



# Travel the European universe

A Council of Europe adventure story in pictures



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 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 European universe ...  
Here is your mission:  
to release from this magic box a very important message  
for all the countries making up this universe.

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 revealed. Be careful though!  
And watch out for traps!

Good luck on your adventure. It's over to you now!”

Suddenly the sky seems very deep ...  
“galaxies”, “space station”,  
“the Council of Europe”, “gold stars”,  
... 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 European universe!**



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





# Play,

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 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!**

# don't cheat!!

**Sport for all:** 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?

## Common symbols for Europe

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? The figure 12 symbolises perfection.

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 1972, 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.







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



# Diversity


**What an amazing galaxy!**  
**No two stars are the same; no two spacecraft are alike ...**  
**The mystery of 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. Children, just as 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.

Racism or intolerance means not accepting someone who differs outwardly from us or who lives differently. We must **combat racism**.

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.



**No smacking!** There are many other ways to bring up a child than violence and humiliation. That's why the Council of Europe has forbidden corporal punishment.

The Council of Europe encourages countries to campaign for children's rights and to prevent violence.

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, a game in 27 different languages online.**  
[www.wildwebwoods.org](http://www.wildwebwoods.org)



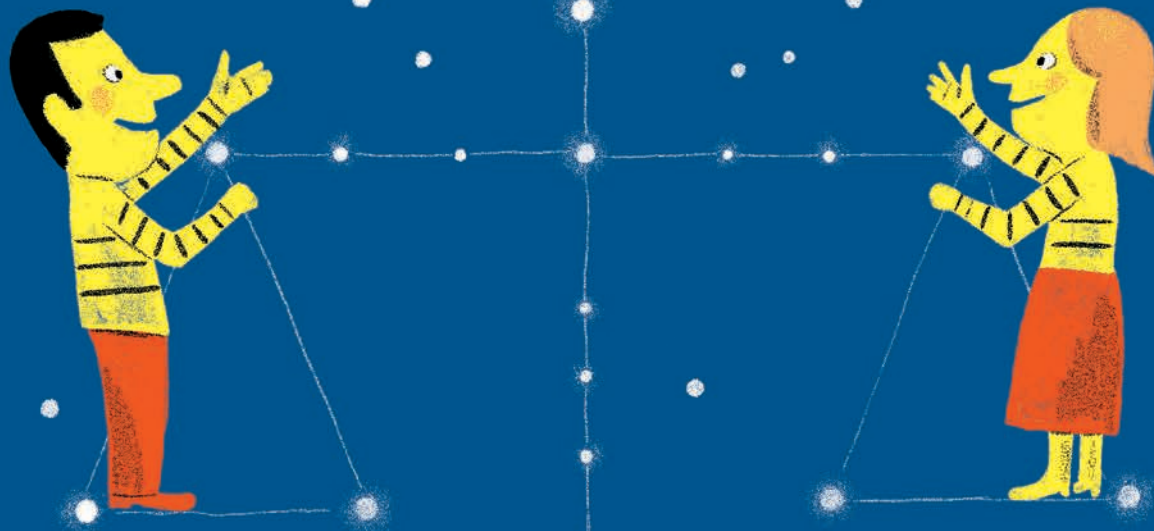
Find the gold star hidden on this page then... take off for another galaxy on page 8!







# 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 think and to speak, 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**.

**A convention, what is it for?** It is a written agreement between several countries.



If you think one of your rights is not being respected you can complain to the **European Court of Human Rights**. Like a court of law, it establishes whether or not the Convention on Human Rights was disobeyed.


Like you, **human rights are growing**. There are also rights to employment, to housing, to social security and health. For that, the Council of Europe has another instrument, **the European Social Charter**.

The Council of Europe is also fighting to make sure **women and men** have the same rights. There is no reason for men to be better treated than 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, 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 **Cultural Routes** to keep these places fresh in the memory we all share.

Culture  
and nature  
priceless treasure  
to protect



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Each year, on one weekend in September, monuments, museums, libraries, palaces and mansions are opened free of charge to 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.

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 lifespan of our planet will be increased. This is **sustainable development**.




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!**

### **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**? Thanks to the Council of Europe and its European Pharmacopoeia, you can be assured that all medicines meet the highest standards of quality, even for veterinary care.

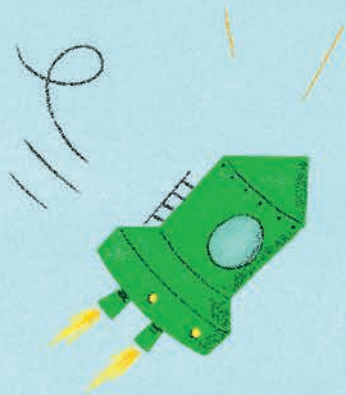
Illegal drugs are a problem all over Europe. The Council of Europe, with its Pompidou Group, has been working for more than 30 years to **fight drug trafficking and drug use in Europe**.

Do you like doing experiments? The medical research sector does too, but it can sometimes go too far and things can get very dangerous. So, the Council of Europe lays down rules of moral conduct called **bioethics**. It has forbidden the cloning of human beings, for example.



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 European universe! 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!**



"I am one of the 700 million Europeans who live  
in the 46 countries of the Council of 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 Europe:  
nature, handscapes, buildings and animals, but also the treasure that each human  
being has inside them - their culture. I would not want these to disappear.

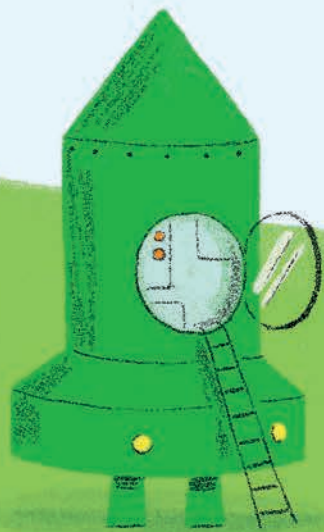
Travels and encounters enable us to share these treasures - and to feel  
we are all Europeans even if we do not speak the same language.

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!"

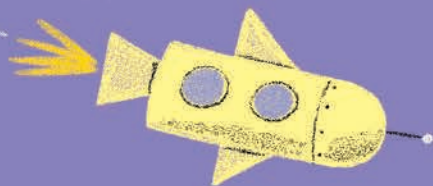
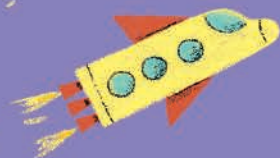
The end







# The galaxy of ... democ



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 46 countries!



# cracy!

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.



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 history. 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 y

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 ...



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.



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!  
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, **which now includes 46 countries representing 700 million Europeans.**

The Council of Europe also receives observers from all over the world, particularly from Japan, Canada, the United States, Mexico and the Holy See, 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.

**Find the 12th 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 in this space quiz!

1. How many countries are members of the Council of Europe?
2. Approximately how many people live in Europe?
3. Democracy is when power lies with the citizens as a whole.  True or  false?
4. There is a right to suppress freedom of thought.  True or  false?
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,  46 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).

1. 46; 2. 700 million; 3. true; 4. false; 5. false; 6. true; we are all different but equal in rights;  
7. More than 200; 8. false; 9. true; 10. sustainable.



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



Get ready for a space adventure  
in the European universe!  
Through this very special mission  
you'll get to know the Council of Europe,  
defender of human rights and democracy for 46 countries.  
This is a picture story meant for children aged 7 to 9.

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

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

and all the Council of Europe books

[book.coe.int](http://book.coe.int)

as well as resources without charge

[edoc.coe.int](http://edoc.coe.int)

[www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int)

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.