***Part 2* The Structure and Objectives of the EU**

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

consistency

solidarity

sustainable development

frontiers

monetary

to assert

to strengthen

acquis communautaire

corpus

**2. Watch the pronunciation and spelling of the words and word-combinations:**

human dignity

diversity

a pillar

coherence

commissioner

to monitor

compliance

execution

agenda

court

***Warm-up***

**Work in groups and discuss the following questions:**

1. Consult the dictionary and give definitions to the following words: council,

parliament, commission.

1. Being an organization of the supranational level what peculiarities of the structure can the EU possess?

***Reading***

Under the Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty) the main task of the Union is “to organize, in a manner demonstrating consistency and solidarity, relations between the Member States and between their peoples.”

To achieve this, the Union has set a number of objectives:

- to promote economic and social progress, sustainable development, an area without internal frontiers and economic and monetary union;

- to assert its identity on the international scene;

- to strengthen the protection of rights through the introduction of a citizenship of the Union;

- to create an area of freedom, security and justice;

- to build on the acquis communautaire – the corpus of rules established by and in the context of the Union.

The Union is founded on the values: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights. It has its own symbols: a flag (twelve stars on a blue background), an anthem (Ludvig van Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy”), a motto (“United in diversity”), a currency (euro) and a Europe day (9, May).

The Union is a form of legal organization consisting of three pillars:

- the first corresponding to the European Community;

- the second comprising the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP);

- the third consisting of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters.

It has a single institutional framework for the three pillars (essentially consisting of the European Council, the European Parliament, the Council of the Union and the European Commission). This ensures coherence and consistency in the Union’s actions across the pillars.

The European Commission consists of permanent civil service directed by commissioners. It has three primary functions: to formulate community policies, to monitor compliance with community decisions, and to oversee the execution of community law.

The Commission has shared its agenda-setting role with the European Council, which consists of the leaders of all member-countries. Established in 1974, the European Council meets at least twice a year to define a long-term agenda for European political and economic integration. The Council of the EU is the main decision-making institution of the EC and the EU. It consists of ministerial representatives. All community legislation requires the approval of the Council.

The European Parliament serves not only as a consultative body, but also it’s given joint decision-making power over community expenditures. The European Parliament is organized into transnational party groups based on political ideology – the Party of European Socialists, the European People’s Party, etc.

The European Court of Justice (ECJ) interprets community law, settles conflicts between the organizations, institutions, and determines whether members have fulfilled their treaty obligations

**2. Answer the following questions:**

1. What is the main task of the European Union under the Maastricht Treaty?
2. What are the main objectives set by the European Union?
3. What are the values which the Union is founded on?
4. Does the EU have a flag? What does it look like?
5. The legal organization of the EU consists of the three pillars, doesn’t it? What are they?
6. What primary functions does the European Commission have?
7. When was the European Council established?
8. What is the main decision-making institution of the European Community?
9. Does all community legislation require the approval of the Council?
10. What are the main functions of the European Court of Justice?

***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:**

to demonstrate consistency and solidarity, sustainable development, internal frontiers, a monetary union, to assert one’s identity, to strengthen the protection of rights, the corpus of rules, respect for human dignity, diversity, a pillar, a single institutional framework, a commissioner, to monitor compliance with, to oversee the execution of a law, to define a long-term agenda, an agenda-setting role, a joint decision-making power, to settle conflicts, to fulfil treaty obligations.

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

внутренние границы, усилить защиту прав, выполнять обязательства договора, совместная власть принятия решений, Еврокомиссия, следить за выполнением закона, основной принцип, уважение человеческого достоинства, отстаивать собственную индивидуальность, устойчивое развитие, свод правил, урегулировать конфликты, роль определяющего повестку дня, гарантировать сплоченность действий и постоянство, Общая внешняя политика и политика безопасности, Европейская политика безопасности и обороны, строить долгосрочные планы.

**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 express the quality of always being the same or always being good and loyalty and general agreement between all the people in a group, or between different groups because they all have a shared aim
2. common experience
3. a responsibility or obligation of determining the basic objectives of a meeting
4. a basic principle
5. to control, manage the process of carrying out a rule that people in a particular area must obey
6. to guarantee coordination of actions and perseverance
7. a collection of all the official instructions that say how things must be done
8. borders within the Union
9. constant, permanent growth of smth, so that it becomes bigger or more advanced
10. to resolve disputes
11. the quality of having variety and including a wide range of different people
12. the ability to behave in a way that shows you respect yourself and stay calm, even in a very difficult situation
13. a member of a commission

**4. Find the odd-one-out:**

1. consistency-coherence-variability-permanency
2. to uphold-to support-to sustain-to contribute
3. to assert-to aver-to confirm-to allege
4. variety-diversity-multiplicity-similarity
5. agreement-compliance-discord-consent

**5. Fill in the gaps of the following sentences using active vocabulary:**

1. Under the Maastricht Treaty the main task of the Union is to organize relations between the member states and their peoples so that the can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
2. The first objective of the Union consists in promoting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an area without \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. The second objective deals with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the international scene.
4. The third objective concerns \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
5. The Union should be built on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - the corpus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ established by and in the context of the Union.
6. Among the values the Union is founded on the main one is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
7. The Union’s motto is “United in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

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

1. *to demonstrate consistency and solidarity*
2. *a monetary union*
3. *to assert one’s identity*
4. *to strengthen the protection of rights*
5. *acquis communautaire*
6. *the corpus of rules*
7. *diversity*
8. *a pillar*
9. *to ensure coherence and consistency*
10. *a commissioner*
11. *to define a long-term agenda*
12. *an agenda-setting role*
13. *a joint decision-making power*
14. *to settle conflicts*
15. *to fulfil treaty obligations*

***Translation***

**Translate the following text from Russian into English using a dictionary:**

**1. Основные институты Евросоюза**

*Европейский совет*

Высший политический орган ЕС, состоящий из глав государств и правительств стран-членов и их заместителей — министров иностранных дел. Членом Европейского Совета является также председатель Еврокомиссии.

Совет определяет основные стратегические направления развития ЕС. Выработка генеральной линии политической интеграции — основная миссия Европейского совета. Наряду с Советом Министров Европейский Совет наделён политической функцией, заключающейся в изменении основополагающих договоров европейской интеграции.

*Европейская комиссия*

Европейская Комиссия — высший орган исполнительной власти Европейского союза. Состоит из 27 членов, по одному от каждого государства-члена. При исполнении своих полномочий они независимы, действуют только в интересах ЕС, не вправе заниматься какой-либо другой деятельностью. Государства-члены не вправе влиять на членов Еврокомиссии.

Штаб-квартира Европейской Комиссии находится в Брюсселе.

*Совет ЕС*

Совет Европейского союза, или, неофициально, «Совет Министров», наделён рядом функций как исполнительной, так и законодательной власти, а потому нередко рассматривается как ключевой институт в процессе принятия решений на уровне Европейского союза.

*Европейский парламент*

Европейский Парламент является собранием из 785 депутатов, напрямую избираемых гражданами стран-членов ЕС сроком на пять лет. Председатель Европарламента избирается на два с половиной года. Члены Европейского парламента объединяются не по национальному признаку, а в соответствии с политической ориентацией.

Основная роль Европарламента — утверждение бюджета ЕС. Кроме того, практически любое решение Совета ЕС требует либо одобрения Парламента, либо по крайней мере запроса его мнения. Парламент контролирует работу Комиссии и обладает правом ее роспуска (которым, впрочем, он никогда не пользовался).

*Европейский суд*

Европейский суд (официальное название — Суд Европейских сообществ) проводит свои заседания в Люксембурге и является судебным органом ЕС высшей инстанции.

В соответствии с Маастрихтским договором Суду предоставлено право налагать штрафы на государства-члены, не выполняющие его постановления.

Суд сыграл огромную роль в становлении и развитии права ЕС. Многие, даже основополагающие принципы правопорядка Союза основаны не на международных договорах, а на прецедентных решениях Суда.

***Talkingpoint***

**Express your opinion on the following questions:**

1. Which is the most influential part of the EU? How is it expressed?
2. Can you say that the EU works effectively? Which parts of it would you rather were reformed?
3. Does the EU need a standing army? Explain your viewpoint.