

# EU COMPETENCES

The European Union is not all-powerful: it has a limited set of competences defined in the EU treaties.



## EXCLUSIVE COMPETENCES

The EU is the only one allowed to create or modify laws and take decisions.

- **Customs**
- **Competition** rules within the internal market
- **Monetary policy** for countries that use the euro
- **Conservation of marine resources**
- **Commercial policy**



## SUPPORTING COMPETENCES

The EU does not have real power, and EU countries keep their full sovereignty. The EU is allowed to support them only, like by helping EU countries to coordinate their own policies.

- **Human health**
- **Industry**
- **Culture**
- **Tourism**
- **Education, vocational training, youth & sport**
- **Civil protection**
- **Administrative cooperation**



### The Covid pandemic, an example of where the powers of the EU stop

Health is mostly a competence of the Member States, **the EU could not decide on a policy for everybody**, like making face-masks mandatory.

Instead it gave recommendations and **helped EU countries coordinate their own reactions**, e.g. by creating the "EU digital COVID certificate".



## SHARED COMPETENCES

**Both the EU and its countries have power.** EU countries can create laws as they want, until the EU decides on a policy for all.

In that case, EU countries still have a say, as they are involved in the EU law-making!

- **Internal market**
- Certain **areas of social policy**
- **Economic, social and territorial cohesion**
- **Agriculture & Fisheries** (except marine resources)
- **Environment**
- **Consumer protection**
- **Transport**
- **Trans-European networks**
- **Energy**
- **Freedom, security and justice**
- Certain **areas of public health**

## SET IN STONE



The EU does not have the "competence of the competence": , **only the Member States can modify its competences** and they must **unanimously** agree to sign a new treaty!