

Your country in the EU



Germany

MEMBER OF THE EU SINCE: 1952
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Berlin
LANGUAGE: German



European Union (EU)

MEMBER STATES: 27
HEADQUARTERS: Brussels, Belgium
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: 24

DID YOU KNOW?

- The EU is an association of countries (currently 27) that want to adopt common laws.
- The laws are intended to improve the lives of people in the member states.
- There are many different opinions about which laws are the best. The different proposals have to be discussed. Everyone has to compromise.

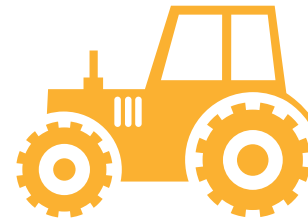
Information on your country

Inhabitants



84 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: yes

Why?:

New rules cannot be implemented immediately. Food producers need time, for example to produce new packaging.

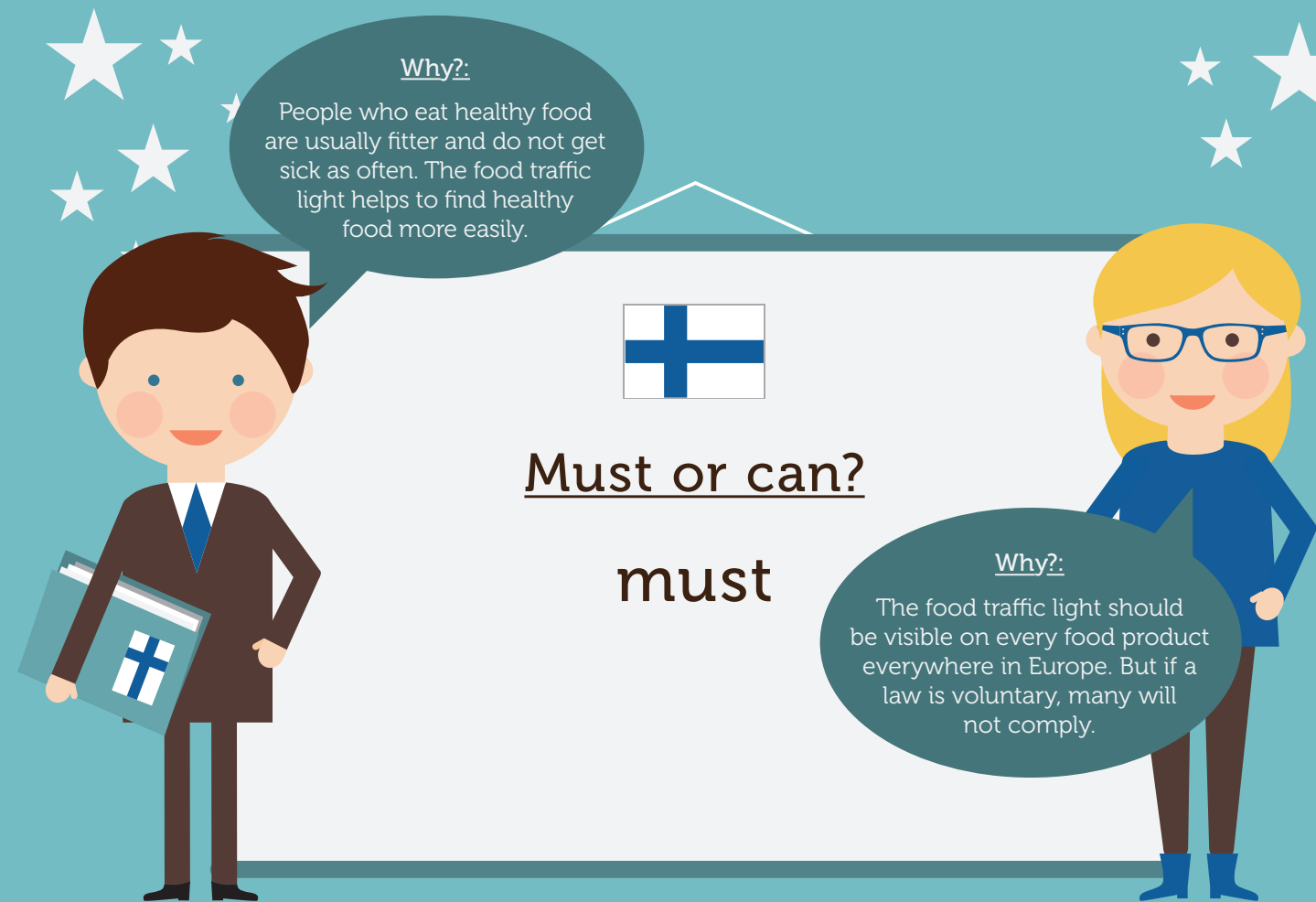
Why?:

It should not take too long for the law to apply. People should be able to quickly distinguish between healthy and unhealthy food.



When?

next year



Why?:
People who eat healthy food are usually fitter and do not get sick as often. The food traffic light helps to find healthy food more easily.

Must or can?
must

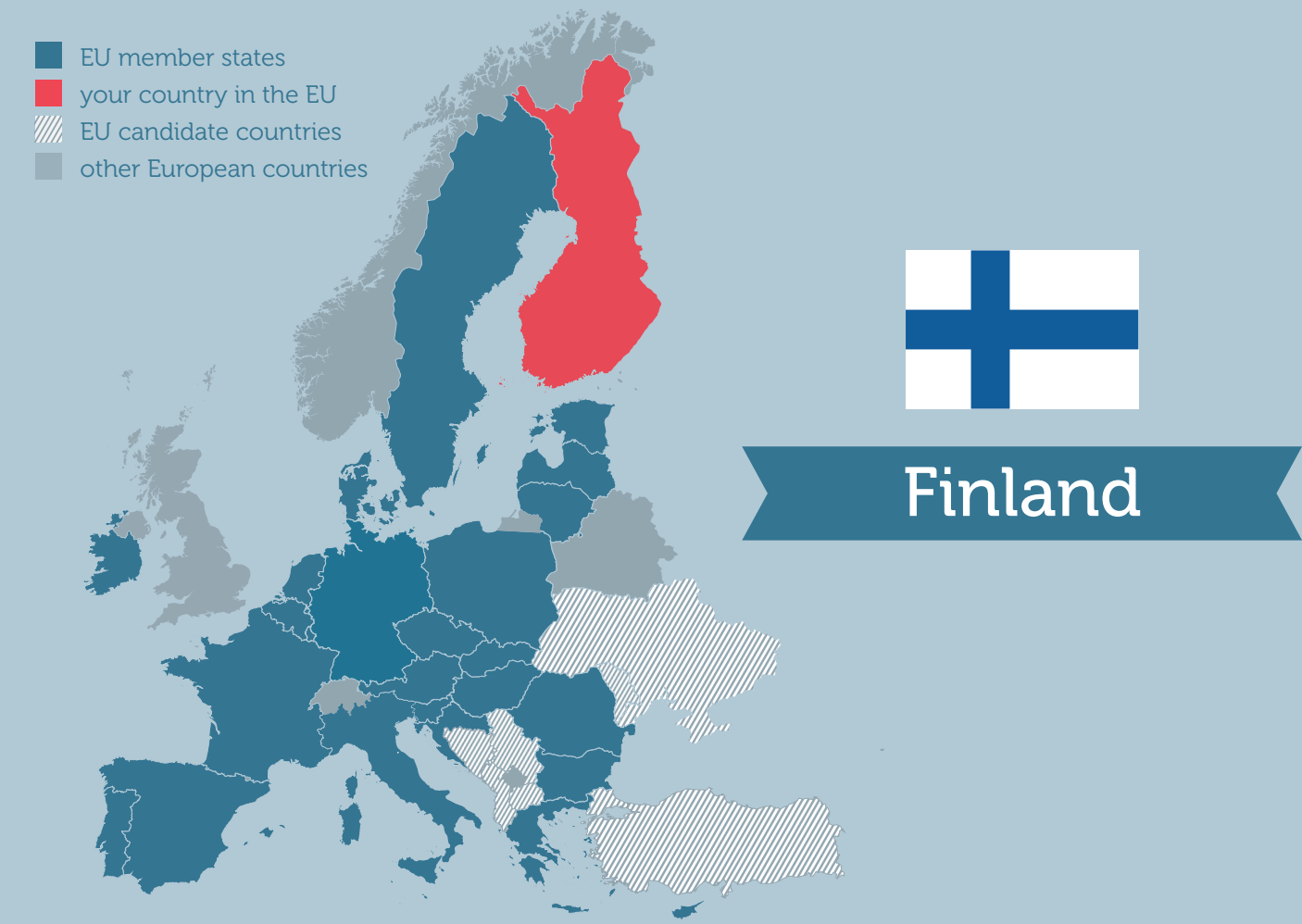
Why?:
The food traffic light should be visible on every food product everywhere in Europe. But if a law is voluntary, many will not comply.



Why?:
Food producers should pay fines if they do not implement the food traffic light. If the fines are high, people will make more of an effort to comply with the law.

Why?:
With low or no fines, not obeying the law is not so bad. Many will then simply pay the fine and not introduce the food traffic light. We should prevent that.

Fines?
high fines



Your country in the EU



Finland

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1995
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Helsinki
LANGUAGE: Finnish, Swedish



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Information on your country

Inhabitants



6 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: not so high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: yes



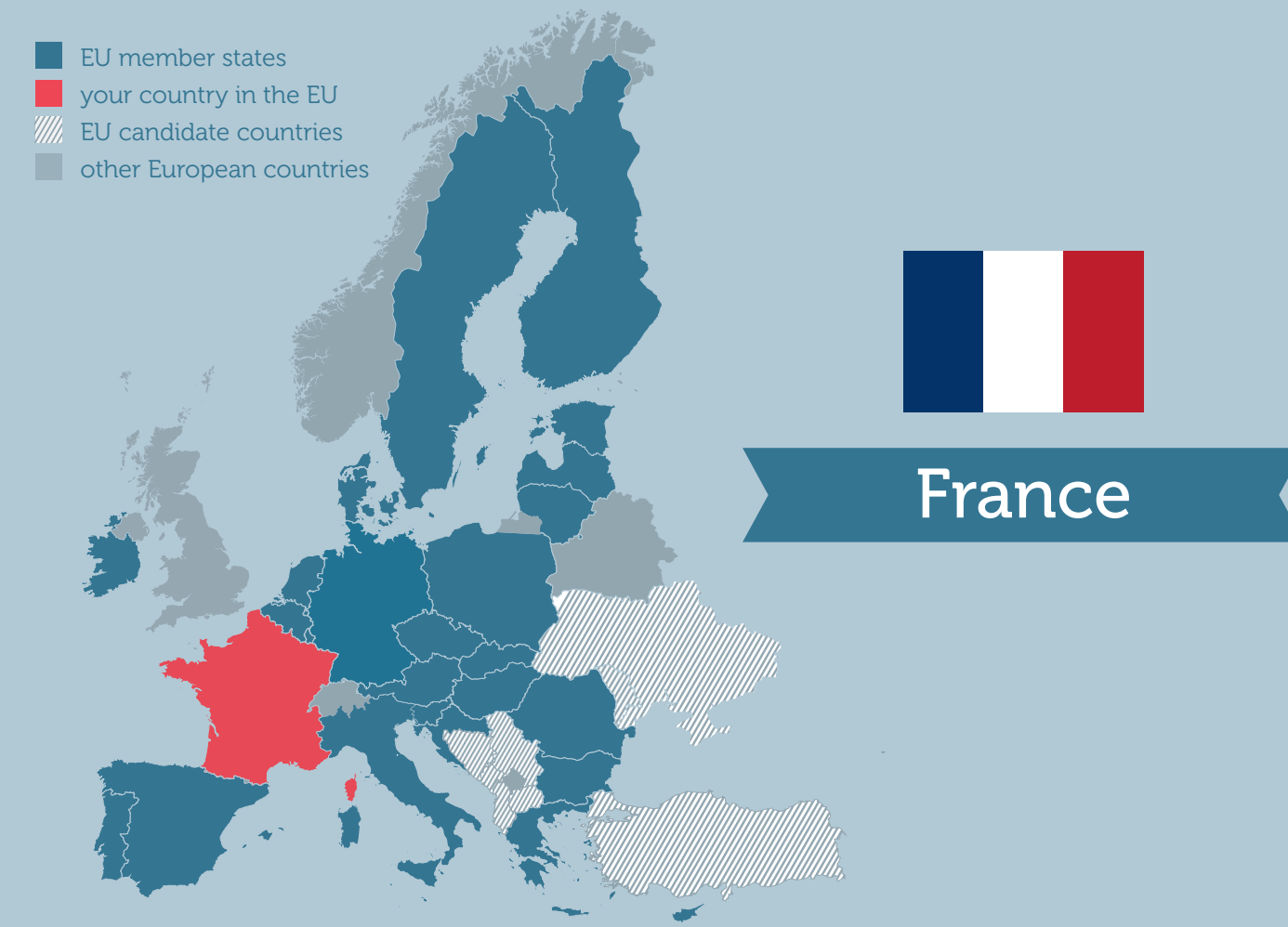
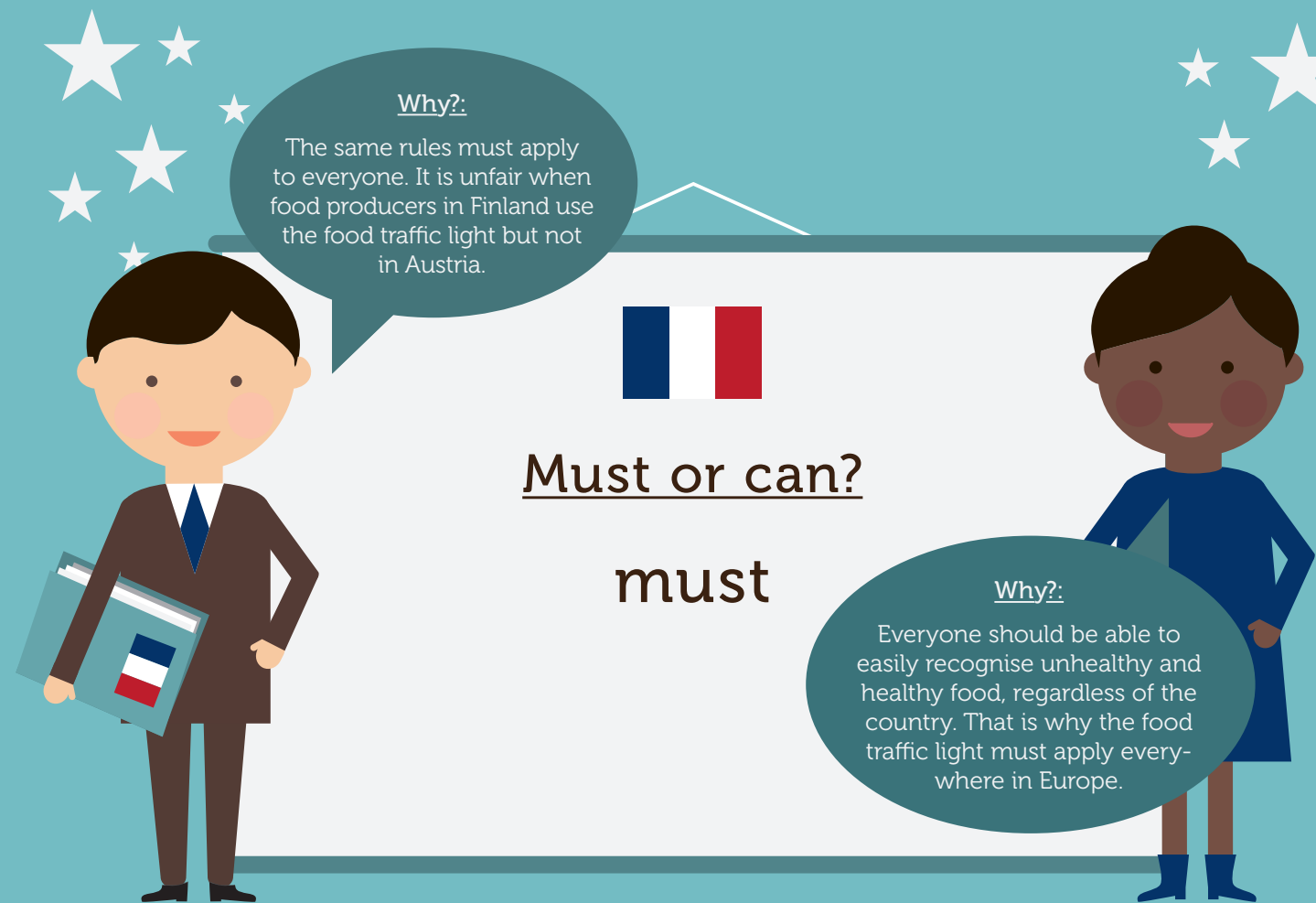
When? this year

Why?:

Many people in Europe eat an unhealthy diet. The unhealthy diet has increased in recent years. This must change quickly!

Why?:

With the food traffic light, everyone can easily see whether a food is healthy or unhealthy. It should be introduced as soon as possible.



Your country in the EU



France

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1952
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Paris
LANGUAGE: French



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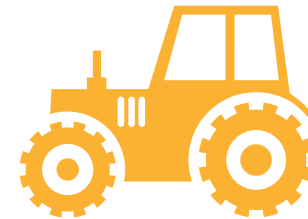
Information on your country

Inhabitants



68 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: yes

When?
in two years

Why?:

Many people eat unhealthy foods. They do not know that they are unhealthy. You usually do not see it on the packaging. We have to change that in the next two years.

Why?:

New rules take time. Food producers have to come up with new packaging that shows the food traffic light. That takes a bit longer.

Why?:
A food traffic light can also confuse people. Olive oil, for example, has a bad rating because it is high in fat, although it actually contains healthy fats. That is why the food traffic light should not be compulsory.

Must or can?

can

Why?:
The food traffic light does not make sense for all products. It must therefore remain strictly optional for food producers whether they use the food traffic light or not.

Why?:
We do not want fines because then the food traffic light is no longer voluntary for the food producers.

Fines?

no fines

Why?:
If If you think something is good, you do it voluntarily. Threatening punishment is not necessary then. Food producers have to be convinced that the the food traffic light can be good.



Your country in the EU



Greece

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1981
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Athens
LANGUAGE: Greek



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Information on your country

Inhabitants



11 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: very high

National
food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: no

Why?:

For some products, the food traffic light can help people find healthy food. For example, in the case of cereals, to recognise at first glance which package contains more and which less sugar. That is why we need a food traffic light.

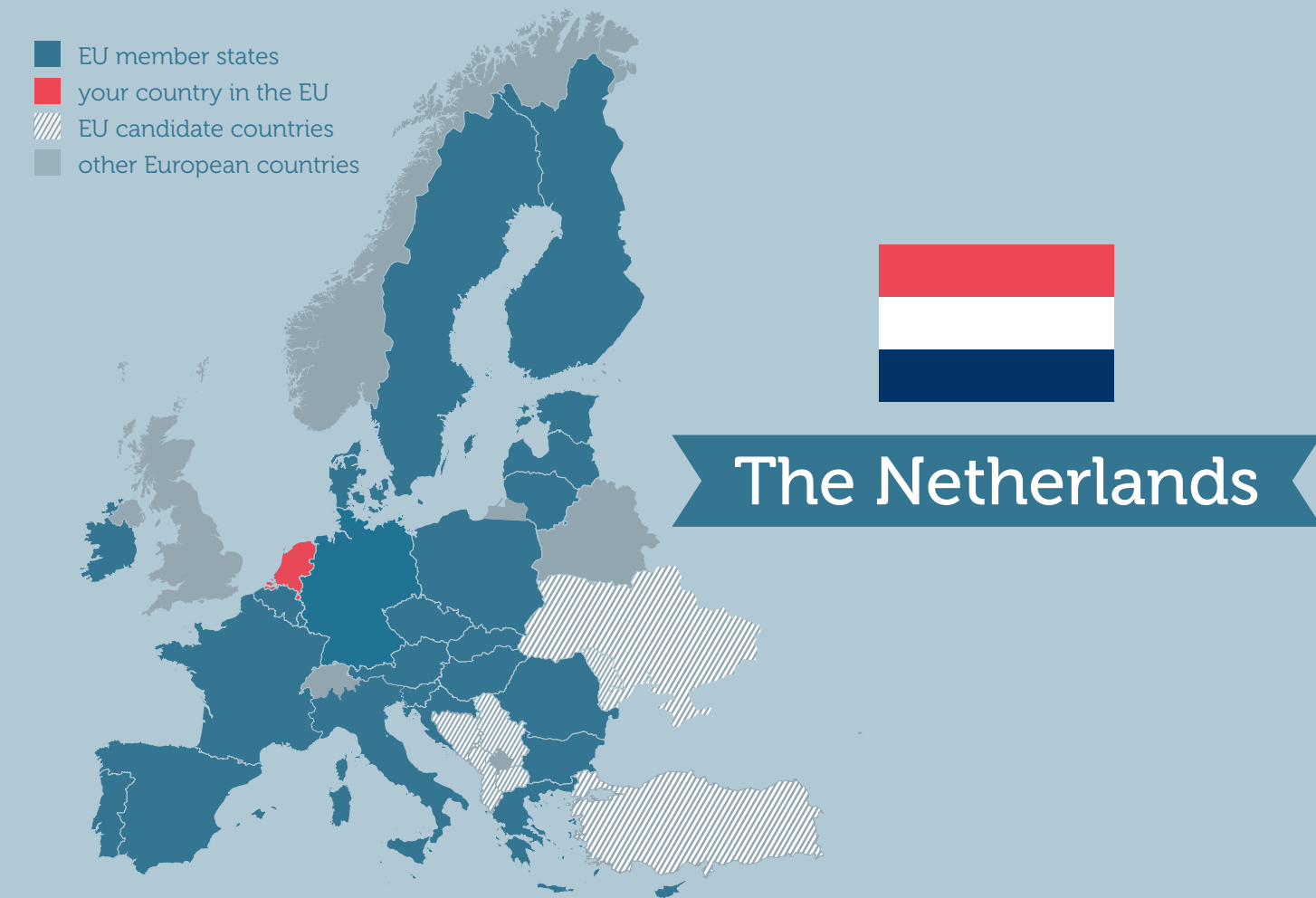
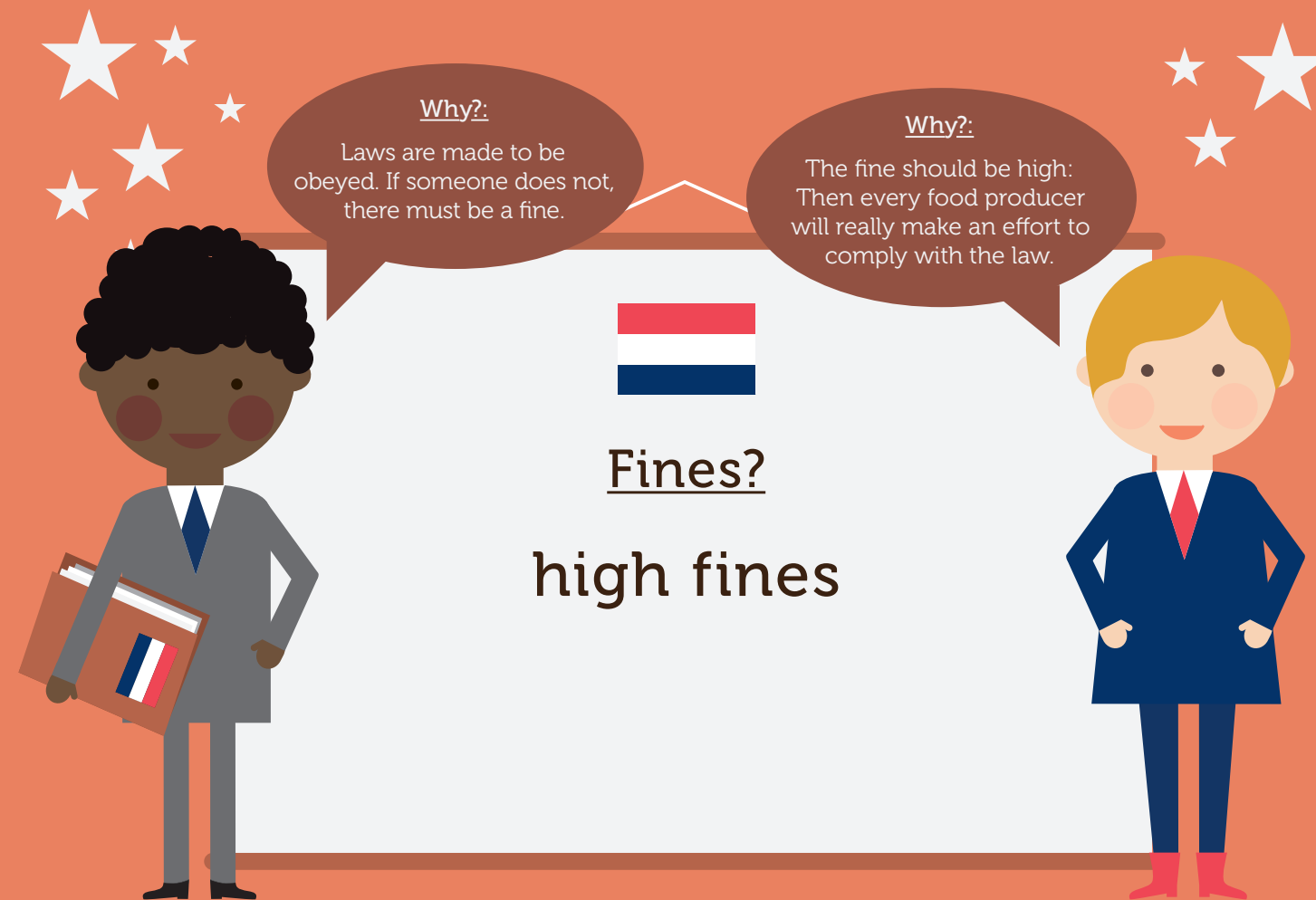
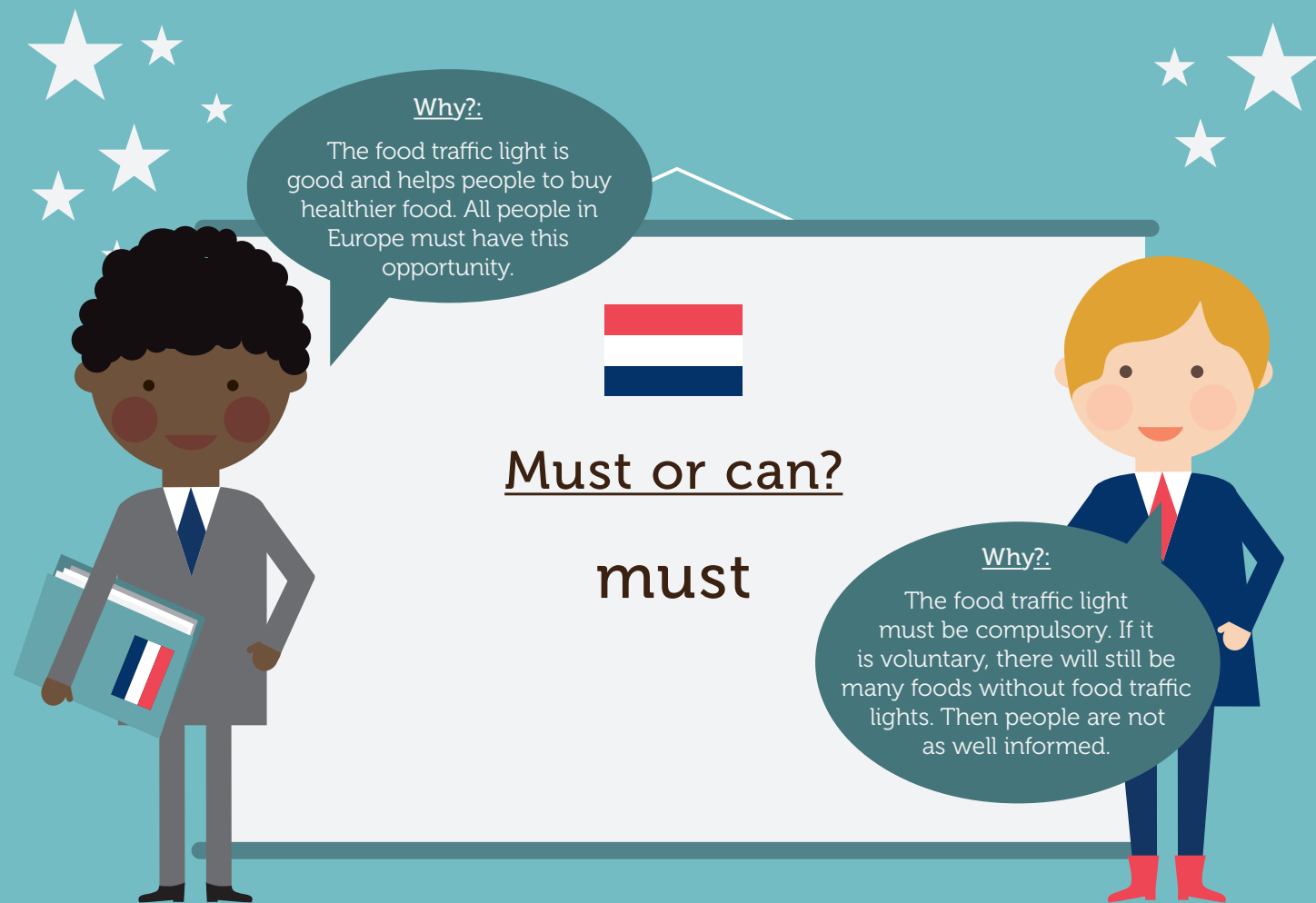
Why?:

New rules always take a little time. The food producers have to adapt. They need at least two years for that.



When?

in two years



Your country in the EU



The Netherlands

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1952
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Amsterdam
LANGUAGE: Dutch



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Information on your country

Inhabitants



18 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: yes

Why?:

Many people in Europe do not know what is healthy. It takes people a lot of time to find out for themselves whether food is healthy or unhealthy. A food traffic light system helps them there.

Why?:

The food traffic light makes it easy to recognise healthy food at first glance. This way, people eat healthier. The sooner the food traffic lights are put on food, the better it will be for everyone in Europe.



When?
this year



Why?:
Let the food producers decide for themselves: We print a food traffic light on our food or not. We should not force them.

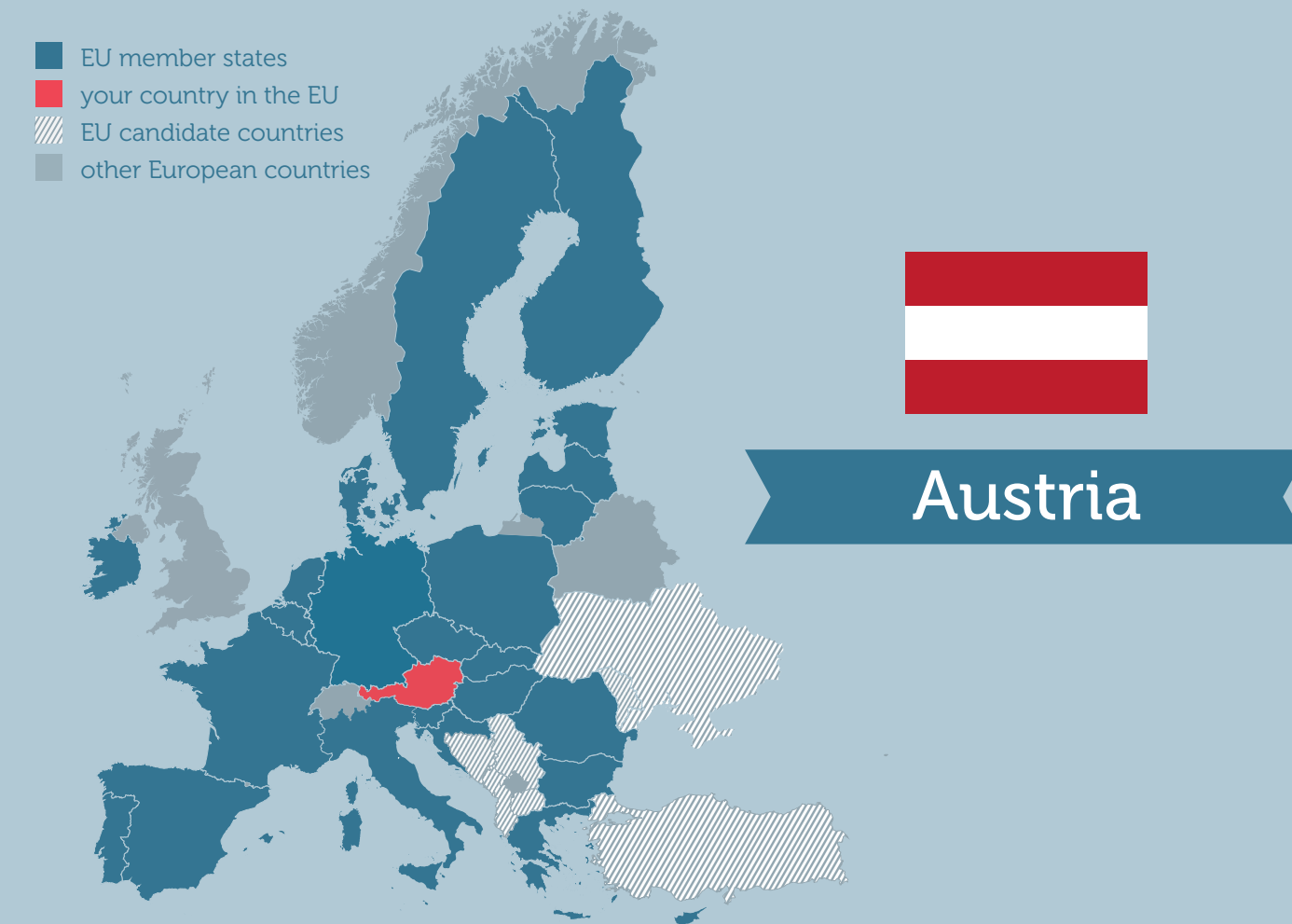
Why?:
Many people realise: the foods without food traffic lights are probably healthier. Even so, people can decide for themselves: Do they want to buy the food with or without the food traffic light on it?

Must or can?
can

Why?:
We are in favour of food producers being free to make their own decisions, so we are against fines. Otherwise the food traffic light would no longer be voluntary.

Why?:
Food producers should not be forced and threatened with fines. It is better to convince them. Then they will gladly print the food traffic light on the food.

Fines?
no fines



Your country in the EU



Austria

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1995
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Vienna
LANGUAGE: German



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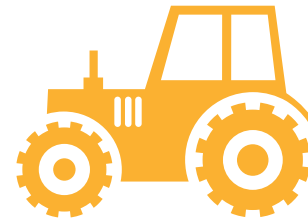
Information on your country

Inhabitants



9 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: no

Why?:

We do not really need the food traffic light. People in Europe know for themselves that an apple is healthier than a chocolate bar.

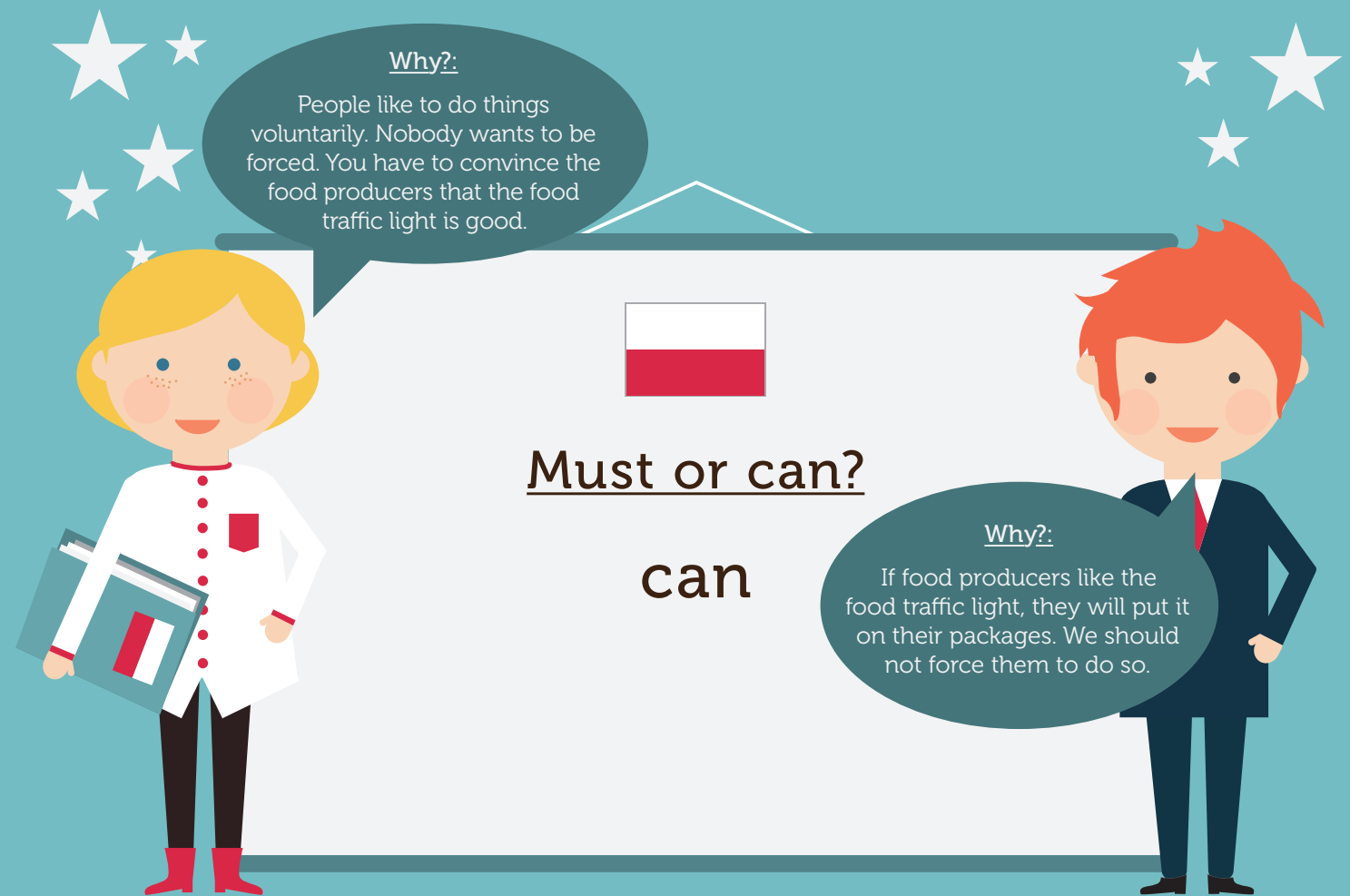
Why?:

If the food producers want a food traffic light, they can do it themselves. This is not an urgent problem. There are many other things we have to take care of.

When?

never





Must or can?

can

Why?:
People like to do things voluntarily. Nobody wants to be forced. You have to convince the food producers that the food traffic light is good.

Why?:
If food producers like the food traffic light, they will put it on their packages. We should not force them to do so.

Poland



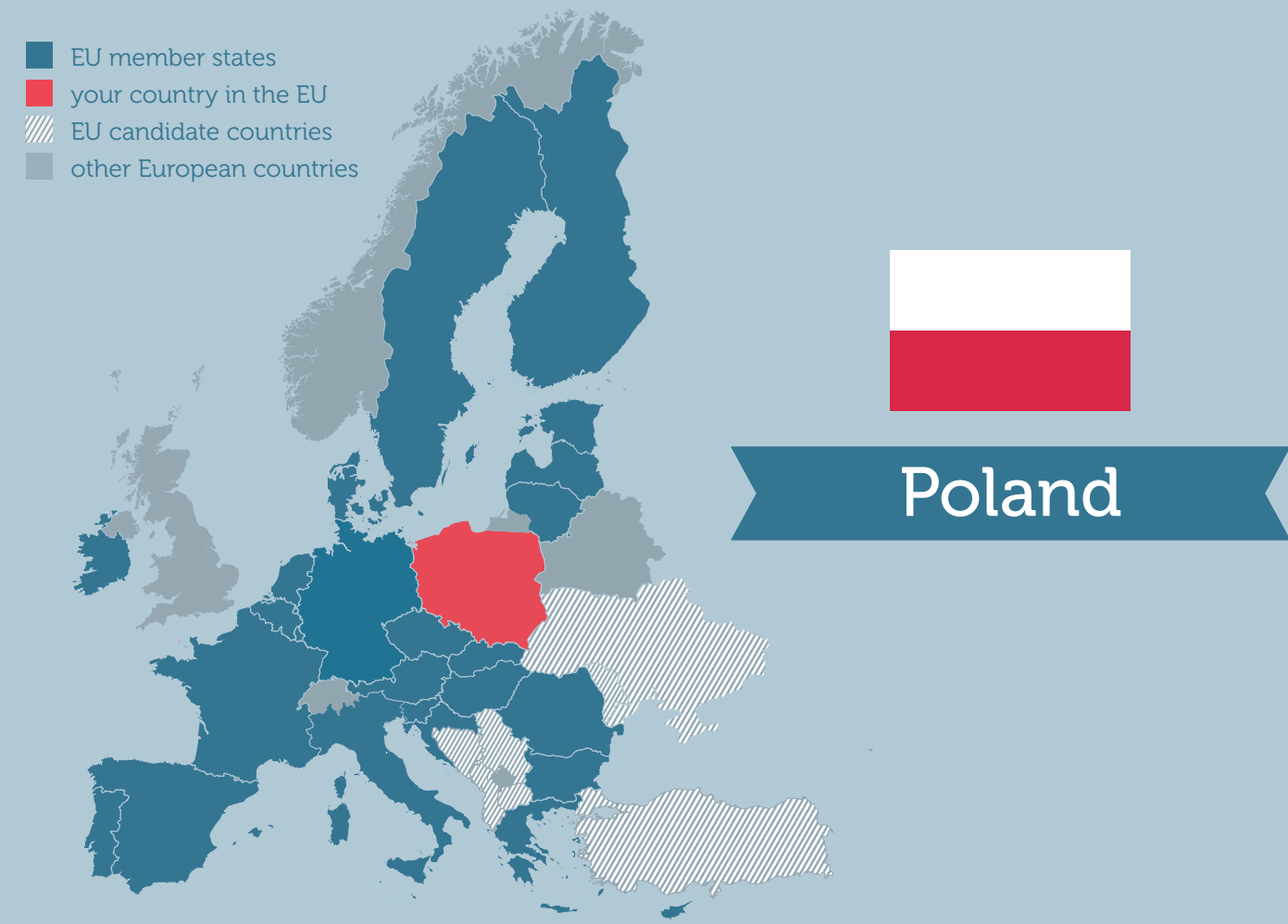
Fines?

no fines

Why?:
High fines put pressure on food producers. They will use the food traffic light even though they may not want to.

Why?:
Fines are useless. It would be better to convince food producers that the food traffic light is good. Then they will be happy to introduce the food traffic light.

Poland



Your country in the EU



Poland

EU MEMBER SINCE: 2004
CURRENCY: Złoty (zł)
CAPITAL: Warsaw
LANGUAGE: Polish



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Information on your country

Inhabitants



38 million

Agriculture



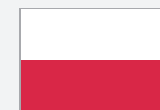
IMPORTANCE: very high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: no

When? next year



Why?:

If the food traffic light is good, we should employ it soon. Why wait another five years? It does not take long.

Why?:

The sooner the food traffic light comes, the sooner people can shop healthier. We want to use the food traffic lights as early as next year.

Why?:
We have to oblige food producers to print the food traffic light on packaging. Otherwise, everyone will end up doing what he or she wants! The law must lay down clear rules that apply to everyone in Europe.

Must or can?

must

Why?:
„Can“ sounds far too vague. Many food manufacturers will then simply not print a food traffic light on the packaging. In the end, nothing will change.



Why?:
We need fines. If there are none, some will simply not abide by the new rules. But the fines should not be too high.


Why?:
The fines should not be so harsh. If food producers do have to pay a fine, they should not go bankrupt straight away. Then they have no money left to print a food traffic light on their packaging.

Fines?

low fines



■ EU member states
 ■ your country in the EU
 ▨ EU candidate countries
 ■ other European countries



Spain

Your country in the EU



Spain

EU MEMBER SINCE: 1986
CURRENCY: Euro (€)
CAPITAL: Madrid
LANGUAGE: Spanish



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Information on your country

Inhabitants



47 million

Agriculture



IMPORTANCE: very high

National food traffic light



EXISTS IN THE COUNTRY: yes

When? in five years



Why?:

We should give food producers enough time. Producing new packaging takes time and costs money. It cannot be done in a few weeks or months.

Why?:

Some food manufacturers are faster. They can already print the food traffic light on their products. Others may need more time. We should give them that time.