

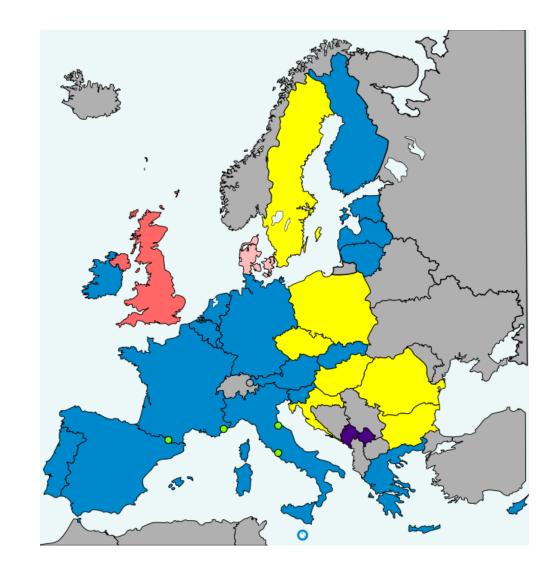
# The European Union

Nico Ritschel, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2018



### Super Quick Summary of the EU

- 28 members (pre-Brexit)
- 26 countries with open borders (4 non-EU)
- 19 countries with common currency (Euro)
- Three pillars of cooperation



### Super Quick Summary of the EU



#### **European Union: Three Pillars**

#### **European Community**

- Treaty of Rome as revised by Single European Act
- Single Market
- Democratization of the Institutions
- European Citizenship
- Economic and Monetary Union
  single currency
  European Central Bank
  single monetary policy
  coordination of economic policies

#### Common Foreign & Security Policy

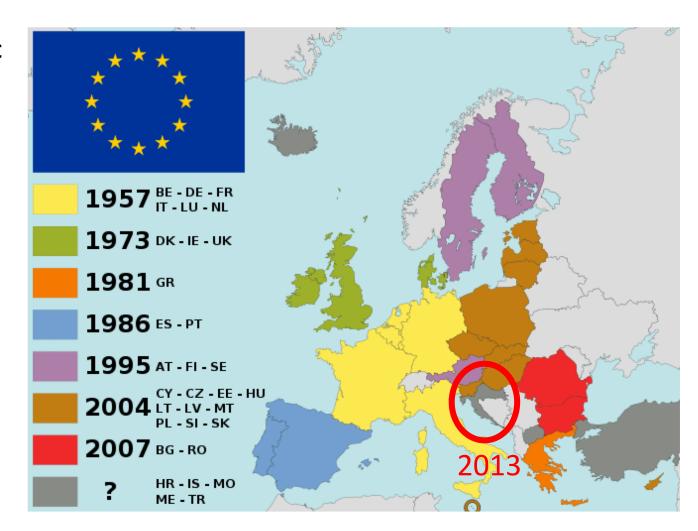
- Common Foreign Policy
  systematic cooperation
  common positions and joint
  actions
- Eventual common defense policy based on the Western European Union

#### **Justice and Home Affairs**

Closer cooperation
 asylum policy
 rules on crossing the Member
 States' external borders
 immigration policy
 combating drug addiction
 combating international fraud
 customs, police and judicial
 cooperation

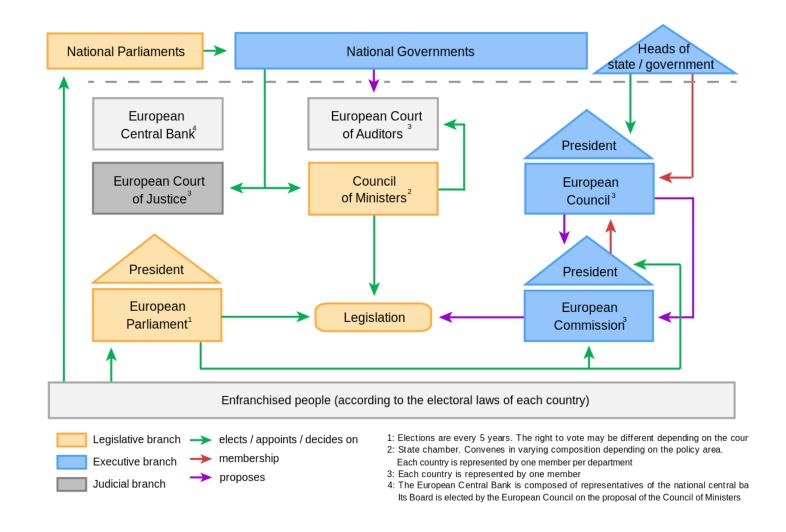
### Super Quick EU History

- Initially founded in 1957 as Economic Community with 6 members
- 1985: Schengen treaty creates open borders between 5 countries
- 1992: "Three Pillars of the EU" with joint political organs
- 2002: Introduction of the Euro
- 2007: Official founding of EU by merging previous treaties



### Politics in the EU

- Complicated
- Often indirect
- Interfere with (and can overrule) national laws
- But: Many politics fields require unanimity among member states



# What is the long-term target?

- Unify European market to be able to compete with US, China, etc.?
- Make nationality matter less and give people the feeling they are EU citizens?
- Remove indirection and establish a united European government?



### **Let's Take Back Control**

- Our Money Give the NHS millions more every week
- Our Economy Create new jobs with new trade deals
- Our Borders A new points-based immigration system
- Our Security Deport dangerous foreign criminals
- Our Taxes Cut VAT on household energy bills
- Vote Leave, take back control on 23 June

#### **Vote TO LEAVE the European Union**

Food in the UK is more expensive than it could be as a direct result of being in the European Union (EU)













The Common Agricultural Policy is designed to raise the price we pay for food to help subsidise inefficient farmers in France, Spain, Portugal and elsewhere. A combination of quotas, taxes, subsidies and other policies all push up the prices that we pay for foods. For instance, New Zealand lamb costs 18% more in the UK than it does in the USA due to European Union policies.

The impact of higher food prices hits poorer people most, as they spend a greater proportion of their income on food. Over the past

10 years a typical low income family in the UK has spent 2% of their total expenditure supporting the European Union's Common Agricultural Policy.

On average a UK family of 2 adults and 2 children would save £45 per month on their food bill if it were not for the wasteful European Union policies that affect food prices.

All information sourced from "Low Pay and the Cost of Living" by Ryan Bourne, IEA, "Food prices, powerty and the CAP" - Alan Marthews and "Change or Co", Business for British

We would all be better off if we left the European Union, the less well off better than most



- June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016: UK voted to leave the EU (51.9% for yes)
- March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017: Withdrawal process was officially initiated
- March 30<sup>th</sup> 2019: Anticipated completion of Brexit

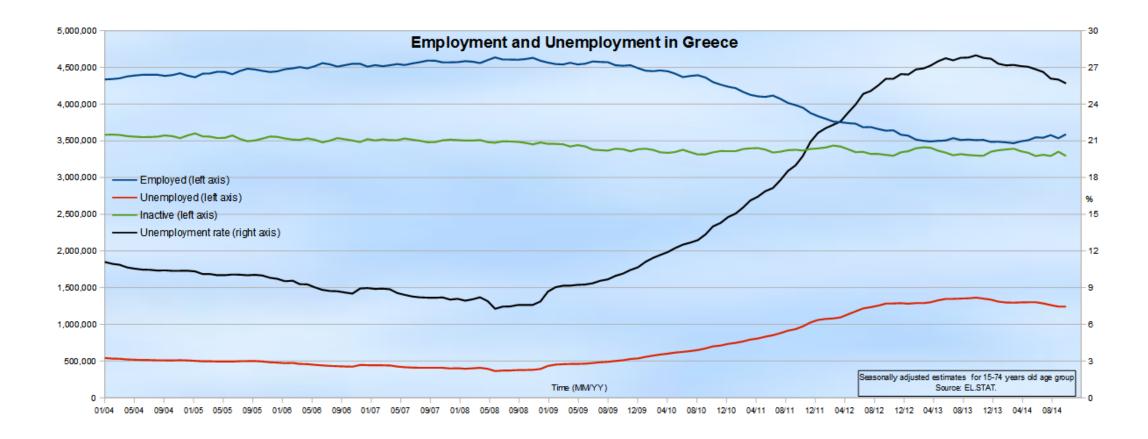
#### Main issues and negotiations:

- Ireland (which remains in EU) and Northern Ireland border
- Visas and Citizenship between EU and UK
- Payments and liabilities between EU and UK
- Re-establishment of trade agreements after Brexit



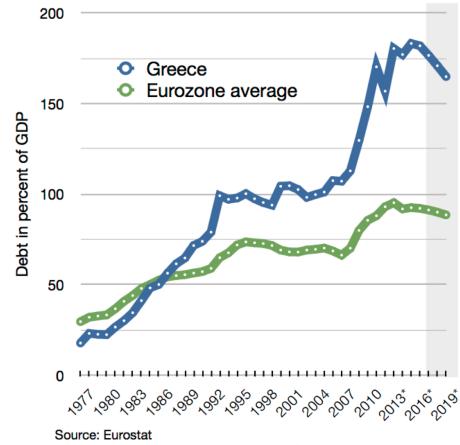
# Grexit (aka The Greek Depression)

• 2010: Greece's economy went through a deep crisis



# Grexit (aka The Greek Depression)

- 2010: Greece's economy went through a deep crisis
- 2011/12: Greece received bailout loans from EU worth about €240bn
  - Loans required strict austerity and established control mechanisms for EU institutions



\* Source: Ernst & Young using data from Oxford Economics

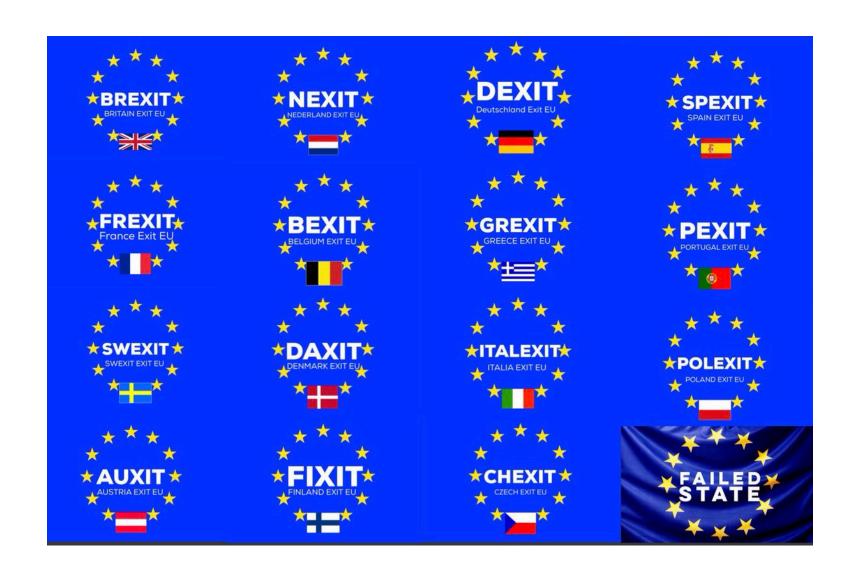
# Grexit (aka The Greek Depression)

- 2015: New, far-left government accused the EU (Germany in particular) to intentionally harm Greece
  - Suggests defaulting and exiting Eurozone
- Negotiations ultimately resumed, resulting in another bailout





# Frexit, Polexit, ..?



### TTIP & CETA



- Free trade agreements between the US (TTIP), Canada (CETA) and Europe
- Heavily protested in Europe with over 3 million signatures
  - Negotiated behind closed doors
  - Give corporations right to sue countries if laws restrict free trade
  - These cases would be decided by arbitration, not in public courts
- CETA was approved 2017 after heavy modifications, TTIP negotiations on halt since 2016



# Let's talk about some of the positive things ...

- Minimum paid vacation of 4 weeks/yr and guaranteed (m/p)aternity leaves
- Public health insurance from any EU country is valid in every other EU country
- In EU countries, all taxes and additional fees must be included in prices
- All online purchases have at least 14 days return policy (incl. digital goods)
- Since June 2017, roaming charges within the EU were effectively abolished
- In 2019, geo blocking and region locking for streaming and all digital content will become illegal

# The EU General Data Protection Regulation

- Companies must inform users ...
  - ... that they collect data and what it is used for
  - ... within 72 hrs if data breaches occur
- Users must be able ...
  - ... to retrieve a free copy of all stored data in a portable, machine-readable format
  - ... to request deletion of all stored data
- Additional restrictions for data of children (<16 yrs)</li>
- Applies to companies with EU customers worldwide

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Got it!



#### Dear gamer,

On May 25th, a new and important privacy-concerned regulation will come into effect across the entire European Union — the General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"). In a nutshell, GDPR requires all EU-based companies to pay additional attention to all personal data customers provide them with.

Together with the new law come a few formalities that require companies to implement changes in Privacy Policies and User Agreements — us included.

# Bizarre EU Regulations

• Since 2009, bananas and cucumbers are not allowed to be bent



• Since 2011, it is illegal for children to blow up balloons



- Since 2012, incandescent light bulbs are no longer sold
  - Still found sometimes under different names like "Heatball"





 Since 1987, Germany must allow imported beer to be sold even if it doesn't comply to the Reinheitsgebot





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