

# 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.



## CONSUMER PROTECTION

# THE END OF ROAMING CHARGES IN THE EU



Photo by Mimagephotos

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](http://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](https://ec.europa.eu/consumers/what-europe-does-for-me/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.

[ec.europa.eu/growth/single-market/ce-marking\\_en](https://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.

[ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/consumers/consumer-contract-law/consumer-rights-directive\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/consumers/consumer-contract-law/consumer-rights-directive_en)

# 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](https://ec.europa.eu/food/safety/general_food_law_en)

## EU WORKING TIME DIRECTIVE

AT LEAST FOUR  
WEEKS OF  
PAID LEAVE



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.

[ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=706&langId=en&intPageId=205](https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=706&langId=en&intPageId=205)



# EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

## 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](https://what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X01_31001)

## EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL – ENERGY UNION

A SHARE OF AT  
LEAST 32 %  
RENEWABLE  
ENERGY BY 2030



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.

[what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X03\\_02901](https://what-europe-does-for-me.eu/en/portal/2/X03_02901)

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

This presentation is part of the educational tool EUROPE@SCHOOL – Active lessons about the European Union.  
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