

# The euflag L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>Ε</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> package\*

## European Union Flag

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### Summary

This package implements a single command `\euflag` which reproduces the official flag of the European Union (EU) using just the built-in picture environment, with the `xcolor` and `graphicx` packages and the `amssymb` font.

The flag is reproduced at 1em high based on the current font size, so it can be scaled arbitrarily by changing the font size locally (see examples in the table on page 5). An option allows for the flag to be aligned on the bottom star.



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\*This document corresponds to euflag v. 0.7 $\beta$ , dated 2020/05/16.

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## Latest changes

### v.0.7 (2020-05-16)

#### Regression release

- Updated to ClassPack 1.19
- Switched all conformance attributes on revision dates to YYYY-MM-DD

### v.0.6 (2020-04-01)

#### Maintenance release

- Updated to ClassPack 1.18
- Switched all conformance attributes on revision dates to YYYY-MM-DD

### v.0.5 (2019-07-24)

#### Separated stars from flag and added baseline option

- Made the ring of stars a separate macro so that they can be used on their own as well as in the flag.
- Added a baseline package option to align the bottom star with the text, and a command option to do it on a per-command basis.

### v.0.4 (2019-02-02)

#### Changed the star

- Changed from the bbding `\FiveStar` to the amssymb `\bigstar` command.

See p. 20 for earlier changes.

# 1 Background

This package provides a command `\euflag` for reproducing the flag of the European Union. It follows exactly the official specification (Council of Europe and European Commission, 2019). The EU’s web site says:

The European flag symbolises both the European Union and, more broadly, the identity and unity of Europe.

**It features a circle of 12 gold stars on a blue background. They stand for the ideals of unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe.**

The number of stars has nothing to do with the number of member countries, though the circle is a symbol of unity.

## History of the European flag


The history of the flag goes back to 1955. The Council of Europe — which defends human rights and promotes European culture — chose the present design for its own use. In the years that followed, it encouraged the emerging European institutions to adopt the same flag.

In 1983, the European Parliament decided that the Communities' flag should be that used by the Council of Europe. In 1985, it was adopted by all EU leaders as the official emblem of the European Communities, later to become the European Union. In addition, all European institutions now have their own emblems.

[https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/symbols/flag_en)












The `\euflag` command provides a simple way to use the flag in any  $\text{\LaTeX}$  document. Details of construction and spacing are taken from the official specification in <http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-5000100.htm>

## 2 Usage


The flag is reproduced at 1em high, with the bottom edge at the current baseline like this:  using the `\euflag` command. The `baseline` package option or an optional length argument to the `\euflag` command can be used to change this (see below).

The font size of the enclosing environment can be changed to make the flag appear at any size. In the examples below, the code and the flags are in m-type cells (middle-vertical-align, using the `array` package), so their apparent baselines differ.

---

<code>{\tiny\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\scriptsize\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\footnotesize\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\small\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\normalsize\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\large\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\Large\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\LARGE\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\huge\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\fontsize{64}{72}\selectfont\euflag}</code>	
<code>{\fontsize{128}{0}\selectfont\euflag}</code>	

---

To move the flag down so that the bottom star's baseline becomes the flag's baseline, like this: , load the package with the `baseline` option:

```
\usepackage[baseline]{euflag}
```

(that will affect all `\euflag` commands). Alternatively, use the optional argument to `\euflag` to lower the flag by  $\frac{1}{6}$ em or whatever amount you wish, eg `\euflag[-.167em]`

## 3 Implementation

### 3.1 Auto-initialisation

This section is added automatically by *ClassPack* as a preamble to all classes and style packages. The `fixltx2e` package, which used to be included automatically, is no longer preloaded, as its features are now a part of the latest  $\text{\LaTeX 2}_{\epsilon}$  kernel.

The code starts with identity and requirements which are generated automatically as needed by the Doc $\text{\TeX}$  system. For details see the `ltxdoc` package documentation.

```
1 \NeedsTeXFormat{LaTeX2e}[2016/02/01]
2 \ProvidesPackage{euflag}[2020/05/16 v0.7
3   European Union Flag]
```

**svgnames** Pass the `svgnames` option to the `xcolor` package if that gets loaded later. This avoids a conflict with any other packages (eg `hyperref`) which use their own default is when they load `xcolor`.

However, we have to make an exception in this case because the package gets used in its own documentation, which would cause a duplicate `\PassOptionsToPackage`, so we code around it by testing the current package name against the job name of the calling `.dtx` file — if they are the same, then this is the case in point, and the `\PassOptionsToPackage` command is *not* executed; otherwise it is OK to include it.

```
4 \def\CPK@thispackage{euflag}
5 \edef\CPK@thispackage{\meaning\CPK@thispackage}
6 \edef\CPK@thisjob{\jobname}
7 \edef\CPK@thisjob{\meaning\CPK@thisjob}
8 \ifx\CPK@thispackage\CPK@thisjob
9   %% this is the documentation: omit PassOptionsToPackage
10   \message{Option svgnames not passed to package xcolor}
11 \else
12   %% this is a user job: include PassOptionsToPackage
13   \message{Option svgnames passed to package xcolor}

14   \PassOptionsToPackage{svgnames}{xcolor}

15 \fi
```

## 3.2 Options

`\EUF@baseline` Define an option to set the default position to align the lowest star with the text baseline of the surrounding text. The default is zero, meaning the bottom of the flag aligns with the text baseline; setting this option will lower the flag so that the lowest star aligns with the text baseline.

```
16 \newlength{\EUF@baseline}
17 \setlength{\EUF@baseline}{0pt}
18 \DeclareOption{baseline}{\setlength\EUF@baseline{-.167em}}
19 \DeclareOption*{%
20     \PackageWarning{euflag}{Unknown option
21         '\CurrentOption'; please Read The Fine Manual}%
22 }
23 \ProcessOptions
```

## 3.3 Packages required for the package

`xcolor` Provide color.

```
24 \RequirePackage[svgnames]{xcolor}%
25 \@ifundefined{T}{%
26     \newcommand{\T}[2]{\fontencoding{T1}%
27         \selectfont#2}}{}}
```

There seems to be a bug in the T1 encoding of some package (unidentified, but possibly `xcolor`) which uses the command `\T1`, which is an impossibility (no digits allowed in command names). So we fake it here to stop  $\text{\LaTeX}$  complaining, by dropping the first argument on the floor.

`graphicx` Provide for graphics (PNG, JPG, or PDF format (only) for `pdflatex`; EPS format (only) for standard  $\text{\LaTeX}$ ).

```
28 \RequirePackage{graphicx}%
```

`amssymb` Provide for the American Mathematical Society's symbols (see their documentation for details).

```
29 \RequirePackage{amssymb}%
```

### 3.4 Changes to package defaults

The only changes are to implement the blue and yellow according to the specification. Note that exact Pantone® colour codes are not available, so the HTML values used on the EU web site are used here. The CMYK values are commented out in the code; they are available for users to test.

PantoneReflexBlue As specified.

```
30 \definecolor{PantoneReflexBlue}{HTML}{003399}  
31 %\definecolor{PantoneReflexBlue}{cmyk}{1.00,.67,0,.40}
```

PantoneYellow As specified.

```
32 \definecolor{PantoneYellow}{HTML}{FFCC00}  
33 %\definecolor{PantoneYellow}{cmyk}{0,.2,1,0}
```

We could have just used the Yellow from the xcolor package, but it was felt better to be explicit.

### 3.5 The flag

We now use the `\bigstar` command from the `amssymb` package (earlier versions used the `\FiveStar` command from the `bbding` package, but that did not reliably scale beyond about 100pt).

`\eustar` It needs to scale, so we implement it as a command using `\scalebox`.

```
34 \newcommand{\eustar}{\scalebox{0.1}{\ensuremath{\bigstar}}}
```

This is the only slightly uncertain part of the implementation: the specification calls for the star to be  $\frac{1}{18}$  of the height of the flag, but  $\text{\LaTeX}$  only has access to the bounding-box of the glyph. The value of 0.1 given here is therefore experimental and subject to change in future in the light of feedback.

The command itself is a blue `\colorbox` containing the stars set at the clock-points of a circle in a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  `picture` environment.

`\makestars` Separate the making of the ring of stars from the flag itself so that the ring of stars can be used separately.



For the picture environment, set the unit to 1em and then divide it by 18. This enables us conveniently to use six units for the axes behind the circle of stars, because the specification says it must have a radius of  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the height (ie  $\frac{6}{18}$ ). The positioning argument was found by trial and error.

```

35 \newcommand{\makestars}{%
36   \color{PantoneYellow}%
37   \setlength{\unitlength}{1em}
38   \divide\unitlength by18
39   \begin{picture}(6,6)(-2,3.5)
40     \put(6,0){\eustar}
41     \put(5.196,3){\eustar}
42     \put(3,5.196){\eustar}
43     \put(0,6){\eustar}
44     \put(-3,5.196){\eustar}
45     \put(-5.196,3){\eustar}
46     \put(-6,0){\eustar}
47     \put(-5.196,-3){\eustar}
48     \put(-3,-5.196){\eustar}
49     \put(0,-6){\eustar}
50     \put(3,-5.196){\eustar}
51     \put(5.196,-3){\eustar}
52   \end{picture}%
53 }
```

The positioning of the individual stars was found with simple trigonometry. It would have been possible to construct this from a loop cycling through the 12 positions, but it is simpler to do it like this.

`\euflag` Before the `\colorbox` is used, set the `\fboxsep` length to zero so that there is no border around the box, and then raise (lower) the box by the value of `EUFB@baseline` as set by the baseline option.

```

54 \newcommand{\euflag}[1][\EUFB@baseline]{%
55   {%
56     \fboxsep0pt
57     \raisebox{#1}{%
58       \colorbox{PantoneReflexBlue}{%

```

The rectangle itself is formed from a `\vbox` 1em high and 1.5em wide. The paragraph skip and indent are zeroed to avoid unwanted space, and the content is centered and made yellow.

```

59       \vbox to1em{%

```

```
60         \hsize1.5em
61         \parskip0pt
62         \parindent0pt
63         \centering
64         \makestars
```

Finally, close off the containing \vbox and other containers.

```
65         }% end vbox
66     }% end colorbox
67 }% end raisebox
68 }% end encapsulation
69 }% end command
```

That's it. Any problems, mail me.

## References

Council of Europe and European Commission. (2019). *Graphics guide to the European emblem: Interinstitutional style guide*.  
<http://publications.europa.eu/code/en/en-5000100.htm>

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```
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%%% Copyright 2005 M. Y. Name
%%
%% This work may be distributed and/or modified under the
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%% of this license or (at your option) any later version.
%% The latest version of this license is in
%%   http://www.latex-project.org/lppl.txt
%% and version 1.3 or later is part of all distributions of LaTeX
%% version 2005/12/01 or later.
%%
%% This work has the LPPL maintenance status `maintained'.
```

```
%%  
%% The Current Maintainer of this work is M. Y. Name.  
%%  
%% This work consists of the files pig.dtx and pig.ins  
%% and the derived file pig.sty.
```

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```
%% This work consists of all files listed in manifest.txt.
```

in that place. In the absence of an unequivocal list it might be impossible for the licensee to determine what is considered by you to comprise the Work and, in such a case, the licensee would be entitled to make reasonable conjectures as to which files comprise the Work.

## Change History

v0.1

General: First version: Simple picture mode is all that is needed, plus a decent star.. . . . 1

v0.2

General: Works in table cells: Fixed bug (a vfill) that was crashing (well, locking up) L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X when euflag was used in a table cell.. . 1

v0.3

General: Mods to ClassPack: Added switch in db2dtx.xsl to detect the use of a package in its own documentation (as here) and code around the PassOptionsToPackage for svgnames on xcolor, which was causing an Option Clash error.. . 1

v0.4

General: Changed the star: Changed from the bbdingFiveStar to the amssymbbigstar command.. . . 1

v0.5

General: Separated stars from flag and added baseline option: 1) Made the ring of stars a separate macro so that they can be used on their own as well as in the flag.; 2) Added a baseline package option to align the bottom star with the text, and a command option to do it on a per-command basis.. . . . . . 1

v0.6

General: Maintenance release: 1) Updated to ClassPack 1.18; 2) Switched all conformance attributes on revision dates to YYYY-MM-DD. . . . . . . 1

v0.7

General: Regression release: 1) Updated to ClassPack 1.19; 2) Switched all conformance attributes on revision dates to YYYY-MM-DD. . . . . . . 1

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