

THEME 3. *European Union: enlargement, symbols*



- *Enlargement of EU*
- *Copenhagen Criteria*
- *Candidates states*
- *Symbols*



Enlargement of EU

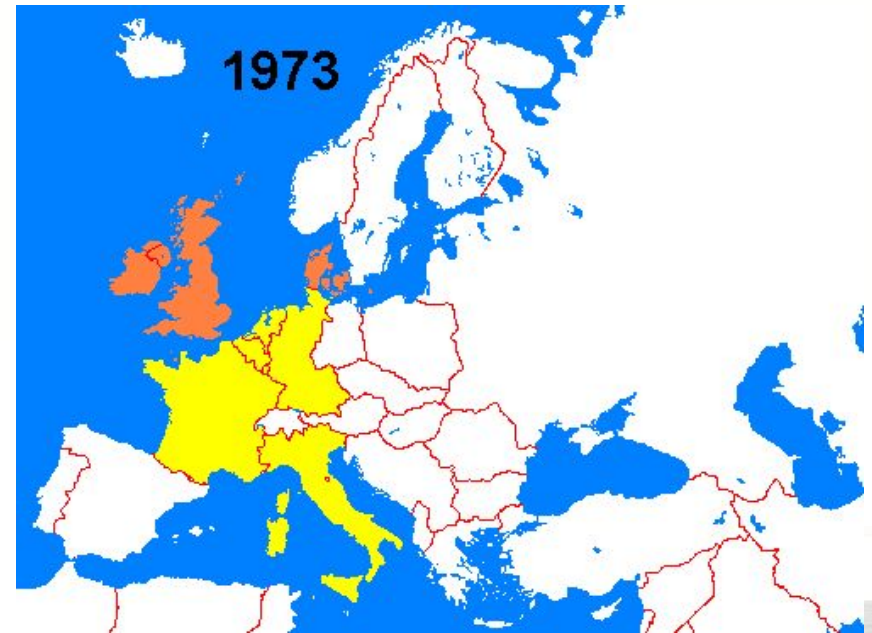
The process of expanding the European Union through the accession of new member states began with the Inner Six who founded

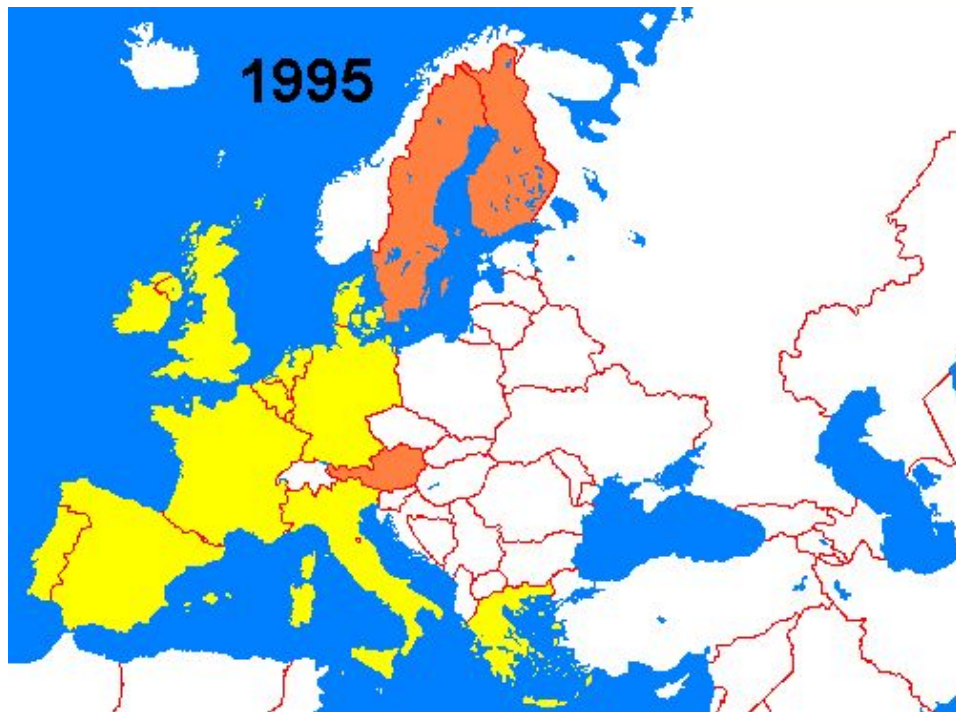
The EU's predecessors were founded by the "[Inner Six](#)". The EU's predecessors were founded by the "Inner Six", those countries willing to forge ahead with the Community while others remained sceptical. It was only a decade before the first countries changed their policy and attempted to join the Union, which led to the first scepticism of enlargement. [French President](#) The EU's predecessors were founded by the "Inner Six", those countries willing to forge ahead with the Community while others remained sceptical. It was only a decade before the first countries changed their policy and attempted to join the Union, which led to the first scepticism of enlargement. French President [Charles de Gaulle](#) The EU's predecessors were



First enlargement

Applying in 1969 were Britain, Ireland, Denmark and Norway. Norway, however, declined to accept the invitation to become a member when the electorate voted against it, leaving just the UK, Ireland and Denmark to join.





1981 + Greece

1986 + Spain,
Portugal

1995 + Austria,
Finland, Sweden



2003 + Estonia,
Latvia,
Lithuania,
Czech
Republic,
Slovakia,

Malta,
Poland,
Hungary,
Cyprus,
Slovenia

2007 +
Bulgaria,
Romania

2013 + Croatia



According to the [EU treaties](#) According to the EU treaties, membership of the European Union is open to "any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them" ([TEU Article 49](#)) According to the EU treaties, membership of the European Union is open to "any European State which respects the values referred to in Article 2 and is committed to promoting them" (TEU Article 49). Those [Article 2](#) values are "respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and protection of minorities

Membership requires that candidate country has achieved stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights, respect for and protection of minorities, the

Copenhagen criteria

The **Copenhagen criteria** are the rules that define whether a country is eligible to join the European Union are the rules that define whether a country is eligible to join the European Union. The criteria require that a state has the institutions to preserve democratic are the rules that define whether a country is eligible to join the European Union. The criteria require that a state has the institutions to preserve democratic governance and human rights are the rules that define whether a country is eligible to join the European Union. The criteria the institutions to preserve and human rights, has a function the rules that define whether a the European Union. The criteria the institutions to preserve



Copenhagen criteria

Democracy

Functional democratic governance requires that all citizens of the country should be able to participate, on an equal basis, in the political decision making at every single governing level, from local municipalities up to the highest, national, level. This also requires free elections with a [secret ballot](#). Functional democratic governance requires that all citizens of the country should be able to participate, on an equal basis, in the political decision making at every single governing level, from local municipalities up to the highest, national, level. This also requires free elections with a secret ballot, the right to establish political parties without any hindrance from the state, fair and equal access to a free [press](#), free trade

Copenhagen criteria

Rule of law

The rule of law implies that government authority may only be exercised in accordance with documented laws, which were adopted through an established procedure. The principle is intended to be a safeguard against arbitrary rulings in individual cases.

Human rights

Human rights are those rights which every person holds because of their quality as a human being; human rights are "inalienable" and belonging to all humans. If a right is inalienable, that means it cannot be bestowed, granted, limited, bartered away, or sold away (e.g. one cannot sell oneself into slavery). These include the right to life, the right to be prosecuted only according to the laws that are in existence at the time of the offence, the right to be free from slavery, and the right to be free from torture.

Copenhagen criteria

Respect for and protection of minorities

Members of such national minorities should be able to maintain their distinctive culture and practices, including their language (as far as not contrary to the human rights of other people, nor to democratic procedures and rule of law), without suffering any discrimination. A [Council of Europe](#) Members of such national minorities should be able to maintain their distinctive culture and practices, including their language (as far as not contrary to the human rights of other people, nor to democratic procedures and rule of law), without suffering any discrimination. A Council of Europe convention, the [Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities](#) (treaty No. 157) reflected this principle. But the Convention did not include a clear definition of what constituted a national minority. As a result some

Copenhagen criteria

- [Poland](#): "Taking into consideration the fact, that the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities contains no definition of the national minorities notion, the Republic of Poland declares, that it understands this term as national minorities residing within the territory of the Republic of Poland at the same time whose members are Polish citizens. The Republic of Poland shall also implement the Framework Convention under Article 18 of the Convention by conclusion of international agreements mentioned in this Article, the aim of which is to protect national minorities in Poland and minorities or groups of Poles in other States."
- [Russia](#): "The Russian Federation considers that none is entitled to include unilaterally in reservations or declarations, made while signing or ratifying the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, a definition of the term 'national minority', which is not contained in the Framework Convention. In the opinion of the Russian Federation, attempts to exclude from the scope of the Framework Convention the persons who permanently reside in the territory of States Parties to the Framework Convention and previously had a citizenship but have been arbitrarily deprived of it, contradict the purpose of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities."

Economic criteria

The economic criteria, broadly speaking, require that candidate countries have a functioning [market economy](#). The economic criteria, broadly speaking, require that candidate countries have a functioning market economy and that their producers have the capability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. The [Euro convergence criteria](#). The economic criteria, broadly speaking, require that candidate countries have a functioning market economy and that their producers have the capability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. The Euro convergence criteria and [European Exchange Rate Mechanism](#). The economic criteria, broadly speaking, require that candidate countries have a functioning market economy and that their producers have the capability to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union. The Euro convergence criteria and European Exchange Rate Mechanism has been used to prepare countries for joining the [Eurozone](#), both founding and later members.

Legislative alignment

Finally, and technically outside the Copenhagen criteria, comes the further requirement that all prospective members must enact legislation to bring their laws into line with the body of European law built up over the history of the Union, known as the [acquis communautaire](#). In preparing for each admission, the acquis is divided into separate


The accession process follows a series of formal steps (formal and non-formal) , from a pre-accession agreement to the ratification of the final accession treaty. These steps are primarily presided over by the European Commission ([Enlargement Commissioner](#)) The accession process follows a series of formal steps (formal and non-formal) , from a pre-accession agreement to the ratification of the final accession treaty. These steps are primarily presided over by the European Commission (Enlargement Commissioner and [DG Enlargement](#)), but the actual negotiations are technically conducted between the Union's Member States and the candidate country.

Before a country applies for membership it typically signs an [association agreement](#) to help prepare the country for candidacy and eventual membership. Most countries do

The **Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighbourhood Policy** is the member of the European Commission is the member of the European Commission in charge of overseeing the accession process of prospective new member states is the member of the European Commission in charge of overseeing the accession process of prospective new member states and relations with those bordering the is the member of the European Commission in charge of overseeing the accession process of prospective new member states and relations with those bordering the European Union (EU). The present Commissioner, as of February 2010, is Štefan Füle.


The **Directorate-General** for





When a country formally applies for membership, the Council asks the Commission to prepare an opinion on the country's readiness to begin negotiations. The Council can then either accept or reject the Commission's opinion (The Council has only once rejected the Commission's opinion when the latter advised against opening negotiations with Greece).

If the Council agrees to open negotiations the screening process then begins. The Commission and candidate country examine its laws and those of the EU and determine what differences exist. The Council then recommends opening negotiations on "chapters" of law that it feels there is sufficient common ground to have constructive negotiations. Negotiations are typically a matter of the candidate country convincing the EU that its laws and administrative capacity are sufficient to execute European law, which can be implemented as seen fit by the member states. Often this will involve time-lines before the *Acquis Communautaire* (European regulations, [directives](#) & standards) has to be fully implemented.



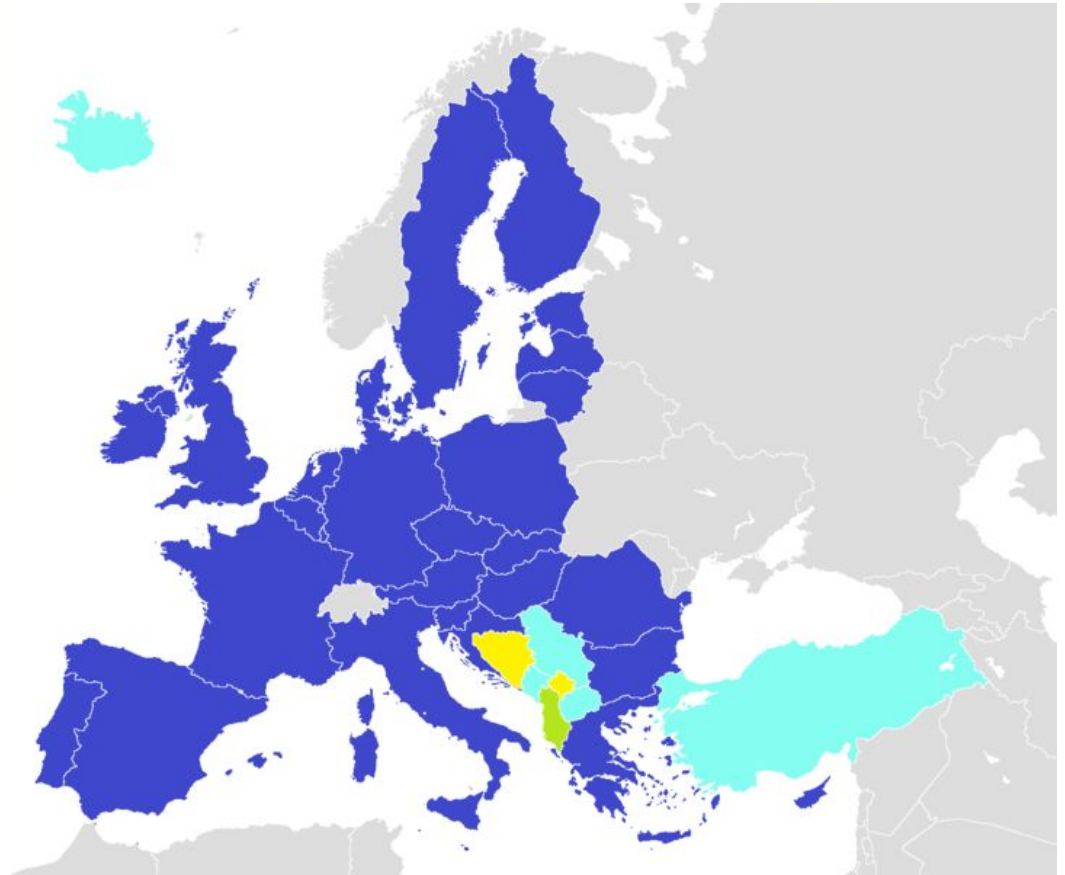
To assess progress achieved by countries in preparing for accession to the European Union, the European Commission To assess progress achieved by countries in preparing for accession to the European Union, the European Commission submits regular reports (yearly) to the European Council. These serve as a basis for the Council to make decisions on negotiations or their extension to other candidates.

Once the negotiations are complete a treaty of accession will be signed, which must then be ratified by all of the member states of the Union, as well as the institutions of the Union, and the candidate country. Once this has been completed it will join the Union on the date specified in the treaty.

The entire process, from application for membership to membership has typically taken about a decade, although some countries, notably Sweden, Finland, and Austria have been faster, taking only a few years. The process from application for association agreement through accession has taken far longer, as much as several decades (Turkey for example first applied for association in the 1950s and

Fails of Enlargement

- Switzerland, referenda failed, 1992
- Norway, referenda failed, 1962, 1992
- Morocco, rejected, 1987



Future Enlargement

There are at present five "candidate countries", who have applied to the EU and been accepted in principle. These states have begun, or will begin shortly, the accession process by adopting EU law to bring the states in line with the rest of the Union. While most of these countries have applied only recently, Turkey is a long-standing candidate, having applied in 1987 and gaining candidate status in 1999. This is due to the political issues surrounding the accession of the country.

Membership is not a certainty in some of these candidate states. Serbia faces opposition from most EU states regarding its position on Kosovo, and many think that the EU is using the promise of membership as a way to force its politics onto Serbia. In Iceland, fishing rights and the consequences of the 2009 financial crisis keeps membership unpopular. In a [poll taken in Iceland](#) in February 2012, only one third of those questioned stated they would vote in favour of EU accession.

Iceland Iceland applied to join the EU in July 2009 following an economic crisis. Prior to that, its relations with the EU were defined by its membership of the European Economic Area, which gave it access to the EU's single market and the Schengen Area. As a result of their EEA membership, Iceland already applies many major economic EU laws and negotiations were expected to proceed rapidly (although research by the EFTA Secretariat in 2005 found that only 6.5% of laws had actually been adopted; see below for European Commission assessment).

As in Norway, Iceland's fear of losing control over its fishery resources in its territorial waters was the most important reason for its reluctance to join the EU. However the economic downturn in Iceland accelerated the debate, and the Independence Party, then the largest opposition party, agreed to the opening of accession negotiations after a referendum (and subject to a further referendum). A proposal to begin negotiations with the EU was put before the Icelandic parliament.

Macedonia

[Macedonia](#) applied to become an official candidate on 22 March 2004. On 9 November 2005, the European Commission recommended that it attain candidate status. EU leaders agreed to this recommendation on 17 December, formally naming the country an official candidate. However, no starting date for negotiations has been announced yet.

On 17 December 2005, the [European Council](#) welcomed and congratulated the country's achievements in implementing multiple reforms and agreements.

The country has a dispute over its name with its southern neighbour and current EU member, [Greece](#).





Macedonia

In early 2013, political instability stemming from the Macedonian parliament's approval of its 2013 fiscal budget through an undemocratic procedure threatened to derail the country's request to start accession negotiations with the EU. However, the crisis was resolved when EU brokered a compromise between Macedonia's political parties on 1 March 2013. At the most recent meeting of the Council of the European Union in December 2013, the Council for the fifth consecutive year concluded that "the political criteria continue to be sufficiently met", but in regards to making the final decision to open accession negotiations it was only agreed to revisit the issue in 2014. The decision whether or not to start accession negotiations will be made "on the basis of an update by the Commission on further implementation of reforms in the context of the High Level Accession Dialogue, including the implementation of the 1 March 2013 political agreement - and on tangible steps taken to promote good neighborly relations - and to reach a negotiated and mutually accepted solution to the name issue"

Montenegro

In the [independence referendum](#) of 21 May 2006, the Montenegrin people voted for [Montenegro](#) to leave the state union of [Serbia and Montenegro](#) and become an independent state. After



Montenegro

Montenegro unilaterally adopted the [euro](#) as its currency at its launch in 2002, having previously used the [German mark](#). Negotiations over the [Stabilisation and Association Agreement](#) (SAA) started in September 2006. SAA was officially signed on 15 October 2007 and came into force on 1 May 2010, after all the 27 member-states of EU had ratified it.

On 22 July 2009, a questionnaire to assess Montenegro's application was presented to the Montenegrin Government by the EC. On 9 December 2009, Montenegro delivered its answers to the EC questionnaire. On 9 November 2010, the [European Commission](#) recommended that the [Council of the European Union](#) grant Montenegro the status of candidate country. On 17 December 2010,

The government of Serbia set a goal for EU accession in 2014 per [Papandreou](#) plan—*Agenda 2014*. Negotiations on a [Stabilisation and Association Agreement](#). Negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement started in November 2005. Serbia's candidacy has been hindered by its relations with the breakaway state of [Kosovo](#). Serbia has made numerous concessions on this to achieve candidate status, such as allowing Kosovo to participate in regional forums, and jointly managing their border.



On 29 April 2008, [Serbian officials](#) signed an [SAA](#) with the [EU](#), and the Serbian President sought official candidate status by the end of 2008. The Dutch government refused to ratify the agreement while [Ratko Mladić](#) was not captured. He was captured in Serbia on 26 May 2011, removing the main obstacle for obtaining candidate status. As of January 2009, the Serbian government has started to implement its obligations under the agreement unilaterally. The effects remain to be evaluated by the European Commission. Despite its setbacks in the political field, on 7 December 2009, EU unfroze the trade agreement with Serbia. Serbian citizens gained visa-free travel to the Schengen zone on 19 December 2009, and Serbia officially applied for the EU membership on 22 December 2009.

In December 2013 the Council of the European Union approved opening negotiations on Serbia's accession in January 2014, and the first Intergovernmental Conference was held on 21 January at the European Council in Brussels.

The country formally applied for full membership on 14 April 1987, but 12 years passed before it was recognised as a candidate country at the Helsinki Summit in 1999. After a summit in Brussels on 17 December 2004, the European Council announced that membership negotiations with Turkey were officially opened on 3 October 2005. The screening process which began on 20 October 2005 was completed on 18 October 2006.





Turkey

Turkey, with the [seventh largest economy](#) in the [Council of Europe](#) and the [fifteenth largest economy in the world](#), is part of the common EU [customs territory](#) since the entering into force of the [EU–Turkey Customs Union](#) in 1996. Turkey was a founding member of the [Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) in 1961, a founding member of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#)


According to [Carl Bildt](#) According to Carl Bildt, [Swedish foreign minister](#) According to Carl Bildt, Swedish foreign minister, "[The accession of Turkey] would give the EU a decisive role for stability in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, which is clearly in the strategic interest of Europe." One of Turkey's key supporters for its bid to join the EU is the [United Kingdom](#) According to Carl Bildt, Swedish foreign minister, "[The accession of Turkey] would give the EU a decisive role for stability in the Eastern part of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, which is clearly in the strategic interest of Europe." One of Turkey's key supporters for its bid to join the EU is the United Kingdom. In May 2008, [Queen Elizabeth II](#) said during a visit to Turkey, that "Turkey is uniquely positioned as a bridge between the East and West at a crucial time for the European Union and the world in general."

However others, such as former [French President](#) However others, such as former French President [Nicolas Sarkozy](#) However others, such as former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and [German Chancellor](#) However others, such as former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor [Angela Merkel](#) However others, such as former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, maintain an opposition to Turkey's membership. Opponents argue that Turkey does not respect the key principles that are expected in a [liberal democracy](#) However others, such as former French President Nicolas Sarkozy and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, maintain an opposition to Turkey's membership. Opponents argue that Turkey does not respect the

Other opponents to Turkey's membership state that it would also affect future enlargement plans, especially the number of nations seeking EU membership, grounds by which [Valéry Giscard d'Estaing](#) Other opponents to Turkey's membership state that it would also affect future enlargement plans, especially the number of nations seeking EU membership, grounds by which Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has opposed Turkey's admission. Giscard d'Estaing has suggested that it would lead to demands for accession by [Morocco](#) Other opponents to Turkey's membership state that it would also affect future enlargement plans, especially the number of nations seeking EU membership, grounds by which Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has opposed Turkey's admission. Giscard d'Estaing has suggested that it would lead to demands for accession by Morocco. Morocco's application is already rejected on geographic grounds, and Turkey, unlike Morocco, has [territory in Europe](#) Other opponents to Turkey's membership state that it would also affect future enlargement plans, especially the number of nations seeking EU membership, grounds by which Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has opposed Turkey's admission. Giscard d'Estaing has suggested that it would lead to demands for accession by Morocco. Morocco's application is already rejected on geographic grounds, and Turkey, unlike Morocco, has territory in Europe. [French President](#) Other opponents to Turkey's membership state that it would also affect future enlargement plans, especially the number of nations seeking EU membership, grounds by which Valéry Giscard d'Estaing has opposed Turkey's admission. Giscard d'Estaing has suggested that it would lead to demands for accession by Morocco.

Further, some oppose the accession of a largely Muslim country. In 2004, future [President of the European Council](#) [Herman Van Rompuy](#) reportedly stated, "An enlargement [of the EU] with Turkey is not in any way comparable with previous enlargement waves. Turkey is not Europe and will never be Europe." He continued, "But it's a matter of fact that the universal values which are in force in Europe, and which are also the fundamental values of Christianity, will lose vigour with the entry of a large Islamic country such as Turkey."

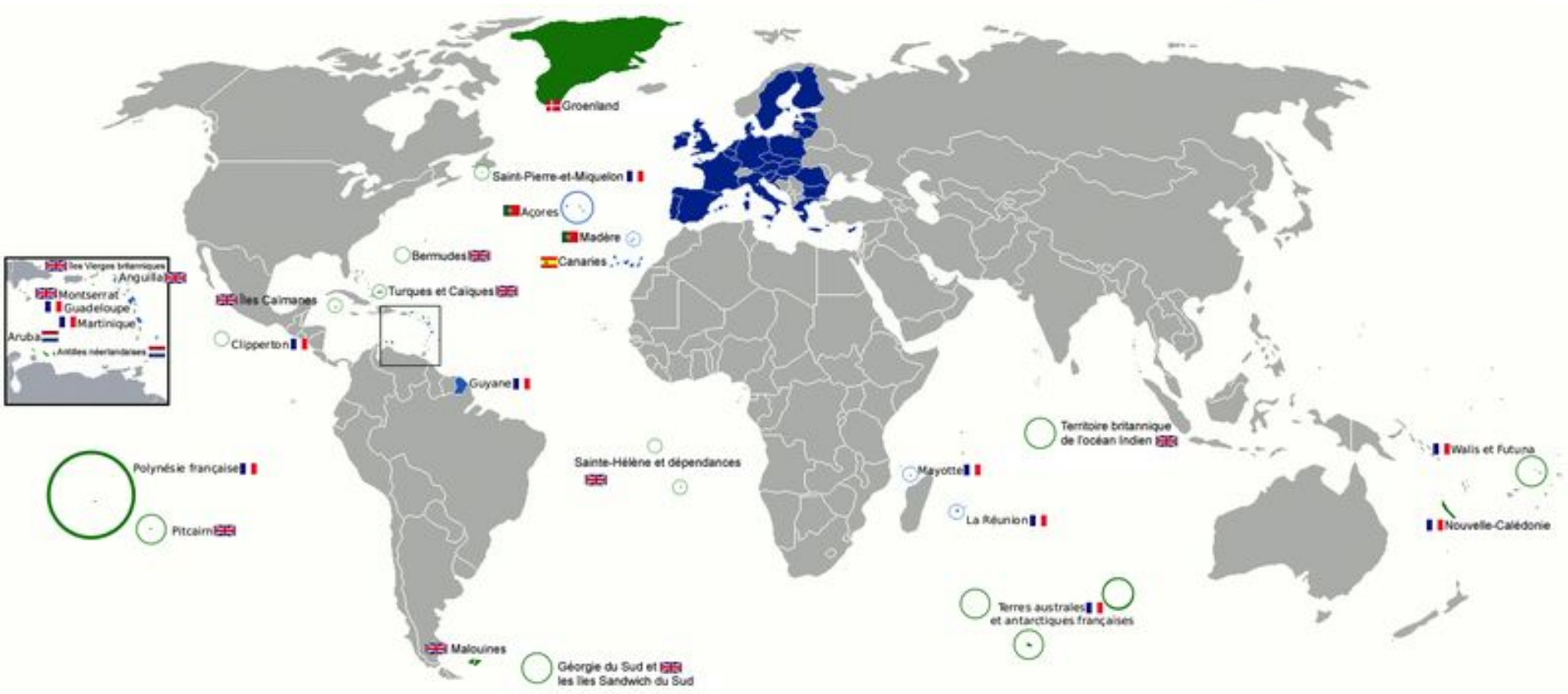
Another concern is the [Cyprus dispute](#). Another concern is the Cyprus dispute. The northern third of the island of Cyprus is considered by the EU and most states in the world to be part of the [Republic of Cyprus](#), an EU member state, but is *de facto* controlled by the government of [Northern Cyprus](#), which is recognised by Turkey. Turkey, for its part, does not recognise the Republic of Cyprus pending a resolution to the dispute under the auspices of the United Nations, and has 40,000 troops stationed on territory controlled by the Northern Cypriot government.



Albania has signed an SAA and applied for EU membership. On 10 October 2012, the [European Commission](#) recommended that Albania should be granted official EU candidate status which would allow for accession talks between Albania and the EU to begin.

The EU's relations with the [Western Balkans](#) The EU's relations with the Western Balkans states were moved from the "[External Relations](#)" to the "[Enlargement](#)" policy segment in 2005. Those states which have not been recognised as candidate countries are considered "potential candidate countries". The move to [Enlargement directorate](#) The EU's relations with the Western Balkans states were moved from the "External Relations" to the "Enlargement" policy segment in 2005. Those states which have not been recognised as candidate countries are considered "potential candidate countries". The move to Enlargement directorate was a consequence of the

Territory of EU



Languages

The languages of the European Union are languages are languages used by people within the member states of the European Union are languages used by people within the member states of the European Union. They include the twenty-four official languages of the European Union along with a range of others.

The most widely spoken mother tongue in the EU is English The most widely spoken mother tongue in the EU is English which is understood by 51% of adults. All 24 official languages of the EU are accepted as working languages The most widely spoken mother tongue in the EU is English which is understood by 51% of adults. All 24 official languages of the EU are accepted as working languages, but in practice only two are used most often: English and French. Of these, English is the most common. French The most widely spoken mother tongue in the EU is English which is understood by 51% of adults. All 24 official languages of the EU are accepted as working

Symbols of EU

- Motto "United in diversity"
- Anthem: Ode to Joy

