

European Union Member Highlights

Country	Joined the EU	Adopted the Euro
Austria	1995	1999
Belgium	Founding Member	1999
Bulgaria	2007	2026
Croatia	2013	2023
Cyprus	2004	2008
Czechia	2004	
Denmark	1973	Optout
Estonia	2004	2011
Finland	1995	1999
France	Founding Member	1999
Germany	Founding Member	1999
Greece	1981	2001
Hungary	2004	Preparing
Ireland	1973	1999
Italy	Founding Member	1999
Latvia	2004	2014
Lithuania	2004	2015
Luxembourg	Founding Member	1999
Malta	2004	2008
Netherlands	Founding Member	1999
Poland	2004	Preparing
Portugal	1986	1999
Romania	2007	Preparing
Slovakia	2004	2009
Slovenia	2004	2007
Spain	1986	1999
Sweden	1995	

Note 1 - The six countries who were the initial signatories of the Treaty of Paris (1951) and the Treaty of Rome (1957), which laid the groundwork for the EU's predecessors and the sharing of sovereignty among member states were: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These countries are referred to as EU "Founding Members" and also the "Inner Six".

Note 2 - The initial 12 member states were those that had ratified the Maastricht Treaty before November 1, 1993. These 12 nations were: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom. (The UK formally left the EU effective on January 31, 2020)