Some Acceptable Abbreviations  
e.g. CAP – Common Agricultural Policy, QMV – Qualified Majority Voting, MEP – Member of the European Parliament, EU – European Union, EEC – European Economic Community, EC – European Community, ECSC- European Coal & Steel Community, COR – Committee of the Regions, EESC – European Economic & Social Committee, Coreper – Committee of Permanent Representatives, EEA – European Economic Area, EMS – European Monetary System, EMU – European Monetary Union, ESF – European Structural Funds, PR – Proportional Representation, ECB – European Central Bank

**Good Luck!**

# 13. The Road Ahead



## Your aim

To make students aware of the opportunities and challenges facing the expanding European Union in the 21st century



## Learning Outcome

By the end of the lesson students will have been introduced to some of the bigger challenges facing the European Union in the coming years. They will have practiced critical thinking, independent learning and debating.



## Time

Double class



## Materials or Sources required

» A set of **It's A Matter of Opinion** debate cards



## Preparation

» Photocopy and cut debate cards



## Potential Partner Activity

Ideas for partner activities given below

## Introduction

The teacher explains to the students that the current EU has become a great European project which has surpassed the expectations of the founding fathers. It continues to grow and change but there are a number of on-going debates. The aim of this lesson will be to discuss those challenges and debates. The teacher could invite the students to offer some suggestions of that they think some of the debates might be.

### Group Work

The teacher divides the class into groups of 4 or 6 students (depending on the size of the class) and hands out a debate card to each group. Alternatively she/he could let the students choose a card themselves.

The teacher then explains that each group will be split into two, one half will argue for the issue, the other against.

The students should produce a number of arguments to support their position.

After sufficient time has been given for group discussions, each group should present/debate their positions in front of the class as a whole. The rest of the class should be encouraged to join in the debate after the group has stated their arguments.

The teacher could summarise each debate on the blackboard, taking down the arguments for and against during the debate.

### Teachers Note:

To give the students a deeper understanding of the challenges facing the EU, and to practice independent learning, they could be asked to do some research on their topic before the debate. This could either be done in class or as a home work option, where the students are asked to prepare the arguments for the next class. Information on the debate topics may be found on the Europa webpage (<http://europa.eu/>), or by researching topical media resources.

### Conclusion

The teacher can ask the students what they think is the biggest challenge facing the EU in the years to come.



### Potential Partner Activity

- » Ask your partner school to contribute their ideas to some of the debate questions given on the cards, either by email, video conferencing or on-line.

## RESOURCE SHEET

### It's A Matter Of Opinion Debate Cards

Almost a third of the EU budget is given as financial support (subsidies) to European farmers. Without this support many European farmers would not survive the competition from other, non-EU, countries and be forced out of business. The countries that can produce the same goods more cheaply are often developing countries that would benefit from a larger access to the European market.

Argue for or against subsidies to EU farmers.

The European Union guarantees free movement for its citizens which includes the right to live and work in another Member State. Despite this some countries, amongst them Ireland, have decided to restrict the entry of workers from the new member countries i.e. Rumania and Bulgaria.

Argue for or against the restriction of free movement for people from a certain Member State.

The further expansion of the European Union is likely. Several countries outside the European Union see the benefits of EU membership and want to join.

Argue for or against a further enlargement of the EU.

There is a great difference in terms of wealth between member countries of the EU. Do you think that there should be more done to share resources and wealth across member states?

Argue for or against.

Is there a value in the European Union having their own army which would include members from all member states?

Argue for or against a European Army.

There have been sixty years of relative peace within the European Union. Do you think that having the Union is a deterrent against a war breaking out between member countries?

Argue for or against the belief that there will never be war between EU Member States.

Low-budget airlines have helped bring Europe closer together. People can work in other countries but still see their families and friends back home frequently. At the same time the green-house gases emitted from the increased number of flights helps to speed up climate change.

Argue for or against an EU environmental tax on air-fares.

The European Union strives to create a shared European Identity. It is believed that a feeling of belonging to the European Union will develop through its achievements and successes. Some symbols that represent a shared European identity already exist, like the EU flag and anthem.

Argue for or against the existence of a common European Identity.  
Do people already feel like Europeans?