

# THE EUROPEAN UNION FLAG

## Comments from 4 Sources

### 1. Unofficial EU Flag Website

The Council of Europe first adopted what is now the EU flag in 1955. It is believed it chose from a number of designs by a Strasbourg artist, Arsene Heitz, a devotee of the Virgin Mary. The symbolism of the chosen flag was inspired by Rev 12, based on the Roman Church's interpretation that the "woman" in heaven with the crown of 12 stars on her head is the Virgin Mary. This is reflected in that Church's statues and images of Mary, This imagery of the Virgin Mary with her traditional blue mantle is reflected in the 12 stars and blue background of the EU flag.

Council of Europe secretary-general, Leon Marchal, another supreme devotee of the Virgin Mary, reportedly suggested the adoption of the 12 star flag design for this very reason. Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission, and a devout member of the Roman Church, reportedly used his position vigorously to promote the EU symbol in more recent years.

The design was adopted on 25 October 1955 and on 11 December 1955 the Council of Europe stained glass window, which incorporates this same symbolism, was unveiled in Strasbourg cathedral. This event "coincided" with the Roman Church's Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary. Marchal reportedly said at the time: "It's wonderful that we have got back to the Introit of the new Mass of the *Assumption. It's the corona stellarum duodecim (crown of 12 stars) of the Woman of the Apocalypse*".

EU officials have claimed that the number of stars on the EU flag is not related to the number of countries in the EU but to the fact that 12 is supposedly a number of perfection and completion. "Coincidentally", within the Roman Church, the Virgin Mary is a symbol of "perfection and entirety". So we see the hidden double meaning.

On the European mainland where the Reformation was often brutally suppressed, Roman symbols were never purged and the Marian symbolism of the 12 stars remains obvious to those familiar with it:

*"No-one can deny that under these symbols Catholics recognise the presence of the infinitely merciful Queen of Peace in Christ" (Mediatrice et Reigne 1973)*

(For fuller details of a Catholic assessment of the flag, see the Appendix.)

The Marian connection is openly acknowledged in the pro EU European Movement publication: "Europe's Star Choice: Forever 12?", 1994, Europa UK (out of print: ISBN 0 9523677 0 X). This refers to the "co-incidence" of the EU flag's ratification with the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It also refers to the recognition by the Roman Church of the link to a vision of Saint Catherine-Labore in the Rue du Bac, Paris, in 1876. In this vision she saw the same symbol of a crown of 12 stars being carried around the world on a banner representing Peace, Joy and Happiness. Arsene Heitz is said to have drawn his inspiration from this vision.

The EU flag is an offensive and deceitfully imposed sectarian religious symbol of an alien economic and political power seeking to subjugate Britain. Yet this symbol has found its way into every corner of our lives, including car number plates, driving licences and virtually everywhere you look.

In spite of the evidence, some still argue that the Marian symbolism is merely a co-incidence and that the EU flag was chosen as a non-sectarian, neutral symbol that all the peoples of Europe can accept. Any suggestion otherwise is relegated to the realms of fallacious conspiracy theories.

But, can this be dismissed so lightly? If still in doubt, see again the EU flag, this time with an image of Mary, and judge for yourselves whether the EU Flag design is based "co-incidentally" on the Marian imagery of the Roman Church:



## 2. M de Semlyen & R Bennett *Papal Rome & the European Union*

### ***The Flag - Another EU Spiritual Symbol***

The EU flag, blue with a design of twelve stars in a circle, derives from the twelve stars that in Catholic tradition are the halo around the head of the Virgin Mary. The stars stem from the belief that twelve is the symbol of perfection and of what is unchangeable. The political purposes behind these symbols are much debated; the Biblical significance, however, is revealing.

According to the pro EU European Movement publication, "Europe's Star Choice", (the flag's inspiration is explained in the chapter headed "12 Forever"): ***"The flag has its roots in Romanism, takes its symbolism from Romanism, and represents the Roman Catholic ideal."*** The design with its halo of stars was inspired by many pictures of the Virgin Mary, the most prominent of which is on the Council of Europe stained glass window in Strasbourg Cathedral.

## 3. A Hilton

### ***The Principality and Power of Europe: Britain and the emerging Holy European Empire***

"When the EU was expanded to 15 nations, the "European" newspaper ran an article responding to those who had expected the flag's design to incorporate 15 stars, one for each state, similar to the USA.

In fact, as the newspaper explains, and as the pro EU European Movement publication "Europe's star choice" confirms, there is no chance of this ever happening for the number of stars and the number of EU states are unrelated. The design of the flag was inspired by the halo of 12 stars around pictures of the Madonna, and appears prominently on the Council of Europe stained glass window in Strasbourg Cathedral, unveiled on December 11, 1955 ***to coincide with the Roman Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception.***

Reference to the stars is found in Rev 12: "a great sign was seen in heaven: A woman arrayed with the sun and moon under her feet and upon her head a crown of twelve stars". Dr William Crampton, director of the Flag Institute, has confirmed the then secretary of the Council of Europe, Leon Marchal, had suggested 12 stars on the Council of Europe's flag, adding: "No-one can deny that under these symbols Catholics recognise the presence of the infinitely merciful Queen of peace in Christ."

#### 4. Coincidences of European Flag (<http://www.buzzardhut.net/index/htm/EU.pdf>)

December 8 1955, European Ministers' delegates officially adopted the European flag designed by Arsene Heitz. Perhaps not by coincidence, December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary our co-redeemer.

The decision followed a 1950 European Council competition to design the flag of the new-born European Community. Among many others, Heitz presented several designs, and one was chosen: 12 stars on a blue background.

##### ***Catholic origins***

The original idea for the European flag has a Catholic origin. Paul Levi was a Jew who became a Catholic. In 1949 he became director of the Cultural department of the Board of Europe. Six years later he came up (according to the German paper *Die Welt*) with the concept of a European flag. Fascinated by the virgin with the stars around her head, Levi proposed to the Secretary General of Board, Earl Benvenuti, the symbol of Mary. When the members of parliament agreed, Levi said: "How on earth is it possible? We just rediscovered the introit of the new Mass of Mary's Assumption!"

The 12 stars were inspired by the halo of 12 stars around the Madonna in Catholic pictures. A former secretary general of the Council of Europe, Leon Marchal, affirmed that the stars are those of "the woman of the Apocalypse." Enthusiastically he explained, "It's wonderful that we have gotten back to the Introit of the new Mass of the Assumption. It's the corona stellarum duodecim (the crown of twelve stars) of the woman of the Apocalypse." This is a reference to the woman in Revelation 12 with a crown of 12 stars which Rome has always claimed represents the Virgin Mary, "the mother of God."

The EU, now with well over 12 members, has confirmed the number of stars will always stay at 12. A leaflet, "Building Europe Together," given to visitors to EU headquarters in Brussels, says: "The European flag (is) a shared flag, blue with 12 gold stars symbolising completeness. The number will remain 12 no matter how many countries there are in the European Union."

##### ***Artist reveals Virgin Mary was inspiration for design***

Recently Heitz revealed to a French magazine the reason for his inspiration.

At that time he was reading the history of the Blessed Virgin's apparitions in Paris' Rue du Bac, known today as the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal. He thought of the 12 stars in a circle on a blue background, exactly as in traditional iconography of the image of the Immaculate Conception. In the beginning, Heitz saw it as a flight of an artist's fancy; but the idea caught his attention.

According to Javier Paredes, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Alcala in Spain, speaking to ZENIT [Vatican news agency], Heitz "says he is profoundly religious and devoted to the Virgin, to whom he never misses praying a daily Rosary.... Because of this, he believes the inspiration came not only from his artistic talents, but from the silent voices that Heaven always speaks to men of goodwill... He is an artist who ... can proclaim ... that he recalls that moment, that he is interested in very few but very important things, that he regards himself as a man who loves the whole world, but especially the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother."

Paredes admits "neither the stars nor the blue of the flag are particularly religious symbols, thus respecting the conscience of all Europeans, regardless of their beliefs." Indeed, he recalls, "when Paul Levy, first director of the Press and Information Service of the European Council, had to explain to Members of the Economic Community the meaning of the design, he interpreted the number of stars as a 'figure of plenitude,' as in the 50s there were not 12 member states, neither in the Council or in the European Community. "However, in Heitz's soul the words of the Apocalypse were very present: 'A great sign appeared in the Heavens: a Woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' And, perhaps without realising it, the delegates ... officially adopted the design proposed by Heitz on the feast of Our Lady: December 8 1955," explained Paredes. "That's a lot of coincidences, so henceforth it should not be difficult for us to discover in the folds of the Europeans' flag the smile and affection of Our Mother, the Queen of Europe, ready to lend a hand in that great challenge that St. Peter's successor has proposed to us: to re-Christianise the Old Continent with the example of our lives and the testimony of our words."

## Miscellaneous

### a) The EU emblem (from official website [http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/abc/symbols/emblem/index_en.htm) )

The flag is the symbol not only of the EU but also of Europe's unity and identity in a wider sense. The circle of gold stars represents solidarity and harmony between the peoples of Europe. The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of Member States. There are twelve stars because the number twelve is traditionally the symbol of perfection, completeness and unity. The flag therefore remains unchanged regardless of enlargements.

#### **Official description**

Against the background of blue sky, 12 golden stars form a circle, representing the union of the peoples of Europe. The number of stars is invariable, 12 being the symbol of perfection and entirety. Azure represents the sea, sky and all the planet; Gold is the colour of enlightenment.

### b) History of the flag

Its history goes back to 1955 when the EU existed only in the form of the ECSC, with just six Member States. But a separate body with a larger membership - the [Council of Europe](#) - had been set up several years earlier to defend human rights and promote European culture.

The Council of Europe was considering what symbol to adopt for its own use. After much discussion, the present design was adopted, representing the ideal of unity among the peoples of Europe.

The Council then encouraged other European institutions to adopt the same flag and, in 1985, it was adopted as the official emblem of the EU, in those days called the European Community.

#### **Chronology**

1949 The Council of Europe was formed in the aftermath of the Second World War  
1955 The Council creates for itself what is now also the EU flag, as a focus for European unity  
1957 EEC ("Common Market") founded by the Treaty of Rome: Benelux, France, Germany, Italy "  
1967 EC formed by a merger of the EEC, Euratom (founded 1957) and ECSC (founded 1951)  
1973 Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined making "The Nine"  
1981 Greece joined, making "The Ten"  
1986 Portugal & Spain joined making the "The Twelve"  
1986 EC adopts (with permission) the Council of Europe Flag as its own.  
1993 Maastricht Treaty Ratified. European Single Market completed. The EC becomes the EU  
1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden join making "The Fifteen"  
2004 Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia & Slovenia join making "The Twenty Five"

We were fooled by the equivalence of 12 stars and 12 states at the time of the flag's adoption and the analogy with the US flag. But when the next 3 members joined people started asking, "Why not 15 stars?" The question becomes even more noticeable now there are 25 states.

### c) Miscellaneous

- On September 2, 1958 Archbishop Montini of Milan (later Pope Paul VI) released on the mountain Serenissima a 20-meter high statue of Mary and called it "Our Beloved Lady, Ruler of Europe."
- Pius XII called Mary "Mother of all Nations" and called on March 3, 1953 for a reunion of nations.
- Bishop Dr Graber said on September 9, 1978: "I've asked for a Marian European International... We pray and ask in silence that the western world one day will be as it was: an IMPERIUM MARIANUM."

## APPENDIX

**DAILY CATHOLIC WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY December 8-9, 1999 vol. 10,  
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# **NEWS & VIEWS from a CATHOLIC perspective**

## **"COINCIDENCES" OF EUROPEAN FLAG**

### **Designer Inspired by Virgin's Image in Paris' Rue du Bac**

ROME, DEC 7 (ZENIT) - December 8 is a very special day for Europe: in 1955, on that day, the European Ministers' delegates officially adopted the European flag designed by Arsene Heitz, who today is an octogenarian artist in Strasbourg.

The decision was taken following the 1950 European Council's (one of the predecessors of today's EU) convocation of a competition to design the flag of the new-born European Community. Among many other artists, Heitz presented several designs, and one was chosen: 12 stars on a blue background.

**Recently Heitz revealed to a French magazine the reason for his inspiration.** At that time he was reading the history of the Blessed Virgin's apparitions in Paris' Rue du Bac, known today as the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal. According to the artist, he thought of the 12 stars in a circle on a blue background, exactly the way it is represented in traditional iconography of this image of the Immaculate Conception. In the beginning, Heitz saw it as a flight of fancy, among the many that run through an artist's imagination; but the idea caught his attention, to the point that it became the subject of his meditation.

According to Javier Paredes, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Alcalá in Spain, in statements sent to ZENIT, "Heitz listens to God in his interior; in other words, he prays with his heart and his head. He says **he is profoundly religious and devoted to the Virgin**, to whom he never misses praying a daily Rosary, together with his wife. Because of this, he believes the inspiration not only from his artistic talents, but from the silent voices that Heaven always speaks to men of good will, among whom Heitz can undoubtedly be numbered. He is an artist who, virtually at the end of his life and at the zenith of his career, can proclaim with the guarantee of authenticity that he recalls that moment, that he is interested in very few but very important things, that he regards himself as a man who loves the whole world, but especially the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother."

Professor Paredes admits that "neither the stars nor the blue of the flag are particularly religious symbols, thus respecting the conscience of all Europeans, regardless of their beliefs."

Indeed, he recalls that "when Paul M.G. Levy, first director of the Press and Information Service of the European Council had to explain to the Members of the Economic Community the meaning of the design, he interpreted the number of 12 stars as a 'figure of plenitude,' given that **in the 50s there were not 12 members in that Council, nor in the European Community.**"

"However, **in Heitz's soul the words of the Apocalypse were very present:** 'A great sign appeared in the Heavens: a Woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' And, perhaps without realising it, **the delegates of the European Ministers officially adopted the design proposed by Heitz on the feast of Our Lady: December 8, 1955,**" explained Prof. Paredes. "That's a lot of coincidences, so henceforth it should not be difficult for us to discover in the folds of the Europeans' flag the smile and affection of Our Mother, the Queen of Europe, ready to lend a hand in that great challenge that St. Peter's successor has proposed to us: to re-Christianise the Old Continent with the example of our lives and the testimony of our words." ZE99120707