

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

THE SEVEN EU INSTITUTIONS

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QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTING

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION 2024-2029: PORTFOLIOS

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THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2024-2029

- <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/search/table>

BASIC DATA AND STATISTICS

- EU MEMBER STATES

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- <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.KD?end=2023&start=1990>

- EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

- <https://w3.unece.org/PXWeb/en/PDFCountryProfiles>
- <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PCAP.PP.KD?end=2023&start=1990>
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- <https://www.worldometers.info/population/asia/>
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- <https://cleartax.in/s/world-gdp-ranking-list>

BASIC DATA AND STATISTICS EU MEMBER STATES (11, 12, 13, 15)

Member State	Since	Population (millions)	Area (1000 km ²)	2023 GDP (billions €)	2023 GDP per capita (000 €)
Austria (AT)	1995	9	84	477	52.25
Belgium (BE)	1958	11.5	31	585	49.54
Bulgaria (BG)	2007	6.8	111	94	14.58
Croatia (HR)	2013	3.8	57	76	20.77
Cyprus (CY)	2004	0.9	9	30	32.1
Czech Rep. (CZ)	2004	10.5	79	306	28.58
Denmark (DK)	1973	5.8	43	374	62.84
Estonia (EE)	2004	1.3	45	38	27.59
Finland (FI)	1995	5.5	338	278	49.7
France (FR)	1958	67.8	552	2 803	40.8
Germany (DE)	1958	84.6	357	4 122	48.75
Greece (GR)	1981	10.6	132	220	20.92
Hungary (HU)	2004	9.7	93	196	20.48
Ireland (IE)	1973	5.2	70	505	95.29
Italy (IT)	1958	58.9	301	2 085	35.35
Latvia (LV)	2004	1.8	65	40	21.44
Lithuania (LT)	2004	2.8	65	72	25.07
Luxembourg (LU)	1958	0.6	3	79	118.77
Malta (MT)	2004	0.5	0.3	19	35.34
Netherlands (NL)	1958	17.6	42	1 034	57.84
Poland (PL)	2004	38	313	751	19.84
Portugal (PT)	1986	10.3	92	266	25.73
Romania (RO)	2007	19.1	238	325	17.03
Slovakia (SK)	2004	5.4	49	123	22.09
Slovenia (SI)	2004	2.1	20	63	29.75
Spain (ES)	1986	47.4	505	1 472	30.32
Sweden (SE)	1995	10.5	450	548	52.04
Total EU		448	4 144.3	16 981	37.80

All countries use the Euro except BG, CZ, DK, HU, PO, RO, SE.

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EU CANDIDATE COUNTRIES (13, 15, 16)

Country	Applied for membership in	«Candidate status» since	Population (millions)	Area (1000 km ²)	2023 GDP (billions USD)*	2023 GDP per capita (USD)
Albania	2009	2014	2.8	28.7	58 751	12 262
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2016	2022	3.45	51.1	74 600	21 466
Georgia	2022	2023	3.7	69.7	92 811	24 979
Moldova	2022	2022	2.6	33.8	16 540	6 650
Montenegro	2008	2010	0.61	13.8	19 562	31 161
North Macedonia	2004	2005	1.8	25.7	48 129	24 568
Serbia	2008	2010	6.8	88.3	196 192	29 622
Türkiye	1987	1999	85	774	3 182 086	37 445
Ukraine	2022	2022	41,2	603	621 258	18 040

* Millions of USD adjusted by purchasing power parities.

PS: Kosovo applied for membership in 2022 and has not (yet) been granted the «candidate» status.

OTHER COUNTRIES (13, 14, 15, 17)

Country	Population (millions)	Area (1000 km ²)	2023 GDP (billions USD)	2023 GDP per capita (in USD)
China (PRC)	1 425 000	9 597	17 794	12 614
India	1 442 000	3 287	3 549	2 485
Japan	122 600	378	4 212	33 834
Switzerland	8.8	41	885	99 995
United Kingdom	68.3	244	3 340	48 866
USA	332	9 629	27 360	81 695

EUROPEAN VADEMECUM

WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE EUROPEAN UNION



EUROPEAN GROUPINGS

Name (founding year)	Members	Main thrust
CoE Council of Europe (1949)	46 Member States (Western, Central and Eastern Europe)	Protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and contribution to solving societal problems
EU European Union (1958)	27 Member States (MS)	Economic and political integration
EFTA European Free Trade Association (1960)	Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland	Promotion of free trade and economic integration
EEA European Economic Area (1994)	EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway	Extension of the EU's internal market to the EFTA countries
EPC European Political Community (2022)	42 countries participated in the 5th meeting (Budapest, Nov. 2024) (EU MS, candidate countries to the EU, Switzerland, UK, other European countries)	Platform to discuss strategic issues in Europe

THE 7 EU INSTITUTIONS KEY FEATURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

EU Commission (1) (COM)	- One Commissioner per MS, appointment process involving the EP (vote of consent) and the European Council; 5 years terms; - The COM has the sole right to propose new EU laws and policies, it monitors their implementation and manages the EU budget; - The COM negotiates agreements with third countries such as Switzerland; - The COM is the guardian of the Treaties.
European Parliament (EP) (2)	- 720 Members (MEPs), president : Roberta Metsola, EPP (Malta); - 24 Committees, 8 Political Groups, 48 Delegations (non-EU countries); - 5 years terms; - The EP participates in the legislative process, it has budgetary and control powers, it is involved in treaty revision, it has the right to intervene before the Court of Justice of the EU.
Court of Justice of the EU (3) (CJEU)	- One judge from each MS and 11 advocates general; 6 years terms; - General Court: two judges from each MS; - President: Mr Koen Lenaerts (BE); - The CJEU interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way in all MS, and it settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions; - The CJEU can, in certain circumstances, be used by individuals, companies or organisations to take action against an EU institution.
Council of the EU (4)	- 10 different configurations (general affairs, agriculture, etc.); - One minister per MS; - It negotiates and adopts EU legislation, in most cases with the EP; - It adopts the EU budget with the EP; - It coordinates member states' policies in specific fields, such as economic and fiscal policies; - Presidency rotates every 6 months (see *).
European Council (5)	- Consists of its president (Antonio Costa, PT) and of the heads of state or government of every MS together with the President of the European Commission, for the purpose of planning Union policy.
European Central Bank (ECB) (6)	- It conducts monetary policy for the euro area, it manages the euro and keeps prices stable; - President: Christine Lagarde.
European Court of Auditors (7) (ECA)	- One auditor per MS; - The ECA is in charge of the audit of EU finances.

* THE ROTATING PRESIDENCIES OF THE COUNCIL (2024-2030)

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Jan-June	BE	PL	CY	LT	IT	LU	SI
July- Dec.	HU	DK	IE	GR	LV	NL	MT

Decisions are taken by simple majority (e.g. procedural rules), **qualified majority (QM) (8)** (e.g. single market) or **unanimous votes** (e.g. taxation, social affairs, EU membership).
- Simple majority: at least 14 MS vote in favour;
- QM: 55% of MS, representing at least 65% of the EU population, vote in favour;
- Blocking minority: at least 4 MS representing at least 35 % of the EU population vote against.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION 2024-2029 (9)

Member State	Name (Political group)	Portfolios
Austria (AT)	Magnus Brunner (EPP)	Internal Affairs and Migration
Belgium (BE)	Hadja Lahbib (RE)	Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management
Bulgaria (BG)	Ekaterina Zaharieva (EPP)	Startups, Research and Innovation
Croatia (HR)	Dubravka Šuica (EPP)	Mediterranean
Cyprus (CY)	Kóstas Kadís (independent)	Fisheries and Oceans
Czech Rep. (CZ)	Jozef Síkela (independent)	International Partnerships
Denmark (DK)	Dan Jørgensen (S&D)	Energy and Housing
Estonia (EE)	Kaja Kallas (RE)	High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President
Finland (FI)	Henna Virkkunen (EPP)	Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy
France (FR)	Stéphane Séjourné (RE)	Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy
Germany (DE)	Ursula von der Leyen (EPP)	European Commission President
Greece (GR)	Apóstolos Tzitzikóstas (EPP)	Sustainable Transport and Tourism
Hungary (HU)	Olivér Várhelyi (independent)	Health and Animal Welfare
Ireland (IE)	Michael McGrath (RE)	Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection
Italy (IT)	Raffaele Fitto (ECR)	Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms
Latvia (LV)	Valdis Dombrovskis (EPP)	Economy and Productivity, Implementation and Simplification
Lithuania (LT)	Andrius Kubilius (EPP)	Defence and Space
Luxembourg (LU)	Christophe Hansen (EPP)	Agriculture and Food
Malta (MT)	Glenn Micallef (S&D)	Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport
Netherlands (NL)	Wopke Hoekstra (EPP)	Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth
Poland (PL)	Piotr Serafin (independent)	Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration
Portugal (PT)	Maria Luís Albuquerque (EPP)	Financial Services and the Savings and Investments Union
Romania (RO)	Roxana Mînzatu (S&D)	Executive Vice-President for Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness
Slovakia (SK)	Maroš Šefčovič (independent)	Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency
Slovenia (SI)	Marta Kos (RE)	Enlargement
Spain (ES)	Teresa Ribera Rodriguez (S&D)	Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition
Sweden (SE)	Jessika Roswall (EPP)	Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT 2024-2029 (10)

Member State (MS)	Members of the EP (MEPs) Number of MEPs in the five biggest political groups*					
	Total per MS	EPP	S&D	PfE	ECR	RE
Austria (AT)	20	5	5	6	0	2
Belgium (BE)	22	3	4	3	3	5
Bulgaria (BG)	17	6	2	0	1	5
Croatia (HR)	12	6	4	0	1	0
Cyprus (CY)	6	2	1	0	1	0
Czech Rep. (CZ)	21	5	0	9	3	0
Denmark (DK)	15	2	3	1	1	4
Estonia (EE)	7	2	2	0	1	2
Finland (FI)	15	4	2	0	1	3
France (FR)	81	6	13	30	4	13
Germany (DE)	96	31	14	0	0	8
Greece (GR)	21	7	3	1	2	0
Hungary (HU)	21	7	2	11	0	0
Ireland (IE)	14	4	1	0	0	6
Italy (IT)	76	9	21	8	24	0
Latvia (LV)	9	2	1	1	3	1
Lithuania (LT)	11	3	2	0	2	2
Luxembourg (LU)	6	2	1	0	1	1
Malta (MT)	6	3	3	0	0	0
Netherlands (NL)	31	6	4	6	1	7
Poland (PL)	53	23	3	2	20	1
Portugal (PT)	21	7	8	2	0	2
Romania (RO)	32	10	10	0	6	3
Slovakia (SK)	15	1	0	0	0	6
Slovenia (SI)	9	5	1	0	0	2
Spain (ES)	60	22	20	6	0	1
Sweden (SE)	21	5	5	0	3	3
Total EU	720	188	135	86	78	77

*EPP: European People's Party, S&D: Socialists and Democrats, PfE: Patriots for Europe
ECR: European Conservatives and Reformists, RE: Renew Europe