

# FLAG OF EUROPE - A BRIEF HISTORY



Where In The World



### Trivia

The number of stars on the flag is fixed and is not related to the member of states of the EU.

### Technical Specification

<b>Adopted:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> December 1955 (CoE) 18 <sup>th</sup> June 1985 (EEC/EU)
<b>Proportion:</b>	A circle of 12 five pointed gold stars on a blue field.
<b>Design:</b>	2:3
<b>Colours:</b>	PMS – Blue: Reflex Blue, Gold: Yellow CMYK – <b>Blue:</b> 100% Cyan, 80% Magenta, 0% Yellow, 0% Black; <b>Gold:</b> 0% Cyan, 0% Magenta, 100% Yellow, 0% Black

### Brief History

The Council of Europe adopted the flag of Europe in 1955 and the European Economic Community 1985. The European Economic Community became the European Community and then eventually the European Union. The flag remained the same through the name change.

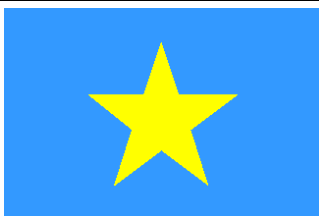
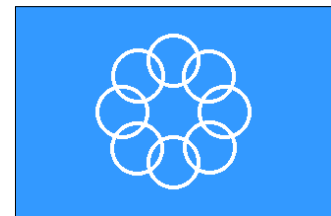
Arsène Heitz and Paul M. G. Lévy designed the flag, it consists of a blue field with a circle of twelve 5-pointed fold stars.



The Flag of Europe (1955 to Present Day)

### Unsuccessful Entries

There were six unsuccessful designs for the Flag of Europe; these included the original flag for the Pan European Union and the original flag of the European Movement.



**European Coal and Steel Community**

Before the creation of the European union, the first major organisation to adopt a unifying flag was the European Coal and Steel Community. The original flag was created for the 1958 Exposition in Brussels and had Six stars to represent Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Every time another state joined another star would be added. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom brought it up to nine stars in 1973. Greece joined in 1981 and finally there became 12 stars once Portugal and Spain. After 12 there was a rule to keep the flag fixed to twelve.

The flag was dropped when the European Coal and Steel community merged with the European Union in 2002.



The Flag of the European Coal and Steel Community (1958 – 1972)



The Flag of the European Coal and Steel Community (1973 - 1980)



The Flag of the European Coal and Steel Community (1981 - 1985)



The Flag of the European Coal and Steel Community (1986 - 2002)

**The Flag of European Parliament**

From 1973 the European Parliament used its own flag, but never adopted it.

It had the yellow and blue colour scheme with the EP and PE inside a wreath.

The flag was dropped in 1983 when the Parliament adopted the twelve star flag.



**The Flag of the Western European Union**

Belgium, France, United Kingdom, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Treaty of Brussels in 1948 the military organisation of the Western European Union was created. The flag was rarely used and now Western European Union activity ended in 2011, the flag is no longer flown.



The Flag of the Western European Union (1949)



The Flag of the Western European Union (Up Until 1993)



The Flag of the Western European Union (1993 – 2011)

### The Barcode Flag

A new flag was proposed in 2002, it featured a line of every colour of the members of the European Union. It was nicknamed the “barcode” and was looked on unfavourably. It was never officially adopted.

