



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



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SHORT HISTORY OF THE BENELUX UNION

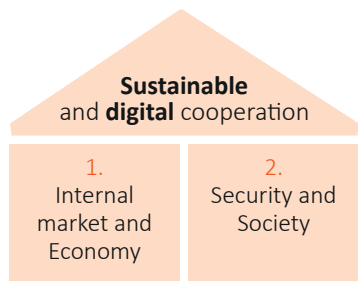
Even before the end of World War II, the governments of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg decided to work together more closely. The Benelux was created in 1944 as a customs union. The three partners thus took the first pioneering steps on the road towards European integration. In 1958 the customs 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. On 17 June 2008, a new Benelux Treaty was signed. From then on, the cooperation has been focussing on three key 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 5.6% of the European population it generates 7.9% of Europe's GDP.

KEY THEMES OF COOPERATION



WHY BENELUX UNION?

- The Benelux Union solves real problems for its citizens.
- 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.