

The European Union: 500 million people – 28 countries



Member States of the European Union



Candidate countries and potential candidates

New ideas for lasting peace and prosperity...



Konrad Adenauer



Alcide De Gasperi



Winston Churchill



Robert Schuman



Jean Monnet



**The motto:
United in diversity**



The European anthem



The euro



The European flag



Europe Day, 9 May



Български
Čeština
dansk
Deutsch
eesti keel
Ελληνικά

English
español
français
Gaeilge
hrvatski
Italiano

latviešu valoda
lietuvių kalba
magyar
Malti
Nederlands
polski

português
Română
slovenčina
slovenščina
suomi
svenska

Enlargement: from six to 28 countries



*Česká republika = Česko (2019)



- 1989** Fall of Berlin Wall – end of Communism
EU economic help begins: Phare programme
- 1992** Criteria set for a country to join the EU:
- democracy and rule of law
 - functioning market economy
 - ability to implement EU laws
- 1998** Formal negotiations on enlargement begin
- 2002** Copenhagen summit agrees to a big enlargement of 10 new countries
- 2004** Ten new EU members: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
- 2007** Bulgaria and Romania join the EU
- 2013** Croatia joins on 1 July



Candidate countries and potential candidates



Country	Area (x 1000 km ²)	Population (millions)	Wealth (gross domestic product per person)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51	3.8	7 800
Montenegro	14	0.6	10 600
Kosovo under UN Security Resolution 1244	11	1.8	:
North Macedonia	25	2.1	10 000
Albania	28	2.9	7 800
Serbia	77	7.2	9 600
Turkey	783	77.7	14 400
The 28 EU countries together	4 272	508.2	27 400



- 1952 The European Coal and Steel Community
- 1958 The treaties of Rome:
 - The European Economic Community
 - The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)
- 1987 The European Single Act: the Single Market
- 1993 Treaty on European Union - Maastricht
- 1999 Treaty of Amsterdam
- 2003 Treaty of Nice
- 2009 Treaty of Lisbon

The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights



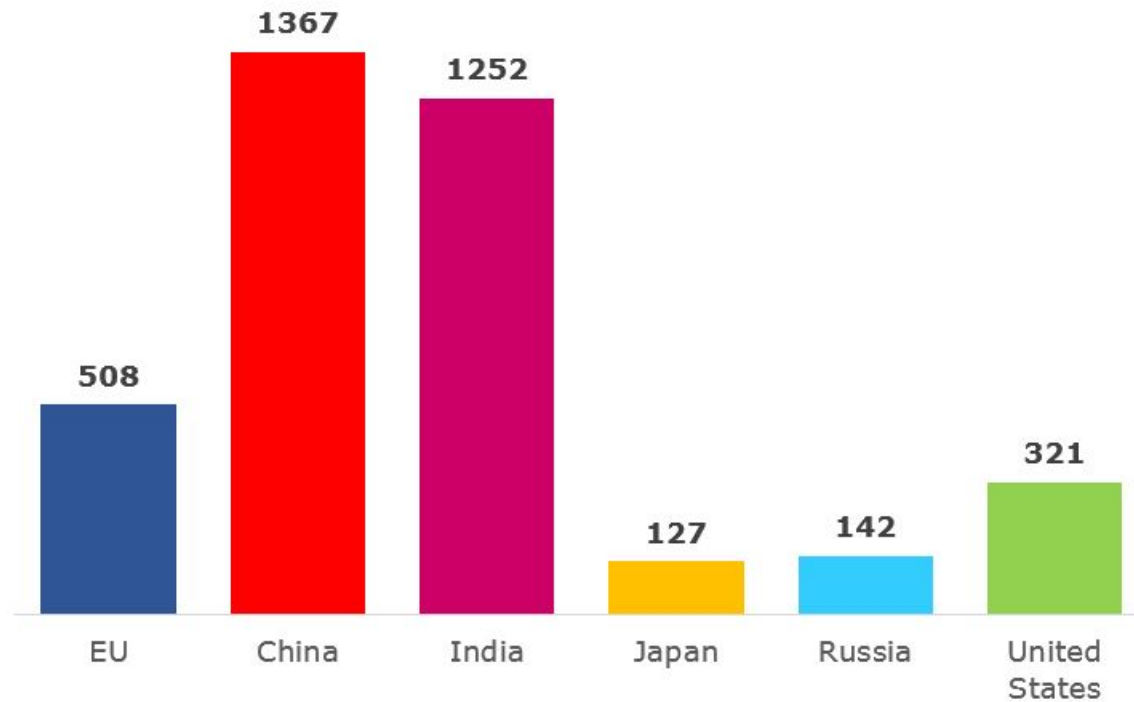
Binding for all the EU's activities

54 articles under 6 titles:





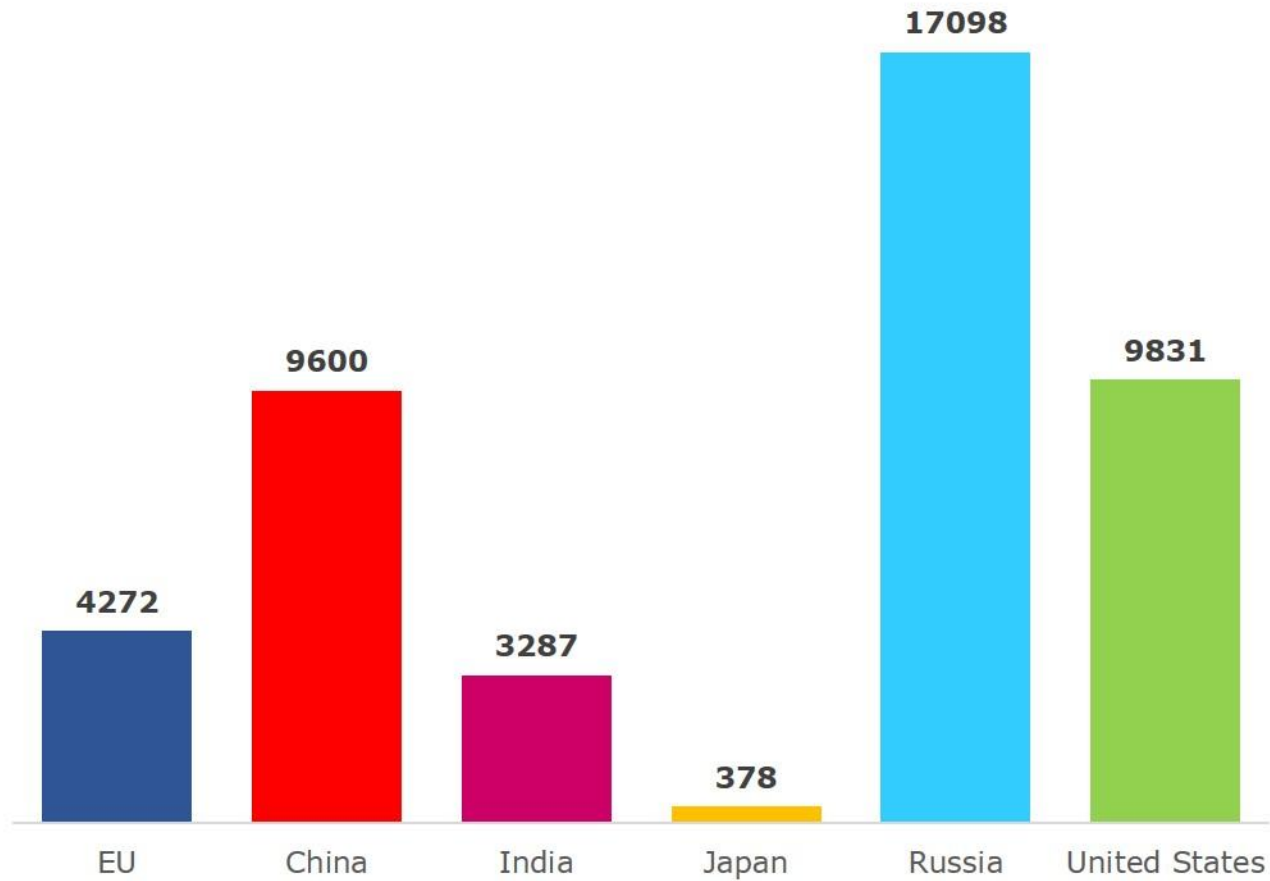
Population in millions (2015)



EU surface area compared to the rest of the world



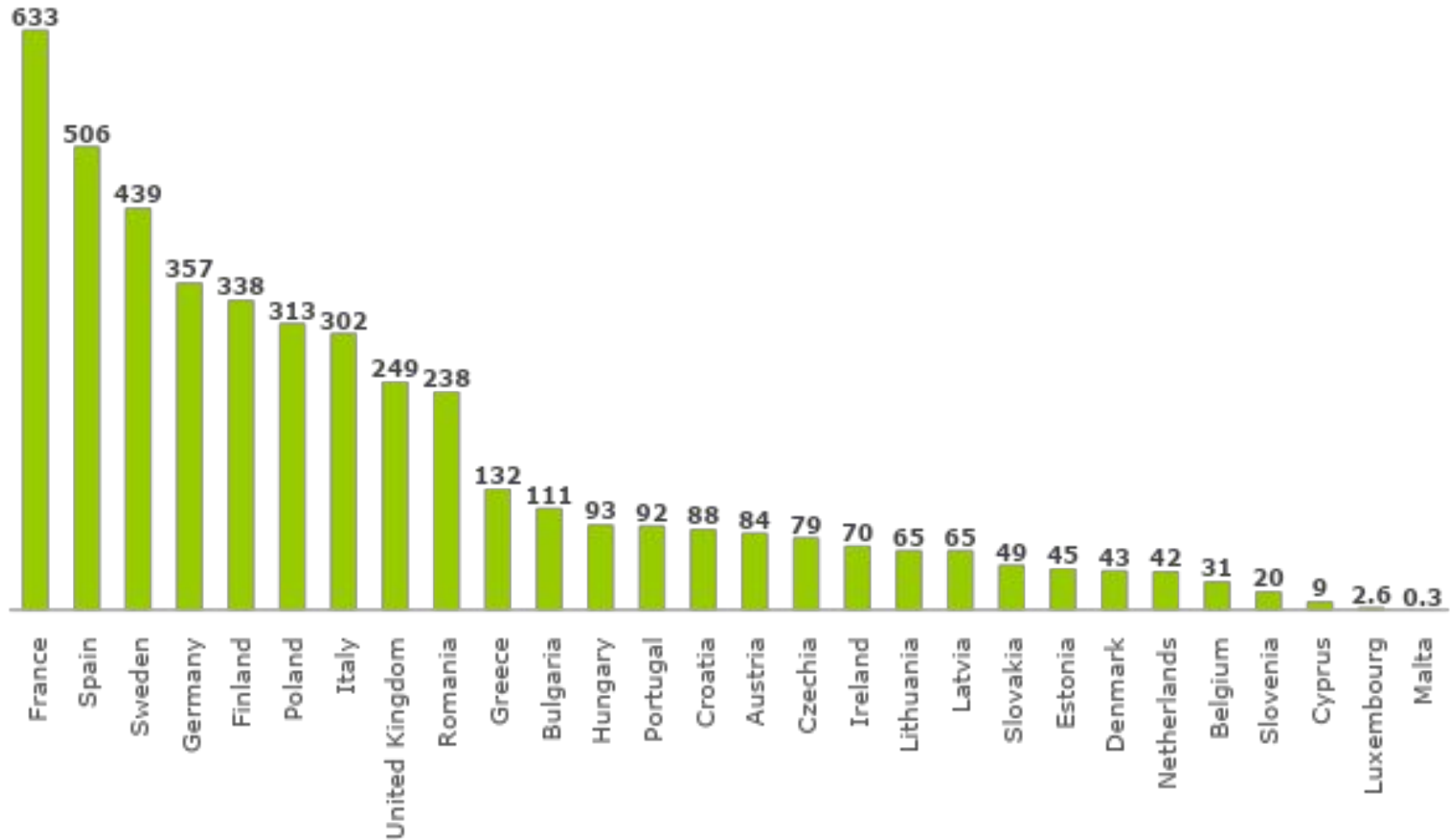
Surface area (x 1000 km²)



How big are the EU countries?



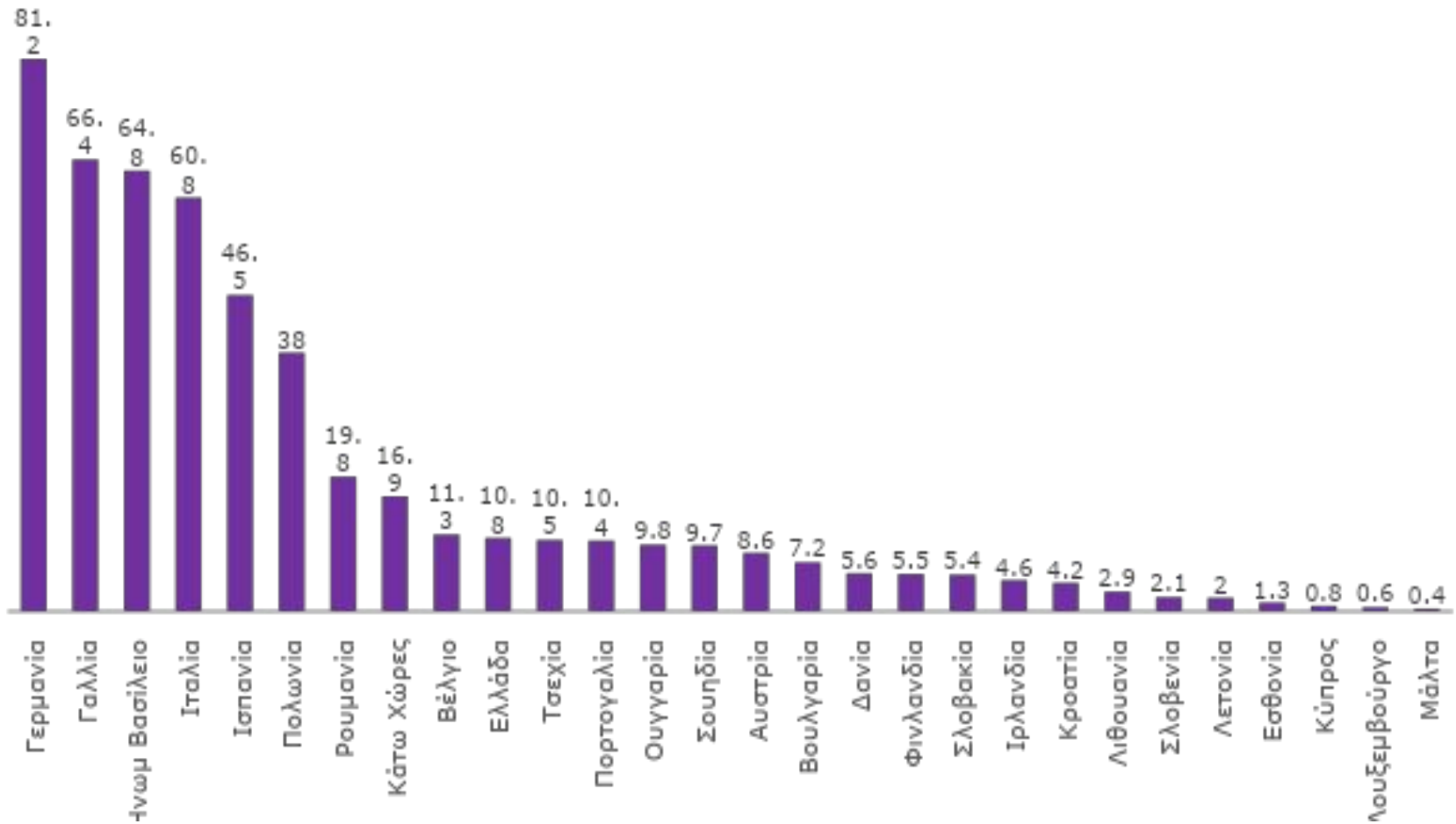
Surface area (x 1000 km²)



How many people live in the EU?



Population in millions (2015)
508 million in total





2008: Worldwide financial crisis starts in the United States.
Coordinated response from European leaders:

- **Commitment to the euro and to financial stability**

- **New crisis management tools and reforms of rules:**

European Stability Mechanism: fund to help countries in extraordinary economic difficulties

New laws for stability of banks

Banking Union: EU-wide supervision of banks and a mechanism to close down failing banks

- **Better economic governance:**

European Semester: annual procedure to coordinate public budgets

Euro+ pact, 'Fiscal compact treaty': mutual commitments to sound public finances



The European Commission of President Jean-Claude Juncker focuses on:



The investment plan: a new boost for jobs, growth and investment



A connected digital single market



A resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy



A deeper and fairer internal market with stronger industries



A deeper and fairer economic and monetary union



A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States



An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust



A new policy on migration



Europe as a stronger global actor



A European Union of democratic change



The European Fund for Strategic Investments

- 2015: Europe's economy begins to recover after the crisis, but the level of investment is still low. Investors have money, but little confidence
- New EU fund from mid-2015
- The fund starts with € 21 billion from EU sources
- Investments are made in viable business projects, for example in digital and energy infrastructure, transport, small businesses, green projects and innovation
- Multiplier effect: public money will trigger private investors to follow suit, with up to € 315 billion
- Could create 1.3 million new jobs over three years



The EU's response to the financial crisis:



- **Rulebook:**

New laws to ensure that banks have adequate capital and better risk control

- **Supervision:**

The European Central Bank supervises the +/- 130 of the most important banks

National bank supervisors work closely together

- **Resolution:**

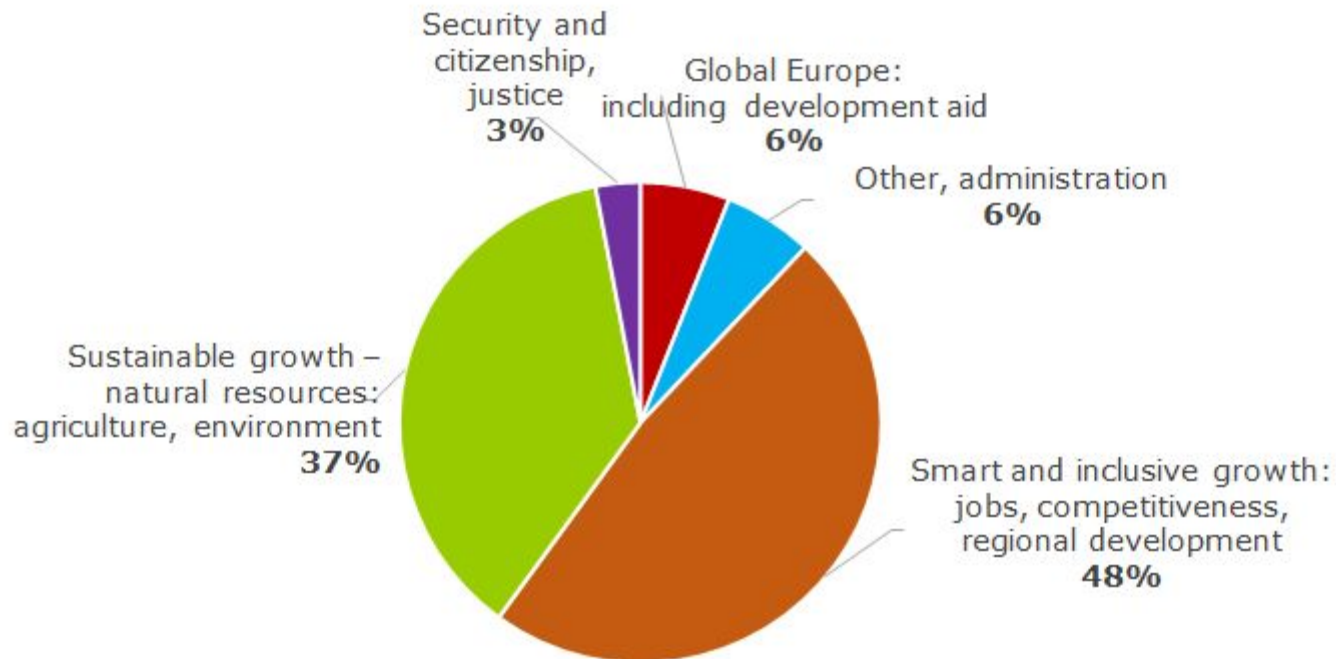
A Europe-wide Single Resolution Board can decide to wind down a failing bank

This is backed by a fund that banks themselves pay into, thus ensuring that taxpayers do not have to pick up the bill.

How does the EU spend its money?



2017 EU budget: € 157.9 billion
= 1.05 % of gross national income





To stop global warming, EU leaders decided in 2014 to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 % by 2030, compared to 1990
- raise the share of renewable energy to 27 % by 2030 (wind, solar, hydro power, biomass)
- increase energy efficiency by 27 % by 2030

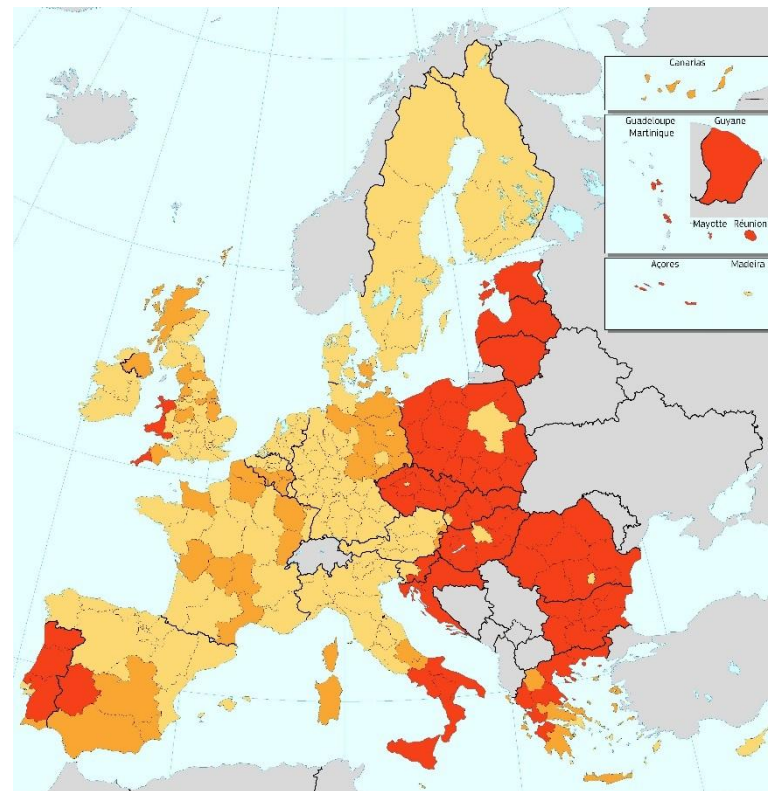




2014-2020: € 352 billion invested in infrastructure, business, environment and training of workers for the benefit of poorer regions and citizens

- Regional fund
- Social fund
- Cohesion fund

- Less-developed regions: GDP per capita under 75 % of the EU average
- Transition regions: GDP per capita between 75 % and 90 % of the EU average
- More-developed regions: GDP per capita over 90 % of the EU average



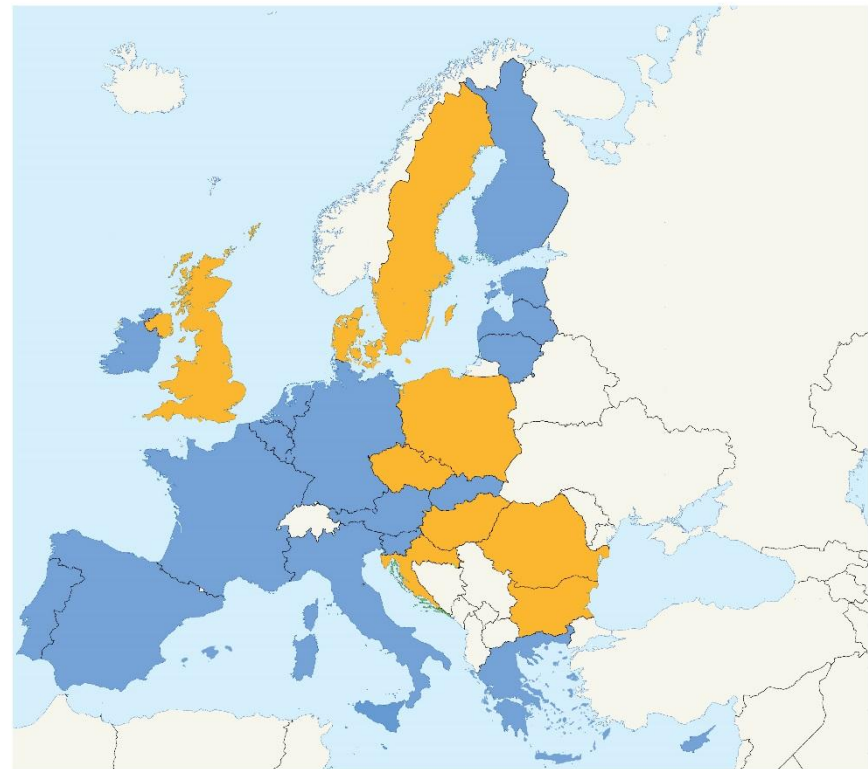


Why the euro?

- No fluctuation risk and foreign exchange cost
- More choice and stable prices for consumers
- Closer economic cooperation between EU countries

Can be used everywhere in the euro area

- Coins: one side with national symbols, one side common
- Notes: no national side



- EU countries using the euro
- EU countries not using the euro



Four freedoms of movement:

- goods
- services
- people
- capital

The single market has led to:

- significant reductions in the price of many products and services, including airfares and phone calls
- more choice for consumers
- 2.8 million new jobs



'Schengen'

- No police or customs checks at borders between most EU countries
- Controls strengthened at the EU's external borders
- More cooperation between police from different EU countries
- Buy and bring back any goods for personal use when you travel between EU countries





Erasmus+

Every year, more than 400 000 young people study or pursue personal development in other European countries with the support of the EU's Erasmus+ programme for education, training, youth and sport.





Pollution knows no borders – joint action needed



EU action has helped bring about:

- cleaner bathing water
- much less acid rain
- lead-free petrol
- easy and safe disposal of old electronic equipment
- strict rules on food safety from farm to fork
- more organic and quality farming
- more effective health warnings on cigarettes
- registration and control of all chemicals (REACH)



- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Joint fight against terrorism
- Cooperation between police and law-enforcers in different EU countries
- Coordinated asylum and immigration policies
- Civil law cooperation



- World trade rules
- Common foreign and security policy
- Development assistance and humanitarian aid



As a consumer you are protected by basic laws all over the EU, even when you travel or shop online

- Clear labelling
- Health and safety standards
- Unfair practice in contracts prohibited
- Passengers' rights, such as compensation for long delays
- Help to resolve problems





The European Parliament

- **voice of the people**

Antonio Tajani, President of the European Parliament



The European Council and the Council

- **voice of the Member States**

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council



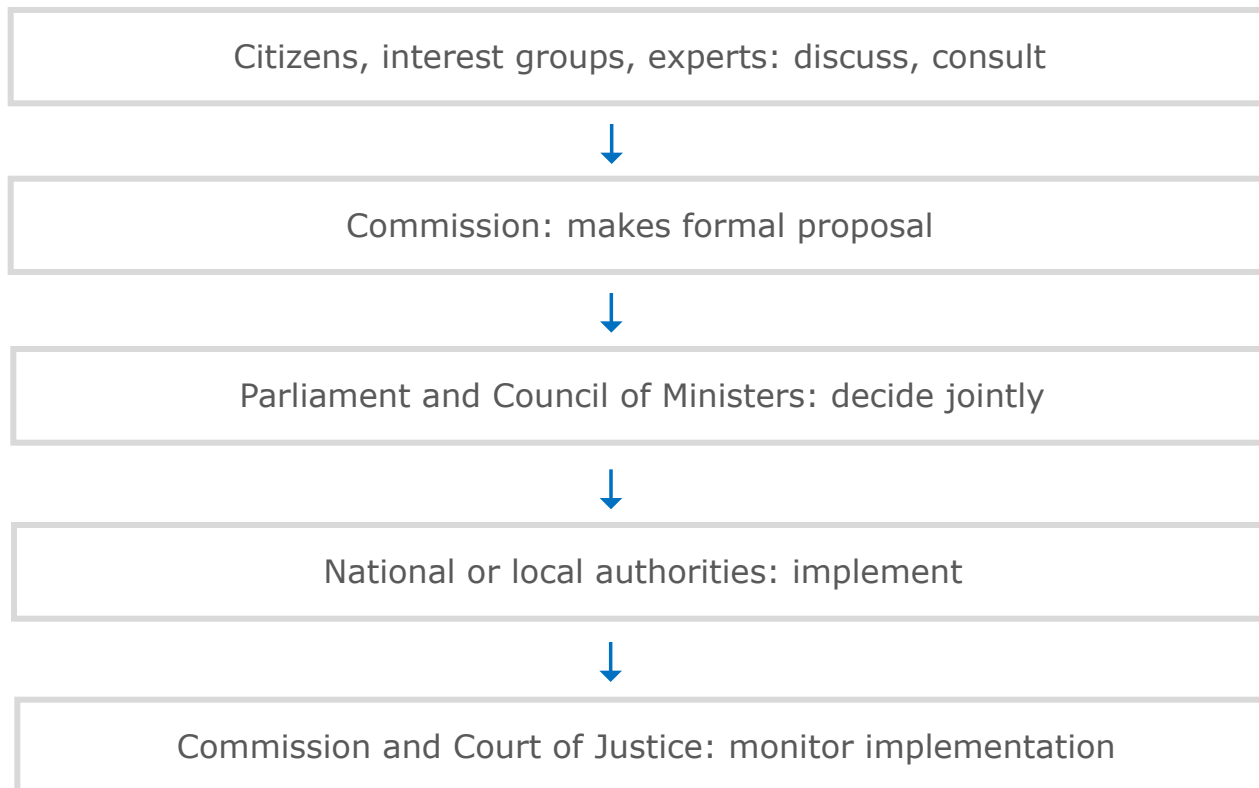
The European Commission

- **promoting the common interest**

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

The EU institutions







Decides EU laws and budget together with the Council of Ministers
Democratic supervision of all the EU's work

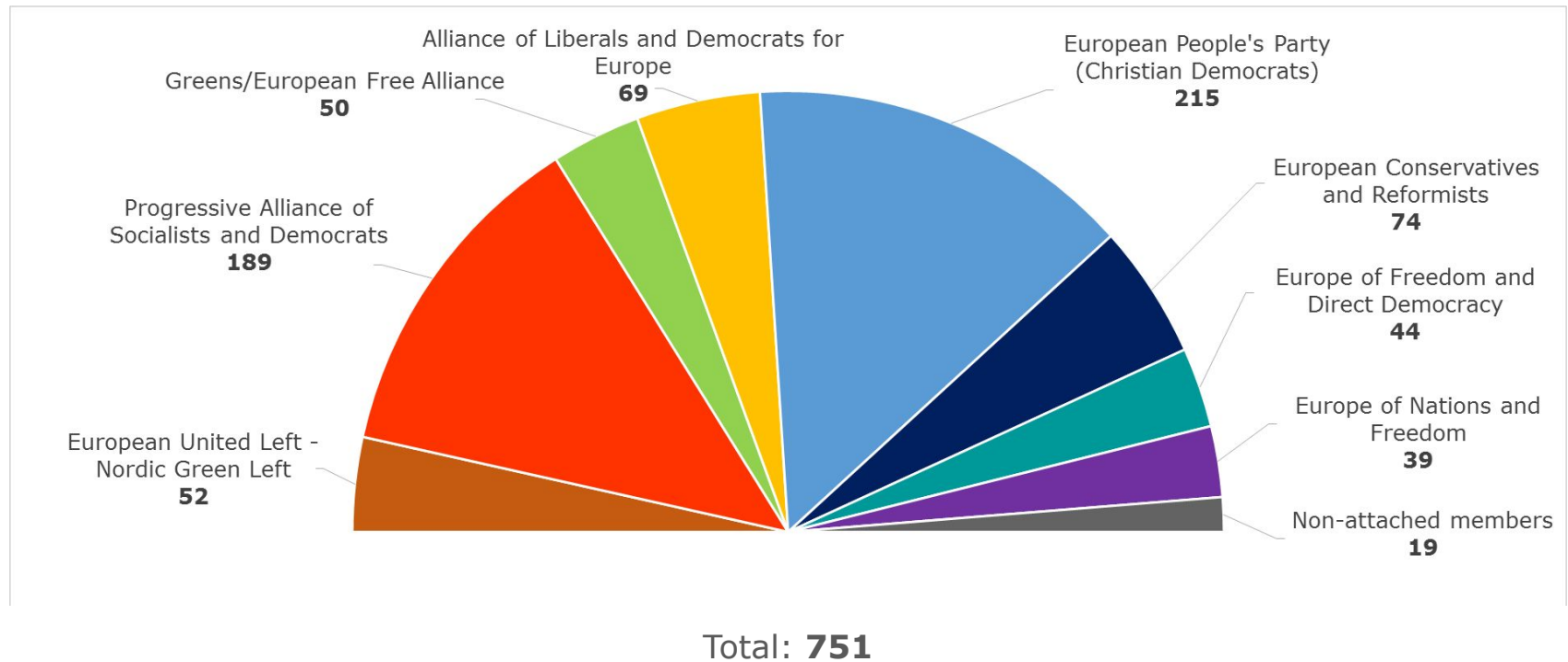
Number of members elected in each country

Austria - 18	Germany - 96	Netherlands - 26
Belgium - 21	Greece - 21	Poland - 51
Bulgaria - 17	Hungary - 21	Portugal - 21
Croatia - 11	Ireland - 11	Romania - 32
Cyprus - 6	Italy - 73	Slovakia - 13
Czechia - 21	Latvia - 8	Slovenia - 8
Denmark - 13	Lithuania - 11	Spain - 54
Estonia - 6	Luxembourg - 6	Sweden - 20
Finland - 13	Malta - 6	United Kingdom - 73
France - 74		

Total - **751**



Number of seats in the European Parliament per political group (December 2016)





- One minister from each EU country
- Presidency: rotates every six months
- Decides EU laws and budget together with Parliament
- Manages the common foreign and security policy





Most decisions in the Council are taken by '**double majority**'.

A decision must have the support of at least:

- 55 % of Member States (16 countries)
- Member States that represent 65 % of the EU's population



Summit of heads of state and government of all EU countries

- Held at least 4 times a year
- Sets the overall guidelines for EU policies
- President: Donald Tusk





Federica Mogherini

- Double role:
 - chairs meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council
 - Vice-President of the European Commission
- Manages the common foreign affairs and security policy
- Head of the European External Action Service





28 independent members, one from each EU country

- Proposes new legislation
- Executive organ
- Guardian of the treaties
- Represents the EU on the international stage





28 independent judges, one from each EU country

- Rules on how to interpret EU law
- Ensures EU countries apply EU laws in the same way





Emily O'Reilly The European Ombudsman

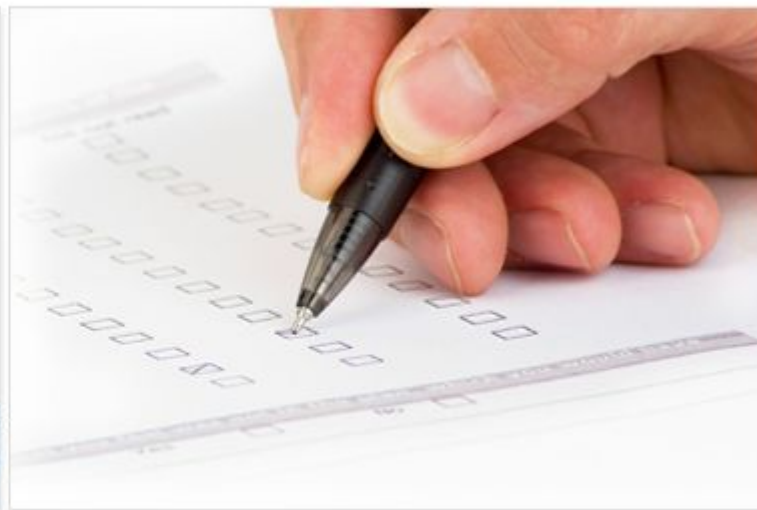
- Investigates complaints about poor or failed administration by the EU institutions
- For example: unfairness, discrimination, abuse of power, unnecessary delay, failure to reply or incorrect procedures
- Anyone in the EU can make a complaint





28 independent members

- Checks that EU funds are used properly
- Can audit any person or organisation dealing with EU funds





Mario Draghi

President of the Central Bank

- Ensures price stability
- Controls money supply and decides interest rates
- Supervises that banks are safe
- Works independently from governments





353 members

- Represents trade unions, employers, farmers, consumers and so on
- Advises on new EU laws and policies
- Promotes the involvement of civil society in EU matters





353 members

- Represents cities and regions
- Advises on new EU laws and policies
- Promotes the involvement of local government in EU matters





Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help



- By phone, email or webchat
- Over 500 regional information centres

europa.eu/europedirect