1.3.6 LISBON TREATY AND COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

COPENHAGEN CRITERIA (1993)[1]

The European Union will assist accepted countries to adopt European Union laws and provide financial assistance to improve their infrastructure and economy. To become a European Union member, countries must fulfill economic and political conditions called the Copenhagen Criteria:

- be a democratic nation, respect human rights, and show respect for and protection of minorities
- have a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the European Union
- adopt the common rules, standards, and policies of European Union law

Questions:

Use your background knowledge as well as analysis of the document to answer the following questions.

1. What are the political and economic systems applying European Union members must fulfill?

2. What indicates that the European Union is not only interested in the prosperity of its citizens?

3. Why must the country have a strong executive branch?

4. Why would the US support this organization?

5. Why might the US be concerned about the strength of the European Union?

[1] European Commission. (n.d.). Accession Criteria. Retrieved from European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/

1.3.6 LISBON TREATY AND COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

TREATY OF LISBON (2009)[2]

The **Treaty of Lisbon** is the international agreement that amends the two treaties — the Treaty on European Union (also known as the Maastricht Treaty) and the Treaty establishing the European Community (also known as the Treaty of Rome) — which comprise the constitutional basis of the European Union (EU). It provides the EU with the legal framework and tools necessary to meet future challenges and to respond to citizens' demands.

There are four main changes in the Treaty:

1. **A more democratic and transparent Europe,** with a strengthened role for the European Parliament and national parliaments, more opportunities for citizens to have their voices heard and a clearer sense of who does what at European and national level.
2. **A more efficient Europe,** with simplified working methods and voting rules, streamlined and modern institutions for a European Union of 28 members. It establishes the function of President of the European Council and an improved ability to act in areas of major priority for today's Union, such as combating terrorism, studying climate change, etc.
3. **A Europe of rights and values, freedom, solidarity and security,** promoting the Union's values, introducing the Charter of Fundamental Rights into European primary law, providing for new solidarity mechanisms and ensuring better protection of European citizens.
4. **Europe as an actor on the global stage** by giving Europe a clear voice in relations with its partners worldwide. It harnesses Europe's economic, humanitarian, political and diplomatic strengths to promote European interests and values worldwide, while respecting the particular interests of the member states in international affairs.

Activity:
Research Germany's response to each of these general provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon.

[2] European Union. (n.d.). Treaty of Lisbon. Retrieved from Europa: http://europa.eu/