

DEMOCRACY



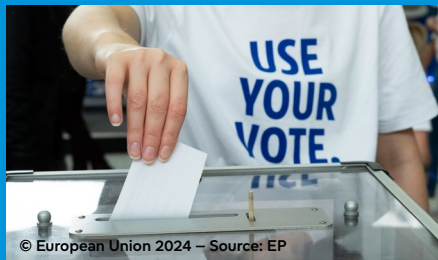
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Every five years, the EU citizens directly elect their representatives in the European Parliament. The next elections will be held in 2029.



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EU citizens living in another EU country have the right to vote or be elected in the municipal elections and European elections where they live. For example, a Greek woman living in Berlin can be elected mayor there.



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DEMOCRACY



A NEW RIGHT FOR EU CITIZENS
YOU CAN SET THE AGENDA!

EU Citizens' Initiative: If 1 million citizens in at least 7 different countries sign a petition, they can call on the European Commission to make a new law.



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The European Parliament is engaged in observing elections in countries outside of the EU in order to encourage free and fair elections, e.g. in Egypt or Ukraine.



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FREEDOM



EU citizens can travel freely throughout the entire EU.



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FREEDOM



Companies do not have the right to collect personal data, except under strict conditions. This is our right to privacy and data protection.



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FREEDOM



EU citizens are free to work in any EU member country without the need for a work permit.



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FREEDOM



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In the EU you can express your opinion without fear of imprisonment. This is our freedom of speech. Only hate speech that calls for harming other (groups of) people, is not allowed.



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SOLIDARITY



The less-wealthy regions of the EU receive extra financial support.



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SOLIDARITY



The EU member states have agreed to help each other if one of them is subject to a terrorist attack or a victim of a natural or man-made disaster. This clause was used for the first time after the Paris attacks in 2015.



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SOLIDARITY



The EU Globalisation Adjustment Fund helps people find a new job or receive job training if they have lost their job due to globalisation, e.g. if the company has moved to a low-wage country.



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SOLIDARITY



The EU and its member states together are the worlds' biggest development aid donor.



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EQUALITY / NON-DISCRIMINATION



EU citizens who study in another EU member state pay the same tuition fees as students from that country. For example, an Italian student studying in Paris pays exactly the same fees as French citizens.



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EQUALITY / NON-DISCRIMINATION



When a child is born or adopted, both parents are entitled to at least 4 months of parental leave to take care of the child.



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EQUALITY / NON-DISCRIMINATION



In the EU, citizens are protected from being refused a job, or from being fired because of their sexual orientation.



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EQUALITY / NON-DISCRIMINATION



Every year, the European Parliament highlights and celebrates International Women's Day (8 March), to promote gender equality.



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THE RULE OF LAW / JUSTICE



All victims and suspects have the right to a fair trial in the EU. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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THE RULE OF LAW / JUSTICE



Victims and suspects of a crime or accident must be informed about the legal procedures in a language they understand. This service is paid for by the member state where the trial is held.



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THE RULE OF LAW / JUSTICE



EU member states that do not respect the rule of law can receive a warning, a sanction or be temporarily excluded from EU decision-making.

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THE RULE OF LAW / JUSTICE



EU member states have to respect the EU rules and regulations. If not, they can be tried by the EU Court of Justice.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



The European Parliament awards the Sakharov Prize to people across the world who make an exceptional contribution to the defence of human rights.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



The EU has a Special Representative for Human Rights. Their role is to improve EU human rights policy abroad.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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Once a month the European Parliament debates about flagrant violations of human rights worldwide. This way, they draw attention to abuses of human rights.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



All EU member states must sign and respect the European Convention on Human Rights.

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TOLERANCE / PLURALISM



You are free to practice or change your religion or beliefs.

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TOLERANCE / PLURALISM



© European Union 2025 – Source: Getty

The EU provides funding to civil society organisations working on equality and non-discrimination.

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TOLERANCE / PLURALISM



EU member states must combat hate speech based on race, sex, religion or nationality in television programmes.

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TOLERANCE / PLURALISM



The media must present society in all its dimensions. The Media Pluralism Monitor of the EU checks whether this is the case.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



The death penalty is forbidden in all EU countries.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



Torture is forbidden in all EU countries.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



All asylum seekers in the EU are entitled to shelter, food and sanitary services while their asylum application is pending.

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RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY



Child labour, slavery and labour exploitation are forbidden in the EU.

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You have the freedom to express your opinion in the EU, but hate speech is not allowed.

TRUE

EUROPE@SCHOOL



You can only work in another EU country if you have a work permit.

FALSE

All EU citizens are free to work in any EU country without the need for a work permit.

EUROPE@SCHOOL



Companies can collect our data without our permission.

FALSE

Companies do not have the right to collect personal data, except under strict conditions.

EUROPE@SCHOOL



EU citizens can travel freely throughout the whole EU.

TRUE

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There are no direct elections for the institutions of the European Union.

FALSE

Since 1979, EU citizens have directly elected a new European Parliament once every five years.

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EU citizens cannot propose new legislation at EU level.

FALSE

With the EU Citizens' Initiative, citizens of the EU can call on the European Commission to make new laws.

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As an EU citizen living in another EU country, you have the right to vote or be elected to the European Parliament where you live.

TRUE

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The European Parliament observes elections in countries outside the EU to promote free and fair elections.

TRUE

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The European Union has no rules on parental leave.

FALSE

The EU ensures at least four months of parental leave for every parent.

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The EU has a special Representative for Human Rights.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

If an EU citizen studies in another EU country, they pay 10% extra compared to a national student.

FALSE

EU citizens pay the same tuition fee as the national students.

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TRUE
FALSE

In the EU, citizens are protected from being refused a job or from being fired because of their sexual orientation.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

Victims of a crime or accident must be informed about the legal procedure in a language they understand. Suspects do not have this right.

FALSE

Both victims and suspects have the right to be informed in a language they understand.

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TRUE
FALSE

If an EU member state does not respect EU laws, it can be convicted by the EU Court of Justice.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

If an EU member state does not respect the rule of law, it will be kicked out of the EU.

FALSE

The country can get a warning, a sanction or be temporarily excluded from EU decision making.

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TRUE
FALSE

All victims and suspects have the right to a fair trial in the EU.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

The less wealthy regions in the EU receive extra financial support.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

The EU and its member states together are the world's second biggest development aid donor.

FALSE

They are the worlds' biggest development aid donor.

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TRUE
FALSE

If there is a terrorist attack in one of the EU member states, the other members will help the affected country.

TRUE

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TRUE
FALSE

The EU Global Adjustment Fund supports companies that have an office in at least one EU Member State.

FALSE

This Fund helps people find a new job if they have lost their job due to globalisation, e.g. the company moved to a low-wage country.

EUROPE@SCHOOL



In the EU, it is not possible to change your religion.

FALSE

You can practice or change your religion or beliefs.

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The Media Pluralism Monitor makes sure that media in the EU show society in all its dimensions.

TRUE

EUROPE@SCHOOL



Hate speech in television programmes is accepted in some EU countries.

FALSE

Hate speech on the grounds of race, sex, religion or nationality must be combatted in television programmes in all EU Member States.

EUROPE@SCHOOL



In some EU countries the death penalty is still allowed.

FALSE

The death penalty is forbidden in all EU countries

EUROPE@SCHOOL



All asylum seekers in the EU are entitled to shelter, food and sanitary services during their asylum procedure.

TRUE

EUROPE@SCHOOL



Child labour is not desirable, but still allowed in some EU countries.

FALSE

Child labour is forbidden in all EU Member States.

EUROPE@SCHOOL



Torture is forbidden in all EU countries.

TRUE

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The European Parliament only holds debates on human rights violations occurring in the European Union.

FALSE

The European Parliament holds debates on violations of human rights worldwide.

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The Sakharov prize is awarded to people who promote EU cooperation.

FALSE

The Sakharov prize is awarded to people who defend Human Rights.

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Every EU member state has signed the European Convention on Human Rights.

TRUE

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WORKSHEET

PERSONAL VALUE MAP

Values	My thoughts?	Priority for the EU?
Democracy 	A system of government by the people , typically through elected representatives.	AGREE DISAGREE
Freedom 	We are free to act, speak or think as we want. Freedom is also the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.	AGREE DISAGREE
Solidarity 	We are all involved with and responsible for each other. Solidarity is about mutual support within a group.	AGREE DISAGREE
Equality 	Everyone is equal in status, rights (before the law) and opportunities.	AGREE DISAGREE
Justice / rule of law 	All persons and institutions are subject to and accountable to clear and just laws that are fairly applied and enforced.	AGREE DISAGREE
Respect for human rights 	Human rights are basic rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world. They must always be respected and protected.	AGREE DISAGREE
Tolerance / pluralism 	We accept and respect the existence of diverse opinions and behaviour in society , including those we dislike or disagree with.	AGREE DISAGREE
Respect for human dignity 	The physical and psychological integrity of people must always be respected.	AGREE DISAGREE