

# The Construction of the EU

A timeline of when each member state joined the  
European Union (EU)

## IMPORTANT!

When one or more  
countries join the EU, we  
call it an **enlargement**  
(increase in size).

**1951**

**France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands** formed the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** which was proposed by Robert Schuman.

**1957**

The same 6 countries signed a document called the **Treaty of Rome** and formed the **European Economic Community (EEC)**.

**1981**

**Greece** became a member of the EEC.

**1992**

All of these countries signed the **Maastricht Treaty** to officially **create the European Union**.

**2004**

The **biggest enlargement** to date as **10 countries** became member states (**Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia**).

**2013**

**Croatia** was granted EU membership.

**1951**

**France, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands** formed the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** which was proposed by Robert Schuman.

**1973**

**Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom (UK)** join the EEC.

**1986**

**Portugal and Spain** joined the EEC.

**1995**

**Austria, Finland and Sweden** were granted EU membership.

**2007**

**Bulgaria and Romania** joined the EU.

**2020**

The **UK** became the **first member to leave** the EU after their 2016 **Brexit** referendum.

## DISCUSS!

Based on this information, which  
countries do you think are most  
likely to become EU member  
states? Find out more in the  
"Future Enlargements" section.

