



Finland Joins NATO

Why in News?

[Finland](#) has officially joined [NATO](#) after its application was ratified in record time. This move was **supported by the majority of NATO members**, who believed that Finland's membership would enhance the **alliance's strength in the [Baltic area](#)**.

- However, Sweden's path to NATO membership remains **blocked by Turkey and Hungary**.

What is NATO?

▪ About:

- **NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization**, is a political and military alliance consisting of 31 member countries.
- It was formed in **1949** to promote **mutual defence and collective security among its members**.

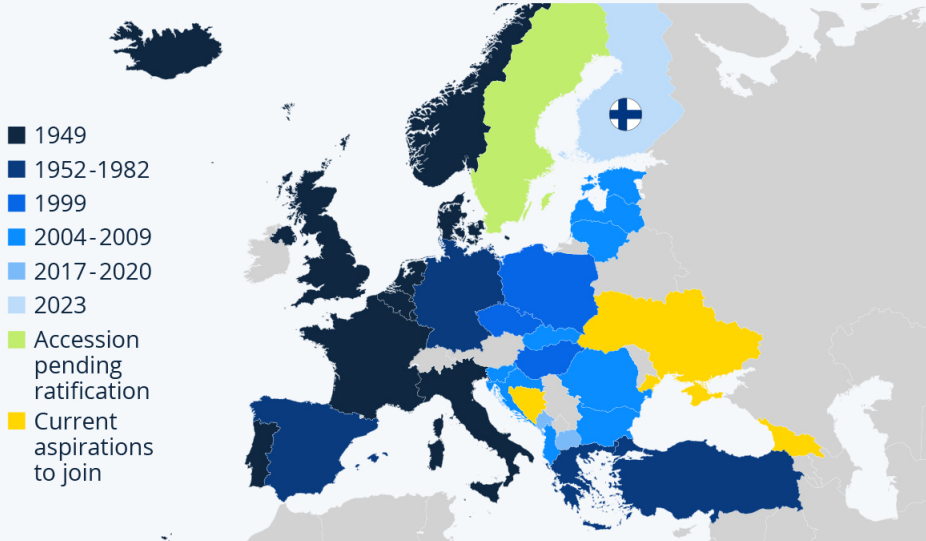
▪ Members:

- In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: **Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States**.
- Since then, **19 more countries** have joined the Alliance: Greece and Turkey (1952); Germany (1955); Spain (1982); Czechia, Hungary and Poland (1999); Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004); Albania and Croatia (2009); Montenegro (2017); North Macedonia (2020); and **Finland (2023)**.

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Finland Becomes 31st Member of NATO

European countries by year they joined NATO



Map excludes the United States and Canada, both founding members of NATO.

- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.
 - **Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.**
- **Special Provision:**
 - **Article 5:** Article 5 of the NATO treaty is a key provision that **states that an attack on one member is an attack on all members.**
 - This provision has **only been invoked once, after the [9/11 terrorist attacks](#)** in the United States.
 - However, NATO's protection does not extend to members' **civil wars or internal coups.**
- **Alliances of NATO:**
 - [Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council \(EAPC\)](#)
 - [Mediterranean Dialogue](#)
 - [Istanbul Cooperation Initiative \(ICI\)](#)

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