



**EUROPEAN
ASSOCIATION
OF
TEACHERS
(UK and Ireland
Section)**

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NEWSLETTER

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THOUGHTS ON BREXIT FROM EUROPE

Jean Dominique Gulliani



The UK's departure from the EU is good news for no one.

The Europeans have been incapable of preventing it, despite an international context that should have persuaded them to keep Britain aboard. At the very least an agreement encompassing enhanced security and defence would have symbolised a community of strategic interests between the British Isles and the Continent. Was it really the political nature of the Union that scared off our partners across the Channel, who are generally more pragmatic and mercantile? Was it the community method, which was finally far too restrictive that did not allow them sufficient political freedom? Was it the lack of any enthusiastic project for the future of Europe for the 21st century that failed to retain the support of a people in quest of a its prestigious history?

As for the British, indeed, the outcome of Brexit has to date, been even more devastating. The referendum on 23rd June 2016 aimed to cure division within the Conservative Party: the party's interest was preferred over that of the country. Where are the brilliant elites who succeeded over the centuries in carrying forward the Kingdom's superior interest? What has become of the UK? An off-shore platform anchored just outside the Single Market, largely managed by non-Europeans, financed by Russian, Asian or Arab billionaires in total breach of its brilliant, glorious past?

It has got everything wrong in this disastrous operation – the strategy, tactics and the result. Triggering article 50 without any negotiation strategy was almost suicidal; wanting to interpret a populist mandate was an impossible task, which led the Prime Minister to rule out, from the very beginning, continued membership of the Customs Union and the Single Market, and finally to do everything to remain in it; ignoring the bizarre consequences of history, Gibraltar, the bases in Cyprus and especially the Irish border, illustrated the recklessness of a government that went as far

as weakening itself by convening and losing a general election. A rare waste for a result in which everyone will lose out!

And here, we are no longer challenging the European Union, its institutions and mechanisms, which will soon be the focus of the European elections debate. It has been rather more effective and loyal. It is a question of appealing to the member States of Europe, which have been unable to spare themselves these mistakes, this loss of time and energy, these necessarily negative consequences, which finally and unfortunately, reflect a lack of vision, thought and strategic positioning, i.e a true weakening.

*Written by
Jean Dominique Guiliani
For the Foundation Robert Schumann*

**CENTRAL
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITY
LEAVES
HUNGARY**

Because Hungary's Central European University (CEU) has been forbidden to accept new students after the start of this year, resulting in the University announcing that it will launch all U.S.-accredited degree

CERTIFICATE OF EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE TESTS

FIND THE ENTRY FORM ON PAGE 19

programs in Vienna in September 2019. It is making the announcement in order to guarantee that it can recruit students in time for the beginning of the next academic year.

The University has taken all steps to comply with Hungarian legislation, launching educational activities in the U.S. that were certified by U.S. authorities, but, the Hungarian government has made it clear it has no intention of signing the agreement that it negotiated over a year ago with the State of New York, which would ensure CEU's operations in Budapest for the long term.

The Hungarian government has never said that there were academic grounds for their actions and the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the New York State Education Department and the Hungarian Accreditation Committee have all certified the excellence of CEU's academic programs.

It is considered that the eviction of a reputable university is a violation of academic freedom. The university retains accreditation as a Hungarian university and will seek to continue teaching and research activity in Budapest as long as possible.

The University is now is registered in Austria to issue U.S.-accredited degrees. It will enrol all incoming students to its Vienna location in September 2019. Currently enrolled students will complete their studies in Budapest.

CEU is a graduate institution accredited in the U.S. and Hungary with 1200 master's and doctoral students in the humanities, social sciences, business, law, cognitive and network science. The university employs 770 staff and faculty and contributes 25 million Euros (8 billion forints) to the Hungarian economy each year in taxes, pension and health contributions, and payments to suppliers. It is Central Europe's most successful applicant for competitive European Union research grant funding, with more than 19 million Euros awarded for the 2018-2026 period.

ESSENTIAL EUROPE

This educational guide to Europe is about to be up-dated and re-printed to show the changes that have taken place to date. Details of the revised version will be available for 2020.



SAFEGUARDING THE ENVIRONMENT

Meeting in Luxembourg in 9 October, environment ministers reached an agreement on the proposed regulation on CO₂ standards for cars and vans . They agreed and set new targets for stricter CO₂ emission standards. By 2030, new cars will emit on average 35% less CO₂ compared to the current emission standard limits. In addition A new policy to regulate CO₂ emission standards for heavy-duty vehicles was proposed to target a CO₂ emissions reduction for new trucks, buses and lorries.

At the same time the Council adopted conclusions on climate change aiming at giving a strong political signal of ambition in climate action saying that in order to achieve the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement all countries must enhance mitigation action in coherence with, among others, sustainable development and the protection of biodiversity.

Environment ministers further adopted conclusions on biodiversity. These include issues of biosafety and access and benefit sharing. Deep concern was expressed that the natural resource base and ecosystem services that humanity depends upon are at high risk and that most pressures driving biodiversity loss continue to increase.

At the same time MEP's have adopted a draft set of rules, so that lorries and buses are taxed according to the distance and not the time taken for the journey - as of 2023 - this will apply to utility vans as of 2027. MEP's advocate a different road tariffication according CO₂ emissions and a limit on car vignette prices. They also hope that as of 2020 a State can no longer exempt certain heavy goods vehicles or lorries of road tax

**ART
and
CULTURE
for
2019
in
EUROPE**

Tintin's 90th birthday

To celebrate the Tintin's 90th birthday, who was published for the first time on 10th January 1929 in "Le Petit Vingtième" and the 50th anniversary of the first steps of Man on the Moon, a "Tintin and the Moon" exhibition is running until May in Barcelona...



Banksy at the MUDEC, Milan

The Museum of Culture in Milan - the MUDEC - is running an exhibition until 14th April 2019 devoted to Banksy. The artist who cultivates an aura of mystery around his identity and who enjoys making fun of objects in the consumer society is on show for the first time in a public museum



Videoart Berlin

The Berlinische Galerie will be hosting the exhibition "Son of a witch" which will be showing videos by German artist Raphaela Vogen until 11th March 2019. The exhibition is part of the "Videoart at Midnight" organised in Berlin in four different places with the aim of including different aspects of video art outside of the field of cinema

**Re-opening
of Africa Museum in
Brussels**

The former Royal Museum of Central Africa, now the Africa Museum, which had been under renovation since 2013, opened its doors once more in December in Brussels. The permanent exhibition which dated from the 1950's was redesigned to adopt a critical vision of Belgium's colonial past.



Prague's Golden Age

The city museum of Prague has an exhibition until 31st March showing the Golden Age of Prague, its urban, architectural and exceptionally technical rise that took it from being a provincial town in the Austro-Hungarian empire to that of a modern metropolis.



Collection of the Liège Beaux-Arts

The Beaux-Arts Museum of Liège is showing its unique collection of more than 150 paintings and sculptures by international and Belgian masters of the Renaissance to the avant-garde movements until 18th August 2019.



Caravaggio and the Flemish Golden Age

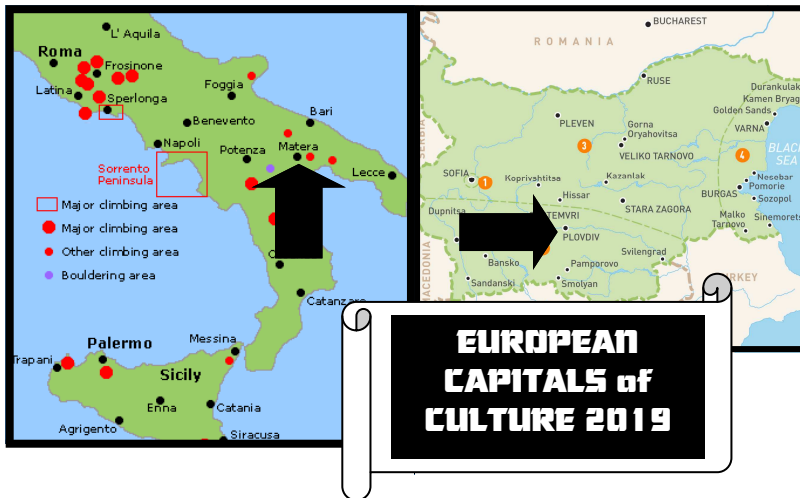
The Central Museum of Utrecht has an exhibition until 24th March devoted to Caravaggio and his influence over painting at the start of the Flemish Golden Age.



"Private Rembrandt" exhibition in Amsterdam

Until 7th April, on the occasion of the 350th anniversary of the death of Rembrandt, the archives of the city of Amsterdam are showing original documents from the time of the artist. The personal history of the painter is told via these papers, illustrated by works of the collections in the Rijksmuseum and the House of Rembrandt Museum..





With a rich historical and cultural heritage Plovdiv in Bulgaria and Matera in Italy are this year's Capitals of Culture.

Plovdiv

Plovdiv is the first Bulgarian city to take on the mantle of European Capital of Culture. Located in south-central Bulgaria, in the centre of the Thracian plain, it is the country's second largest city, with approximately 345,000 inhabitants. "Together" is the motto of Plovdiv European Capital of Culture. It includes four thematic platforms: "Fuse" integrates ethnic and minority groups, and aims to bring together different generations and social groups; "Transform" re-thinks and revives forgotten urban spaces; "Revive" aims to preserve historical heritage and expand access to culture; while "Relax" promotes sustainable living with a slow pace and slow food. The city is planning more than 300 projects and nearly 500 events in more than 70 locations. More than two million tourists are expected to visit Plovdiv in 2019..

Matera

Matera is a city of 60,000 in the south of Italy, famous for its historical Sassi cave dwellings and is a designated Unesco world heritage site. As a Capital of Culture the city has the opportunity to show the world its natural historical attractions, the beauty of its homes carved in the rock, the underground churches, the thirteenth-century cathedral and the incredible landscape that surrounds the city."

Matera 2019's slogan is "Open Future!" and has five main themes: "Ancient Future", "Continuity and Disruptions", "Reflections and Connections", "Utopias and Dystopias" and "Roots and Routes".

EUROPEAN NEWS



Access to quality drinking water

In October the European Parliament confirmed its support for the Commission's proposal for better quality drinking water. MEP's approved measures to reduce pollutants in tap water to strengthen consumer confidence. The proposal also encourages Member States to provide universal access to drinking water via installations in public places and via the free provision of drinking water in restaurants.

Reform of road use charges

MEP's have adopted a draft set of rules, so that lorries and buses are taxed according to the distance and not the time taken for the journey as from 2023. This will apply to utility vans from 2027. MEP's are suggesting a different road tarification according CO2 emissions and a limit on car vignette prices. They also hope that as of 2020 a State can no longer exempt certain heavy goods vehicles or lorries of road tax.

Russia continues to refuse to sit on the Council of Europe

Russia is continuing its boycott of the Council of Europe. they will not send a delegation during the next session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and have frozen their contribution to the budget.

The 2019 Budget of the EU

In October the European Parliament the EU's draft 2019 budget which set out a total budget of 166.34 billion €, including additional sums for Erasmus+ and for the youth employment initiative. It did, however, reject the 794 million € cut put forward by the Council in programmes for growth and employment. It asked for additional funds towards pre-membership aid for the Balkans, for the European Neighbourhood Policy and for the Cooperation Financing Instrument, but it reduced funds allocated to Turkey.

Opening of crossing points on the divided island of Cyprus

The Cypriot President and the leader of the Turkish community on the island, have re-iterated their wish to continue their dialogue in a constructive manner, under the aegis of the UN, in a bid to establish "a bi-zone, bi-community federation" to bring the island's division to an end. They also came to agreement on the opening of new crossing points between the Republic of Cyprus and the north of the island, at Dherynia and Lefka .

Approval of the project to reduce the use of plastic

MEPs have approved a draft directive regarding the ban on single use plastic products (straws, plates, cotton buds), oxo-plastics and some types of polystyrene by 2021. Other plastics where there are no alternatives available are to be reduced by at least 25% by 2025 and Member States will have to encourage their reuse and recycling.

Over 3 million resident permits delivered in the EU in 2017

Figures just released show that more than 3.1 million resident permits were delivered in the Member States of the Union in 2017, a 4% increase in comparison with the previous year. The main beneficiaries were from Ukraine, Syria and China and the permits were mainly established in Poland, Germany and the UK. Work, studies and family reasons were the first reasons for residence

REVIEW OF HEALTH CARE IN EUROPE

A joint report by the European Commission and the OECD was published in November on the state of health in Europe in 2018. It shows that increasing life expectancy, which normally increases, has slowed and that major inequalities persist, notably amongst populations with low levels of education. The report advocates greater attention and prevention of mental illness, for universal access to care and an optimisation of spending on healthcare. It has asked for more to be done to counter dangers such as dependency on tobacco, alcohol and obesity..

THE EURO ZONE

In November the Commission published its recommendations regarding the economic policy of the euro zone. It has asked the Member States to commit to policies to deepen the single market, the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) and the European Banking System. It advises the Member States to support both public and private investments but also to lower taxation that affects employment. The Commission insists on the importance of increasing budgetary State reserves and reducing public debt levels. It also recommends greater coordination and the adequation of European social security systems..

EUROZONE INFLATION RATE FALLS

In the euro zone, the annual inflation rate lay at 1.9% in November 2018 - against 2.2% in October - according to the most recent data published by Eurostat. It lies at 2% in the Union, against 2.2% in October. The lowest annual rates were in Denmark (0.7%), Ireland (0.8%) and Portugal (0.9%) whilst the highest were seen in Estonia, Hungary and Romania (3.2%).

IMPROVING CYBERSECURITY

The Parliament and the Council came to agreement in December regarding measures that aim to improve cyber security. They introduce the first European cyber security certification system to guarantee cyber security standards on products and services marketed in the EU. The Agency for Cybersecurity will have greater powers, to prepare the Union's response in the event of major cyber attacks.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

According to a report by the European Agency for Fundamental Rights regarding discrimination and hate crime against people of Jewish confession in the EU published in December, anti-Semitism continues in the EU. Around 90% of respondents deem that anti-Semitism is growing in their countries and a share of them even believes that is a problem, particularly on-line. Nearly 30% of those interviewed have been harassed over the past year and 80% do not report serious incidents to the competent authorities because they think it will serve no purpose. The Agency has asked Member States to take immediate, emergency steps, in cooperation with those affected..

TOWARDS MEMBERSHIP OF THE EU - SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

At the December meeting of the membership conference with Montenegro it was agreed to open the 32nd negotiation chapter regarding the environment and climate change. Three are also closed provisionally. At the same time the meeting of the membership conference with Serbia took place to open the 15th and 16th negotiation chapters on the Economic and Monetary Policy and on statistics. Two chapters are already closed provisionally for Serbia. These moves move both countries closer to membership of the European Union.

THE SINGLE MARKET IN THE CHANGING WORLD

The Commission has published an assessment of the Single Market. The report shows that the deepening of the Single Market means the rapid adoption of proposals that have already been put forward, such as the capital union and the Digital Single Market. The Commission is asking all Member States to take care in the implementation and monitoring of the EU's law but especially it hopes that the integration of the Single Market will continue, notably in the areas of services and taxation. At the same time the Commission presented an action plan to increase efficiency and transparency of harmonised standards that are vital to the smooth running of the Single Market.

**Ratification of the agreement
between Greece and Macedonia
over the country's new name**

On 11th January the Macedonian Parliament adopted the four constitutional amendments required for the ratification of the country's name change into "Republic of Northern Macedonia, in line with the agreement with Greece, signed in June 2018. The agreement was ratified by 81 MPs, one vote more than the two-thirds majority necessary, whilst the opposition boycotted the vote and called for a snap election. The change of name which is due to take Macedonia's integration into NATO and the EU forward, will enter into force if it is also ratified by the Greek Parliament

**Plovdiv and Matera,
European Capitals of
Culture**

Plovdiv, in Bulgaria and Matera in Italy are the European Capitals of Culture for 2019. Plovdiv launched a programme of events and exhibitions on 12th January under the banner "Together!" Festivities started in Matera on 19th January under the banner "Open Future!".

**ROAD
TRANSPORT
CHANGES**

Proposals for the reform of the road transport regulations include the working conditions of drivers and special posting rules for international transport drivers and the aim to integrate the climate in addition to energy, transport and digital connectivity.

A NEW FRANCO-GERMAN TREATY

At the beginning of January the French and German governments announced that they would sign the new Franco-German cooperation and integration treaty on 22nd January in Aix-la-Chapelle/Aachen. This duly took place. Based on the Elysée Treaty of 1963 (Franco-German Friendship Treaty), it will strengthen links in areas such as economic policy, foreign and security policy, education and culture, research and technology, climate and the environment, as well as in terms of co-operation between border regions and between civil society



EUROPEAN ELECTIONS 2019

From 23rd to 26th May 2019 350 million Europeans will be called to choose their 705 MEPs for the next five years. As in the previous elections, a website has been launched to provide greater understanding of the election and to follow the campaign across the 27 Member States.



The next European elections will take place from 23rd to 26th May 2019 in the 27 Member States of the European Union. For the first time in its history since 1979 it will not be taking place in the UK which is due to leave the EU on 29th March next. Hence nearly 350 million voters will be called to ballot to elect the 705 representatives in the European Parliament.

SOCIAL EXCLUSION



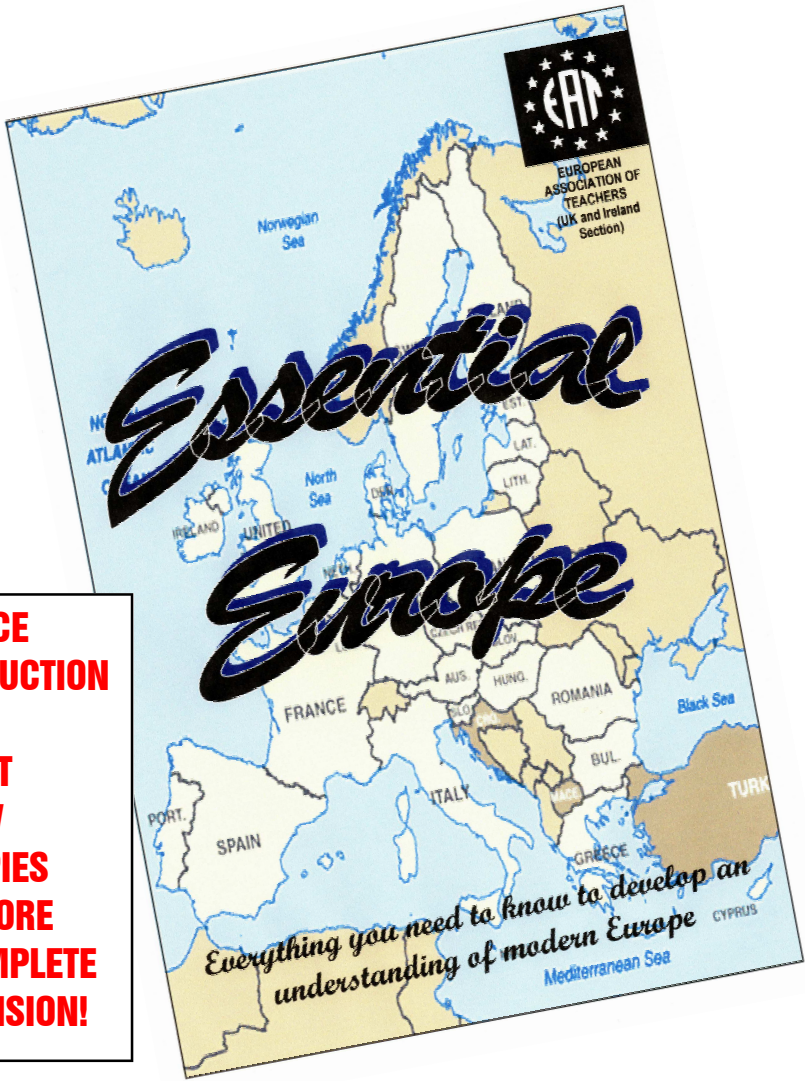
One child in four threatened by poverty or social exclusion in the EU

In the most recent report by the Union's Agency for Fundamental Rights it is revealed that one child in four within the Union is threatened by poverty or social exclusion. This figure is higher in some countries (one in two in Romania) or in certain communities (90% amongst the Roma children). In all 25 million European children living in poor households have no access to healthcare, education or adequate food. The report asks the institutions to orient European funds better and strengthen policies for protection.

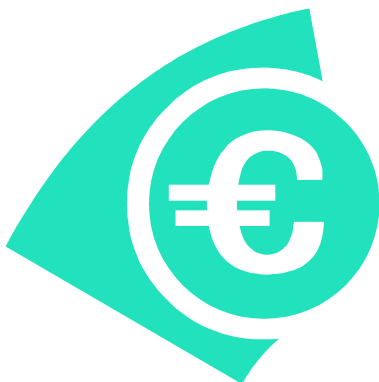
EU TRADE BALANCE

According to Eurostat's estimate exports of goods from the euro zone towards the rest of the world lay at around 203 billion euro in November 2018 (+1,9% in comparison with November 2017), whilst imports from the rest of the world lay at 184.0 billion euro (+4,7%). Hence the euro zone is in surplus of 19 billion € (-4.4 billion €). The EU has a deficit of 3.2 billion € with 172.7 billion € in terms of exports (+2.6% in comparison with November 2017 and 175.9 billion € in terms of imports

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ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION REFORM IN THE EU

Following the mandate received from the Euro Summit in June 2018, there has been further work on all the elements of the proposed Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) reform Agreement has been reached on a comprehensive package to further strengthen the EMU. This includes the

further development of the instruments and the role of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), the operationalisation of the common backstop for the Single Resolution Fund (SRF) and possible instruments for competitiveness, convergence and stabilisation in EMU, which will strengthen further the resilience of the euro area.

There has been agreement on the further development of the ESM. The ESM has played a key role in crisis management by providing effective stability support to euro area Member States. Enhancing the role of the ESM should further strengthen the crisis prevention and resolution capabilities of the euro area and its resilience.

The main details for the operationalisation of the common backstop to the SRF in that it will be fiscally neutral in the medium-term and further strengthen the credibility of the Banking Union. The backstop will be introduced earlier provided that sufficient progress has been made in risk reduction to be assessed in 2020.

It was also agreed to increase the effectiveness of precautionary instruments while reaffirming the last resort character of ESM support and ensuring the appropriate level of conditionality, which remains an underlying principle of the ESM Treaty. The euro area will be equipped with these more effective tools for countries with sound economic fundamentals, which could be affected by an adverse shock.

There is broad support for the need to improve the existing framework for promoting debt sustainability in the euro area. Details are yet to be determined.

Sustained progress has been made with risk reduction, and there is the

ongoing work on improving the monitoring of the implementation of Anti Money Laundering measures (AML)

Work has also started on a roadmap for beginning political negotiations on a European deposit insurance scheme (EDIS), but further technical work is still needed.

There has been discussions about possible new budgetary instruments aimed at strengthening the euro area. The Commission has suggested the establishment of instruments for competitiveness, convergence and stabilisation in the EMU.

Once agreed work could proceed on the design, implementation and timing of such an instrument for convergence and competitiveness.

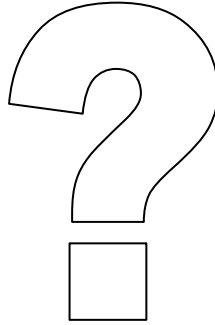


THE EURO

On 1 January 1999, 11 countries of the European Union fixed their exchange rates, adopted a shared monetary policy under the European Central Bank and launched a new common currency: the euro. It was initially an electronic currency used by financial markets and for cashless payments. Three years later, euro banknotes and coins entered into circulation.

Today, the euro is the currency of 19 EU countries and over 340 million Europeans. It is one of the most important currencies in the world. As the currency, the euro has become an integral part of everyday life and it makes it easier for the EU and its citizens to trade, travel, study, live and work abroad.

The European Central Bank looks after the euro to provide a stable environment for people living in countries using the euro, including families, workers, employers, entrepreneurs, pensioners, savers and debtors. It contributes to economic growth and welfare by ensuring the stability of the currency. European leaders signed the Maastricht Treaty 25 years ago, a milestone for European integration that paved the way for the euro.



Where do we go from here?

At the time of writing Britain's future in Europe is shrouded in mist. It raises the question as to what role the European Association of Teachers should have after Brexit Day. Certainly there will be a continuing interest in matters 'European', millions will still cross the Channel or fly to the ever popular and increasing number of European holiday and weekend destinations. There will still be a vast interest in sport across the Continent and in the many cultural activities and events throughout the year.

The Council of EAT(UK and Ireland) has been discussing the future role in some detail and at the present time, with such uncertainty has decided on a policy of 'wait-and-see' When we know where we are we can plan our moves forward.

To this end it has been decided that the membership fee paid for 2019 will cover membership to the September of 2020. In other words, there will be no charge for the next year. We will still be communicating with you and will keep you up-to-date with the latest situation and ideas.

Your comments on the future will be welcomed.

*The annual journal of EAT
"THE EUROPEAN TEACHER" will be
published in April as usual.*



CERTIFICATE OF EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE TESTS CHARGES

	School Fee	Per Pupil Fee (School Marked)	Per Pupil Fee (EAT Marked)
Certificate of Basic Knowledge	£16.50 (€24.00)	£1.75 (€2.50)	£3.25 (€4.25)
Level One (Foundation)	£16.50 (€24.00)	£1.75 (€2.50)	£3.25 (€4.25)
Level Two (Intermediate)	£16.50 (€24.00)	£1.75 (€2.50)	£3.25 (€4.25)
Level Three (Advanced)	£18.50 (€30.00)	£2.25 (€3.25)	£4.25 (€5.50)



Please note:

1. Test papers are supplied throughout the year, at a time to suit the individual teacher.
2. Please state the date by which you require papers on the entry form opposite.
3. This entry form should be received by EAT at least 4 weeks in advance of the required date.
4. You will be invoiced for the charges due when the papers are dispatched to you. Payment is due within 30 days.
5. Papers being marked in the school should be returned within 4 weeks of the date by which they are required.
6. Papers being marked by EAT must be sent immediately the tests have been completed.
7. Certificates will be sent to the school within 4 weeks of the receipt of papers.



**EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS
UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND SECTION**

CERTIFICATE OF EUROPEAN KNOWLEDGE TESTS ENTRY FORM

Please return this form to the Secretary at least FOUR weeks before you wish your pupils to take the test/s.

Send to:

The Secretary, EAT, 27 Dungannon Drive, Thorpe Bay. Essex. SS1 3NH. Great Britain

Please use BLOCK LETTERS

Name.....

School.....

Address.....

.....

.....

E-Mail address.....

Telephone.....

PAPERS REQUIRED

Test	Number of Pupil Entries		Date Required
	School Marked	EAT Marked	
Basic Knowledge			
Level One			
Level Two			
Level Three			



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Annual membership runs from 1 October to 30 September each year. Members joining after 1 June will pay the renewal fee for the current year, but receive membership through to 30 September the following year,

The European Association of Teachers offers Corporate Membership to any educational institution, whereby the institution joins as a Corporate Member with two members of staff receiving membership cards and copies of all mailings.

Entry of pupils for the Certificate of European Knowledge Tests is conditional upon the teacher making the entry being either an Individual or Corporate member.

MEMBERSHIP FEES 2018/2019

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

£19.00 (€29.50)

CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

£34.50 (€40.00)

Income Tax relief on membership fees is available to Individual members

Further information about
THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

Is obtainable from the Secretary
E-Mail: bgsandford@btinternet.com