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2.2 Tafelbild

Founding the EU

European Coal and Steel Community

- cooperation in industries of war: steel and coal
- Paris, 1951: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands

European Economic Community (EEC)

- success of European Coal and Steel community leads to common market
- no obstacles for exchange of money, business, jobs and trade

European Union (EU)

- many more members (today: 28) and areas of cooperation: infrastructure, environment etc.
 - changing the name from EEC to EU

What the European Union does today

- trying to make life easier
 - free movement within EU
 - single currency: euro
 - help for poor member states and neighbouring countries
 - environmental and consumer protection etc.

How the European Union makes decisions

European Commission

- 28 Commissioners, represent Europe
- propose laws

European Parliament

- elected every 5 years, represents the citizens
- decides on laws with Council

The Council

- government ministers, represent EU countries

European Council

- leaders of European countries who set Europe's general strategy

The Court of Justice

- makes sure that EU laws respect fundamental rights and

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- that member states stick to EU laws