

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.

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

1957

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

Greece became a member of the EEC.

1981

Portugal and Spain joined the EEC.

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

1992

1995

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

Austria, Finland and Sweden were granted EU membership.

2004

2007

Croatia was granted EU membership.

Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU.

2013

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.

