

Spot on facts

BEFORE YOU READ 1 What does the European Union mean to you? How does it affect your ...?

LÖSUNGSVORSCHLAG

- **Picture of euro bills (left):** makes paying in countries which are members of the Eurozone easier; it's easier to compare prices as opposed to having to convert currencies; country-specific flipside of coins shows how EU countries mix; has also triggered fears because weaker economies like the southern (e.g. Greece) and eastern (e.g. Slovakia) member states are seen as a burden for the Eurozone.
- **Picture of passport control (middle):** EU eases travelling; no need to show your passport when travelling between EU member states; free movement of people is central to the European idea; however, easier travelling might result in the spread of organised crime.
- **Picture of EU flag (right):** twelve stars represent unity, but they have nothing to do with the number of member states at any given point in the history of the EU.

ANALYSIS 2 To what extent are the tasks and goals of the EU reflected in the budget ...?

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- **Goals:** The European Union is a political and economic union, whose goal it is to secure peace and prosperity in Europe.
Budget: By securing sustainable growth through green industrial policies and resource efficiency, the European Commission aims to lay a foundation for peace and prosperity throughout Europe.
- **Goals:** These legal policies aim at ensuring the free movement throughout the EU of people, goods, services, and capital as well as ensuring a wider and deeper integration of Europe.
Budget: One-third of the European Commission's budget goes toward economic, social and territorial cohesion, a goal that is clearly laid out in the EU's charter.
- **Goals:** EU policies include the common currency for member states of the monetary union and the freedom to work, study and travel anywhere in the EU.
Budget: Maintaining the euro and allowing citizens the freedom to work, study and travel anywhere in the EU are reflected in the 33.3% part of the budget as well as in the small 1.5% portion of the budget covering security and citizenship.

In sum, one can say that the budget of the EC reflects the tasks and goals of the EU fairly well.