



Iceland and the European Union

Iceland is not a member of the EU but is on the other hand a member of the European Free Trade Area or EFTA. EFTA is now integrated into the EU's European Economic Area (EEA) and the Schengen area. When Iceland joined the European Economic Area it got full access to the European single market. If weren't for the EEA agreement Icelandic teachers and students would not be able to take part in Comenius projects for example.



Iceland applied to join the European Union on 16 July 2009. Negotiations are well under way but the main issue and obstacle is on fisheries. Icelanders are very concerned about protecting their fishing

banks. Many business people in the fishing industry and fishermen are against joining the EU. Still, people's opinions are divided,



At present there is hardly a majority in favour of joining the EU. The reason for this is mainly the crisis the EU has been going through.

Recent opinion polls show that the majority of voters would reject

joining the EU in a national referendum. Negotiations are not over, though, and only the future can tell what their outcome will be in the end.