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# THE EUROPEAN UNION

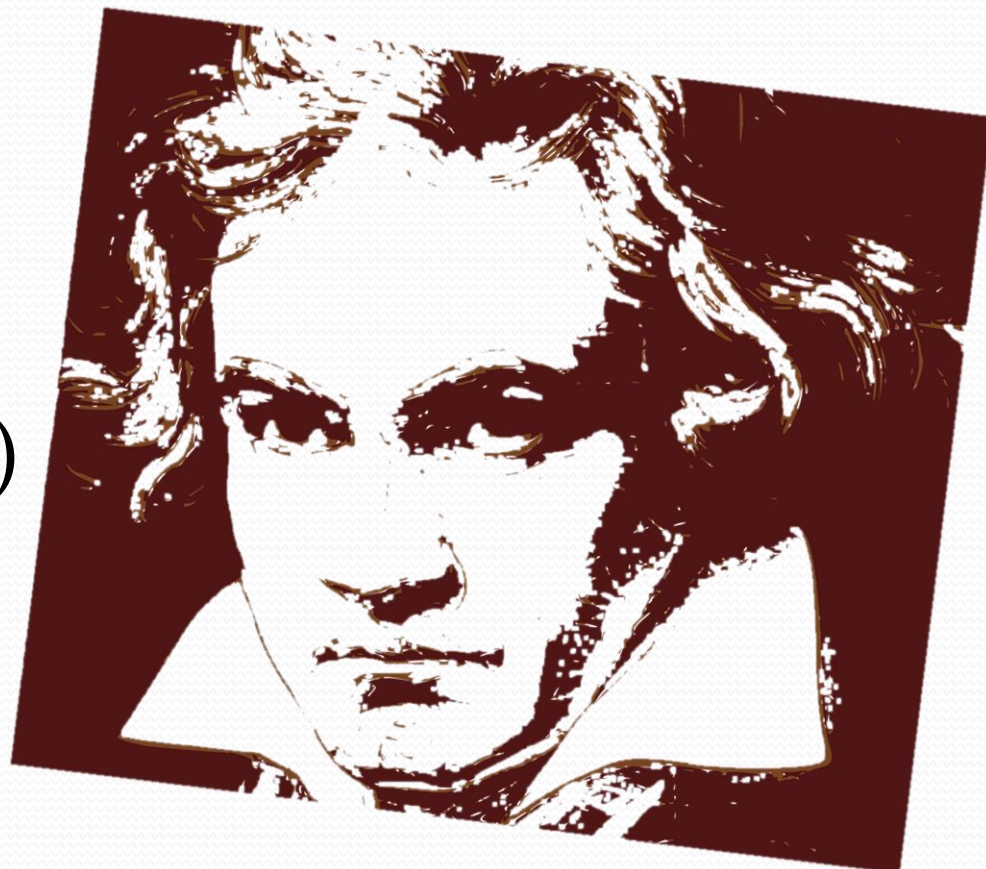
# The European flag

- circle with 12 stars
- cohesion
- solidarity



# The European anthem

- Ode to Joy  
(original title:  
„Ode an die Freude“)
- Ludwig van  
Beethoven



# United in diversity

- different cultures and languages
- learn from each other
  
- ❖ 27 member states
- ❖ 447 million citizens
- ❖ 24 official languages

# The basic idea of the EU

- working together
- help each other
- security
- peace
- strong economy



# The values of the EU

- democracy
- human dignity
- respect for human rights
- freedom
- equality
- rule of law



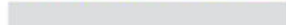
# Founding of the EU

- since 1950: after the second world war
- European Coal and Steel Community
- 6 member states
  - ❖ Germany
  - ❖ France
  - ❖ Italy
  - ❖ Belgium
  - ❖ Netherlands
  - ❖ Luxembourg

# Member states of the EU



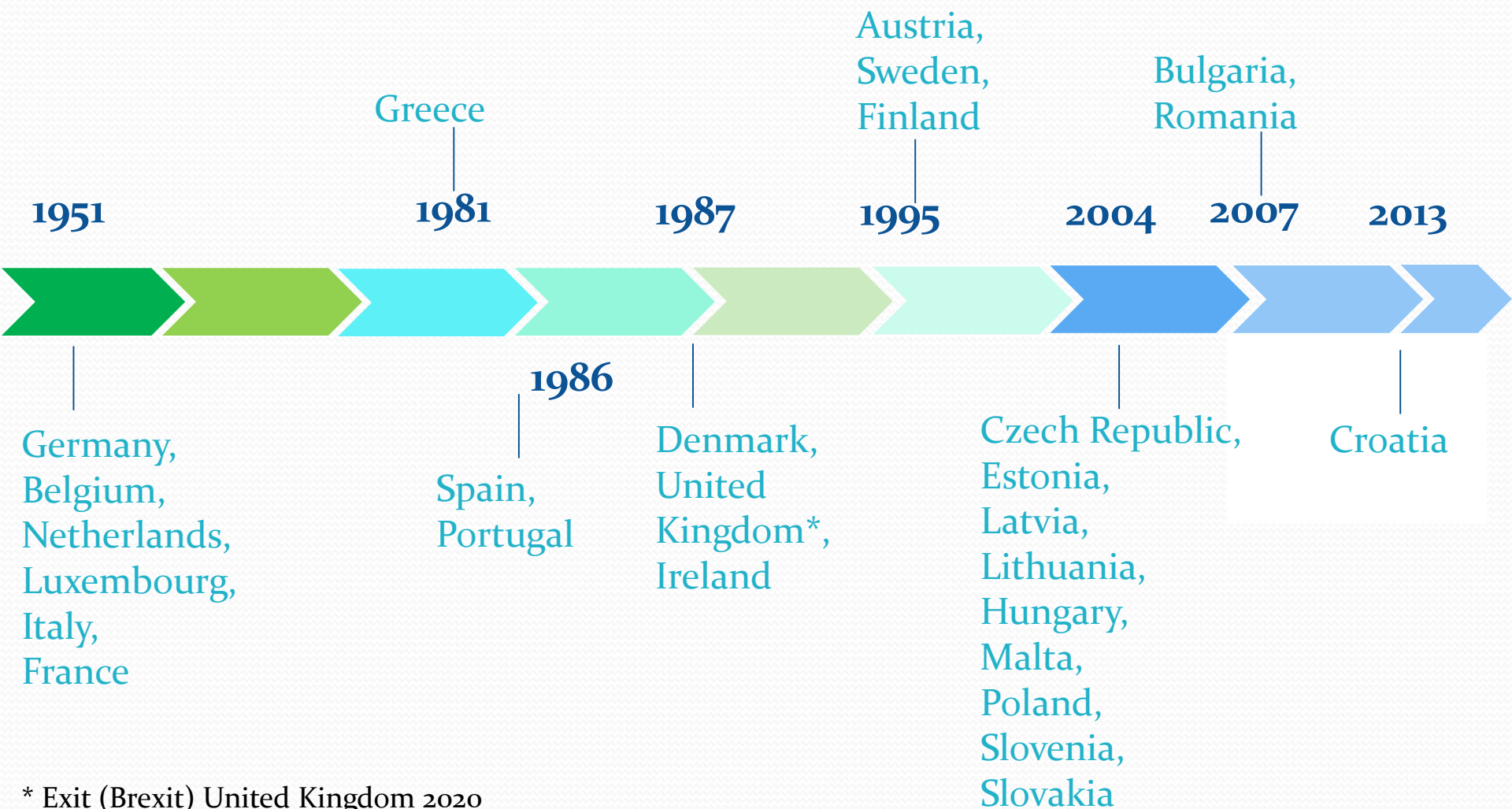
Member States of the European Union (2020)



Candidate countries and potential candidates



# Member states of the EU



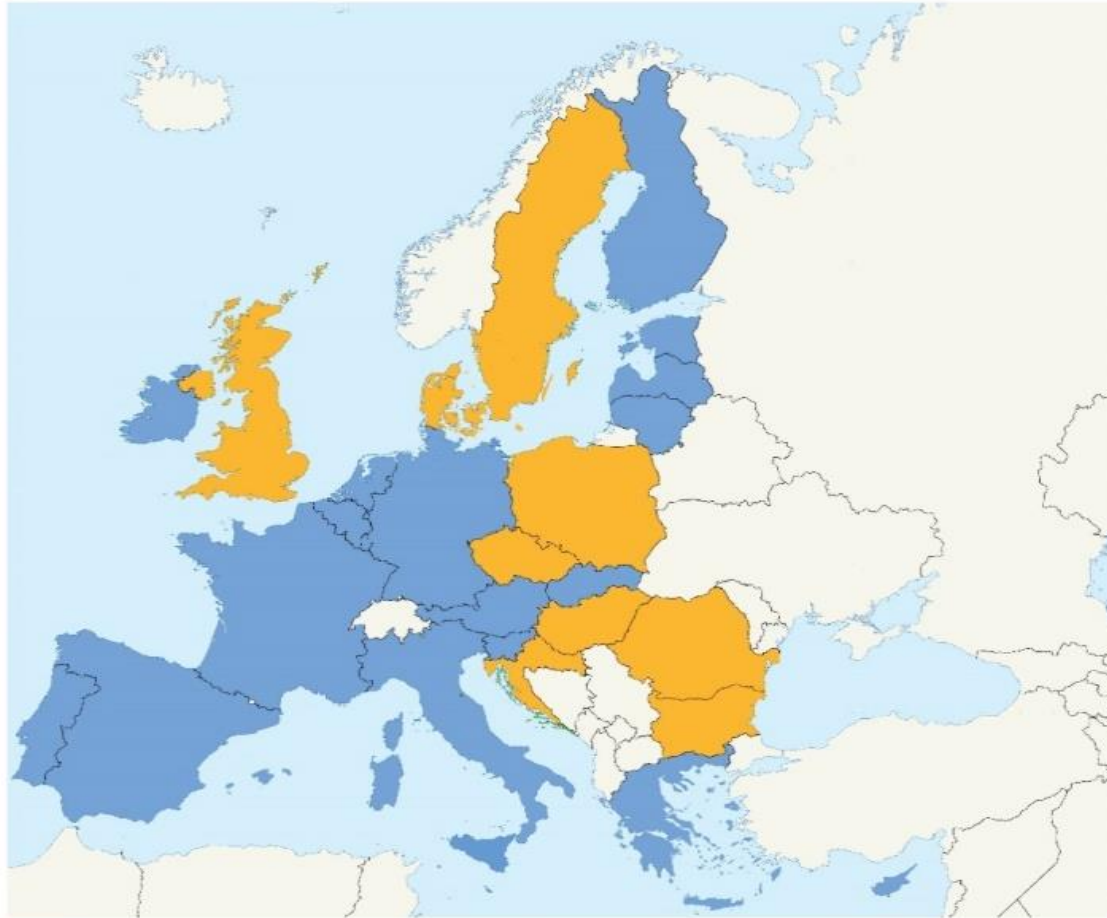
\* Exit (Brexit) United Kingdom 2020

# The Schengen Area

- since 1985
- area without borders
- 22 EU countries + 4 further countries  
(Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland and Iceland)
- EU citizens can travel without passport control



# Currency of the EU: €



-  EU countries using the Euro
-  EU countries not using the Euro

# Currency of the EU: €

- since 2002 in 19 EU countries = eurozone
- in Austria since 1 January 2002  
Currency before: Schilling
- facilitates trade between countries
- better economic cooperation
- without additional costs in other countries /  
shop on the Internet
- more stable prices





# Social Europe

## European Social Charter:

guarantees fundamental social and economic rights and human rights in the areas

- employment
- housing
- health
- education,
- social protection and welfare.



# How the EU works?

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# How the EU works?

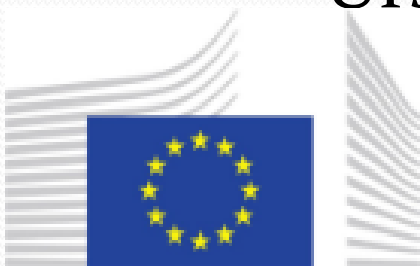
**3 important points:**

- 1) the European Commission**
- 2) the European Parliament**
- 3) the Council of the European Union**

# How the EU works?

## The European Commission:

- promoting the common interest
- proposes new legislation
- is elected by the EU Parliament
- President:  
Ursula von der Leyen





# How the EU works?

## The European Parliament:

- defends the rights of EU citizens
- members of the Parliament are elected by EU citizens (every 5 years)
- President: David Sassoli



# How the EU works?

## The Council of the European Union:

- voice of the member states
- in the Council, the individual countries consult each other
- makes laws together with the EU Parliament
- President : Charles Michel



# How the EU works?

## The Court of Justice of the European Union

- makes sure that all laws happen correctly in the European Union
- 27 independent judges - one from each EU country



## The Court of Auditors

- checks if the money of the European Union is spent in the right way
- 27 independent members



# How the EU works?

Citizens, interest groups, experts: discuss, consult



Commission: makes formal proposal



Parliament and Council of Ministers: decide jointly



National or local authorities: implement



Commission and Court of Justice: monitor implementation



# Getting in touch with the EU

Questions about the EU?

Europe Direct can help by phone, e-mail or web chat



***[europa.eu/europedirect](http://europa.eu/europedirect)***

# Sources

[https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/slide-presentations\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/slide-presentations_en)

[https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read\\_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/easy-to-read_en)

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