THE EU IN OUR DAILY LIVES
EU MEMBERSHIP HAS CHANGED OUR COUNTRIES AND OUR DAILY LIVES

The internal market, the open borders and the introduction of the euro are some of the most remarkable accomplishments of the European Union.

But EU decisions shape the world we live in much more than we realise and in many areas.

Find out more through some concrete examples.
Roaming charges ended on 15 June 2017. European Economic Area residents travelling within the EU countries pay domestic prices for phone calls, text messages and mobile internet.

what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/D14
CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWO-YEAR WARRANTY ON ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Under EU legislation, manufacturers must provide a legal guarantee period of two years on electronic appliances like smartphones, printers, laptops, vacuum cleaners and coffee machines.

what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X02_12301
THE SINGLE MARKET AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARDS

Products sold within the EU have to meet the EU’s health, safety, and environmental protection standards. CE marking is a certification mark that indicates conformity with these standards.

[Link to European Commission website: ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/ce-marking_en]
CONSUMER PROTECTION

INFORMATION ON PRODUCT LABELS

The EU wants people to have correct and complete information about what they consume. That is why product labels for food and cosmetics have to include certain information, such as ingredients and the name of the manufacturer.

[Link to EU consumer protection law]

[Link to product label example]
THE GENERAL FOOD LAW REGULATION

FOOD SAFETY IN THE EU

The aim of the General Food Law Regulation (2002) is to ensure that all food sold in the European Union is safe to eat. It lays down objectives, obligations and general requirements covering all stages of food/feed production and distribution (‘from farm to fork’).

ec.europa.eu/food/safety/general_food_law_en
The EU Working Time Directive, originally introduced in 1993, gives workers the right to ‘paid annual leave of at least four weeks’. Each sector and/or Member State can increase the number of days, but the EU minimum is 20 days.
A BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The EU has approved a new law banning single-use plastic items such as disposable plates, cutlery, straws and cotton bud sticks. The ban will be in place from 2021 onwards.

what-europe does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X01_31001
To facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels towards cleaner energy and to deliver on the EU’s Paris Agreement commitments, the EU has introduced a requirement for at least 32% of energy sources in the EU’s energy mix to be renewable by 2030. This percentage varies for every Member State, depending on the situation in each country.

[Link to source](what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X03_02901)
THE EU IN OUR DAILY LIVES

You can find more concrete examples of EU legislation on [what-europe-does-for-me.eu](http://what-europe-does-for-me.eu)

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