

- **From the European Idea to the European Union and the Contemporary World.**

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- May 8, 1945 — World War II ends in Europe

The total human losses were spectacularly more than any other war. Of the 50,000,000 dead and missing, 35,000,000 were Europeans; four (4) times more than the World War I.

Europe was a place of ruins.

In the Soviet Union 6,000,000 houses were destroyed, in Poland 80% of the industry, in France almost all ports and a large part of the transport and railway network were severely damaged, in Greece approximately 160,000 buildings were burnt and 1,700 villages were set on fire. The total industrial production of Europe at the end of the Second World War reached only 45% of the pre-war level.

Greece had lost almost 75% of its commercial shipping.



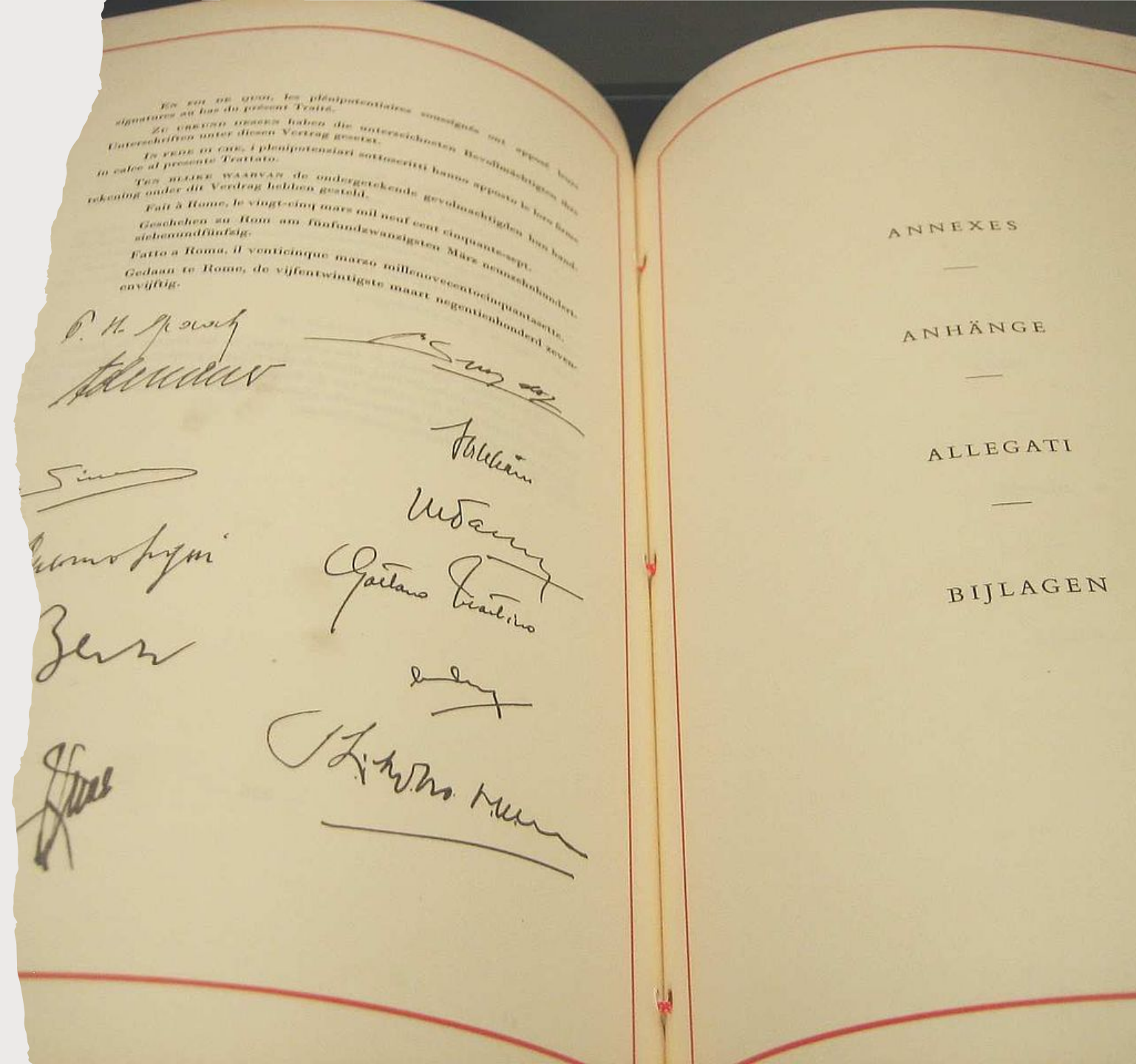
- **March 25, 1957 — Treaty of Rome**

The 6 countries

Germany/West Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg -

expand their positive previous European Coal and Steel Community based on the French Foreign Minister **Robert Schuman plan**, in order that six no single country can make the weapons of war to turn against others, as in the past.

The expansion of the cooperation was to formalize **creating the European Economic Community (EEC)**.



- **May 1968 – Students riot in Paris**

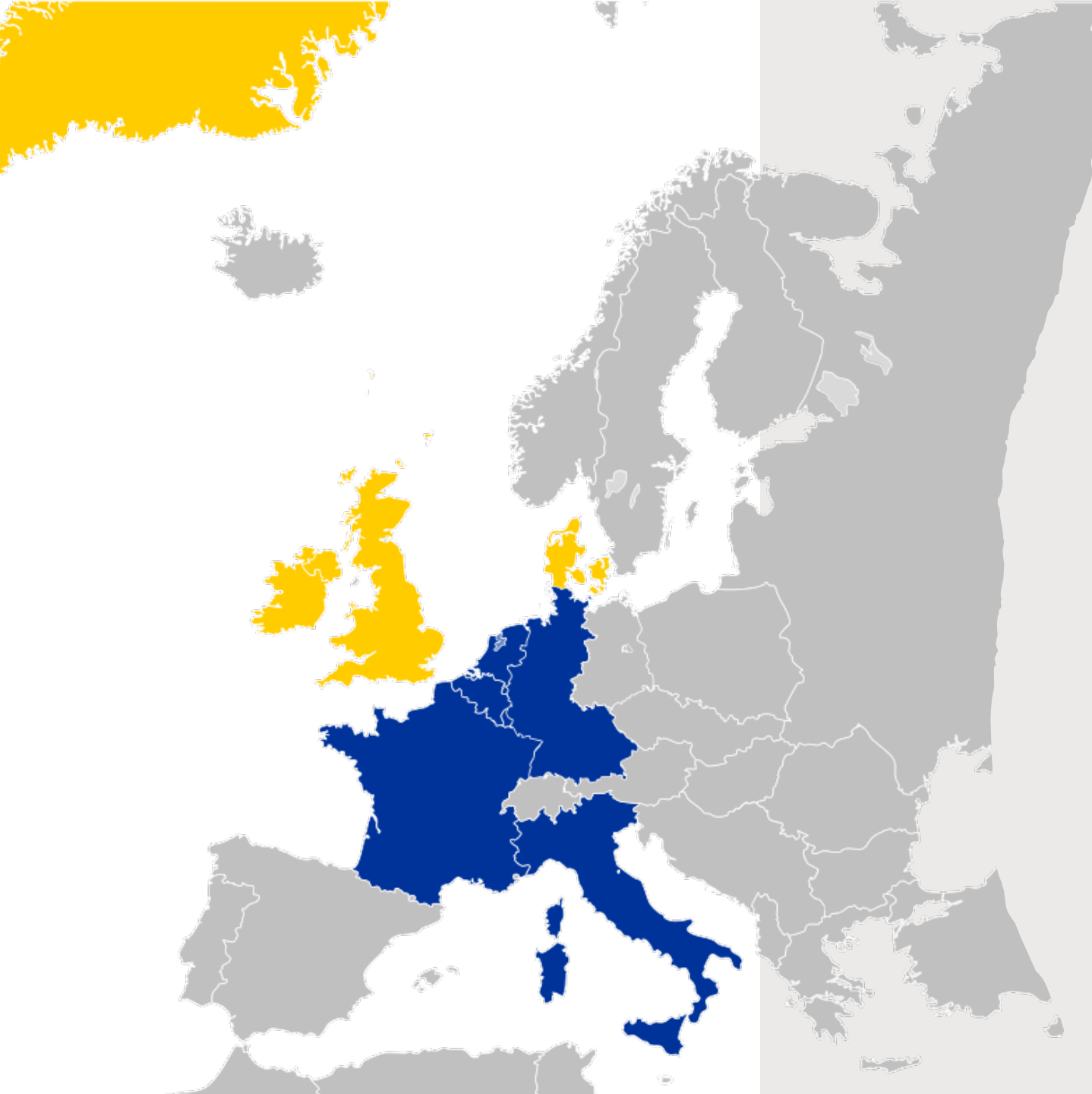
Rioting by students and workers in France shakes the very foundations of the State. Student protests occur in other European countries. They reflect frustration at governments as well as protests against the Vietnam war, the nuclear arms race and the social injustice and exploitation.



- **August 1961 – The Berlin Wall is built**

The communist regime in East Germany builds a wall across Berlin. It becomes a symbol of the separation of Eastern and Western Europe during the Cold War.





- **1 January 1973 – From 6 to 9 member countries**

The initial 6 members become 9.

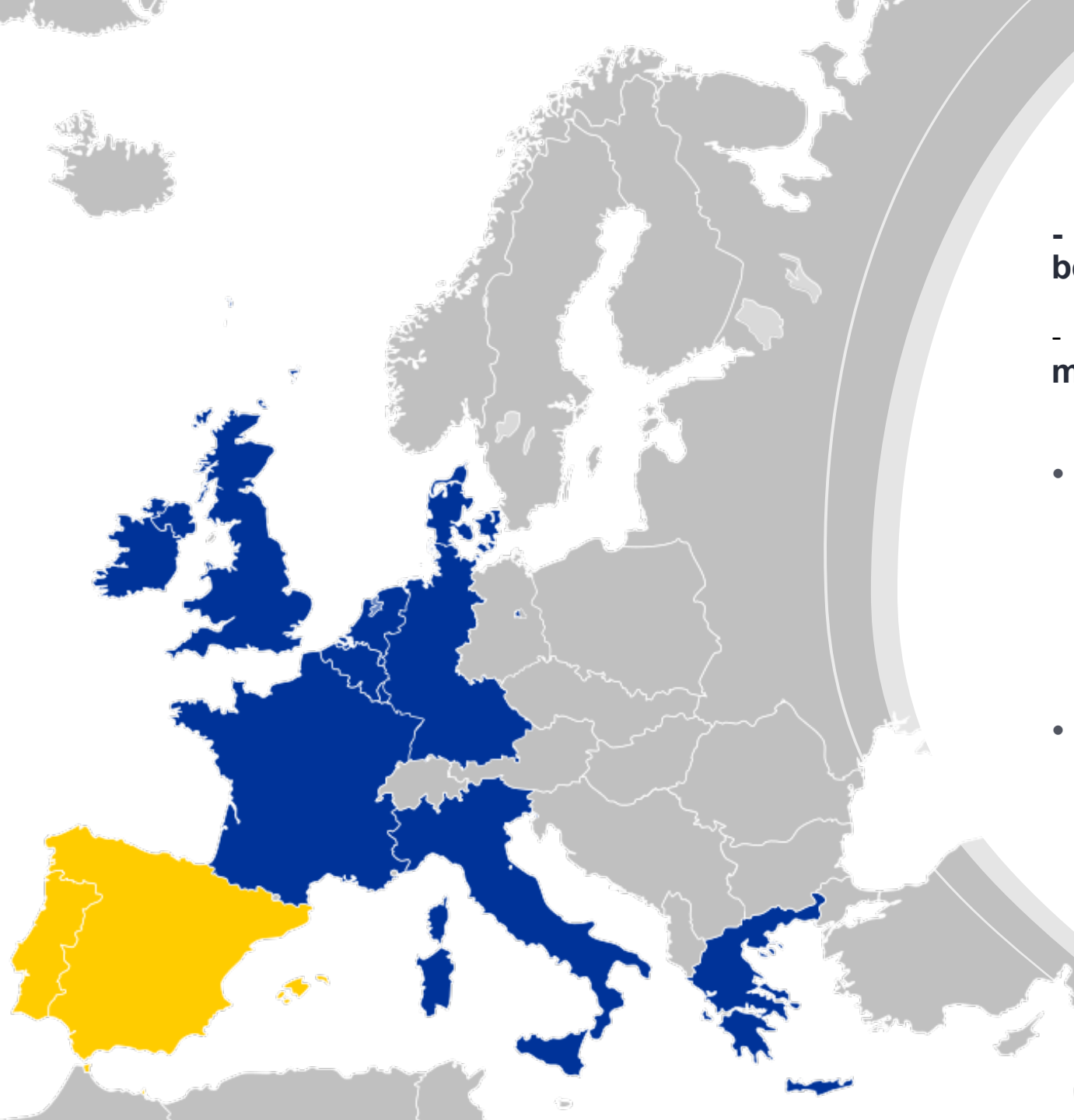
- **United Kingdom,**
- **Denmark and**
- **Ireland**

formally join the European Communities



- **1974 - 75 — Democracy is restored in Greece, Portugal and Spain**

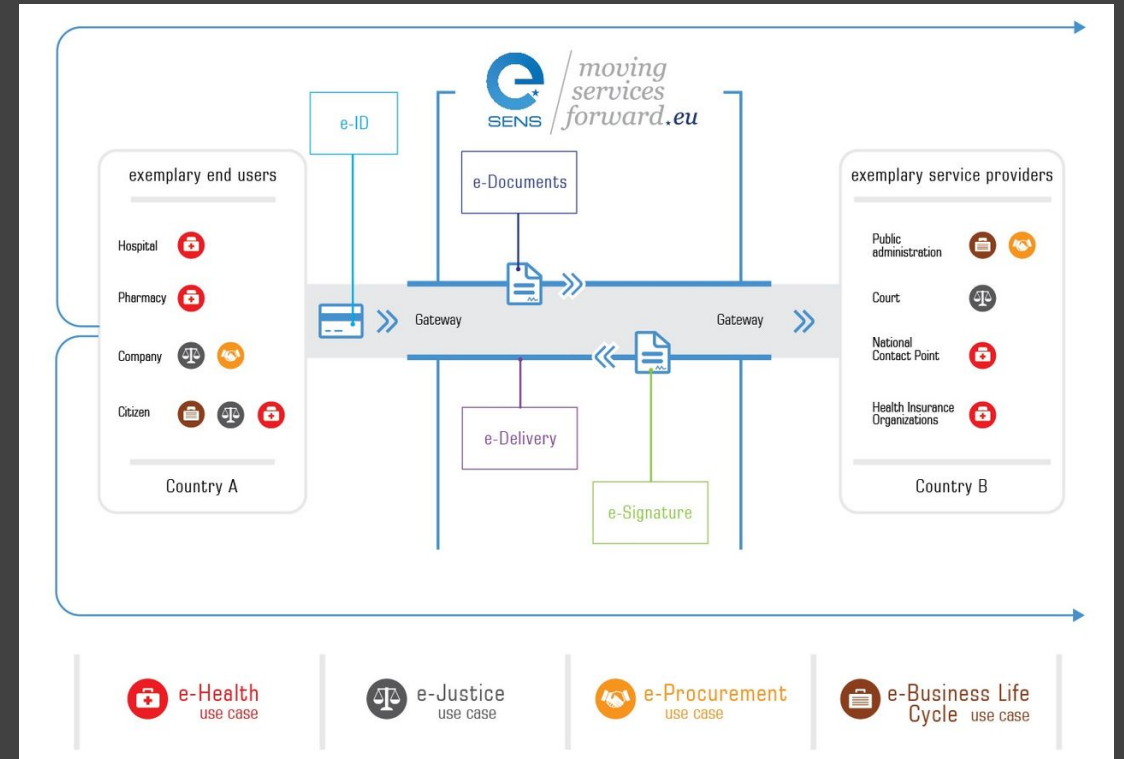
- The collapse of the military regime in **Greece in 1974**, the **overthrow of the Salazar regime in Portugal** and the **death of General Franco in Spain in 1975** mark the end of these dictatorships in Europe.
- The 3 countries establish democratic governments.
- **Greece** continues its path of integration into the European Communities, which had been frozen due to the dictatorial regime since 1967.



- 1 January 1981 – Greece becomes the 10th country to join

- 1 January 1986 – Two new members – Spain and Portugal

- 1.1.1981: **Greece** joins the European Communities. It has been eligible to do so since the military regime was overthrown and democracy restored in 1974.
- 1.1.1986: **Spain** and **Portugal** join the European Communities, bringing **membership to 12**.



- **13 June 1987 – Launch of the Erasmus Programme.**

To fund university students wishing to study in another European country. The programme has given over 10 million people the chance to study, train, volunteer or gain work experience abroad.

- **February 1986 – Towards a single market**

Although customs duties disappeared in 1968, [trade](#) is not flowing freely across the borders between member countries. The main obstacles are differences in national regulations. The [Single European Act](#) launches a vast 6-year programme to sort these out and thus create a **single market**. The act, which comes into force on **1 July 1987**.



- **9 November 1989 – Fall of the Berlin Wall.**

The Berlin Wall falls and the border between East and West is opened for the first time in 28 years.

Germany is united after more than 40 years, and its Eastern half joins the European Communities in **October 1990.**

- **1991 – Break-up of Yugoslavia**



- 7 February 1992 – Maastricht Treaty



- The **Treaty on European Union** (not yet EEC) is signed in Maastricht in the Netherlands.
- It is a major milestone, setting rules for the future single currency as well as for foreign and security policy and closer cooperation in justice and home affairs.
- The 'European Union' is officially created by the treaty, which enters into force on 1 November 1993.

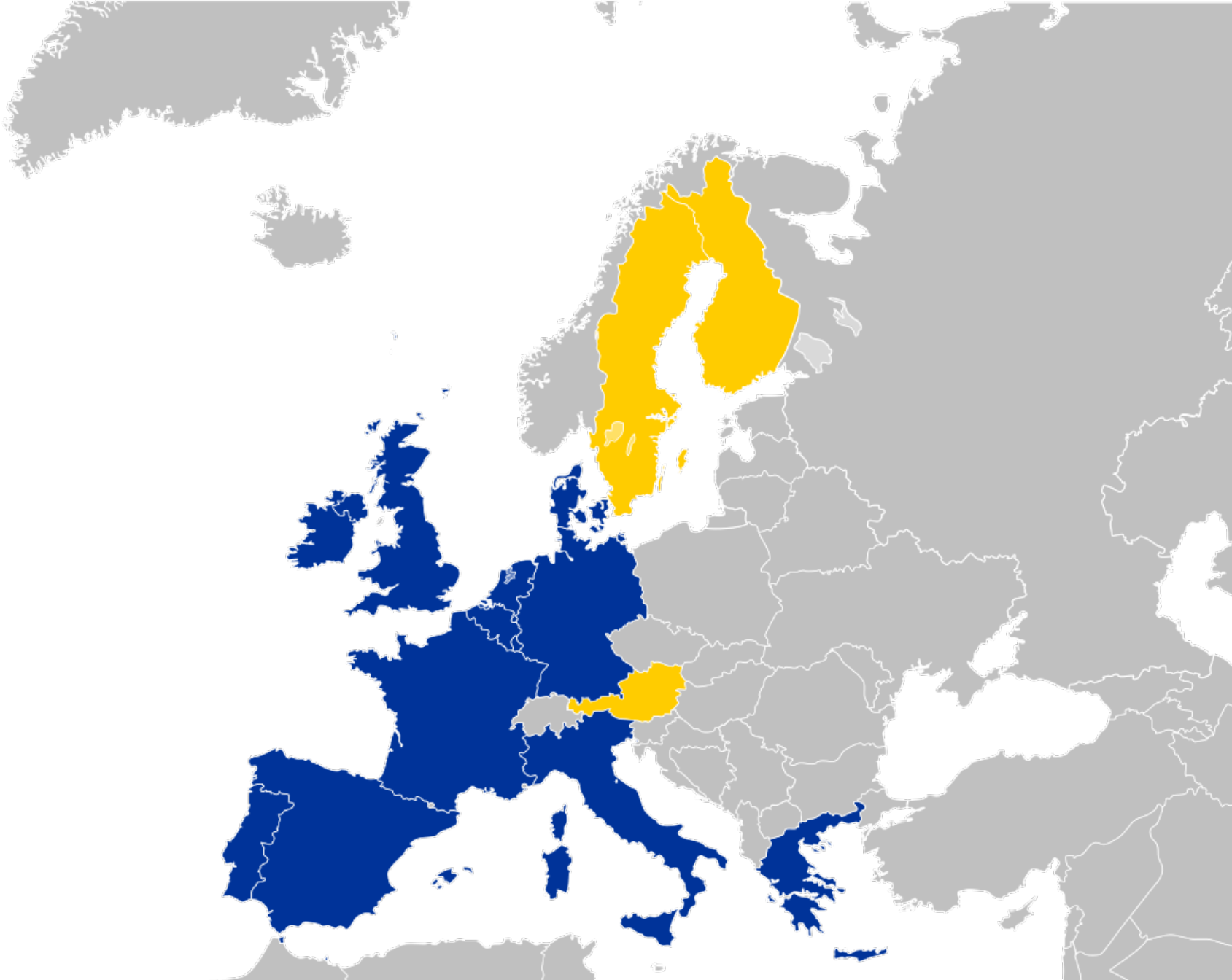


- 1 January 1993 –
Launch of the single
market

- Three (3) Pillars of E.U.

The **single market** and its **4 freedoms** are established –
the free movement of people, goods, services and money.

Hundreds of laws have been agreed since 1986 covering tax policy, business regulations, professional qualifications and other barriers to open frontiers. However, the free movement of some services is delayed.



- **1 January 1995 –
The EU gains 3 new
members:**
 - **Austria,**
 - **Finland**
 - **Sweden**

- Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU.
- **The 15 members now
cover almost the whole
of Western Europe.**



➤ **26 March 1995 –
Border-free travel
begins in 7 countries**

Schengen Agreement

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- The **Schengen Agreement** takes effect in 7 countries — Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. Travellers can move between these countries with no passport controls at the frontiers.
- **By 2021, 26 countries** are part of the passport-free **Schengen area**, including Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland

1 January 1999 – The EURO (€) is born

1 January 2002 – EURO (€) banknotes and coins launch in 12 countries



The EURO (€) is introduced in 11 countries for commercial and financial transactions only. Banknotes and coins will come later.

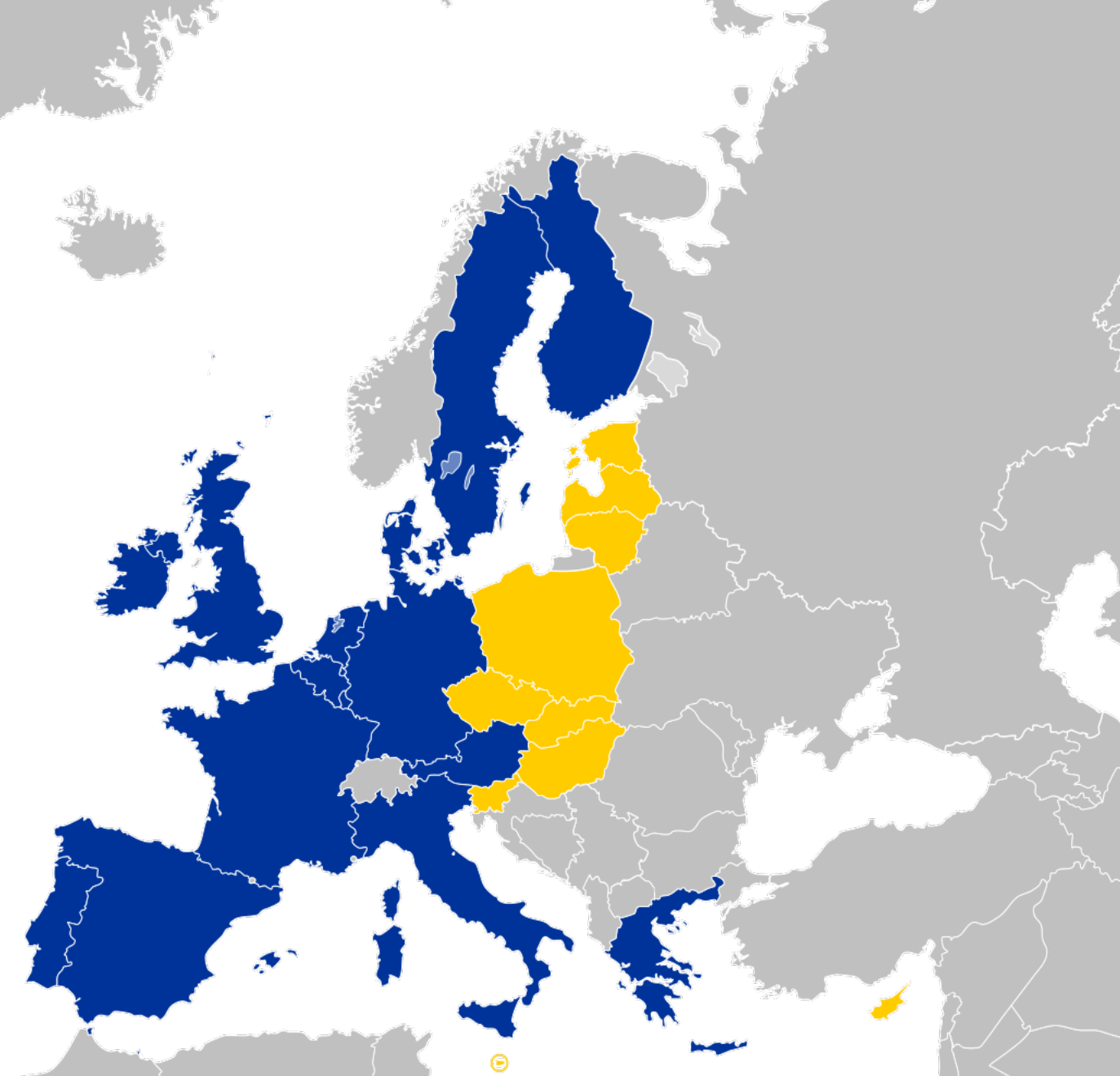
The first EURO (€) countries are Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom decide to stay out for the time being.

1.1.2002: Euro (€) banknotes and coins become the legal currency in 12 EU countries.

Greece joined the euro zone in 2001 and more follow after 2002.

Coins have one standard side, while the other carries a national emblem.



1 May 2004 – 10 new countries!

- **Cyprus and Malta** join the EU along with 8 Central and Eastern European countries - **Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.**
- Finally **ending the division of Europe** after the World War II.
- The **Greek government had prepared** during its European presidency the signature for the accession of the 10 countries to the EU.
- ***The speaker, as the competent minister, was then responsible for the adaptation of the new countries to the European employment and social security regime.***

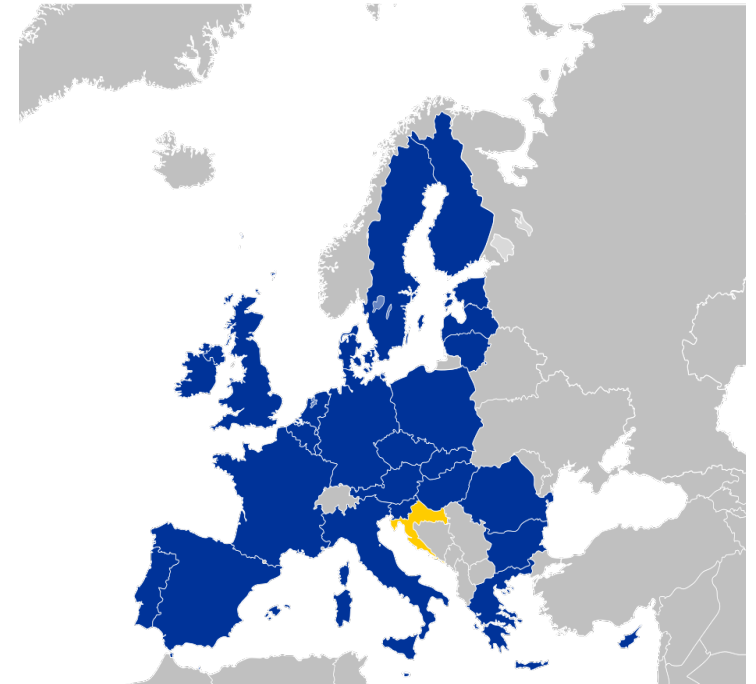
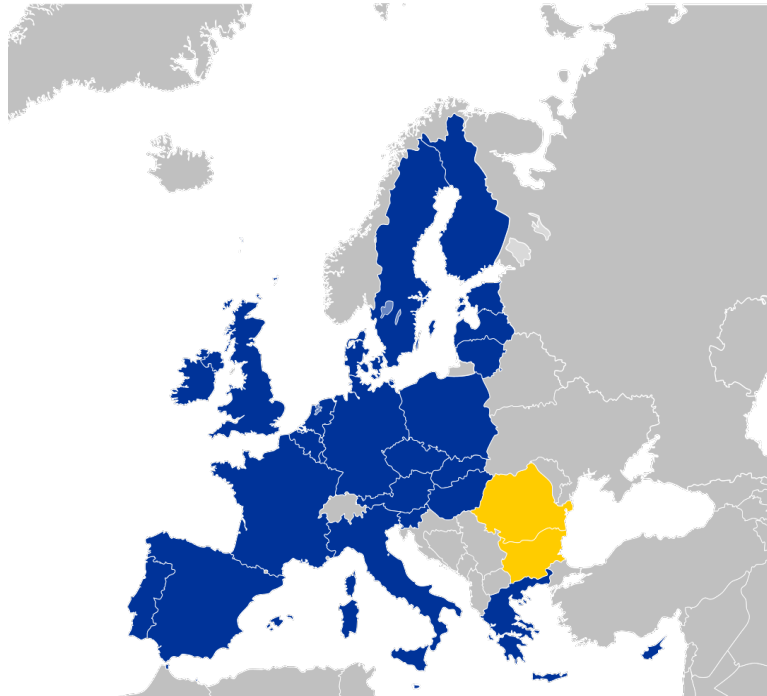
**29 May - 1 June 2005:
EU Constitution
- a great moment that
was lost**

- Voters in France and the Netherlands **reject** the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, which was signed and proposed by the 25 EU member states in October 2004 to be approved by the societies of the member-countries of EU

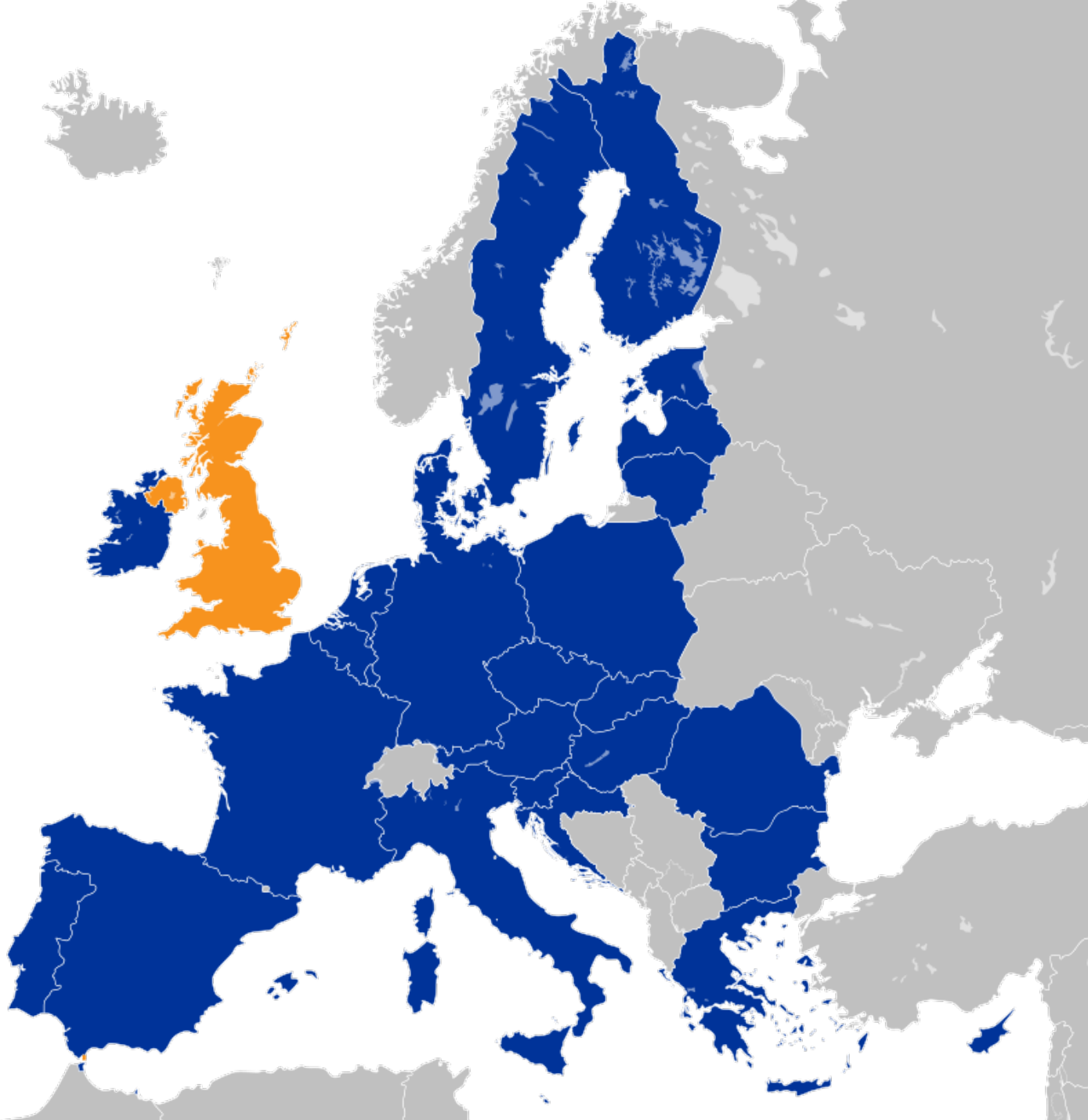


1.1.2007 –
The EU welcomes
Bulgaria and
Romania

1.7. 2013 – Croatia
becomes the 28th
EU member



- Two (2) more countries from Eastern Europe - **Bulgaria** and **Romania** - join the EU, bringing the number of Member States to 27
- Croatia joins the EU, becoming its 28th member



- **23 June 2016 – United Kingdom votes to leave the EU (Brexit)**
- In the referendum in June 2016, 52% of voters in the United Kingdom vote for the UK to leave the European Union after more than 40 years as a member.
- The UK departs on 31 January 2020.



12 December 2015 – Paris Agreement on climate change

At a UN conference in Paris 195 countries conclude a new Agreement on climate change, with the EU playing a pivotal role. It comprises an action plan to limit global warming to 'well below' 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels

EU budget 2020 amended

The EU has amended its budget for 2020 to provide additional support where most needed



Increase of



€3.5
billion

(to be committed in 2020)



€3.1
billion

to tackle COVID-19 crisis



€2.7
billion

Emergency Support
Instrument

Coordinated EU response
tailored to needs of each
country, such as:



Distribution of
protective equipment



Transportation of
patients to cross-border
hospitals



Development of
medication and testing
methods



€415
million

EU civil protection
mechanism - rescEU

Reinforcement
of rescEU operations,
such as:



Procurement and
distribution of medical
supplies across the EU



Support for EU countries
in fight against
COVID-19



Financing repatriations
of EU citizens



€350
million

Assistance to Greece in response to increased
migration pressure



Support voluntary return
programmes



Build reception centres



Protect external borders of
Greece and Bulgaria



Reinforce Frontex and the
European Asylum Support
Office



€100
million

Support to post-earthquake reconstruction in
Albania

Following the earthquake in November 2019:



Reconstruct and rehabilitate
key public buildings



Support the recovery of
businesses



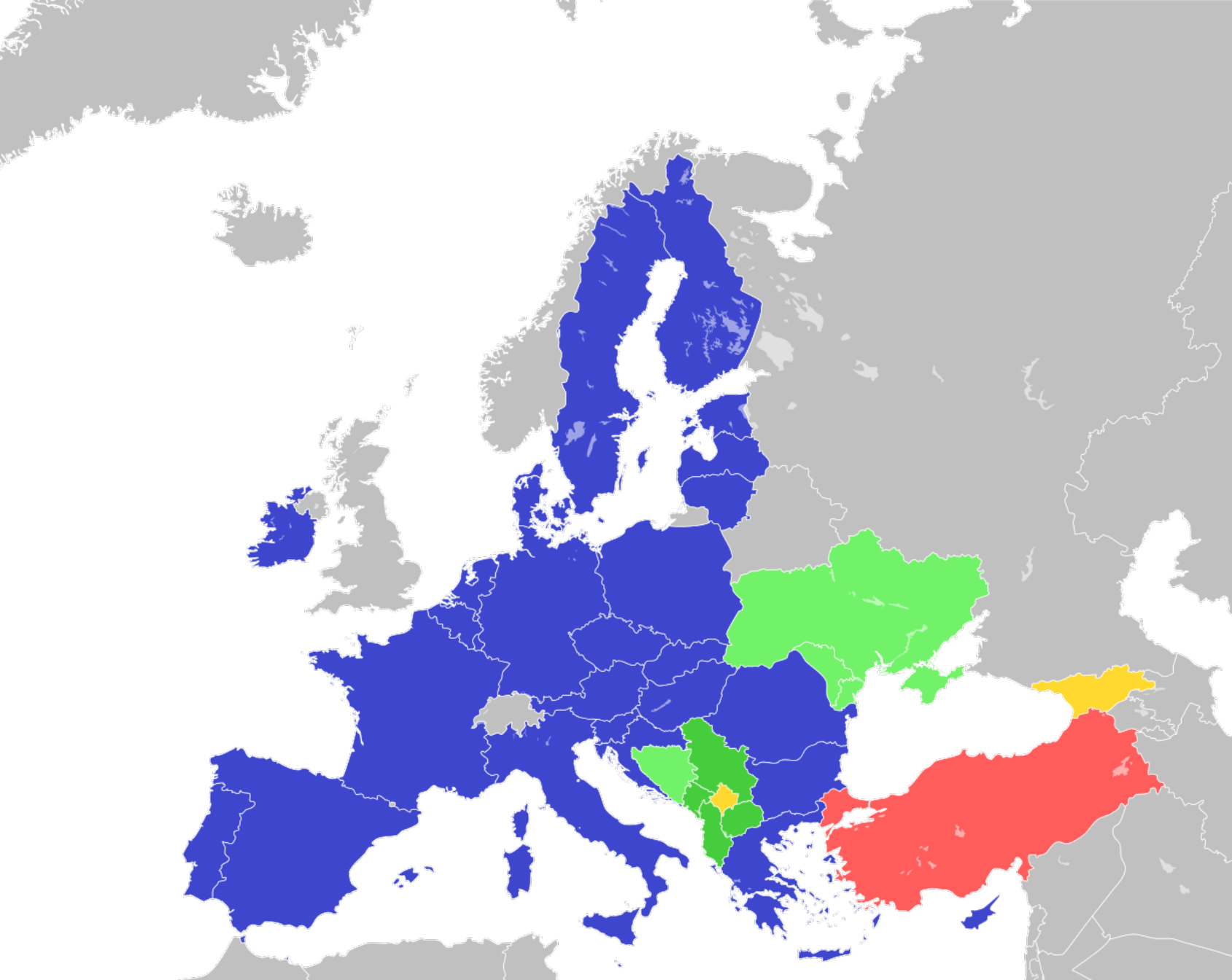
Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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January 2020 – Common EU response to COVID-19

Europe climate-neutral by 2050 through a new growth strategy, the **European Green Deal**

- The COVID-19 pandemic triggers a major public health emergency and economic slowdown. The EU and its member countries work together to support healthcare systems, contain the spread of the virus, and secure vaccines for people in the EU and beyond
- EU leaders agree the largest stimulus **package** ever financed from the EU budget with the focus on a green and digital recovery as the EU works towards **climate neutrality** by 2050 (**The Recovery and Resilience Facility -RRF**)



- **Blue** - Current members
- **Deep green** - Candidates negotiating
- **Green** - Candidates
- **Yellow** - Applicants
- **Red** - Candidates with frozen negotiations

The pioneers –

Robert Schuman: architect of the European integration Project

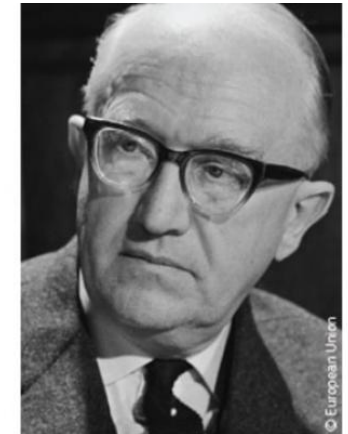
Jean Monnet: the unifying force behind the birth of the European Union

Alcide De Gasperi: an inspired mediator for democracy and freedom in Europe

Anna Lindh: Sweden's pro-Europe voice on the world stage

Simone Veil: Holocaust survivor and first female President of the European Parliament

Walter Hallstein: a diplomatic force propelling swift European integration



Thanks a lot!

- **Solidarity among you!**
- **Creative & Happy!**

