

## Resource 4.5

### Activity 1 Teacher's Notes



1. **The European Union has committed millions of pounds each year to The International Fund for Ireland to promote peace-building and reconciliation in Ireland.**

The EU has committed 15 million euros per year for the four-year period 2007–2010 to the International Fund for Ireland to support its strategy 'Sharing this space'. Further information is available at [www.internationalfundforireland.com](http://www.internationalfundforireland.com)

2. **As a result of EU laws, many councils in Northern Ireland only collect household waste every two weeks.**

The EU's Landfill Directive obliges the UK to reduce the amount of landfill waste by 2020.

3. **All ingredients must be listed on items of food sold in shops in Northern Ireland.**

See 4 below.

4. **Labels on food must contain a warning if the product contains any allergens, such as nuts.**

A series of EU directives lay down rules on the labelling of foodstuffs, including that all ingredients must be listed on the label and a warning must be included if the product contains allergens, such as nuts.

5. **By the end of 2012, the old incandescent light bulbs used across Northern Ireland will have been replaced by better alternatives that last longer and use less power.**

The initial Europe-wide ban only applies to general-purpose, non-directional incandescent bulbs, so it does not affect any bulbs with reflective surfaces (for example spotlights and halogen down lighters) or special-purpose bulbs (including those used in ovens, fridges, traffic lights, infrared lamps, etc.). The sale of the most inefficient bulbs will be banned in a phased approach. The first types to were the non-clear (frosted) bulbs, which were off the market by September 2009. Also from September 2009 clear bulbs over 100W must be made of more efficient types. This limit will be moved down to lower wattages, and the efficiency levels raised by the end of 2012. Also, the EU has given the target of 2016 to phase out halogen bulbs, and any bulb available for purchase after the 2016 date must have at least a 'B' energy rating. In the UK, all incandescent bulbs will be banned by 2012.



6. **Broken and unused electrical items (including fridges, computers, toasters, kettles, florescent light tubes, etc.) must be taken to council recycling centres across Northern Ireland.**

Recycling of electrical goods is a large cost to councils. For example, in 2007 it is estimated that it cost £27 million to collect and recycle dumped electrical goods and run civic amenity sites.

7. **Northern Ireland's citizens must provide evidence of identity and address when opening a bank account.**

This is a result of EU laws to prevent money laundering. In practice, this means producing months-old bills and bank statements, which can be difficult for those new to Northern Ireland or people without permanent addresses or bills in their name, such as tenants.

8. **Northern Ireland's fishermen sometimes have to throw huge quantities of dead fish back into the sea.**

The EU's Common Fisheries Policy sets quotas for how many fish each member state is permitted to catch. The amounts and types of fish are different for each member state.

9. **It now costs less for Northern Ireland's citizens to text and send or receive calls on their mobile phones when travelling in another EU country.**

Sending text messages from abroad in the EU now costs a maximum of 10p, while calls cannot cost more than 38p per minute to make and 18p per minute to receive.

10. **Pesticides used by Northern Ireland's farmers to boost crops will not harm people, wildlife or the environment.**

The European Union takes care to prevent and limit any contamination of foodstuffs by certain undesirable substances or as a result of human activities. It, therefore, regulates the use of certain specific chemical substances, such as those used in farming or in certain production or food processing techniques. It also takes measures to limit contamination from polluted water or air, or from exposure to radioactivity. The risks of contamination by genetically modified organisms and by food packaging are also monitored. Further information is available at:  
[http://europa.eu/legislation\\_summaries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/index_en.htm)

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11. **Websites are monitored to ensure they do not give Northern Ireland's citizens misleading information about their products and costs.**

The rights provided by European Directives (E-commerce and Distance Selling) outline the minimum level of protection you can expect when shopping online across Europe. If the web trader is based within Europe, their website is expected to provide you with all the information about what it is you want to buy. Further information is available from the UK European Consumer Centre at: [www.ukecc.net/](http://www.ukecc.net/) (click on 'Shopping Online').

12. **As EU citizens, Northern Ireland's citizens can work in any other EU country.**

See 14 below.

13. **As EU citizens, students from Northern Ireland are entitled to study at university in any EU country under the same conditions as nationals.**

Regardless of the other entry conditions, EU citizens cannot be refused access to training or education in another EU country on grounds of their nationality. They can't be required to pay higher course fees and they are entitled to the same grants to cover course fees as nationals of the country. Knowledge of the home country language, however, may be required, so in some EU countries you may be asked to take a language test.

14. **As EU citizens, Northern Ireland's citizens can live in any other EU country.**

Your right to work in the EU might be temporarily restricted if you are a national of: Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Romania or Bulgaria. If you work in another EU country, you and your family automatically have the right to live there.

15. **Northern Ireland's schools can get funding to get involved in projects with other schools across Europe.**

The Lifelong Learning Programme offers funding for organisations involved in education and training and provides opportunities to get involved in European links. Included in this is the Comenius Programme for schools.

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16. **As a result of being a member of the EU, Northern Ireland's citizens are now more tolerant of other nationalities.**

The increased mobility between EU member states has helped to make the outlook of Northern Ireland's citizens more open.

17. **People in Northern Ireland now have a wider choice of goods and services thanks to EU legislation.**

The single market enables Northern Ireland's consumers to benefit from cheaper and a wider choice of imports, enabling them to spend more on other goods and services.

18. **Through being a member of the European Union, Northern Ireland's businesses have access to a market of almost 500 million consumers.**

The population of the EU, approx. 500 million, enables Europe to be a powerful trading bloc that is on par with the USA and China.

19. **EU regional policy has contributed significantly to economic and social development in Northern Ireland.**

EU regional policy aims to help less well off areas catch up with richer regions and help people in these areas find jobs and have a better quality of life.

20. **The European Union's Structural Funds have contributed to Northern Ireland's progress towards a peaceful and stable society.**

One of the EU Structural Funds, the PEACE III Programme 2007-2013, aims to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland. It promotes reconciliation by assisting operations and projects that help to reconcile communities and contribute towards a shared society for everyone. Further information is available at:

[www.seupb.eu](http://www.seupb.eu) (click on Peace iii Programme).