European Union

Name ______________________ Date ______________ Hour ________

Speech *Günter Verheugen of Germany, the European Commissioner for Enlargement, expressed his views on EU expansion in speeches in the United States on April 4–6, 2000. Germany is an original member of the EU and its predecessors.*

Enlargement is the biggest challenge the Union is facing at the dawn of the new millennium. . . . We are committed to this historical mission: to integrate the Central and East European countries which can and want to participate in our common achievements. . . . Our objective is to promote political and economic stability—and make this process irreversible. . . . What are the political benefits? First and foremost, the enlargement process is vital for securing political stability, democracy and respect of human rights on the European continent as a whole. . . . Political stability and freedom will be increased throughout Europe. Against the background of many years of crisis . . . the only way to achieve lasting stability in Europe is further integration.

Political Commentary *Global Britain, a conservative group in the United Kingdom, gave this view of the euro on January 25, 1999. Although the United Kingdom belongs to the EU, it is reluctant to adopt the euro, a central issue for EU expansion.*

The Single Currency is a political project designed to hasten the creation of a Single European State in which nation-states like Britain would be provinces. . . . In joining the Single Currency, a nation hands over control of its interest rate, exchange rate and gold and currency reserves, as well as control over tax and spending, to [the EU]. All of this is set out in the Maastricht Treaty which Britain signed in 1992. . . . There are 43 nationstates in Europe, of which only 11 have joined the "single" European currency. Those 11 countries, unlike Britain, are in varying degrees economic satellites of Germany and France. . . . A single currency eliminates the interest rate and exchange rate safety valves, which allow changing national economies to adjust to each other. . . . Preparations for the "single" currency have already helped to cause mass unemployment in Germany, France, and Italy, where real jobless rates are at least three times as high as in Britain.

Reasons to Unify	Reasons not to Unify
1. Compete in world economic market	1. Shared Currency.
2. Share resources	2. No control over interest rates.
3. Political Stability	3. Language
4. Increased Freedom	4. Give up traditions