

THE EU IN OUR DAILY LIVES



European
Parliament

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

No roaming
charges in
the EU



Photo by Mimagephotos

Since 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
faulty 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.europarl.europa.eu/en/social/G14

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

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 have to include certain information, such as ingredients and the name of the manufacturer.

what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/en/social/E23

WORKING TIME

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

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Common
charger for all
mobile devices



All mobile phones, tablets and cameras sold in the EU have to be equipped with a USB Type-C charging port. From spring 2026, the obligation will extend to laptops.

[single-market-
economy.ec.europa.eu](https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu)

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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 has been in effect since 2021.

environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/plastics/single-use-plastics_en

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

A share of at least 42.5% renewable energy by 2030



To facilitate the transition away from fossil fuels towards cleaner energy, the EU raised its target for renewable energy to at least 42.5% of the overall energy mix by 2030, with an aim to reach 45%. This percentage varies for every Member State, depending on the situation in each country.

what-europe-does-for-me.europarl.europa.eu/en/social/B104?search=renewable%20energy

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You can find more concrete examples of EU legislation on
what-europe-does-for-me.eu