



European
Commission

EU Enlargement



From 6 to 28



1957  Belgium  Italy
 France  Luxembourg
 Germany  Netherlands

1973  Denmark  UK
 Ireland

1981  Greece

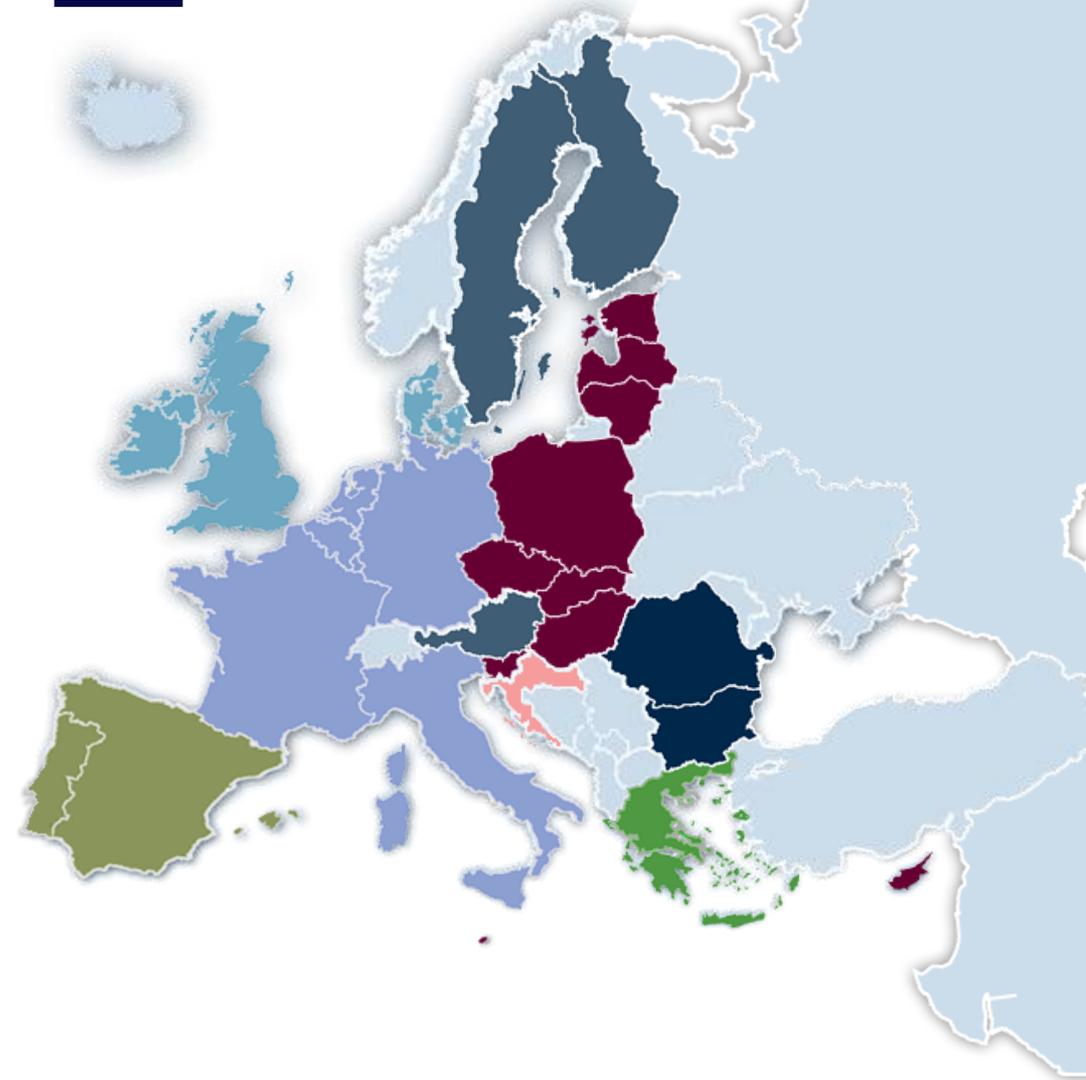
1986  Portugal  Spain

1995  Austria  Sweden
 Finland

2004  Cyprus  Lithuania
 Czech Rep.  Malta
 Estonia  Poland
 Hungary  Slovakia
 Latvia  Slovenia

2007  Romania  Bulgaria

2013  Croatia



Who can apply?



How to get in: conditions for membership

Copenhagen criteria (1993)

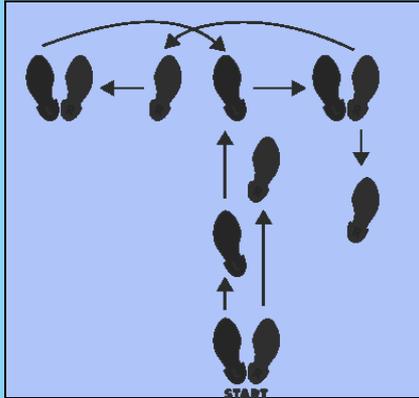
- Political
 - Stable democratic institutions
 - Human rights, protection of minorities
 - Rule of law
- Economic
 - Functioning market economy
 - Capacity to cope with competitive forces in EU
- Ability to take on obligations of membership



Steps from potential candidate to member

Potential candidate
submits
application

1



Commission
opinion →
Council
decides on
candidate
status

2

Accession
negotiations

3

**Continuous
monitoring
of progress**

**European
Parliament**
has to give
consent

4



States
sign & ratify
accession
treaty

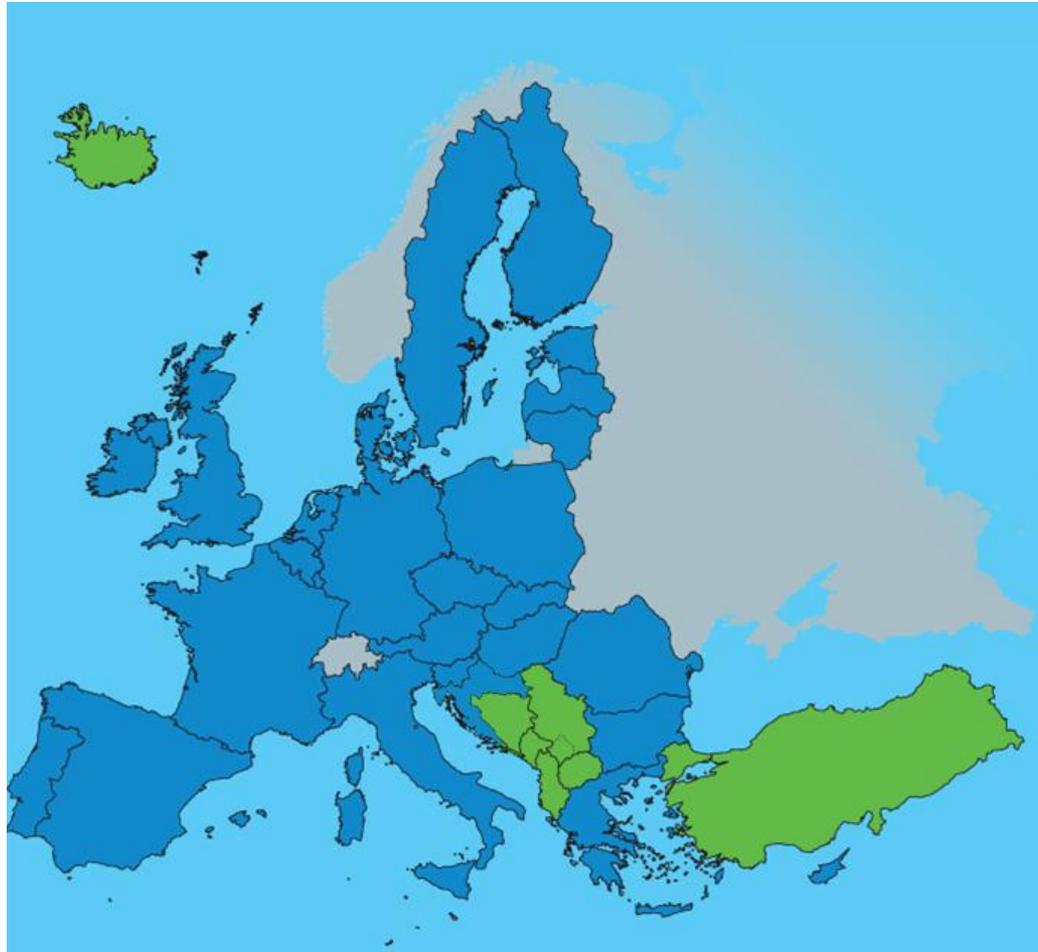
5



Croatia

EU Member as of 1 July 2013

The current enlargement agenda



Visa liberalisation

Implemented in

- The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Montenegro
- Serbia
- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

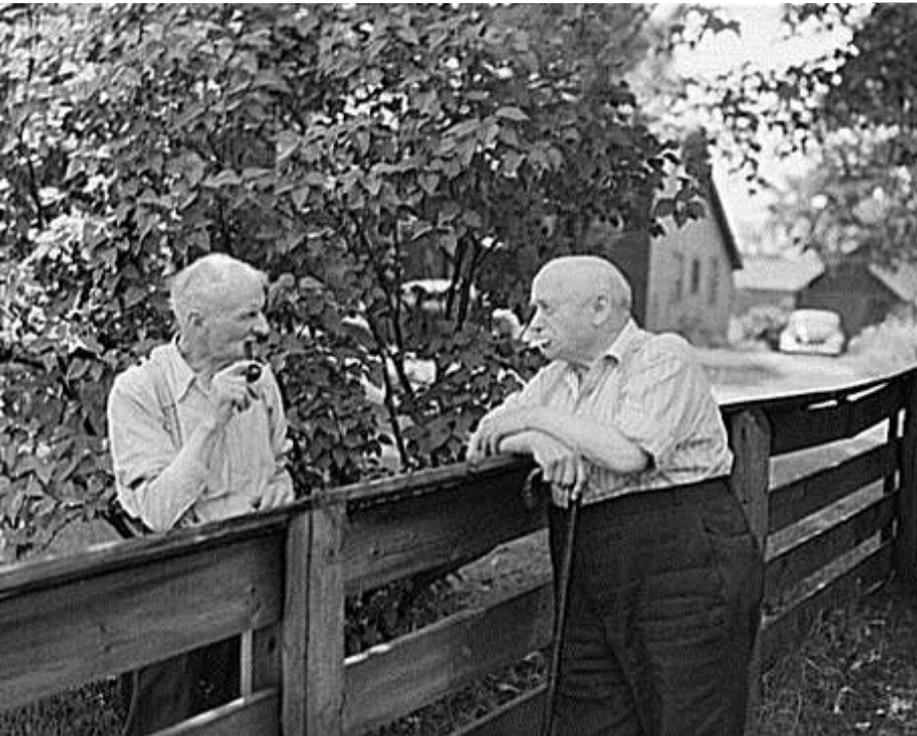
Visa dialogue launched with Kosovo*

Monitoring on-going

*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Other relationship models

It's ok to be neighbours; not all European countries will / must join.



- EFTA – Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein
- Neighbourhood Policy
- Specific ties - micro-states

How does it all work in practice?



Enlargement toolkit

- Reporting, monitoring
 - Enlargement package 2014
- Network of agreements; economic & political dialogue
- Financial & technical assistance

Montenegro

- Accession negotiations on-going
- Implementation of rule of law reforms – started
- Tangible results needed; will determine overall pace of accession negotiations



Serbia



- Pace of negotiations also depends on progress in key areas: rule of law + normalisation process w/ Kosovo
- Jan 2014 – 1st EU-Serbia Accession Conference – start of negotiations
- 2013 – historic year - Serbia's EU path
 - September: Stabilisation & Association Agreement (SAA) entered into force; start screening
 - Negotiations open – June



The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

- EU accession process w/ the country - impasse
- Action needed to reverse recent backsliding
 - freedom of expression & of the media
 - independence of the judiciary
- Urgent need for negotiated & mutually acceptable solution to the name issue
- Government & opposition should take steps to restore political dialogue in parliament





Albania



- Candidate status in June - recognition of its reform efforts & progress
- Needs to build on & consolidate the reform momentum; focus its efforts on tackling EU-integration challenges
- Government & opposition to ensure that political debate - primarily in parliament





Bosnia and Herzegovina



- At a standstill on its European integration path
- Following the October general elections - essential for the country to:
 - speak with one voice
 - tackle urgent socio-economic reforms
 - progress on its European agenda

Kosovo

- May 2014: initialling of Stabilisation & Association Agreement
- Major milestone in EU-Kosovo relations
- Kosovo needs to deliver on key reforms: rule of law



Turkey



- Implementation of certain reform commitments – continued, e.g. 2013 democratisation package
- Steps taken towards a settlement of the Kurdish issue
- Still grounds for serious concerns:
 - independence of the judiciary
 - protection of fundamental freedoms
- Opening negotiations of chapters rule of law & fundamental rights would provide a roadmap for reforms in these key areas



Iceland

- Accession negotiations put on hold by Icelandic govt.
- Common interests – renewable energy & climate change → strategic importance



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Thank
You!!