





raising output potential. Financial integration is, therefore, closely linked to the Lisbon strategy for structural reform in the EU.

Increasingly the EU's internal policies – for example the environment, energy, competition policy, agriculture and fisheries, transport, the fight against terrorism and illegal migration, dealing with global pandemics – impact on international relationships and play a vital part in the EU's external influence. Conversely, many of Europe's internal policy goals depend on the effective use of external policies.

Over the last fifty years the EU has developed a series of external policy instruments, political, economic, commercial and financial, which help us to protect and promote our interests and values.

Successive enlargements over the last three and a half decades have demonstrated the EU's ability to promote stability and prosperity and the success of this model of regional integration.