

Travel the universe of Greater Europe

An adventure story



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

A very special space mission!

School is over for today. You're walking home quietly, thinking about the homework you have to do, as well as the games you were playing this morning before school ...

Ouch! Something strange hits you on the head! But it's OK, there's no harm done. You even smile, imagining that a meteorite has just fallen to the Earth.

And you're absolutely right! You pick up the fallen object. It's a small sky-blue box, decorated with yellow stars. As you open it a very mysterious voice says ...

"Welcome to space, to the universe of Greater Europe ...
Here is your mission:
to release from this magic box a very important message
for all the nations of Greater Europe.

You must report immediately to your space station,
the Council of Europe.

But before you can reach your space station
and to make your adventure a success, you must first travel
across several galaxies and solve all the clues.
A golden star like this one ★ is hidden on each page.
Once you have collected all 12 gold stars in the blue box,
the secret message will be released. Be careful though!
And watch out for traps!

Good luck on your adventure. It's over to you now!
Don't forget, you represent your country and perhaps
all the children in Greater Europe too."

Suddenly the sky seems very deep ...
'galaxies', 'space station', 'the Council
of Europe', 'gold stars', 'Greater
Europe' ... It's unbelievable!

**The meaning of all these
words isn't clear to you yet,
but the following pages will guide
you on your journey through
the universe of Greater Europe!**

Find the gold star
hidden on this page then ...
take off for another galaxy
on page 20!



Sport is first and foremost a game. But sometimes it spills over into acts of violence, even fatal tragedies, especially among spectators at sports grounds. The Council of Europe, with its 1985 Convention on spectator violence, says **no to violence!**

Play, don't cheat!!

In this galaxy, space vehicles are lined up on the starting line. A contest is about to begin. Quick, choose your team! Do you know the rules for this race and the rules of sport in general?

Sport is for everyone: children, adults, the elderly, the disabled, foreigners, men and women.

Some athletes want to go faster, further – but at what cost? They take drugs which ruin their health. The Council of Europe campaigns **to eliminate doping in sport.**



Find the gold star hidden on this page then... take off for another galaxy on page 16!

Back to Earth!

Wrong way! You fall back to Earth!

All is not lost though; here you can see all the flags of Greater Europe. Have you spotted your country's flag yet?

12 gold stars on a blue background, this is **the European flag**. The number 12 is not a figure taken at random. Does it suggest anything to you? Maybe the 12 months of the year?

Do you know that a circle is a sign of union, the union of all countries? The Council of Europe created this flag in 1955; it was then adopted by the European Union in 1986 which today comprises 27 member states.

In 1971, the Council of Europe chose its **European Anthem**, the Ode to Joy from Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. In 1986 it was adopted by the European Union. Today it is the anthem for the whole of Europe.



Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... restart your adventure on page 2!



Identity through diversity

What an amazing galaxy!

No two stars are the same; no two spacecraft are alike ...

The mystery of identity through diversity!

Europe is like a face that changes, moves and expresses feelings. Within Europe, frontiers have often been altered over the course of history and people have become more and more mobile, moving from one country to another. All this alters the balance between minorities and the majority.

Majority, minority, it's magic! You live in your own country, so you are said to belong to the majority. People from another country – there are fewer of them – belong to the minority. Now, imagine yourself leaving your country of birth to go and live in another country. Well, as if by magic, all at once you belong to a minority in the new country!



You are either a girl or a boy. Both children and adults have different skin colours. Some may be unable to walk, have an illness, or just don't think like you. In short, we are all different but we all have the same rights, rights as human beings. We are **all different but all equal!**

Racism or intolerance means not accepting someone who differs outwardly from us or who lives differently. It may be a violent attack, or even just a joke about foreigners. We must **combat racism**, which is unfair and can do terrible harm.

Identity through diversity, now do you understand this galaxy's message? All in all, if there wasn't a multitude of contrasts in Europe, it wouldn't be Europe!



Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... take off for another galaxy on page 24!



Here is your galaxy, the children's galaxy!

Everything is so tiny here,
the stars and planets.
Are children's rights as small as that?

No mini-rights ... like an adult, you have fundamental rights: you need to eat, to have clothes to wear, to have shelter, human warmth and care. But you also have the right to learn and to express yourself, to have fun as well.

... or mini-protection! Children must be protected, even more than adults, against society's dangers, such as forced labour, slavery, sexual abuse and ill-treatment, drugs, abduction and exploitation, or cruelty at home.

Violence to a child can happen anywhere: in the street, at school, in hospital, in the media or on the Internet, in detention centres, or simply at home. A child must be **protected everywhere**. Everyone should know this, yourself to begin with!

Smack an adult? Would it be all right for an adult to smack another grown-up just because he/she disagrees or thinks that what the other did is not right? Of course not! There are many other ways to bring up a child than violence and humiliation. That is why the Council of Europe launched an advertising campaign in June 2008 to encourage everyone to **say no to smacking**.

The Council of Europe encourages countries to campaign for children's rights and to prevent violence. In 2005 it launched a campaign called **Building Europe for and with children**. www.coe.int/children

When this space mission is over, if you want to know more about your rights and become a good Internet user go to the **Wild Web Woods**. www.wildwebwoods.org



Find the gold star
hidden on this page then ...
take off for another galaxy
on page 8!



The Human Rights galaxy

In this galaxy thousands of constellations form the sign of Libra. The scales, symbol of justice and rights ...



At school, in the street, at home – even in space! – there are things that you are allowed to do and others that are forbidden. But there are also rights that nobody can take from us, such as the right to live, the right to be free, to be free to think, the right to have a family, the right to work, the right to go to school, the right to be protected: **human rights** are all these rights put together, and many more.

To make sure human rights are respected everywhere, the Council of Europe has drawn up a set of rules that countries must follow in order to 'navigate' in its space. These rules are laid out in a text that details all our rights as human beings. This is the **European Convention on Human Rights**.

What is a convention? It is a written agreement between several countries. The European Convention on Human Rights is the most important convention of the Council of Europe.

If you think one of your rights is not being respected you can complain to the **European Court of Human Rights**.

Rights. Like a court of law, it establishes whether or not the Convention on Human Rights was disobeyed.

Like you, **human rights are growing.** We've already spoken about freedom of speech, respect for life, preventing torture.

But there are also rights at work, equality between women and men, migrant workers' rights, and protection of persons outside the workplace in order to fight poverty. Therefore, to cover all these aspects, the Council of Europe has another text, the European Social Charter.

There is no reason why men should be more powerful or better treated than women. Throughout history, women have often been pushed aside. Even if this state of affairs is improving in Europe, gender equality is a long way from being achieved at work and in politics. Women are often the first victims of poverty, unemployment and violence. The Council of Europe campaigns to secure the same rights for **men and women**.



Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... take off for another galaxy on page 10!





You are entering a simply marvellous galaxy. Here, every grain of stardust is unique and precious, but fragile too.

There are distant planets, light years away, which must not be spoiled. If you don't protect them, they might disappear altogether ...

Europe is a treasure through its culture and nature.

A sign of the past, a building, a trace of bygone days, an old piece of furniture, a technique, even the landscape are examples of the **cultural heritage** which the Council of Europe encourages us to safeguard and live in harmony with.

You dream of following in the footsteps of the Vikings, of following the Silk Roads or visiting the places where Mozart lived. Roads are our riches, and the Council of Europe organises journeys called the **Cultural Routes** to keep these places fresh in the memory we all share.

Culture and nature, priceless treasures to protect

Each year, on one weekend in September, more than 30 000 monuments, museums, libraries, palaces and mansions are opened free of charge to millions of Europeans. It's the Council of Europe that began the **European Heritage Days**.

With **Eurimages** the Council of Europe also gives a helping hand to films that tell us about Europe.

In the universe or on Earth, forms of life can appear and then vanish, quite naturally. But human activity sometimes upsets this evolution. The Council of Europe strives to **protect nature**, animals, plants, earth, water and air. It does this through the Bern Convention (1979), a text ratified by 45 countries, including some countries from Africa too. That's right; nature doesn't stop at Europe's boundaries!

Well done! You are travelling in space by using stars that produce their own energy! This way, you don't pollute the environment. If everyone pulls together to save water and fuel and stops buying too much only to throw it away again later, the life-span of our planet will be lengthened. This is the **sustainable development** which the Council of Europe encourages in its member countries.



Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... choose the right path for another galaxy on page 6 or 4!



Europe in good health



Well done, your space mission is progressing well! Stop a while in this galaxy, it tells us about our health!

Far too many children and adults are not fortunate enough to be cared for or admitted to hospital when they need to be. The Council of Europe looks for solutions so that nobody is prevented from receiving the care they need. **Treatment is a right for all!**

If you fall ill, are you given a pill or a drink to make you better? But how can you **be sure that the medicines you're taking are good?** You can thanks to the Council of Europe and its European Pharmacopoeia, which campaign to ensure that all medicines from the simple tablet to the most complex treatment meet the highest standards of quality, even for veterinary care. The work of the Council also covers such matters as blood transfusions and organ transplants.

Illegal drugs are a problem all over Europe. The Council of Europe, with its Pompidou Group, has been working for more than 30 years to **fight drug trafficking and drug use in Europe** and to help its victims.

Do you like doing experiments? The medical research sector does too, but it can sometimes go too far and things can get very dangerous for mankind. So, the Council of Europe lays down rules of moral conduct, they are called **bioethics**.



Find the gold star hidden on this page then... choose the right path for another galaxy on page 12 or 26!

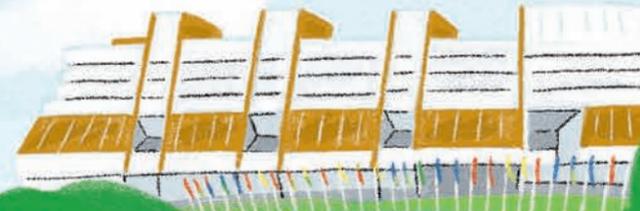


Mission accomplished!

Congratulations! You have successfully travelled across all the galaxies in the universe of Greater Europe! Now you can go to your space station, the Council of Europe.

The 12 stars you've carefully collected are twinkling brightly. All of a sudden, the box releases a cloud of letters and words. Sentences begin to take shape in front of you. You don't understand the message. Is it an unknown language? But wait a second ... the text is written backwards!

Find a magic mirror and you will be able to read it aloud ... don't forget to put your hand up before you speak in front of the other pupils!



www.coe.int



The Council of Europe is the organisation for this universe. I am one of the 800 million Europeans who live in the 47 countries of Greater Europe.

There are rights that nobody can take from us - human rights - and we children also have rights, like adults.

I have discovered the treasures of Greater Europe: nature, landscapes, buildings and animals, but also the treasure that each human being has inside them: their culture. I would not want these to disappear.

Travels and encounters enable us to share these treasures - and to feel we are all Europeans even if we do not speak the same language.

I have discovered that we can all be different but all equal nonetheless and girls and boys must always have the same rights.

I shall keep growing and there will certainly be other space journeys for me to undertake.

So I hope that Europe will grow with me!

The end



The galaxy of ... democracy!

This galaxy is packed full of spacecraft, stars, meteorites, astonishing space stations and countless planets ...

Yet there are no explosions or collisions. It makes you wonder who can be running this galaxy so well!

Democracy exists when power belongs to all the citizens. The citizens choose whoever is to be their leader. When you grow up, you'll be free to vote, or even to stand as a candidate for election to represent others. The Council of Europe is **the guardian of democracy** in its 47 countries!

The Council of Europe appoints representatives in order to ...
... **decide** : they form the Committee of Ministers;
... **debate** and approve texts in the Parliamentary Assembly;
... **speak for** the regions of each country at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

In any democracy, each individual must be **free to express opinions and seek information**, thanks to the media - newspapers, radio, television and the Internet. Ideas must travel freely beyond frontiers. The Council of Europe is there to make sure that countries honour these freedoms, meaning for example that journalists can do their work, even in times of crisis or at election time, and that the media can express more than one opinion.

Imagine that every single European saves 25 Euro cents each year in a huge money box. An easy multiplication (ah! Mental arithmetic is difficult ! You are allowed to write the calculation down) gives you the approximate annual **budget** that enables the Council of Europe to run its projects. The reality is a bit different since each country gives a different amount of money depending on its population and also on its wealth. **25 cents X 800 million Europeans = 200 million Euros**, that's the budget - the money box! - of the Council of Local and Regional Authorities.

Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... choose the right path for another galaxy on page 22, 6 or 12!



Do you speak European?

In this galaxy, each voice is a unique language!
Shooting stars trail messages in writing you do not yet understand ...

You speak one particular language, or possibly more. Maybe you speak one with your family and another at school? So it's clear, to understand Europeans, you have to learn languages from the member states because **European is not a language.**

Europe is a treasure trove of **over 200 languages.** There is the official language of a country, which is the one usually spoken by the majority of the inhabitants. In some countries people speak several other languages in addition to the official one.



Each country's history has its own important figures, its own famous battles. So the Council of Europe is there to encourage pupils and teachers from different countries to share their methods of teaching and of learning history, above all the troubled history of the 20th century, a century that you may not have known at all! It's all about **narrating the histories of Europe** to create a common memory and thus aid understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations ...



Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... choose the right path for another galaxy on page 14 or 16!

When I grow young ...

Look carefully at this galaxy.
It seems as though it's continually growing.
The planets look so young!
They are drawing closer to each other.

You're still a child, but one day you may feel like **going off to discover Europe**, to visit the other countries, study or work! The Council of Europe not only encourages young Europeans to travel and discover the other cultures of Europe, but also to participate in their own country's political and democratic life.

Young Europeans can meet in the **European Youth Centres** (EYC) in Strasbourg (France) and Budapest (Hungary). Together, they think about the key ideas concerning democracy, human rights, minorities, exchanges between cultures and peace in Europe. Then they share these ideas in their own countries, with the people who could not take part in the trip.

Travel for all: the Council of Europe and the International Union of Railways (UIC) pay money into a fund, the Solidarity Fund for Youth Mobility, to assist disadvantaged young people. The money allows poorer young people to go on group trips without paying fares, to discover and understand better how people live in other countries.

Find the gold star hidden on this page then ... choose the right path for another galaxy on page 22, 6 or 14!

Europe is not a planet!

It's time for you to return to Earth and realise that Europe isn't a planet! Greater Europe maintains close links with the other parts of the world.



The **Council of Europe** was set up on 5 May 1949, not long after the Second World War. Strasbourg (France) is home to the Council of Europe, now an organisation which includes 47 member countries! This is Greater Europe, a territory composed of **800 million Europeans**.

The Council of Europe also receives observers from all over the world, particularly from Japan, Canada and the United States, for **international meetings**. Some of its conventions are signed by countries outside Europe too.

Today no country can live cut off from other countries. You buy goods that come from somewhere else. You travel, your parents work in other regions, even outside Europe. Some of your family live on the other side of the world. And now that you're back from a journey in space, perhaps you too feel you are not only a European citizen but something more - **a citizen of the world**.

Be careful though! You mustn't confuse the Council of Europe with the European Union. The European Union - another space station? - was created in 1957 and today has 27 member states.

Find the twelfth gold star hidden on this page. If you're one short, go back to page 20 in order to finish your collection.

Last step to accomplish the mission: answer the 10 questions of this space quiz!

1. How many countries are members of the Council of Europe?
2. Approximately how many people are there in Greater Europe?
3. Democracy is when power lies with the citizens as a whole, true or false?
4. Which are the rights that cannot be taken away from anyone?
5. The Council of Europe does the same work as the European Union, true or false?
6. All Europeans are different, true or false?
7. Approximately how many languages are spoken in Europe, 27, 47, or more than 200?
8. Children have fewer rights because they're smaller, true or false?
9. Girls and boys have equal rights, true or false?
10. Making progress while protecting the Earth is called development (find the missing word).



Congratulations, you've answered all the questions! One last surprise awaits you on page 18.

1. 47; 2. 800 million; 3. true; 4. human rights; 5. false; 6. true, we are all different but equal in rights; 7. More than 200; 8. false; 9. true; 10. sustainable.



★ Get ready for a space adventure
in the universe of Greater Europe!
Through this very special mission
you'll get to know the Council of Europe,
the Organisation for the 47 countries
of Greater Europe.

To discover more about the Council of Europe's activities go to:

www.coe.int

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