Glossary of summaries

OPTING OUT
Certain European Union countries have what are known as ‘opt-outs’, which are a means of ensuring that when a given country does not wish to join the others in a particular field of EU policy, it can opt out, thus avoiding an overall stalemate.

Examples of opt-outs include:
- Schengen Agreement: Ireland and the United Kingdom;
- economic and monetary union: Denmark and the United Kingdom;
- defence: Denmark
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Poland and the United Kingdom;
- area of freedom, security and justice: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (the latter two countries may opt into given initiatives if they wish).

SEE ALSO
- Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)
- Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
- Enhanced cooperation
- European Council
- Freedom and security
- Justice
- Schengen (Agreement and Convention)