



**PIONEERING
COOPERATION**

**THE BENELUX UNION
IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BELGIUM, THE
NETHERLANDS AND LUXEMBOURG**

**In 2025, Luxembourg holds the presidency
Benelux Committee of Ministers.**

**SHORT HISTORY OF THE
BENELUX UNION**

Even before the end of World War II, the governments of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg decided to work together more closely. The Benelux was created in 1944 as a customs union. The three partners thus took the first pioneering steps on the road towards European integration. In 1958 the customs union between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg resulted in the Treaty establishing the Benelux Economic Union, which implied a broadening and deepening of the economic cooperation, leading to an internal market with free movement of persons, goods, services and capital.

On 17 June 2008, a new Benelux Treaty was signed. The cooperation focuses on three core themes: internal market & economic union, sustainable development and justice & home affairs.

ECONOMIC FACTS

The Benelux is an economically prosperous region : on 1,7 % of the European territory and with 6,7 % of the European population it generates 10,2 % of Europe's GDP 27.





30.2 MILLION INHABITANTS



**KEY THEMES OF THE
COOPERATION**



WHY BENELUX UNION?

-  The Benelux Union implements projects that have a positive impact on citizens, entrepreneurs and authorities.
-  Economic growth is encouraged by removing barriers.
-  Closer cooperation paves the way to an efficient security approach.
-  The Benelux Union is a living lab for the European Union.

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The Benelux in 3 minutes

