



European Union (EU) ***Member countries***

The European Union is an economic and political union between 28 European countries. The following chart lists EU members as of 1 April 2016.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Membership year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Membership year</i>
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 1 April 2016:

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