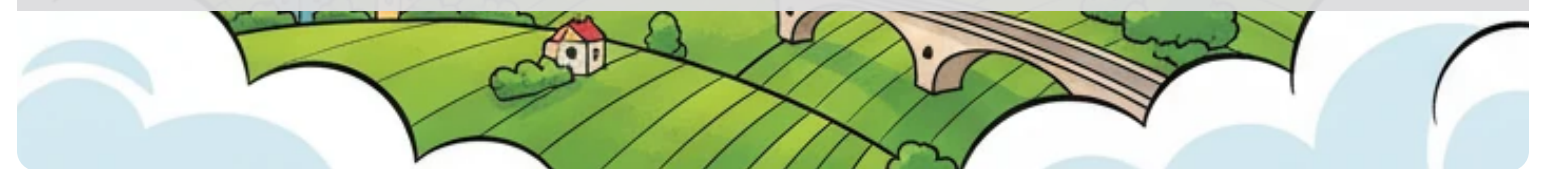


ELARA'S EUROPEAN JOURNEY



Elara's European Journey: A Union of
Dreams

alessia digiovanni





Elara, a bright-eyed student, flips through an old history book, her imagination sparked by images of a post-war Europe. The pictures show cities in ruins, but also a quiet hope flickering in the eyes of the people, wondering how to rebuild a future together after so much conflict.



She imagines two friendly cartoon figures, one representing France and one Germany, shaking hands over a shared pile of coal and steel. This bold idea, known as the Schuman Declaration, was the very first step towards binding their economies and their fates, making war unthinkable.



Elara sees a vibrant garden party scene, where leaders from six nations gather with smiles, signing important documents. They are planting the seeds for a 'Common Market' with the Treaties of Rome, a place where goods and ideas could flow freely across borders.



She visualizes a bustling marketplace where goods from different countries are easily exchanged, and people from new member states happily join the growing European family. The initial six nations expanded, and borders became friendlier lines on a map, encouraging trade and connection.



Elara watches as giant puzzle pieces, representing goods, services, people, and money, click perfectly into place across the continent, creating one vast, vibrant marketplace. This 'Single Market,' established by the Single European Act, transformed Europe into a powerful economic zone.



She sees a grand ceremony where the blue flag with golden stars is proudly unfurled, symbolizing the official birth of the European Union with the Maastricht Treaty. This new union was more than just trade; it was about shared values, common policies, and a unified future.



Elara imagines cheerful euro coins and banknotes dancing across the continent, making travel and trade wonderfully simple for millions of people. The introduction of the Euro brought a common currency to many member states, uniting their economies even further.

856 pixet



She pictures a grand welcoming party as many new nations, particularly from Central and Eastern Europe, join the EU family, bringing diverse cultures and new energy. The union continued to grow, embracing more countries and celebrating its rich diversity.



Elara sees the EU as a sturdy ship, bravely navigating through some big waves – economic challenges, global crises, and difficult decisions like Brexit. Despite the storms, the union holds together, learning and adapting to ensure stability and cooperation.



Finally, Elara stands proudly, looking at a vibrant, diverse map of modern Europe, understanding that the EU is a continuous journey. It's a union working for peace, prosperity, and a shared future, facing global challenges with a spirit of collaboration and hope.