

**CHMUN EDITION 2**

**CONVENTION 2018**

**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**



**AGENDA:**

BELGIUM, FRANCE AND GERMANY V/S

EUROPEAN UNION

(PERMANENCY OF MEMBERS)

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# **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) IS A POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP THAT REPRESENTS A UNIQUE FORM OF COOPERATION AMONG SOVEREIGN STATES. IT IS THE LATEST STAGE IN A PROCESS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION BEGUN AFTER WORLD WAR II, INITIALLY BY SIX WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, TO PROMOTE PEACE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

SINCE JULY 2013, THERE ARE 28 MEMBER STATES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ITALY, IRELAND, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, THE NETHERLANDS, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SPAIN, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SWEDEN AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS OF THE EU ARE SET OUT IN THE VARIOUS TREATIES AGREED AND RATIFIED BY THE MEMBER STATES. A TREATY IS RATIFIED WHEN IT IS FORMALLY ACCEPTED BY THE MEMBER STATE.

## **1.1 THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS 4 MAIN AIMS:**

- i. TO ESTABLISH EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP. THIS MEANS PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.**
- ii. TO ENSURE FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE. THIS MEANS CO-OPERATION IN THE FIELD OF JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS.**
- iii. TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. THIS INVOLVES THE SINGLE MARKET, THE EURO, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT.**
- iv. TO ASSERT EUROPE'S ROLE IN THE WORLD.**

## **1.2 THE EUROPEAN UNION IS RUN BY 5 MAIN INSTITUTIONS:**

- THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
- THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
- THE COURT OF JUSTICE
- THE COURT OF AUDITORS

THE HEADQUARTERS OF EUROPEAN UNION ARE IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.








## 2.0 BELGIUM

BRUSSELS IS THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION (NATO), MAKING IT THE POLYGLOT HOME OF AN ARMY OF INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS AND CIVIL SERVANTS.

- **POPULATION** 11.5 MILLION
- **AREA** 30,528 SQ KM
- **MAJOR LANGUAGES** DUTCH, FRENCH
- **CURRENCY** EURO
- **MAJOR RELIGION** CHRISTIANITY

### 2.1 ECONOMIC CONDITION:

- **GDP:** \$512 BILLION (2018 EST.)  
\$529.3 (PPP, 2017 EST.)
- **GDP RANK:** 25<sup>TH</sup> / 37<sup>TH</sup> (PPP)
- **GDP GROWTH:** 1% (2014)
- **UNEMPLOYMENT:** 8.5% (2014)
- **MAIN EXPORT PARTNERS:**
  -  GERMANY 19.1%
  -  FRANCE 16.2%
  -  NETHERLANDS 13.3%
  -  UNITED KINGDOM 7.2%
  -  UNITED STATES 5.2%
  -  ITALY 4.8%
- **MAIN IMPORT PARTNERS**
  -  NETHERLANDS 21.8%
  -  GERMANY 13.9%
  -  FRANCE 10.4%
  -  UNITED KINGDOM 6.2%

 CHINA 5.6%  
 IRELAND 4.8%

- GROSS EXTERNAL DEBT - \$1.399 TRILLION

## **2.2 MILITARY POWER:**

BELGIUM IS RANKED 68 (OUT OF 136 COUNTRIES) FOR MILITARY POWER.

- TOTAL MANPOWER- 38,800
- AIRCRAFT STRENGTH- 164
- NAVAL ASSETS- 17

## **2.3 STATUS OF BELGIUM IN EU:**

BREAKDOWN OF BELGIUM'S FINANCES WITH THE EU IN 2016:









- TOTAL EU SPENDING IN BELGIUM: € 7.333 BILLION
- TOTAL EU SPENDING AS % OF BELGIAN GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI): 1.74 %
- TOTAL BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET: € 3.611 BILLION
- BELGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET AS % OF ITS GNI: 0.86 %
- THERE ARE 21 MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FROM BELGIUM.

## 3.0 FRANCE







A KEY PLAYER ON THE GLOBAL STAGE AND A COUNTRY AT THE POLITICAL HEART OF EUROPE, FRANCE PAID A HIGH PRICE IN BOTH ECONOMIC AND HUMAN TERMS DURING THE TWO WORLD WARS. FRANCE WAS ONE OF THE FOUNDING FATHERS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AS THE CONTINENT SOUGHT TO REBUILD AFTER THE DEVASTATION OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

- **POPULATION** 63.5 MILLION
- **AREA** 543,965 SQ KM (210,026 SQ MILES)
- **MAJOR LANGUAGE** FRENCH
- **MAJOR RELIGION** CHRISTIANITY
- **CURRENCY** EURO

### 3.1 ECONOMIC CONDITION:

- GDP: \$2.925 TRILLION (NOMINAL; 2018)  
\$2.960 TRILLION (PPP; 2018)
- GDP RANK: 6TH (NOMINAL)  
10TH (PPP)
- GDP GROWTH: 1.7% (2018)
- UNEMPLOYMENT: 9.1%
- MAIN EXPORT PARTNERS:  GERMANY 16%,  
 SPAIN 7.6%,  
 UNITED STATES 7.3%,  
 ITALY 7.2%,  
 UNITED KINGDOM 7%,  
 BELGIUM 6.8%,
- MAIN IMPORT PARTNERS:  GERMANY 19.3%,  
 BELGIUM 10.6%,



-  NETHERLANDS 7.9%,
-  ITALY 7.8%,
-  SPAIN 7%,
-  UNITED STATES 5.8%,
-  CHINA 5.1%,
-  UNITED KINGDOM 4.2%,

- GROSS EXTERNAL DEBT: \$5.250 TRILLION

### **3.2 MILITARY STRENGTH:**

FRANCE IS RANKED 5 (OUT OF 136 COUNTRIES) FOR MILITARY POWER.

- TOTAL MANPOWER- 3,88,635
- AIRCRAFT STRENGTH- 1,262
- NAVAL ASSETS- 118

### **3.3 STATUS OF FRANCE IN EU:**

BREAKDOWN OF FRANCE'S FINANCES WITH THE EU IN 2016:











- TOTAL EU SPENDING IN FRANCE: € 11.275 BILLION
- TOTAL EU SPENDING AS % OF FRENCH GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI): 0.50 %
- TOTAL FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET: € 19.476 BILLION
- FRENCH CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET AS % OF ITS GNI: 0.86 %

# 4.0 GERMANY

GERMANY IS EUROPE'S MOST INDUSTRIALIZED AND POPULOUS COUNTRY. GERMANY REBOUNDED TO BECOME THE CONTINENT'S ECONOMIC GIANT, AND A PRIME MOVER OF EUROPEAN COOPERATION.

- **POPULATION** - 82 MILLION
- **AREA** - 357,027 SQ KM (137,849 SQ MILES)
- **MAJOR LANGUAGE** - GERMAN
- **MAJOR RELIGION** - CHRISTIANITY
- **CURRENCY** EURO

## 4.1 ECONOMIC CONDITION:

- **GDP:** \$2.925 TRILLION (NOMINAL; 2018)  
\$2.960 TRILLION (PPP; 2018)
- **GDP RANK:** 6TH (NOMINAL)  
10TH (PPP)
- **GDP GROWTH:** 1.7% (2018)
- **UNEMPLOYMENT:** 9.1%
- **MAIN EXPORT PARTNERS:**  GERMANY 16%,  
 CHINA 6.4%,  
 UNITED STATES 8.8%,  
 SWITZERLAND 4.1 %,  
 TURKEY 1.9 %,
- **MAIN IMPORT PARTNERS:**  GERMANY 57.6%,  
 BELGIUM 9.9%,  
 NETHERLANDS 6.7%,  
 ITALY 4.2%,  
 SPAIN 2.8%,

- GROSS EXTERNAL DEBT: \$5.084 TRILLION

## **4.2 MILITARY STRENGTH:**

GERMANY IS RANKED 10 (OUT OF 136 COUNTRIES) FOR MILITARY POWER.

- TOTAL MANPOWER- 3,70,00,000
- AIRCRAFT STRENGTH- 714
- NAVAL ASSETS- 81

## **4.3 STATUS OF GERMANY IN EU:**

BREAKDOWN OF GERMANY'S FINANCES WITH THE EU IN 2016:

- TOTAL EU SPENDING IN GERMANY: € 10.082 BILLION
- TOTAL EU SPENDING AS % OF GERMAN GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI): 0.32 %
- TOTAL GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET: € 23.277 BILLION
- GERMAN CONTRIBUTION TO THE EU BUDGET AS % OF ITS GNI: 0.73 %

# **5.0 POTENTIAL COUNTRIES FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS:**

## **1. UK**

BEING THE MOST POWERFUL COUNTRY OF EUROPE FOR CENTURIES, INFLUENCING MANY COLONIES UNITED KINGDOM HOLDS A POWERFUL POSITION IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. UK IS THE LARGEST ECONOMY OF THE EU AND HAS THE MOST POWERFUL MILITARY FORCES. IT DOMINATES THE EU AND PROVIDES A STRONGER AND BETTER IMAGE FOR THE EU ITSELF.

## **2. ITALY**

THERE ARE 73 MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FROM ITALY. IN THE COUNCIL OF THE EU, NATIONAL MINISTERS MEET REGULARLY TO ADOPT EU LAWS AND COORDINATE POLICIES. COUNCIL MEETINGS ARE REGULARLY ATTENDED BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT, DEPENDING ON THE POLICY AREA BEING ADDRESSED.

## **3. RUSSIA**

RUSSIAN—EUROPEAN RELATIONS ARE THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) AND ITS LARGEST BORDERING STATE, RUSSIA, TO THE EAST. THE RELATIONS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND RUSSIA VARY, THOUGH A 1990s COMMON FOREIGN POLICY OUTLINE TOWARDS RUSSIA WAS

THE FIRST SUCH EU FOREIGN POLICY AGREED. FURTHERMORE, FOUR EUROPEAN UNION-RUSSIA COMMON SPACES ARE AGREED AS A FRAMEWORK FOR ESTABLISHING BETTER RELATIONS. THE LATEST EU-RUSSIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WAS SIGNED IN 2011, BUT IT WAS LATER CHALLENGED BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 2015 FOLLOWING THE ANNEXATION OF CRIMEA AND WAR IN DONBASS.

## **4. IRELAND**

IRELAND JOINED THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES—AS THEY WERE KNOWN THEN—IN 1973, ALONGSIDE THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DENMARK. IN MANY WAYS, THAT MEMBERSHIP WAS DEFINED BY THE BILATERAL BRITISH-IRISH RELATIONSHIP. BACK IN 1973, MEMBERSHIP WAS VIEWED WITH A MIXTURE OF EXCITEMENT AND FEAR.

## **5. GREECE**

GREECE OLDEST MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. TODAY, GREECE IS WORKING TOWARDS THE DEEPENING AND INTEGRATION OF THE EU, PARTICIPATING ACTIVELY IN ALL OF THE UNION'S ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS. SPECIAL MENTION IS MADE OF EU FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ENLARGEMENT, AND IS FOUND AS A DESCRIPTION OF THE EU INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOLLOWING THE ENACTMENT OF THE LISBON TREATY, EU COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY (CFSP), AND EU COMMON SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY (CSDP).

## **6.0 SUGGESTED CAUCUSES**

- 1) ECONOMIC REVIEW OF BELGIUM, FRANCE AND GERMANY
- 2) ECONOMIC REVIEW OF OPPOSITION COUNTRIES
- 3) FACTORS FOR DOMINATING STATUS
- 4) POWERS FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS
- 5) MILITARY STRENGTH OF OPPOSING MEMBERS
- 6) COUNTRY RANKING ON BASIS OF HDI AND OTHER FACTORS