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# MULTILATERALISM IN CRISIS: THE EUROPEAN UNION – AIMS AND VALUES

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On 24 February 2022, Russia started the invasion of Ukraine

„ The Russian military aggression is a clear violation of international law





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Multilateralism is in deep crisis:

- „ The system of global problem-solving has been called into question ...  
Ukraine war, but also Climate Change,  
COVID-19





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The EU aims within the wider world are:

- „ uphold and promote its values and interests
- „ contribute to peace and security and the sustainable development of the Earth
- „ contribute to solidarity and mutual respect among peoples, free and fair trade, eradication of poverty and the protection of human rights
- „ strict observance of international law

*The EU's aims are laid out in article 3 of the Lisbon Treaty.*



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The EU is founded on the following values:

- „ Human dignity  
Human dignity is inviolable. It must be respected, protected and constitutes the real basis of fundamental rights.
- „ Freedom  
Freedom of movement gives citizens the right to move and reside freely within the Union. Individual freedoms such as respect for private life, freedom of thought, religion, assembly, expression and information are protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
- „ Democracy  
The functioning of the EU is founded on representative democracy. A European citizen automatically enjoys political rights. Every adult EU citizen has the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in elections to the European Parliament. EU citizens have the right to stand as a candidate and to vote in their country of residence, or in their country of origin.

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### „ Equality

Equality is about equal rights for all citizens before the law. The principle of equality between women and men underpins all European policies and is the basis for European integration. It applies in all areas. The principle of equal pay for equal work became part of the Treaty of Rome in 1957.

### „ Rule of law

The EU is based on the rule of law. Everything the EU does is founded on treaties, voluntarily and democratically agreed by its EU countries. Law and justice are upheld by an independent judiciary. The EU countries gave final jurisdiction to the European Court of Justice - its judgments have to be respected by all.

### „ Human rights

Human rights are protected by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These cover the right to be free from discrimination on the basis of sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, the right to the protection of your personal data, and the right to get access to justice.

*The EU's values are laid out in article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.*



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Citizen education - The EU sets out the framework for EU countries to exchange best practices and learn from each other, with an aim to:

- „ make lifelong learning and mobility a reality
- „ improve the quality and efficiency of education and training
- „ promote equity, social cohesion and active citizenship
- „ enhance creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship

To reach the objectives set out in the education and training framework, the EU implements policies in sectors such as:

- „ early childhood education and care
- „ schools
- „ vocational education and training
- „ higher education
- „ adult education



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Fairy tales – good against bad?

