FROM 6 TO 27 MEMBER STATES

On 9 November 1989 the Berlin Wall fell. "This historical event is one of the major milestones East and West Germany wanted marking the end of the division between West to be reunified as a country. The and east Europe". There was now the possibility for other member countries agreed newly-emerging democracies in Eastern Europe to to a unification, on the condition join the European cooperation. Therefore, in 1993, that Germany was thoroughly the Member States determined the **conditions** to be met by new countries in order to qualify for

- Be a 'European' country (geographically or
- historically) Respect the rule of law
- Have a well-functioning market economy - Be a stable democracy
- Respect human rights - Implement all existing EU rules and regulations,

the so-called 'acquis communautaire'



countries joined the EU. This

brought the total number of

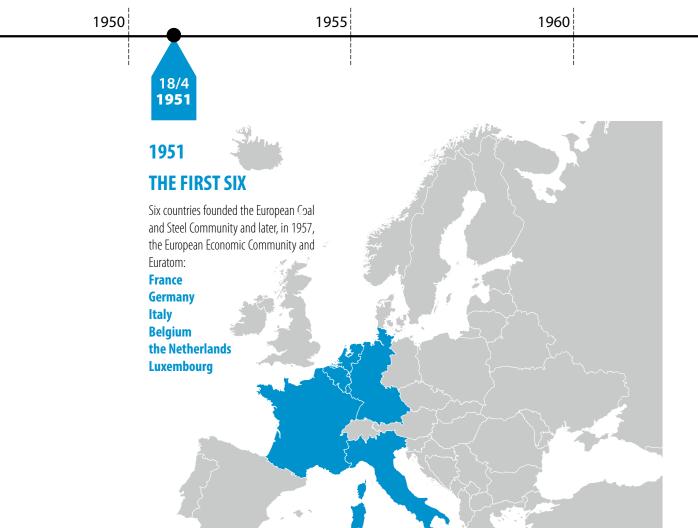
member countries up to 25.

EU. Croatia joined as the 28th Member State of the European then, the EU

LEAVES THE EU

The UK officially left the European Union on 31 January 2020, after three years of negotiations. It is the first country to withdraw from the EU. Since has 27 Member





ACCESSION OF DENMARK IRELAND AND THE UNITED KINGDOM

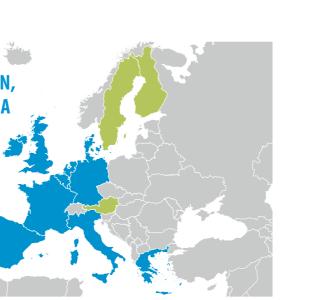
The success of the European Economic Community attracted other European countries. Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom joined in 1973. There were also ongoing negotiations with Norway at the time, but the Norwegian people voted against membership in a referendum.

Greece had recently shaken off a military dictatorship. With the accession of Greece, the thenmember states wanted to support the newly-installed democracy. Economic arguments were in play as well: Greece was an interesting new market.

Support for democracy and economic motives also played an 🏅 important role in the accession of Spain and Portugal. Spain had just rid itself of the dictator Franco, and Portugal had also put an 🧵 end to the dictatorship

FINLAND AND AUSTRIA

With the accession of Sweden, Finland and Austria, the EU now had 15 Member States. Norway made a second attempt at accession, but again the Norwegian people voted against this in a referendum.



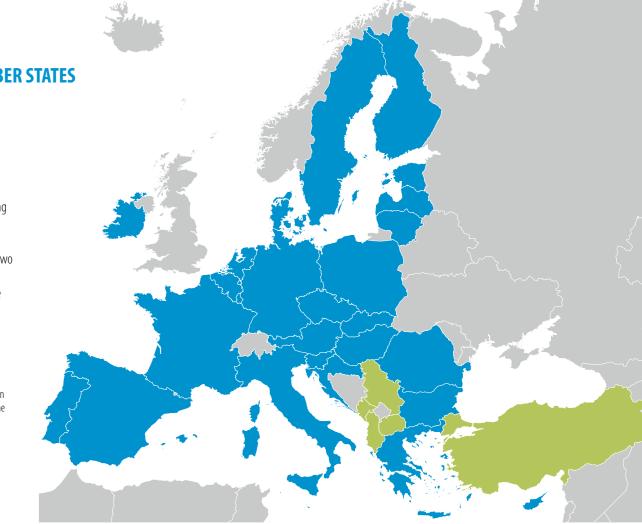
Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. Their accession increased the number of member states to 27.

CANDIDATE AND POTENTIAL MEMBER STATES There are currently five official Candidate Member States to the EU. These countries are Albania, North Macedonia,

Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. A candidate member is a country that has successfully submitted a membership application. The candidates are supported financially, administratively and technically during their preparations for future membership.

In addition to the Candidate Member States, there are also two Potential Member States: These countries have given official notice that they want to enter the EU, but negotiations have not begun. These countries are Bosnia and Herzegovina and

*This name does not affect the positions on the status of Kosovo, and is in accordance with Resolution 1244/1999 of the UN Security Council and the advice of the International Court about the independence declaration of



FUTURE?

