

# The European Union: 500 million people – 28 countries



Member States of the  
European Union



Candidate countries and  
potential candidates

New ideas for lasting peace and prosperity...



Konrad Adenauer



Alcide De Gasperi



Winston Churchill



Robert Schuman



Jean Monnet

# The EU symbols



**The motto:  
United in diversity**



**The European anthem**



**The euro**



**The European flag**



**Europe Day, 9 May**

# 24 official languages



**Български**

**Čeština**

**dansk**

**Deutsch**

**eesti keel**

**Ελληνικά**

**English**

**español**

**français**

**Gaeilge**

**hrvatski**

**Italiano**

**latviešu valoda**

**lietuvių kalba**

**magyar**

**Malti**

**Nederlands**

**polski**

**português**

**Română**

**slovenčina**

**slovenščina**

**suomi**

**svenska**



# Enlargement: from six to 28 countries



- 1989** Fall of Berlin Wall – end of Communism  
EU economic help begins: Phare programme
- 1992** Criteria set for a country to join the EU:
- democracy and rule of law
  - functioning market economy
  - ability to implement EU laws
- 1998** Formal negotiations on enlargement begin
- 2002** Copenhagen summit agrees to a big enlargement of 10 new countries
- 2004** Ten new EU members: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
- 2007** Bulgaria and Romania join the EU
- 2013** Croatia joins on 1 July



# Candidate countries and potential candidates



Country	Area (x 1000 km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (millions)	Wealth (gross domestic product per person)
Bosnia and Herzegovina	51	3.8	7 600
Montenegro	14	0.6	10 900
Kosovo under UN Security Resolution 1244	11	1.8	:
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	25	2.1	9 100
Albania	28	2.9	7 500
Serbia	77	7.2	9 100
Turkey	783	76.7	13 800
The 28 EU countries together	4 272	507.4	25 700



- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 1952 | The European Coal and Steel Community  |
| 1958 | The treaties of Rome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The European Economic Community</li><li>• The European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)</li></ul> |
| 1987 | The European Single Act: the Single Market   |
| 1993 | Treaty on European Union - Maastricht  |
| 1999 | Treaty of Amsterdam  |
| 2003 | Treaty of Nice   |
| 2009 | Treaty of Lisbon   |



# The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights



Binding for all the EU's activities  
54 articles under 6 titles:

**Dignity**



**Freedom**



**Equality**



**Solidarity**



**Citizens' rights**

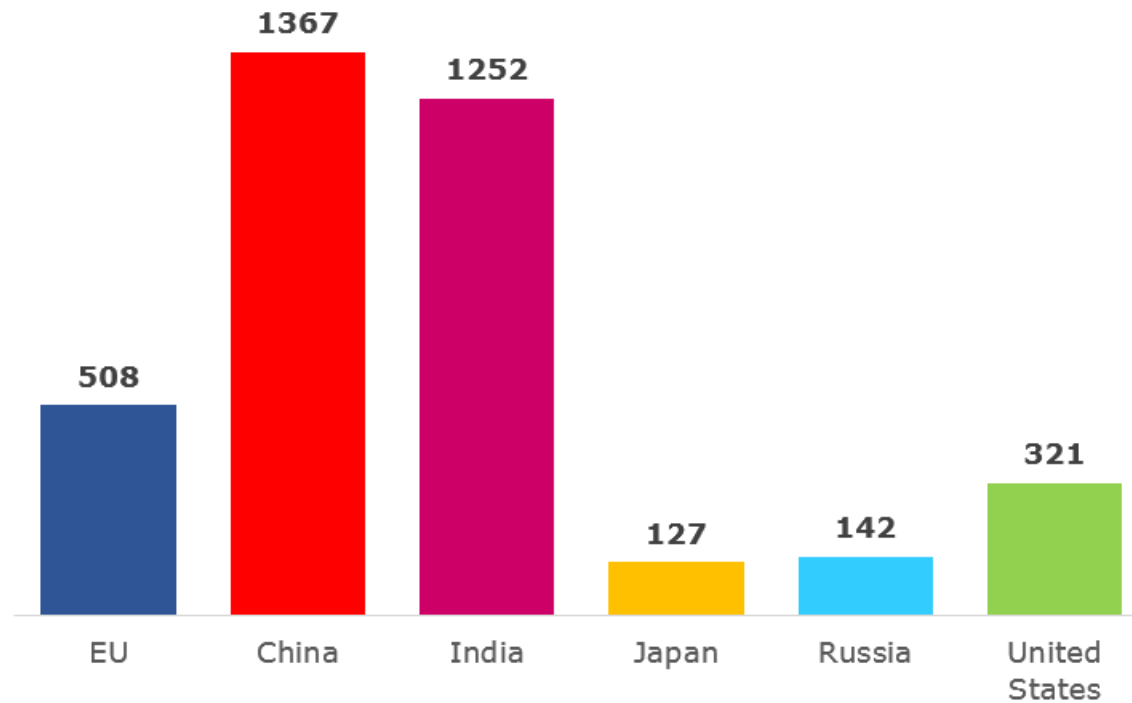


**Justice**





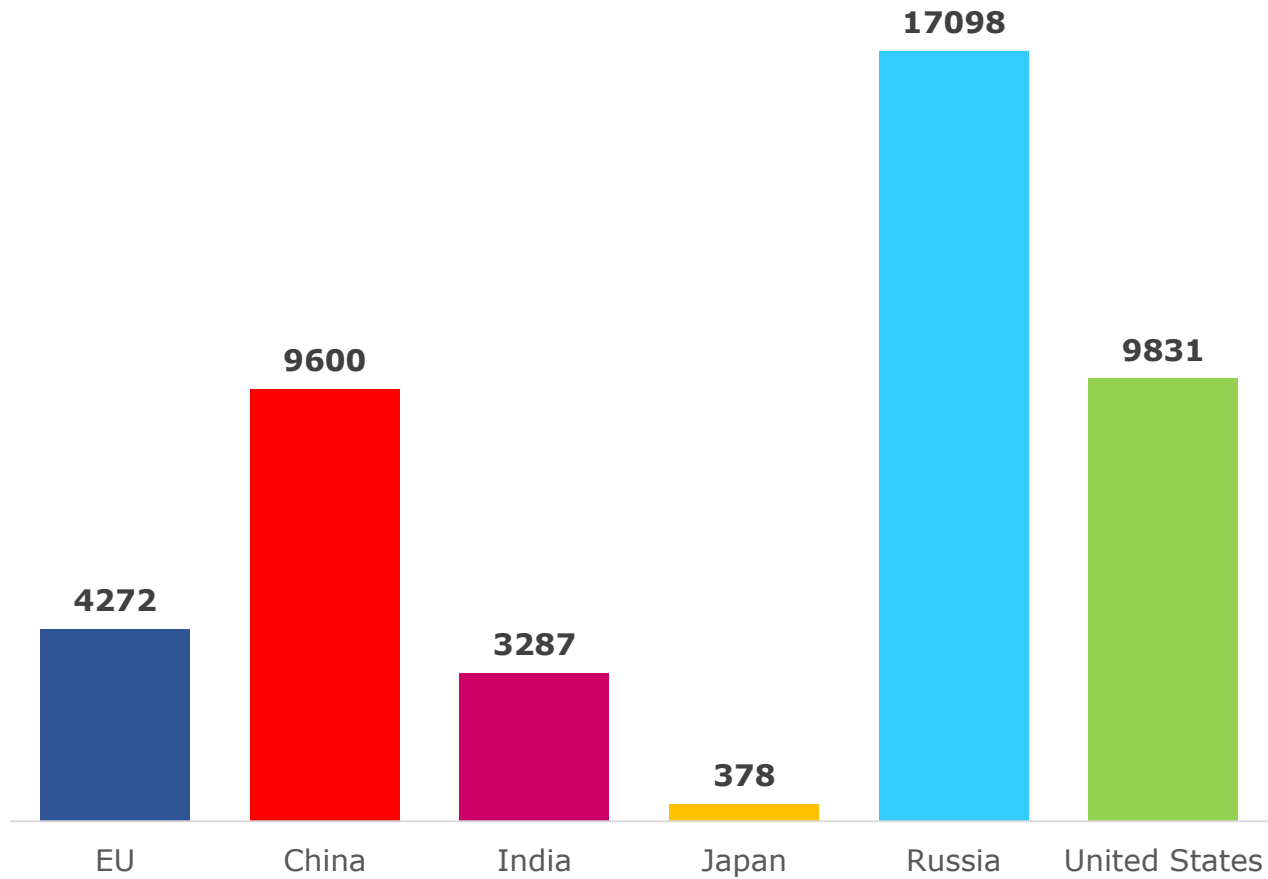
## Population in millions (2015)



# EU surface area compared to the rest of the world



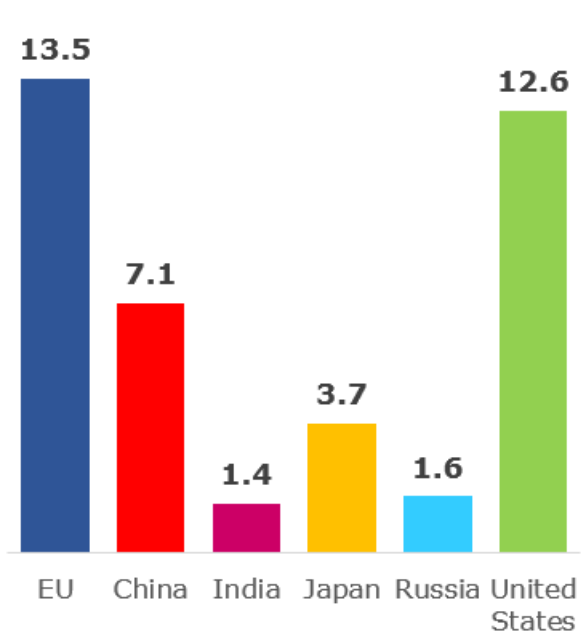
Surface area (x 1000 km<sup>2</sup>)



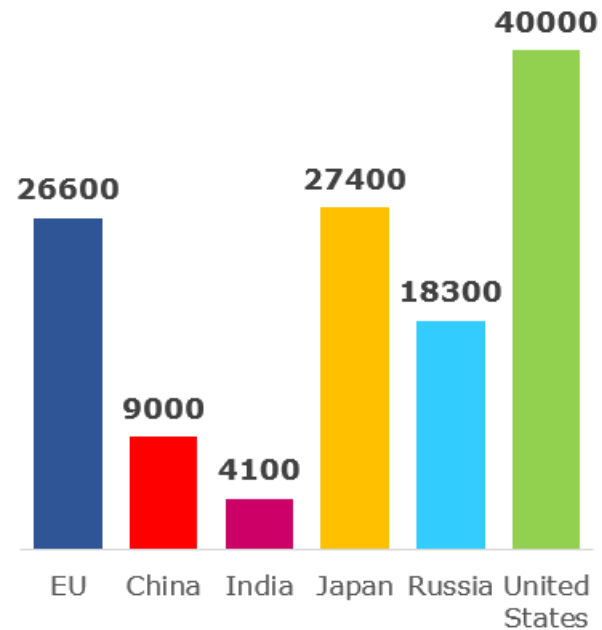
# How rich is the EU compared to the rest of the world?



Size of economy:  
GDP in trillions of euro (2013)



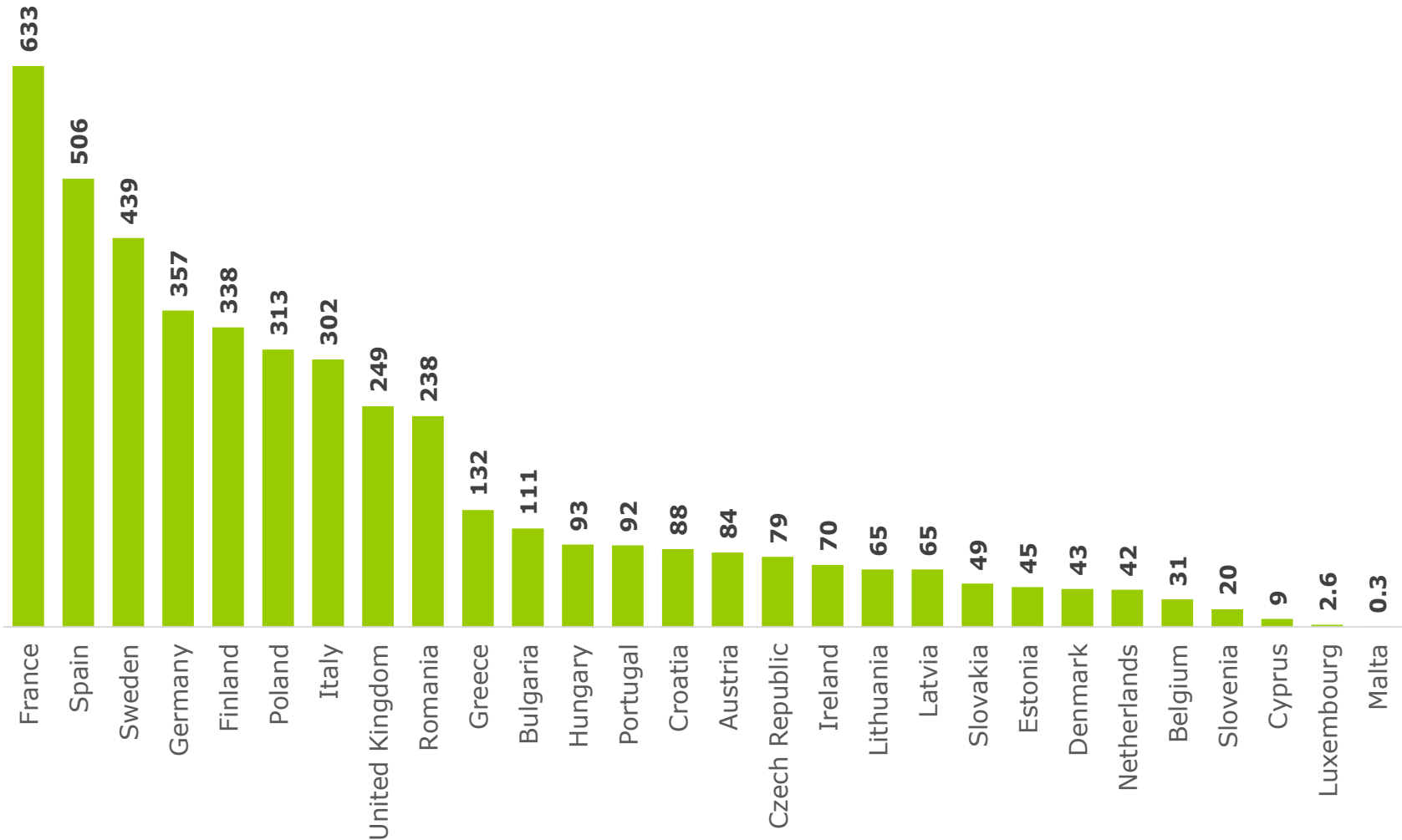
Wealth per person:  
GDP per person (2013)



# How big are the EU countries?



Surface area (x 1000 km<sup>2</sup>)



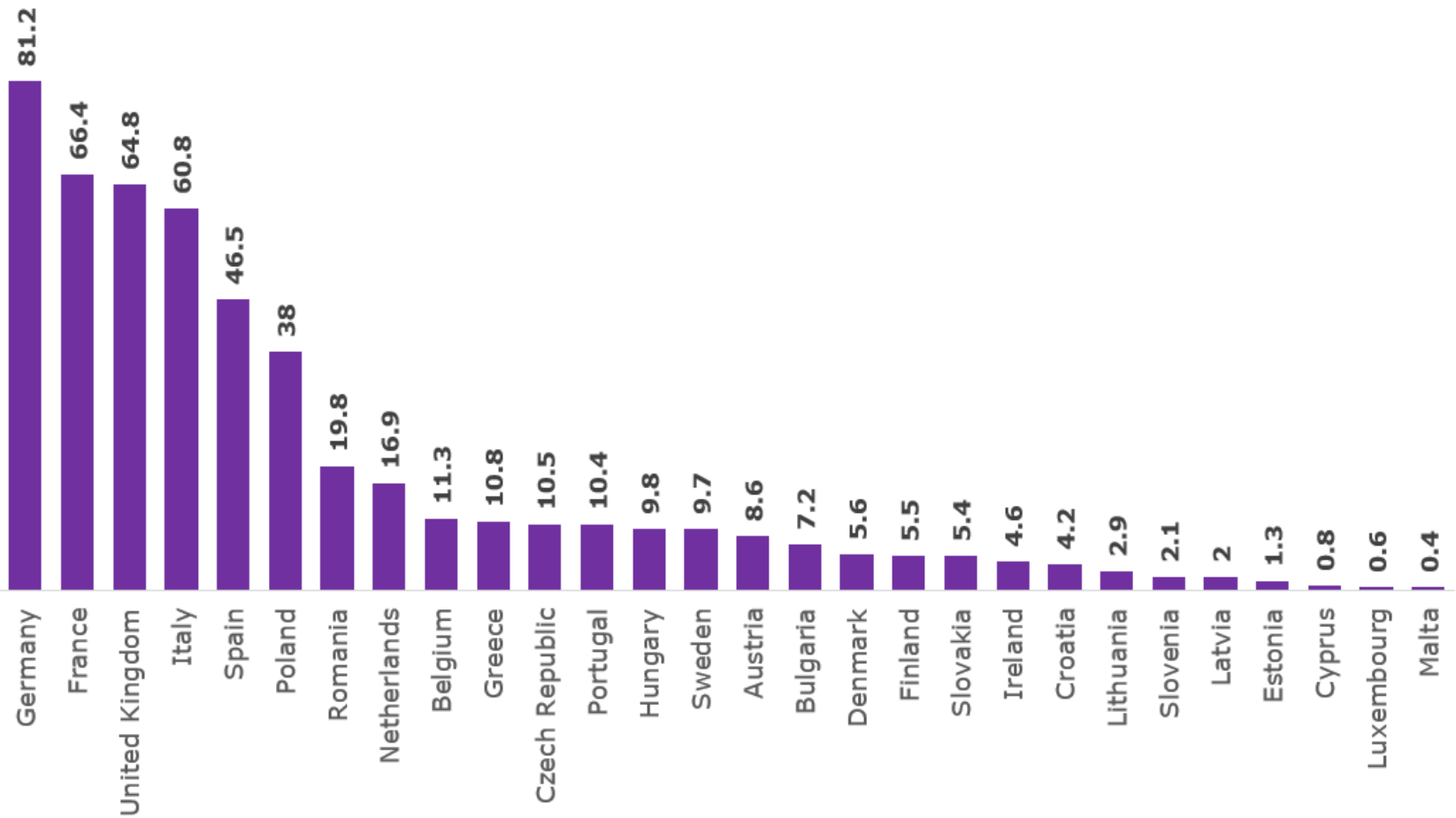


# How many people live in the EU?



Population in millions (2015)

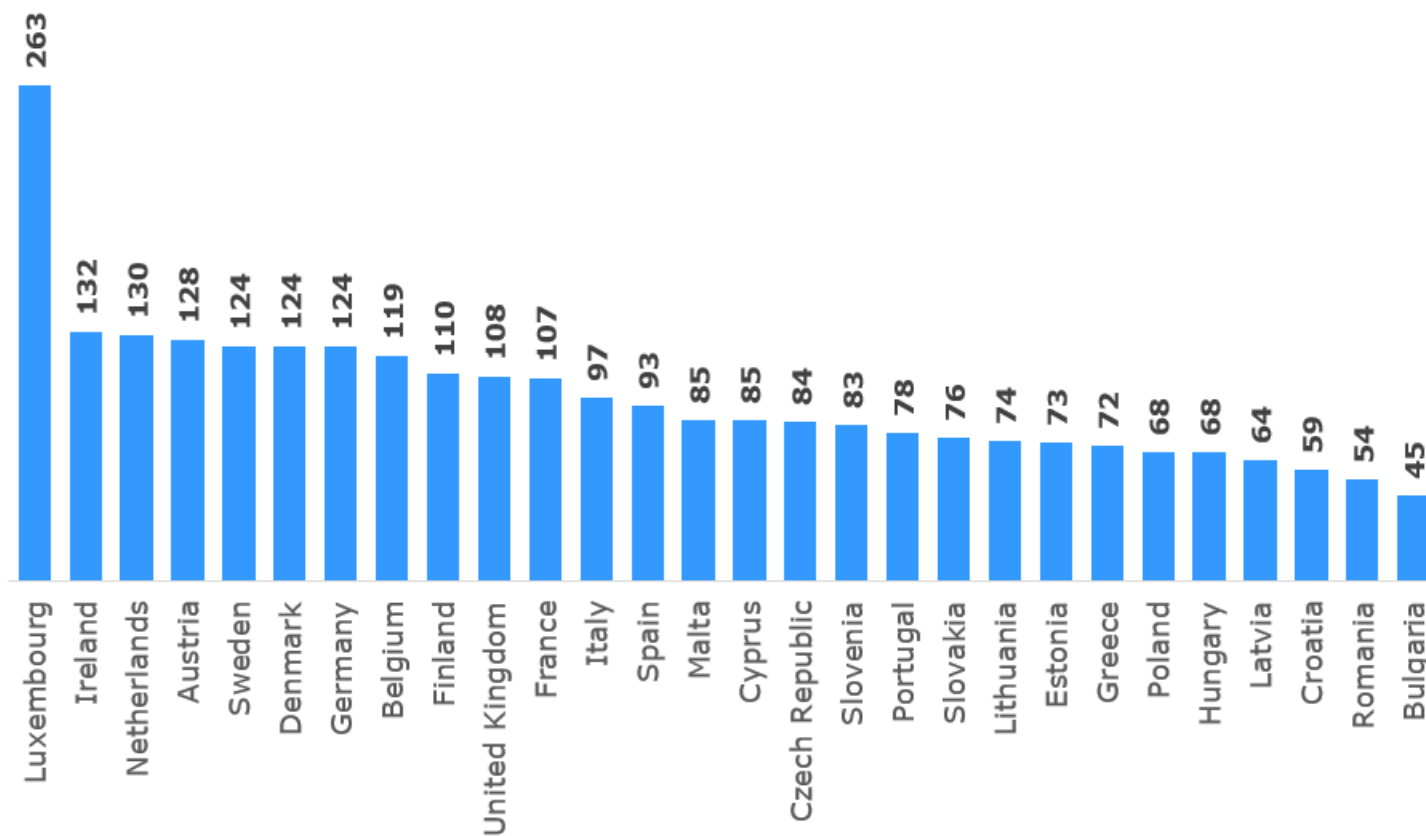
508 million in total





## GDP per inhabitant (2014)

Index where the average of the 28 EU countries is 100





2008: Worldwide financial crisis starts in the United States.  
Coordinated response from European leaders:

- **Commitment to the euro and to financial stability**
- **New crisis management tools and reforms of rules:**

European Stability Mechanism: fund to help countries in extraordinary economic difficulties

New laws for stability of banks

Banking Union: EU-wide supervision of banks and a mechanism to close down failing banks

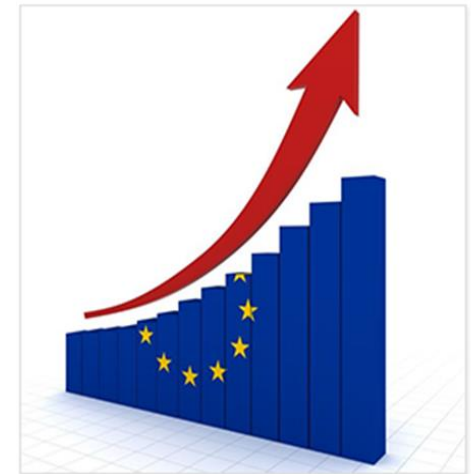
- **Better economic governance:**

European Semester: annual procedure to coordinate public budgets

Euro+ pact, 'Fiscal compact treaty': mutual commitments to sound public finances

In 2015, the European Commission of President Jean-Claude Juncker focuses on:

1. The investment plan: a new boost for jobs, growth and investment
2. A connected digital single market
3. A resilient energy union with a forward-looking climate change policy
4. A deeper and fairer internal market with stronger industries
5. A deeper and fairer economic and monetary union
6. A reasonable and balanced free trade agreement with the United States
7. An area of justice and fundamental rights based on mutual trust
8. A new policy on migration
9. Europe as a stronger global actor
10. A European Union of democratic change



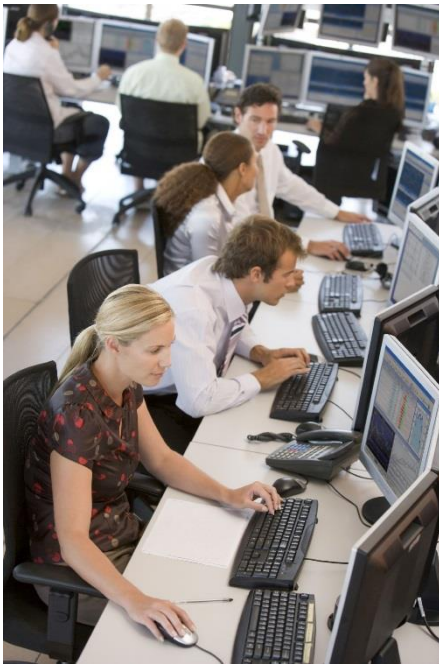


## The European Fund for Strategic Investments

- 2015: Europe's economy begins to recover after the crisis, but the level of investment is still low. Investors have money, but little confidence
- New EU fund from mid-2015
- The fund starts with € 21 billion from EU sources
- Investments are made in viable business projects, for example in digital and energy infrastructure, transport, small businesses, green projects and innovation
- Multiplier effect: public money will trigger private investors to follow suit, with up to € 315 billion
- Could create 1.3 million new jobs over three years



## The EU's response to the financial crisis:



- **Rulebook:**

New laws to ensure that banks have adequate capital and better risk control

- **Supervision:**

The European Central Bank supervises the +/- 130 of the most important banks

National bank supervisors work closely together

- **Resolution:**

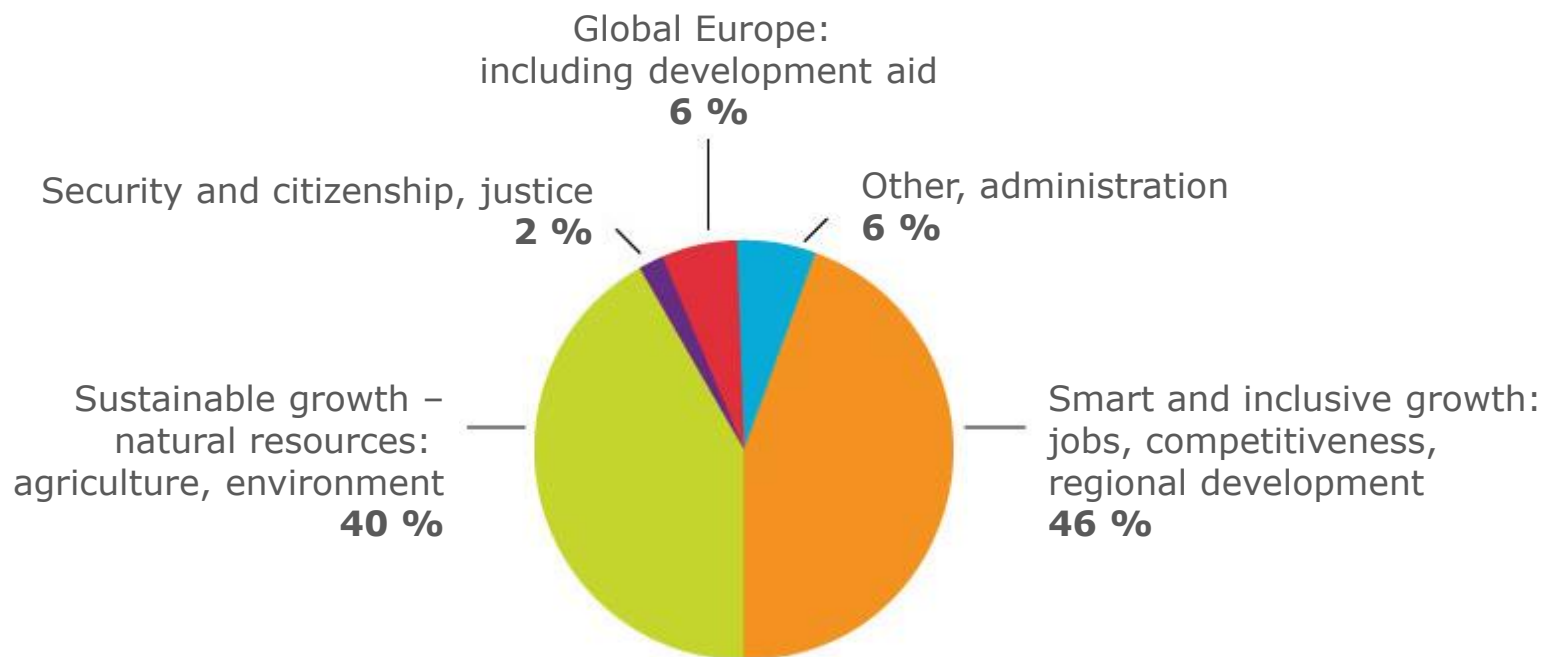
A Europe-wide Single Resolution Board can decide to wind down a failing bank

This is backed by a fund that banks themselves pay into, thus ensuring that taxpayers do not have to pick up the bill.

# How does the EU spend its money?



2015 EU budget: € 145.3 billion  
= 1.02 % of gross national income



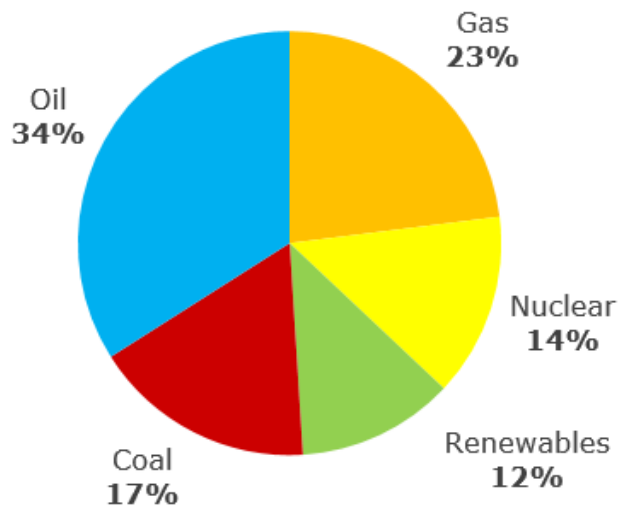
To stop global warming, EU leaders decided in 2014 to:

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 % by 2030, compared to 1990
- raise the share of renewable energy to 27 % by 2030 (wind, solar, hydro power, biomass)
- increase energy efficiency by 27 % by 2030

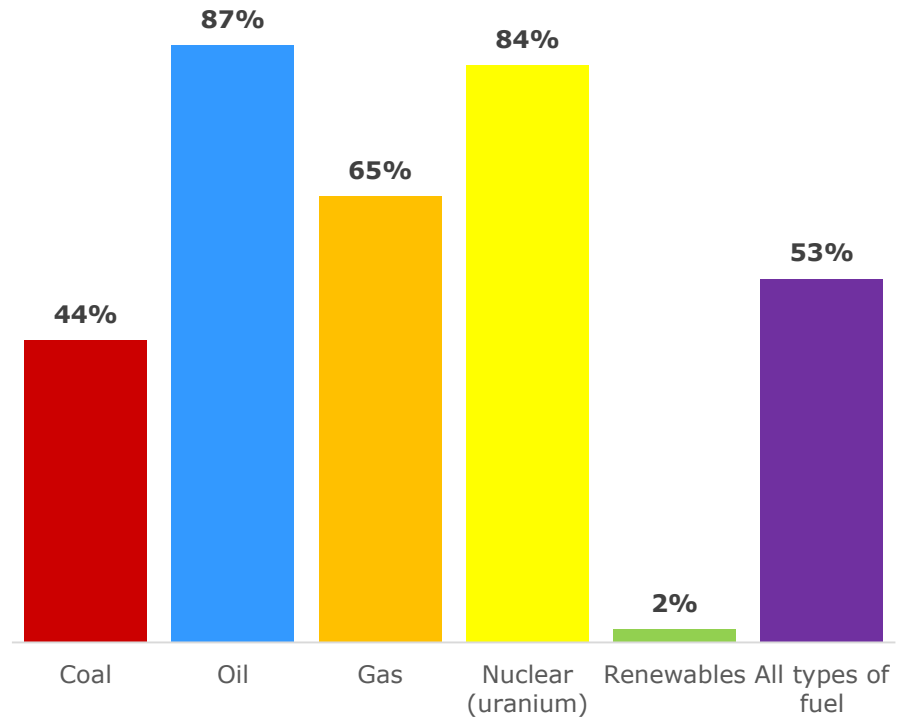




Fuel used in the EU  
in 2013

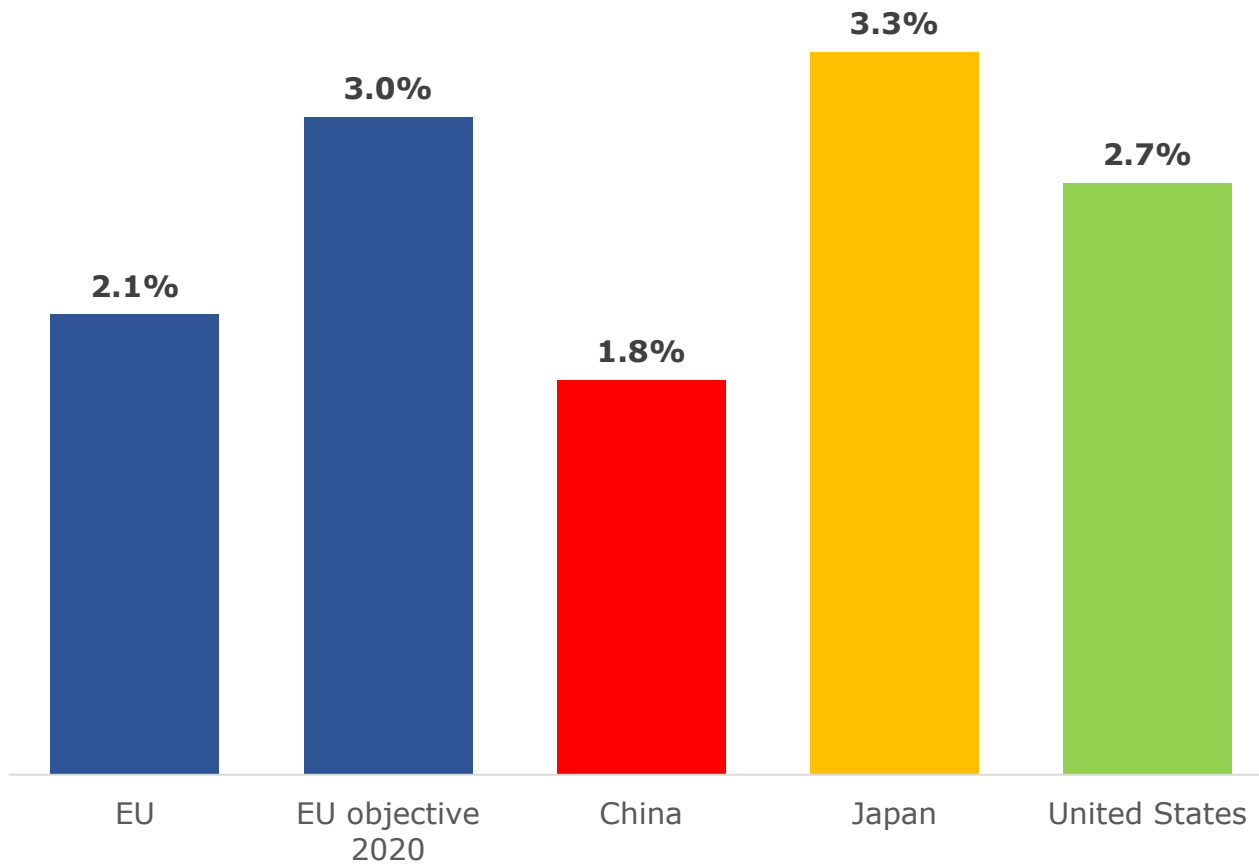


Share of fuel imported from  
outside the EU in 2013





## Spending on research and development in 2012 (% of GDP)

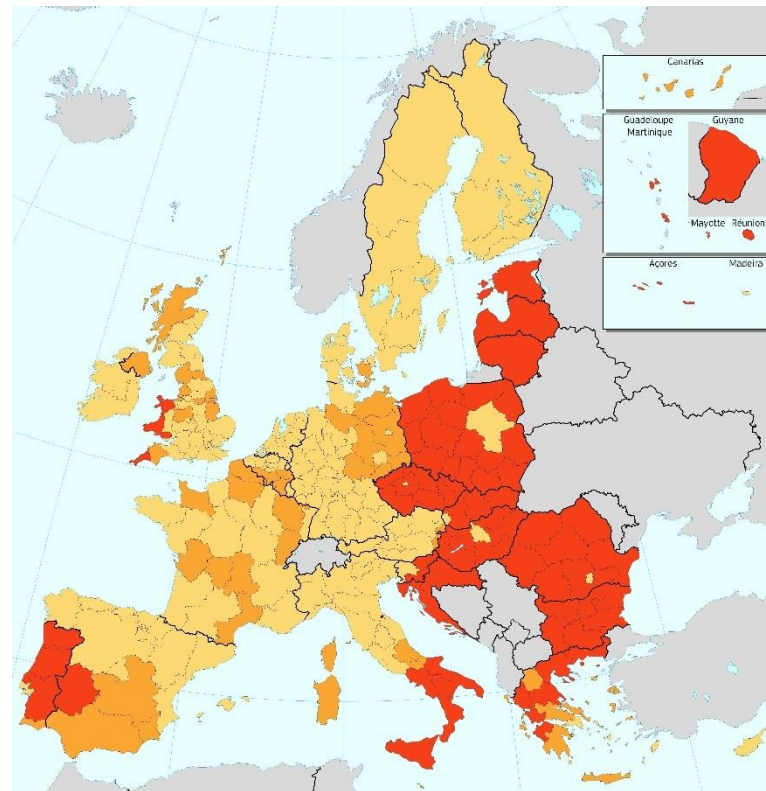




2014-2020: € 352 billion invested in infrastructure, business, environment and training of workers for the benefit of poorer regions and citizens

- Regional fund
- Social fund
- Cohesion fund

- Less-developed regions: GDP per capita under 75 % of the EU average
- Transition regions: GDP per capita between 75 % and 90 % of the EU average
- More-developed regions: GDP per capita over 90 % of the EU average



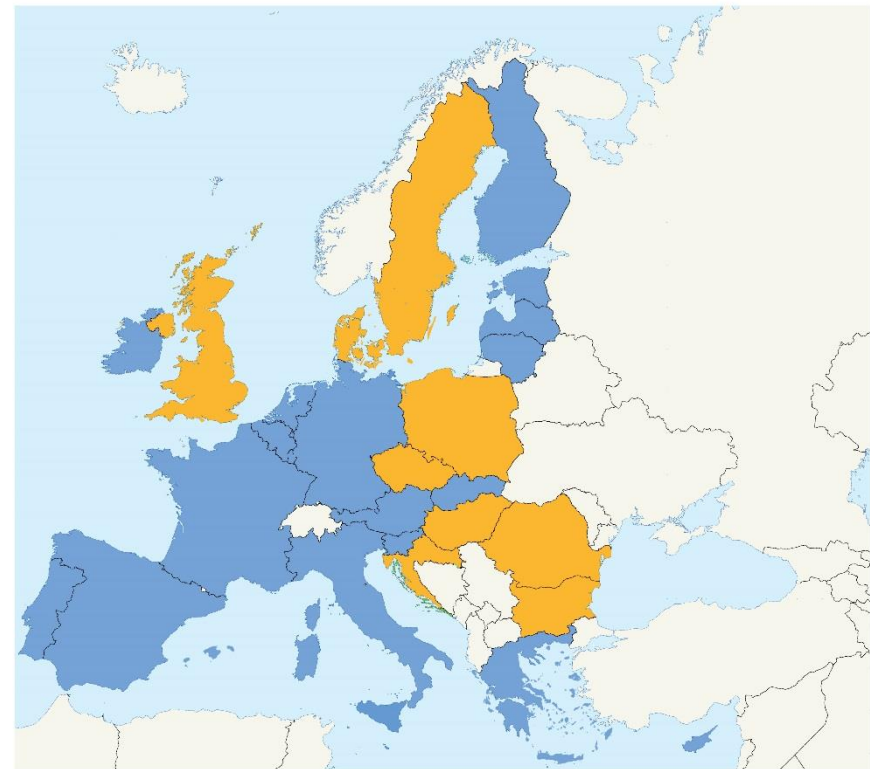


## Why the euro?

- No fluctuation risk and foreign exchange cost
- More choice and stable prices for consumers
- Closer economic cooperation between EU countries

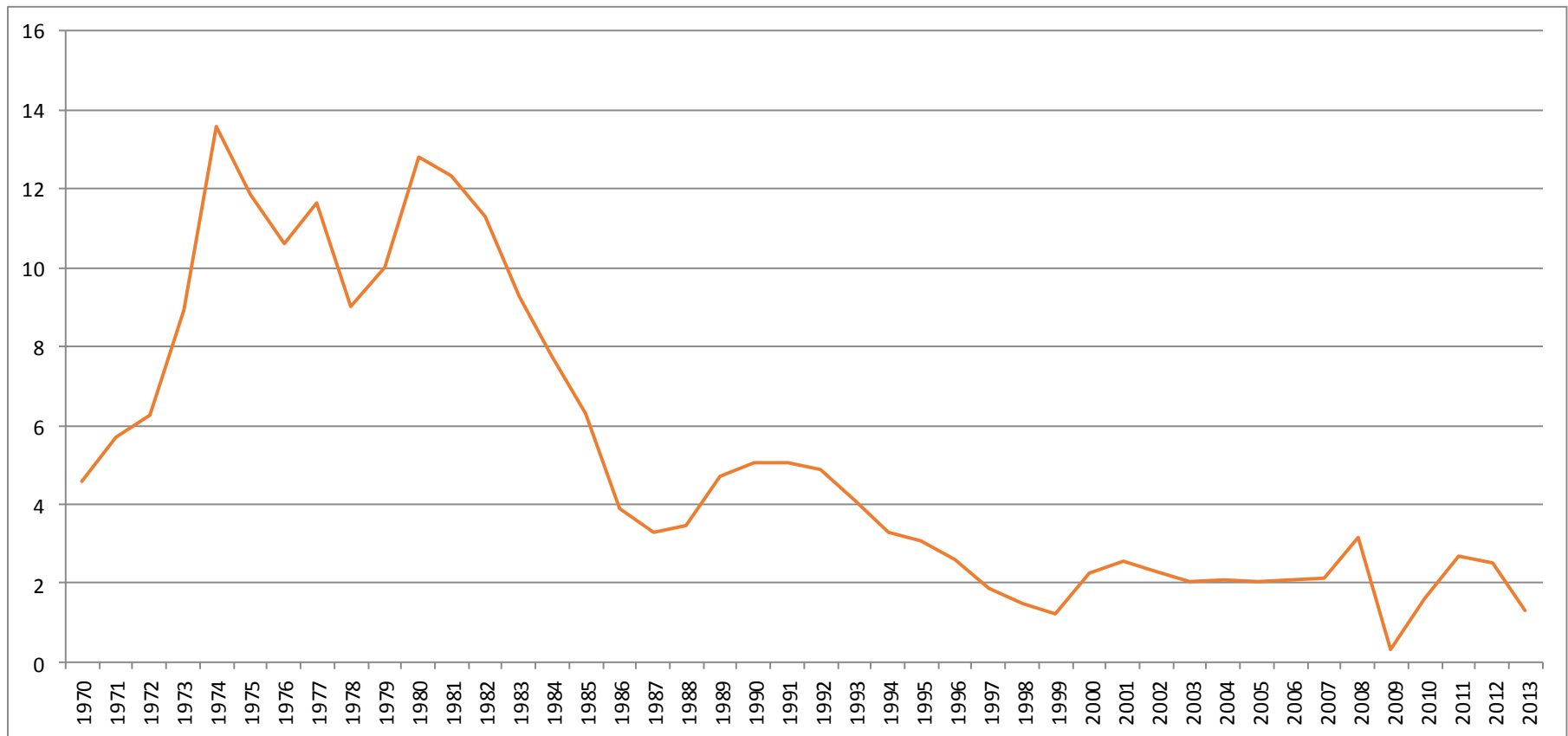
## Can be used everywhere in the euro area

- Coins: one side with national symbols, one side common
- Notes: no national side



- EU countries using the euro
- EU countries not using the euro

## European Economic and Monetary Union: stable prices



Average annual inflation in the 18 EU countries using the euro (2013)



## Four freedoms of movement:

- goods
- services
- people
- capital

## The single market has led to:

- significant reductions in the price of many products and services, including airfares and phone calls
- more choice for consumers
- 2.8 million new jobs

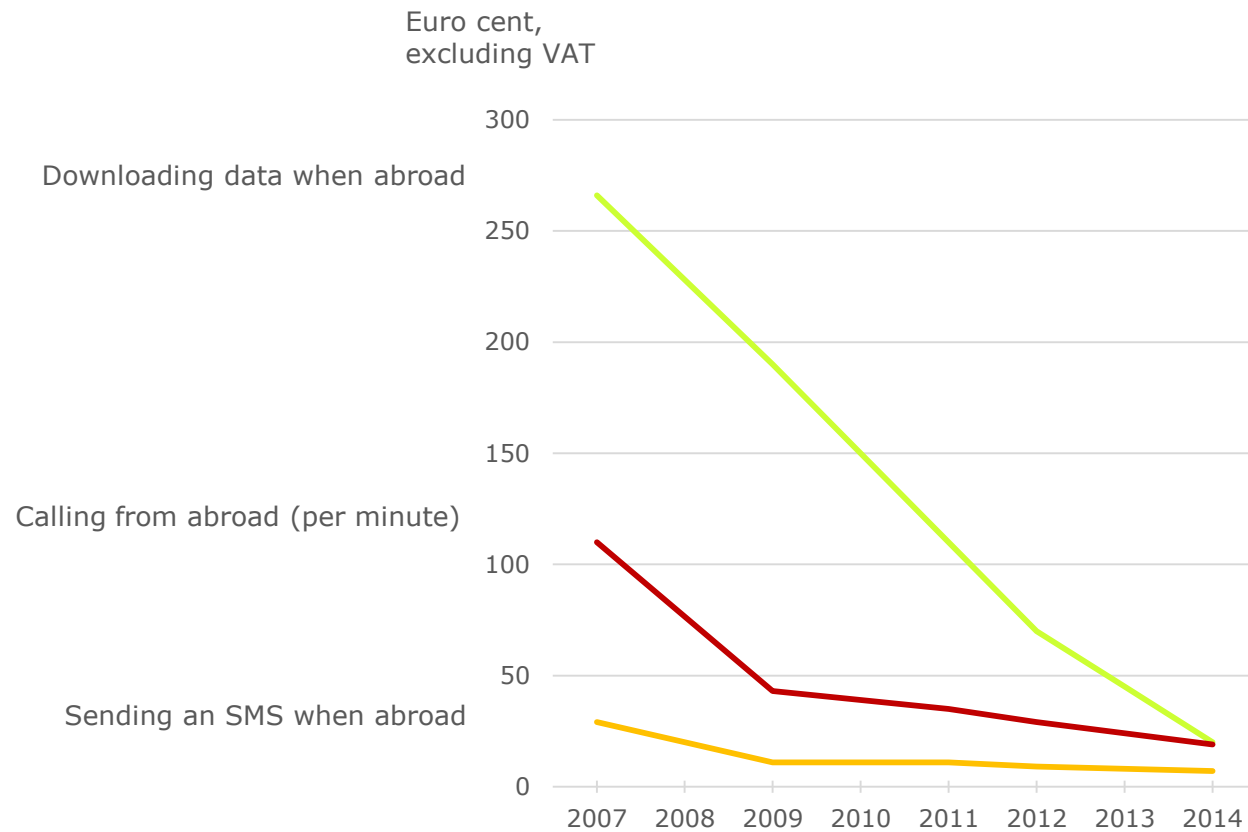
## 'Schengen'

- No police or customs checks at borders between most EU countries
- Controls strengthened at the EU's external borders
- More cooperation between police from different EU countries
- Buy and bring back any goods for personal use when you travel between EU countries





The EU has reduced the cost of phone calls, text messaging and data roaming abroad by over 80 % since 2007



## Erasmus+

Every year, more than 400 000 young people study or pursue personal development in other European countries with the support of the EU's Erasmus+ programme for education, training, youth and sport.



## Pollution knows no borders – joint action needed



EU action has helped bring about:

- cleaner bathing water
- much less acid rain
- lead-free petrol
- easy and safe disposal of old electronic equipment
- strict rules on food safety from farm to fork
- more organic and quality farming
- more effective health warnings on cigarettes
- registration and control of all chemicals (REACH)



- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Joint fight against terrorism
- Cooperation between police and law-enforcers in different EU countries
- Coordinated asylum and immigration policies
- Civil law cooperation

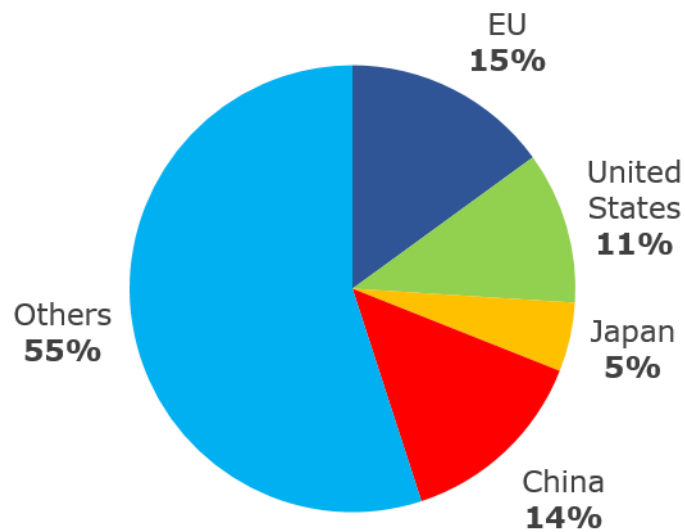


- World trade rules
- Common foreign and security policy
- Development assistance and humanitarian aid

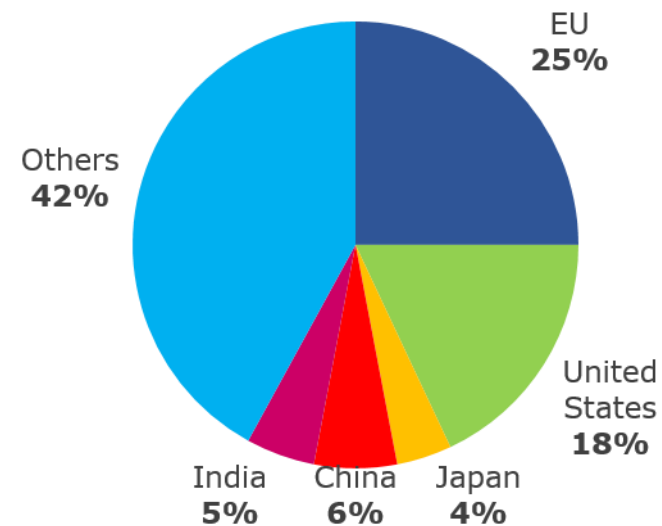
# The EU – a major trading power



% of global exports  
goods  
(2012)



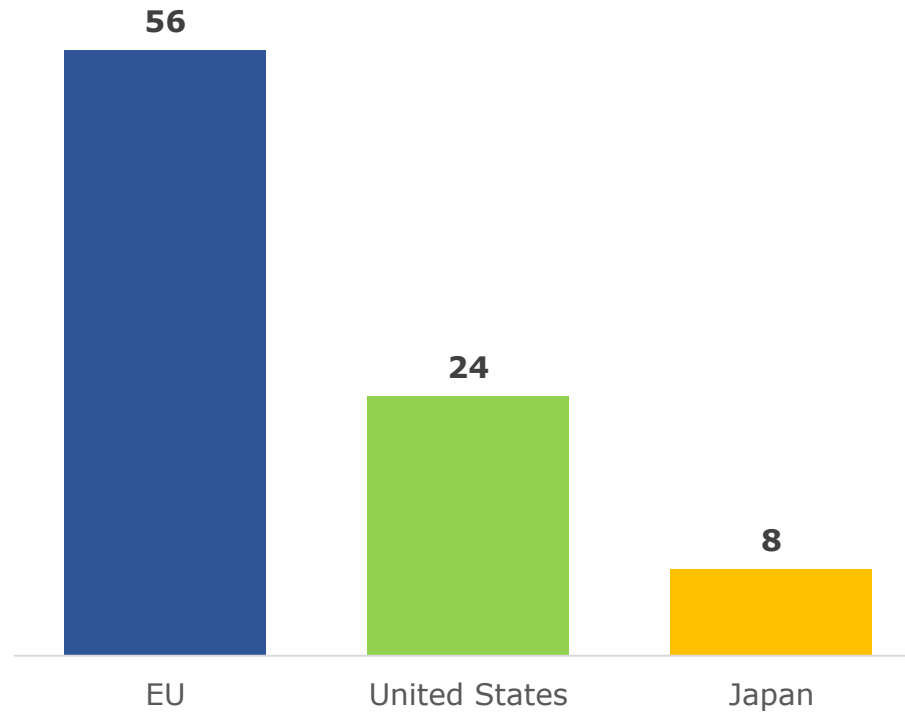
% of global exports  
services  
(2012)



# The EU is the biggest provider of development aid in the world



The EU provides over half of all development aid



Official development aid, billion € (2013)

As a consumer you are protected by basic laws all over the EU, even when you travel or shop online

- Clear labelling
- Health and safety standards
- Unfair practice in contracts prohibited
- Passengers' rights, such as compensation for long delays
- Help to resolve problems





## The gender pay gap:

Women in the EU earn on average 16.4 % less per hour than men.





## **The European Parliament**

**- voice of the people**

Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament



## **The European Council and the Council**

**- voice of the Member States**

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council



## **The European Commission**

**- promoting the common interest**

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission

# The EU institutions



# How EU laws are made





Decides EU laws and budget together with the Council of Ministers  
Democratic supervision of all the EU's work

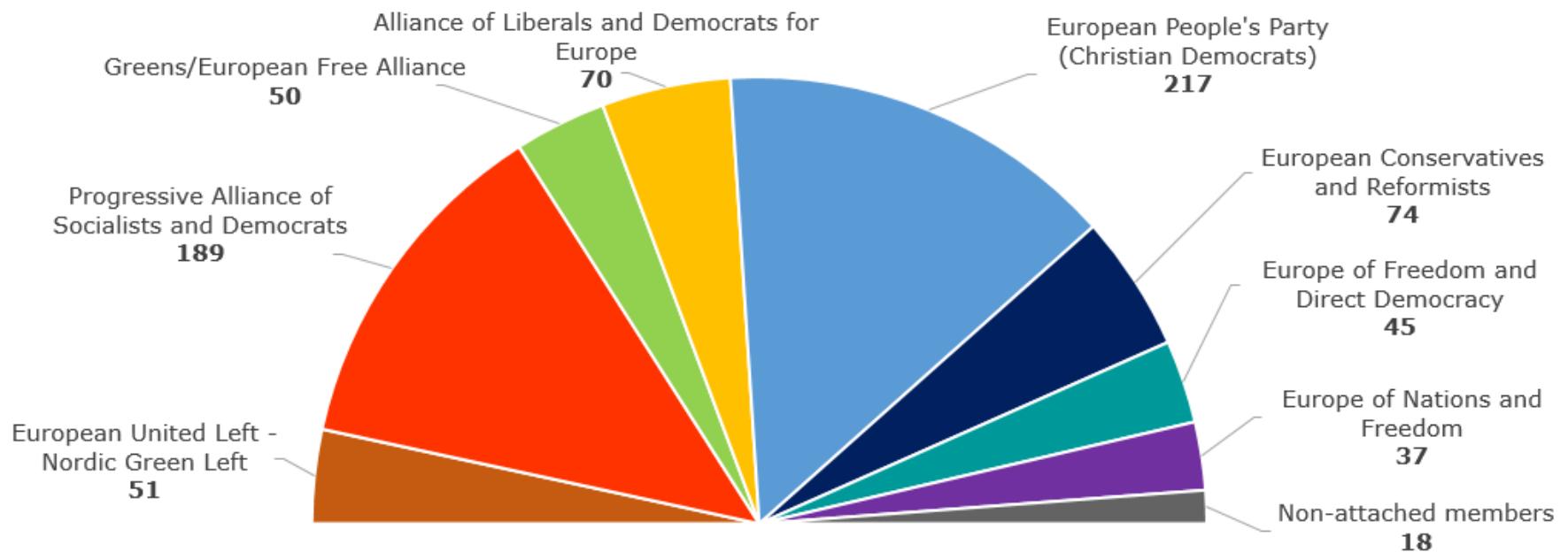
Number of members elected in each country

Austria - <b>18</b>	Germany - <b>96</b>	Netherlands - <b>26</b>
Belgium - <b>21</b>	Greece - <b>21</b>	Poland - <b>51</b>
Bulgaria - <b>17</b>	Hungary - <b>21</b>	Portugal - <b>21</b>
Croatia - <b>11</b>	Ireland - <b>11</b>	Romania - <b>32</b>
Cyprus - <b>6</b>	Italy - <b>73</b>	Slovakia - <b>13</b>
Czech Republic - <b>21</b>	Latvia - <b>8</b>	Slovenia - <b>8</b>
Denmark - <b>13</b>	Lithuania - <b>11</b>	Spain - <b>54</b>
Estonia - <b>6</b>	Luxembourg - <b>6</b>	Sweden - <b>20</b>
Finland - <b>13</b>	Malta - <b>6</b>	United Kingdom - <b>73</b>
France - <b>74</b>		

Total - **751**



## Number of seats in the European Parliament per political group (July 2015)



Total: **751**



- One minister from each EU country
- Presidency: rotates every six months
- Decides EU laws and budget together with Parliament
- Manages the common foreign and security policy





Most decisions in the Council are taken by '**double majority**'.

A decision must have the support of at least:

- 55 % of Member States (16 countries)
- Member States that represent 65 % of the EU's population





## Summit of heads of state and government of all EU countries

- Held at least 4 times a year
- Sets the overall guidelines for EU policies
- President: Donald Tusk



## Federica Mogherini

- Double role:
  - chairs meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council
  - Vice-President of the European Commission
- Manages the common foreign affairs and security policy
- Head of the European External Action Service





28 independent members, one from each EU country

- Proposes new legislation
- Executive organ
- Guardian of the treaties
- Represents the EU on the international stage



28 independent judges, one from each EU country

- Rules on how to interpret EU law
- Ensures EU countries apply EU laws in the same way



## Emily O'Reilly **The European Ombudsman**

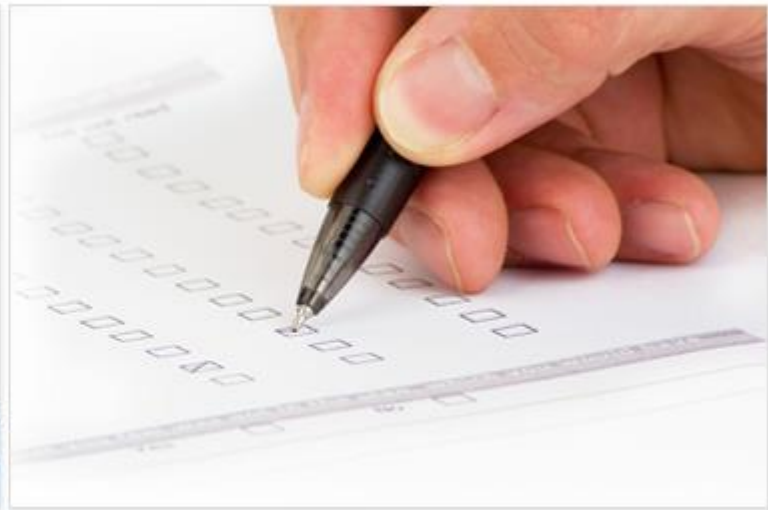
- Investigates complaints about poor or failed administration by the EU institutions
- For example: unfairness, discrimination, abuse of power, unnecessary delay, failure to reply or incorrect procedures
- Anyone in the EU can make a complaint





## 28 independent members

- Checks that EU funds are used properly
- Can audit any person or organisation dealing with EU funds





## Mario Draghi

**President of the Central Bank**

- Ensures price stability
- Controls money supply and decides interest rates
- Supervises that banks are safe
- Works independently from governments



## 353 members

- Represents trade unions, employers, farmers, consumers and so on
- Advises on new EU laws and policies
- Promotes the involvement of civil society in EU matters







## 353 members

- Represents cities and regions
- Advises on new EU laws and policies
- Promotes the involvement of local government in EU matters



The Commission employs about 23 000 permanent civil servants and 11 000 temporary or contract workers

Other EU institutions employ about 10 000 staff

- Permanent civil servants
- Selected by open competitions
- Come from all EU countries
- Salaries decided by law
- EU administration costs €15 per EU citizen per year
- EU staff will be reduced by 5% between 2013 and 2017



Questions about the EU? Europe Direct can help



- By phone, email or webchat
- Over 500 regional information centres

***[europa.eu/europedirect](http://europa.eu/europedirect)***