

# European Union

## Member countries

The European Union (EU) is an economic and political union between 28 European countries. The following chart lists EU members as of 2 December 2013.

| Country        | Membership year | Country        | Membership year |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Austria*       | 1995            | Italy*         | 1952            |
| Belgium*       | 1952            | Latvia         | 2004            |
| Bulgaria       | 2007            | Lithuania      | 2004            |
| Croatia        | 2013            | Luxembourg*    | 1952            |
| Cyprus*        | 2004            | Malta*         | 2004            |
| Czech Republic | 2004            | Netherlands*   | 1952            |
| Denmark        | 1973            | Poland         | 2004            |
| Estonia*       | 2004            | Portugal*      | 1986            |
| Finland*       | 1995            | Romania        | 2007            |
| France*        | 1952            | Slovakia*      | 2004            |
| Germany*       | 1952            | Slovenia*      | 2004            |
| Greece*        | 1981            | Spain*         | 1986            |
| Hungary        | 2004            | Sweden         | 1995            |
| Ireland*       | 1973            | United Kingdom | 1973            |

\* EU member countries, known collectively as the Eurozone, that have adopted the euro (EUR) as common currency.

Attaining membership in the EU occurs in a series of formalized steps as a candidate nation demonstrates that it can meet the EU membership criteria. The following countries are candidates to join the EU as of 2 December 2013:

- Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Iceland
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Turkey



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