**THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**The History and Enlargement of the**

**European Union**

***Pronunciation***

1. **Note the pronunciation of the following words:**

supranational

intergovernmental

nationalism

to devastate

atomic

accession

remit

rigorous

to submit

invariably

unanimously

a mandate

a core

1. **Watch the pronunciation and spelling of these words:**

legal

ratification

to confer

Maastricht

Amsterdam

Nice

Lisbon

criteria

minorities

adherence

to integrate

accountable

to finance

***Reading***

The European Union is a political and economic community of twenty seven member states with supranational and intergovernmental features, located primarily in Europe. It was established after the World War II.

The political climate after the end of the war favored Western European unity, seen by many as an escape from the extreme forms of nationalism which had devastated the continent. One successful proposal for European cooperation came in 1951 with the European Coal and Steel Community, established by the Treaty of 1951, in Paris. This had the aim of bringing together control of the coal and steel industries of its member states (principally France and West Germany), with the purpose that a war between them would not be possible. Two additional communities were created in 1957: the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). Both of them were established by the Treaty of Rome.

Since then the EU has grown in size through the accession of new member states and has increased its powers by the addition of new policy areas to its remit.

The Single European Act (SEA, 1987) significantly expanded the EEC’s scope, called for more intensive coordination of foreign policy among members.

In 1993 the Maastricht Treaty established the current legal framework. With the entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) the EU also has at its disposal – the common strategy.

The Treaty of Nice (2001) introduced the possibility of establishing closer cooperation in the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) field for the implementation of joint actions and common positions. This closer cooperation may not be used for matters with military or defence implications.

The Lisbon Treaty, also known as the Reform Treaty, signed in December 2007, initiates ratification process in 2008 and is amending the existing treaties.

The Treaties do not officially confer legal personality on the Union, but there is a consensus among the political players that this should be done.

The EU currently has 27 independent sovereign countries which are collectively known as member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the UK, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta.

Any European country which respects the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law may apply to become a member of the Union. The Treaty on European Union sets out the conditions.

Applying for EU membership is the start of the long and rigorous process. The official starting point is that a country submits an application – although this invariably arises out of an already strong bilateral relationship with the EU. The application from a country wishing to join is submitted to the Council. The European Commission provides a formal opinion on the applicant country, and the Council decides whether to accept the application. Once the Council unanimously agrees a negotiating mandate, negotiations may be formally launched between the candidate and all the member states. This is not automatic though. The applicant country must meet a core of criteria before negotiations start.

The so-called “Copenhagen criteria” set out in December 1993 by the European Council in Copenhagen, require a candidate country to have:

- stable institutions that guarantee democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights and protection of minorities;

- a functioning market economy, as well as the ability to cope with the pressure of competition and the market forces at work inside the Union;

- the ability to assume the obligations of membership, in particular adherence to the objectives of political, economic and monetary union.

In addition the EU must be able to integrate new members: it needs to ensure that its institutions and decision-making processes remain effective and accountable; it needs to be in a position, as it enlarges, to continue developing and implementing common policies in all areas; and it needs to be in a position to continue its policies in a sustainable manner.

**2. Answer the following questions:**

1. What are the two main principles, which the activity of the European Union is based on?
2. What circumstances urged Europe to launch an integration process?
3. What is the name of the first European organization that made the further cooperation feasible?
4. What communities were established by the Treaty of Rome?
5. How many countries does the EU include?
6. When was the SEA established?
7. When was the field for the closer cooperation in the Common Foreign and Security Policy between the members established?
8. Is the Lisbon Treaty amending the existing treaties or is regarded as an additional one?
9. Do the treaties officially confer legal personality on the Union?
10. What are the prerequisite requirements for a country to join the EU?
11. What is the first stage of applying for EU membership for any country?
12. What does the treaty on EU set out?
13. What measures must be undertaken by the EU to integrate new members?
14. What role does the European Commission play in the country’s application process?
15. What core of criteria must be met by a candidate-country before the talks are launched?
16. Which administrative body of the EU sets out the “Copenhagen criteria”?
17. Why must a candidate country provide the adherence to the objectives of political, economic and monetary union?
18. What actions represent the top policy priority for the EU in terms of the process of its enlargement?

***Word Study***

**1. Translate the following lexical units from the text from English into Russian, prepare questions with these lexical units, based on the text:**

Supranational features, intergovernmental features, extreme forms of nationalism, to devastate, to bring together control (over), to call for, to initiate a ratification process, to establish the legal framework, to confer legal personality on, accession of (a country) to (the EU), remit, implementation of joint action, a rigorous process, to agree a mandate, to meet a core of criteria, the rule of law, protection of minorities, unanimously, invariably, to submit an application, in a sustainable manner, to integrate new members, to finance policies, to assume the implications of membership, to cope with the pressure of competition, accountable, adherence to the objectives of, a functioning market economy.

**2. Translate the following word-combinations from Russian into English, restore the context of their use:**

установить правовые рамки, наделять правосубъектностью, Закон о единой Европе, вступление (страны) в (ЕС), Европейское объединение угля и стали, осуществлять общий контроль (над), крайние формы проявления национализма, надгосударственные черты, Европейское экономическое сообщество, опустошать, требовать, Лиссабонский договор, усиленное координирование внешней политики, Амстердамский договор, договор Ниццы, начинать процесс ратификации, Европейской сообщество по атомной энергетике, принимать обязательства членства, принимать новых членов, финансировать политику, постоянно, действующая рыночная экономика, строгое соблюдение главных целей, понятный, принять мандат, неизменно, скрупулезный процесс, подать заявление, единогласно, соответствовать сути критериев, верховенство закона.

**3. Find the words and word combinations that mean approximately the same in the text, use these lexical units in the examples of your own:**

1. to cause so much damage to a place or area that most of it destroyed
2. the area of authority or responsibility of an individual or a group
3. to grant
4. the process of agreeing to a demand
5. conducted between or involving two or more governments
6. to need a particular action, behaviour, quality
7. the act of taking actions or making changes that you have officially decided should happen
8. jural scope
9. beyond the authority or jurisdiction of one national government
10. the belief that your own country is better than any other country
11. to begin or originate the process of making a written agreement official by signing it

**4. Fill in the gaps using the words and word combinations from the previous exercises:**

1. The European Union consists of 27 member states and it is characterized by \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ features.
2. One of the reasons for forming Western European Unity was an escape from the \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ which had \_\_\_\_ the continent.
3. In 1957 there were created two additional communities, the first one is \_\_\_\_\_\_, and the second one is \_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. The most urgent action the European Single Act \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_ of new members contributed to the EU size while the addition of new policy areas to its \_\_\_\_\_\_ has increased its powers.
6. One of the basic provisions of the Maastricht Treaty was the establishment of the \_\_\_\_\_\_.

**5. How do you call people who live in the following countries?**

1. Austria –
2. Belgium –
3. Bulgaria –
4. Cyprus –
5. The Czech Republic –
6. Portugal –
7. The IrishRepublic –
8. The UK –
9. Lithuania –
10. Spain –
11. Sweden –
12. Germany –
13. The Netherlands –
14. Slovakia –
15. Slovenia –
16. Poland –
17. Denmark –
18. Hungary –
19. Italy –
20. Latvia –
21. Greece –
22. Malta –
23. Luxemburg –
24. Romania –
25. Estonia –
26. Finland –
27. France –

**Translate the following sentences into English using active vocabulary:**

1. Россия поддерживает деловые связи на взаимовыгодной основе с рядом западных стран, Канадой и США.
2. Плодотворное сотрудничество между нашей страной и Великобританией в различных областях началось с установления дипломатических отношений в 1924 году.
3. За последнее время значительно расширились политические, экономические и культурные связи между Россией и странами Евросоюза.
4. Европейский союз – это экономическая организация, основанная в 1951 году.
5. Широкое сотрудничество между странами-партнерами основано на принципах равенства и взаимного уважения.
6. Россия строит свои отношения с другими странами на принципах равенства и взаимовыгодного сотрудничества.
7. Россия постоянно увеличивает свой товарооборот со странами Евросоюза.
8. Обмен в области науки и культуры способствует взаимопониманию и сотрудничеству между народами.

***Speaking***

**Use the following words and word-combinations to make up the summary of the text (not more than 15 sentences):**

1. *supranational features*
2. *intergovernmental features*
3. *extreme forms of nationalism*
4. *to devastate*
5. *to bring together control (over)*
6. *to call for*
7. *intensive coordination of foreign/home policy*
8. *accession of … to…*
9. *remit*
10. *to establish the legal framework*
11. *to initiate a ratification process*
12. *to confer legal personality on*
13. *to submit an application*
14. *unanimously*
15. *to agree a mandate*
16. *to meet a core of criteria*
17. *the rule of law*
18. *a functioning market economy*
19. *to cope with the pressure of competition*
20. *to assume the obligations of membership*
21. *adherence to the objectives of*
22. *to integrate new members*
23. *accountable*
24. *to finance policies*
25. *in a sustainable manner*