



EU, Schengen, Eurozone, EES, NATO



EU, SCHENGEN AREA, EUROZONE, EEA, NATO

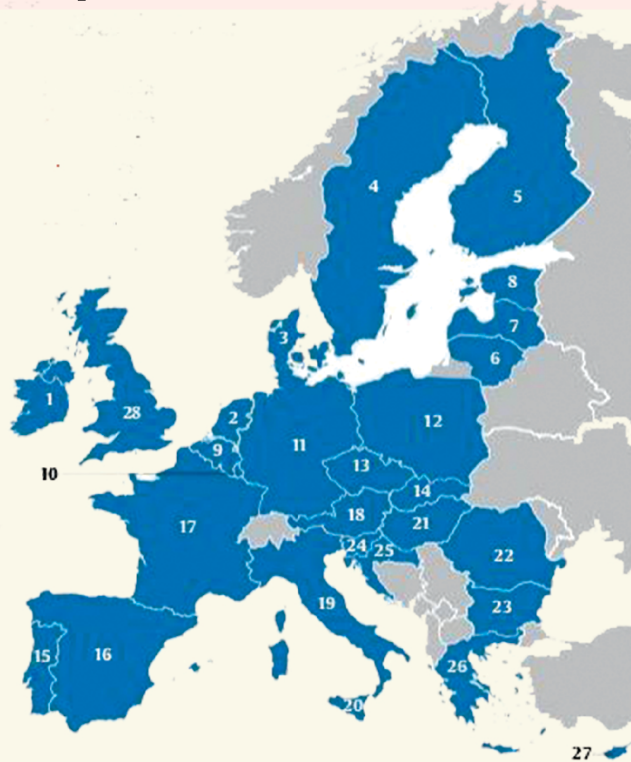
Multiple groupings bind Europe's countries together

EU: The European Union (EU) is a club of 28 countries-27 once the UK actually leaves. Seven others are "on the road to membership" - 5 (Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia and Turkey) "candidate countries" and 2 (Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo) "potential candidates". The EU is descended from the European Economic Community (EEC), which was created in 1958 by six countries - Belgium, Germany, France, Italy,

Luxembourg and the Netherlands with the goal of economic cooperation. The economic union rapidly spilt over to policy areas including climate, environment, health, security, justice and migration and in 1993, its name was changed from EEC to EU to reflect this broader scope. Within the EU, however, members have had different goals, and differences over how much they want to do together. Britain has kept border checks in place and not jettisoned the pound for the Euro.

List of EU Countries

- 1 Ireland
- 2 Netherlands
- 3 Denmark
- 4 Sweden
- 5 Finland
- 6 Lithuania
- 7 Latvia
- 8 Estonia
- 9 Belgium
- 10 Luxembourg
- 11 Germany
- 12 Poland
- 13 Czech Republic
- 14 Slovakia
- 15 Portugal
- 16 Spain
- 17 France
- 18 Austria
- 19 Italy
- 20 Malta
- 21 Hungary
- 22 Romania
- 23 Bulgaria
- 24 Slovenia
- 25 Croatia
- 26 Greece
- 27 Cyprus
- 28 Britain**



SCHENGEN: Free movement across borders is allowed by 26 countries which make up the so-called Schengen area. While some EU countries (such as Britain Ireland, Romania, Bulgaria) are not part of the Schengen area several non-EU countries are part of it. In this group are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

EEA: The Schengen area is nearly similar to the European Economic Area (EEA). The EEA permits free trade and promotes other forms of cooperation in all 28 members of the EU, plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway but not Switzerland.

EUROZONE: The Eurozone is made up of 19 countries whose currency is the Euro. It is confined to the EU but not all EU or Schengen countries are part of the Eurozone. Sweden, Denmark, Poland and the Czech Republic are examples of countries that are part of the Schengen area but do not have the Euro as their currency. The UK has been a member of the EU, but not of the Eurozone or the Schengen area.

NATO: The NATO military alliance is another important European club. It has 28 members that also includes the United States and Turkey. 6 EU states- Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, Malta and Sweden are not members of NATO.

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