



# THE EUROPEAN UNION

Facts and figures



Council of the  
European Union

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# THE EUROPEAN UNION

Facts and figures

Founding member states,  
1957 (Treaty of Rome):

Belgium  
Germany  
France  
Italy  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands

1973:

+ Denmark  
Ireland  
United  
Kingdom

1995:

+ Austria  
Finland  
Sweden

2004:

+ Czech Republic  
Estonia  
Cyprus  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Hungary  
Malta  
Poland  
Slovenia  
Slovakia



1981:

+ Greece



1986:

+ Spain  
Portugal



2007:

+ Bulgaria  
Romania



2013:

+ Croatia

# EUROPEAN UNION



The European Union

The 28 member states of the EU: *see page 15*

**Europe Day:** 9 May (in celebration of the Schuman Declaration, 1950)

**Open Day:** in May every year the EU institutions open their doors to the public.

## The European institutions



The **European Parliament** represents the European Union's citizens and is composed of 751 members of parliament elected by direct universal suffrage every 5 years. The latest elections were held in May 2014. Together with the Council of the European Union, the Parliament adopts laws proposed by the European Commission, and also adopts the European Union budget. In addition, the European Parliament acts as a means of democratic scrutiny. Its headquarters are in Strasbourg, but it also works in Brussels and Luxembourg.

[www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)

The **European Council** brings together the heads of state or government of the 28 EU member states, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy also takes part in European Council meetings when foreign affairs issues are discussed. The President is elected by the European Council for a term of two and a half years, which is renewable once. The European Council defines the EU's overall political direction and priorities. It does not exercise any legislative function. The headquarters of the European Council are in Brussels.

[www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

The **Council of the European Union** (or the **Council**) is made up of ministers from the member states and meets in different formations according to the subjects on the agenda (foreign affairs, finance, transport, agriculture, etc.).

The Council negotiates and adopts EU laws and the EU budget, together with the European Parliament. It coordinates member states' policies, for example in the economic field, develops the common foreign and security policy and concludes international agreements.

The Council can decide by simple majority voting (at least 15 members in favour), qualified majority voting or unanimity (all 28 members in favour or abstaining).

In qualified majority voting the size of each member state's population is also reflected. A qualified majority is reached if the following two conditions are met:

- 55 % of the member states (i.e. 16 members) vote in favour, and
- they represent at least 65 % of the total EU population.

In addition, any blocking minority must include at least four Council members representing at least 35 % of the EU population.

A voting calculator is available on the Council's website:  
[www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu) > The Council of the EU > Voting system.

The Council deliberates in public when examining and voting on draft legislative acts. You can follow the debates live on the Council's website. Member states take it in turns to chair the Council for a period of 6 months. The headquarters of the Council are in Brussels.

[www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

The **European Commission** is made up of 28 commissioners, one from each member state. It is the EU's politically independent executive arm. The commissioners defend the general interests of the European Union and not the specific interests of their own countries. The Commission proposes laws to the European Parliament and the Council, executes their decisions, implements policies and the EU budget, negotiates international agreements, and together with the Court of Justice ensures that EU law is properly applied in all the member states. The headquarters of the Commission are in Brussels.

[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

The **Court of Justice of the European Union** comprises two courts: the Court of Justice and the General Court. The Court of Justice has one judge from each member state. It reviews the legality of acts of the EU institutions and ensures that member states comply with the treaties. It also interprets EU law at the request of national judges, and ensures its uniform application in the member states. The General Court is made up of at least one judge per member state (from 1 September 2019 two

judges per member state). It handles, for example, cases brought by companies or individuals directly affected by acts of the EU institutions. The headquarters of the Court of Justice of the European Union are in Luxembourg.

[curia.europa.eu](http://curia.europa.eu)

The **European Central Bank** defines and implements monetary policy in the euro area countries. The main task of the European Central Bank, together with the national central banks, is to maintain price stability in the euro area and thus to protect purchasing power. The euro area comprises the 19 European Union countries that have introduced the euro as their currency. The European Central Bank has the right to issue euro bank notes, but in practice only the national central banks of the euro area issue bank notes and coins. The headquarters of the European Central Bank are in Frankfurt am Main.

[www.ecb.europa.eu](http://www.ecb.europa.eu)

The **European Court of Auditors** audits the Union's finances. It checks that the budget of the European Union has been implemented correctly, and that EU funds have been raised and spent legally and in accordance with the principles of sound financial management. The Court of Auditors consists of one member from each member state, nominated by their national governments and appointed by the Council. The members are

independent and take no instructions from their home countries. The Court's headquarters are in Luxembourg.

[www.eca.europa.eu](http://www.eca.europa.eu)

## Other EU bodies

The **European Economic and Social Committee** is a consultative body of the European Union. The committee enables civil society organisations from the member states to express their views at European level. Its opinions are forwarded to the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The committee has 350 members drawn from economic and social interest groups in Europe. The members are nominated by national governments and appointed by the Council. The committee's headquarters are in Brussels.

[www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

The **European Committee of the Regions** is the voice of the regions and cities in the European Union. It is a consultative body of the European Union and allows regions, cities and municipalities to express their views at European level. Its opinions are forwarded to the Council, the European Commission and the European Parliament. The committee's 350 members are regionally and locally elected representatives from all EU member states. They are nominated by national governments and appointed by the Council. The headquarters of the committee are in Brussels.

[www.cor.europa.eu](http://www.cor.europa.eu)

The **European External Action Service** (EEAS) is the Union's diplomatic service. Its role is to make sure that the European Union's voice is heard in the world. It is headed by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, who is also a vice-president of the European Commission and chairs the Foreign Affairs Council. The Union's action on the international scene seeks to promote human rights, development, humanitarian aid, trade and the work of multilateral organisations. The headquarters of the EEAS are in Brussels but it also works worldwide through its 139 delegations.

[www.eeas.europa.eu](http://www.eeas.europa.eu)

The **European Ombudsman** investigates complaints about maladministration in the institutions and bodies of the European Union. If you are a citizen of a member state of the Union or reside in a member state, you can make a complaint to the ombudsman. Businesses, associations or other bodies with a registered office in the Union may also complain to the ombudsman. The headquarters of the ombudsman are in Strasbourg.

[www.ombudsman.europa.eu](http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu)

The **European Data Protection Supervisor** is a supervisory authority with the objective of ensuring that the European institutions and bodies respect the right to privacy when they process personal data and develop new policies and legislation. This is done by monitoring the EU administration's processing of personal data, advising on policies and legislation that affect

privacy, and cooperating with similar authorities around Europe to ensure consistent data protection. The headquarters of the supervisor are in Brussels.

[www.edps.europa.eu](http://www.edps.europa.eu)

The **European Anti-Fraud Office** (or OLAF) investigates fraud in connection with the European Union budget, corruption and serious misconduct within the European institutions, and develops anti-fraud policy for the European Commission. OLAF also funds technical assistance and training for national and regional administrations, universities, research centres and organisations. The office's headquarters are in Brussels.

[www.ec.europa.eu/anti\\_fraud](http://www.ec.europa.eu/anti_fraud)

The **European Investment Bank** is the only bank owned by and representing the interests of the European Union member states. It works closely with other EU institutions to implement EU policy. The bank provides finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects which help to further EU policy objectives. Its main focus is on contributing to the development of the internal market, but it also supports the EU's external and development policies. The bank's headquarters are in Luxembourg.

[www.eib.europa.eu](http://www.eib.europa.eu)

**Area:** 4 413 652 km<sup>2</sup>

**Administrative cities of the EU:** Brussels, Luxembourg, Strasbourg

**Emergency telephone number:** 112

**EU internet suffix:** eu

**European Union portal:**  
[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)



**Studying in the EU:**

[www.ec.europa.eu/education](http://www.ec.europa.eu/education)

**Working in the EU:**

[www.ec.europa.eu/eures](http://www.ec.europa.eu/eures)

**Working for the EU:**

[www.epso.europa.eu](http://www.epso.europa.eu)

**Doing research in the EU:**

[www.cordis.europa.eu](http://www.cordis.europa.eu)

**EU publications:**

[www.bookshop.europa.eu](http://www.bookshop.europa.eu)

**EU statistics:**

[www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat](http://www.ec.europa.eu/eurostat)



**Population:**

509 million (2016)

**Population density:**

116.7/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**Average age:** 42.2 (2014)

**Voting age for European**

**Parliament elections:**

18 years (Austria: 16 years)

**GDP per capita in PPS\*:**

EUR 28 800 (2015)

**Total Extra-EU28 exports:**

1 581.2 billion (Jan-Nov 2016)

**Total Extra-EU28 imports:**

1 561.0 billion (Jan-Nov 2016)



\* GDP (gross domestic product) is an indicator of a nation's economic situation. It reflects the total value of all goods and services produced less the value of goods and services used for their production. Expressing GDP in PPS (purchasing power standards) eliminates differences in price levels between countries, and calculations on a per head basis allow the comparison of economies significantly different in terms of absolute size. Source: Eurostat.

## The 24 official languages of the EU\*

Bulgarian (bg)

Spanish (es)

Czech (cs)

Danish (da)

German (de)

Estonian (et)

Greek (el)

English (en)

French (fr)

Irish (ga)

Croatian (hr)

Italian (it)

Latvian (lv)

Lithuanian (lt)

Hungarian (hu)

Maltese (mt)

Dutch (nl)

Polish (pl)

Portuguese (pt)

Romanian (ro)

Slovak (sk)

Slovenian (sl)

Finnish (fi)

Swedish (sv)

\* Listed in the alphabetical order of the formal names of the languages, as written in each respective language.



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\* Listed in the alphabetical order of the names of the countries, as written in their respective languages.

\*\* Listed according to the date of each country's request for accession.

# BELGIUM

Capital: Brussels (population: 1.17 million — 2015)



Kingdom of Belgium

**Political system:** The bicameral parliament is made up of the *Chamber of Representatives* (150 members) and the *Senate* (60 senators, of whom 50 are appointed by the parliaments of the regions and communities, and 10 are co-opted by the senators). The members of the Chamber of Representatives are elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. The King is the head of state, but has no political powers. The Prime Minister is nominated by the King, but needs a vote of confidence by the parliament. Belgium is a federal state in which the federal entities, i.e. the regions and the communities, have a high level of autonomy.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.monarchie.be](http://www.monarchie.be)

**Government website:**

[www.premier.be](http://www.premier.be)

**Senate website:**

[www.senat.be](http://www.senat.be)

**House of Representatives website:** [www.lachambre.be](http://www.lachambre.be)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting compulsory

**National day:** 21 July  
(King Leopold I's accession  
to the throne — 1831)



**Citizens:** Belgians

**Average age:** 41.2 (2014)

**Official languages:**

German, French, Dutch

**Population:** 11.3 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
370.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 33 800 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002\*\*)

**Total exports:** EUR 358.9 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 338.2 billion (2015)



**Area:** 30 528 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities\*:**

Antwerp, Ghent, Charleroi,  
Liege, Bruges

**Country's internet suffix:** [.be](http://.be)

**International dialling code:** +32

**Country information:**

[www.belgium.be](http://www.belgium.be)



**Accession:** 1957 (founding  
member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 21

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.europeanunion.diplomatie.belgium.be](http://www.europeanunion.diplomatie.belgium.be)



\* The three to five most highly populated cities.

\*\* The year of cash changeover.

# BULGARIA

Capital: Sofia (population: 1.25 million — 2016)



Republic of Bulgaria

**Political system:** Bulgaria has a unicameral parliamentary system. The National Assembly (*Narodno sabranie*) has 240 members elected for 4 years. The head of state is the President of the Republic, directly elected by the people for a term of 5 years, renewable once. The main executive power lies with the Council of Ministers, the government, which is led by the Prime Minister.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.bg](http://www.president.bg)

**Government website:**

[www.government.bg](http://www.government.bg)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parliament.bg](http://www.parliament.bg)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 3 March

(independence from the Ottoman Empire — 1878)



**Citizens:** Bulgarians

**Average age:** 43.2 (2014)

**Official language:** Bulgarian

**Population:** 7.2 million (2016)

**Population density:**

66.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 13 600 (2015)

**Currency:** lev (BGN)

**Total exports:** EUR 23.2 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 26.4 billion (2015)



**Area:** 111 002 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Plovdiv,

Varna, Burgas, Ruse, Stara

Zagora

**Country's internet suffix:** .bg

**International dialling**

**code:** +359

**Country information:**

[www.bulgariatravel.org](http://www.bulgariatravel.org)



**Accession:** 2007

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 17

**Permanent Representation**

**to the European Union:**

[www.mfa.bg/embassies/belgiumpp](http://www.mfa.bg/embassies/belgiumpp)



# CZECH REPUBLIC

Capital: Prague (population: 1.26 million — 2015)



Czech Republic

**Political system:** The bicameral parliament is composed of the Chamber of Deputies (*Poslanecká sněmovna*), which has 200 members elected in general elections for 4 years, and the Senate (*Senát*), which has 81 senators, also elected by direct universal suffrage for a period of 6 years, with one third of the seats up for re-election every 2 years. The President of the Republic is the head of state, elected by direct universal suffrage for a term of 5 years, which may be renewed once. The President appoints the Prime Minister and the other ministers of the government, which exercises executive power.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)

**Government website:**

[www.vlada.cz](http://www.vlada.cz)

**Senate website:**

[www.senat.cz](http://www.senat.cz)

**Chamber of Deputies**

**website:** [www.psp.cz](http://www.psp.cz)

**Voting age:** 18, voting not compulsory

**National day:** 28 October  
(founding of the independent Czechoslovak state — 1918)



**Citizens:** Czechs

**Average age:** 40.8 (2014)

**Official language:** Czech

**Population:** 10.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

136.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 25 000 (2015)

**Currency:** koruna (CZK)

**Total exports:** EUR 142.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 126.6 billion (2015)



**Area:** 78 867 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Brno, Ostrava,  
Plzeň, Olomouc, Liberec

**Country's internet suffix:** .cz

**International dialling**

**code:** +420

**Country information:**

[www.czech.cz](http://www.czech.cz)

**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the**  
**European Parliament:** 21

**Permanent Representation**  
**to the European Union:**

[www.mzv.cz/representation\\_brussels/en](http://www.mzv.cz/representation_brussels/en)



# DENMARK

Capital: Copenhagen (population: 0.75 million — 2016)



Kingdom of Denmark

**Political system:** Denmark has a unicameral parliamentary system. The People's Assembly (*Folketinget*) is composed of 179 members elected in general elections for 4 years. The Queen is the head of state but she has no political powers. However, she appoints the Prime Minister, who has to be approved by the parliament. The two autonomous regions, Greenland and the Faroe Islands, are part of Denmark but not of the European Union.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.kongehuset.dk](http://www.kongehuset.dk)

**Government website:**

[www.stm.dk](http://www.stm.dk)

**Parliament website:**

[www.ft.dk](http://www.ft.dk)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 5 June

(signing of the Danish  
Constitution — 1849)



**Citizens:** Danes

**Average age:** 41.3 (2014)

**Official language:** Danish

**Population:** 5.6 million (2016)

**Population density:**

131.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 35 500 (2015)

**Currency:** krone (DKK)

**Total exports:** EUR 85.9 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 77.1 billion (2015)



**Area:** 42 921 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Aarhus, Odense,

Aalborg, Esbjerg, Randers

**Country's internet suffix:** .dk

**International dialling**

**code:** +45

**Country information:**

[www.denmark.dk](http://www.denmark.dk)



**Accession:** 1973

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 13

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.eu.um.dk](http://www.eu.um.dk)



# GERMANY

Capital: Berlin (population: 3.47 million — 2015)



Federal Republic of Germany

**Political system:** The bicameral parliament is made up of the Federal Assembly (*Bundestag*: 631 members elected for 4 years in general elections) and the Federal Council (*Bundesrat*: 69 members appointed by the governments of the federal states, or *Länder*. Each federal state appoints between three and six members depending on the size of its population). The head of state is the Federal President. The Federal President is elected by indirect suffrage for a term of 5 years, renewable once, but the role is essentially ceremonial. However, the Federal President appoints the Federal Chancellor, who leads the Federal Government. Power is shared between the Federal Government and the *Länder*.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.bundespraesident.de](http://www.bundespraesident.de)

**Government website:**

[www.bundesregierung.de](http://www.bundesregierung.de)

**Bundesrat website:**

[www.bundesrat.de](http://www.bundesrat.de)

**Bundestag website:**

[www.bundestag.de](http://www.bundestag.de)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 3 October

(German Unity Day — 1990)



**Citizens:** Germans

**Average age:** 45.6 (2014)

**Official language:** German

**Population:** 81.1 million (2016)

**Population density:**

226.6/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 36 000 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 1 198.3 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 946.4 billion (2015)



**Area:** 357 340 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Hamburg, Munich, Cologne,  
Frankfurt am Main, Stuttgart

**Country's internet suffix:** .de

**International dialling**

**code:** +49

**Country information:**

[www.deutschland.de](http://www.deutschland.de)

**Accession:** 1957 (founding  
member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 96

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.bruessel-eu.diplo.de](http://www.bruessel-eu.diplo.de)



# ESTONIA

Capital: Tallinn (population: 0.41 million — 2015)



Republic of Estonia

**Political system:** Estonia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Riigikogu*) is composed of 101 members elected for 4 years by universal suffrage. The President of the Republic is elected by the Parliament for 5 years. The President is the head of state but has primarily ceremonial functions; however, he or she nominates the Prime Minister, who is then appointed by the Parliament. Executive power rests with the Prime Minister and the government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.ee](http://www.president.ee)

**Government website:**

[www.valitsus.ee](http://www.valitsus.ee)

**Parliament website:**

[www.riigikogu.ee](http://www.riigikogu.ee)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 24 February  
(declaration of independence  
from Russia — 1918)



**Citizens:** Estonians

**Average age:** 41.3 (2014)

**Official language:** Estonian

**Population:** 1.3 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
30.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 21 200 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2011)

**Total exports:** EUR 11.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 13.1 billion (2015)



**Area:** 45 227 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Tartu, Narva,  
Kohtla-Järve

**Country's internet suffix:** .ee

**International dialling  
code:** +372

**Country information:**

[www.estonia.eu](http://www.estonia.eu)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 6

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.eu.estemb.be/eng](http://www.eu.estemb.be/eng)



# IRELAND

Capital: Dublin (population: 1.30 million — 2015)



Ireland



**Political system:** Ireland is a republic with a bicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Oireachtas*) is composed of the Chamber of Deputies (*Dáil Éireann*: 166 members elected in general elections for 5 years) and the Senate (*Seanad Éireann*: 60 senators; 11 appointed by the Prime Minister and the others by various civil society groups, for 5 years). The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of the Republic after being proposed by the *Dáil Éireann*. The President is elected for 7 years by direct universal suffrage, with the term renewable once. The President has no specific executive powers; these rest with the Prime Minister and the government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.ie](http://www.president.ie)

**Government website:**

[www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)

**Parliament website:**

[www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 17 March  
(St Patrick's Day)



**Citizens:** Irishmen/  
Irishwomen

**Average age:** 36.0 (2014)

**Official languages:** English, Irish

**Population:** 4.6 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
67.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 49 600 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 108.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 64.3 billion (2015)



**Area:** 69 797 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Cork, Galway,  
Waterford

**Country's internet suffix:** .ie

**International dialling  
code:** +353

**Country information:**  
[www.tourismireland.com](http://www.tourismireland.com)

**Accession:** 1973

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 11

**Permanent Representation to  
the European Union:**

[www.dfa.ie/prep/brussels](http://www.dfa.ie/prep/brussels)



# GREECE

Capital: Athens (population: 0.66 million — 2014)



The Hellenic Republic

**Political system:** Greece has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Greek parliament (*Vouli ton Ellinon*, or Council of the Greeks) has 300 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by the parliament for 5 years. The term may be renewed once. The President is the head of state, but has no political powers. However, he or she appoints the Prime Minister and the government, which has executive powers.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.presidency.gr](http://www.presidency.gr)

**Government website:**

[www.government.gr](http://www.government.gr)

**Parliament website:**

[www.hellenicparliament.gr](http://www.hellenicparliament.gr)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting compulsory

**National day:** 25 March

(independence from the Ottoman Empire — 1821)



**Citizens:** Greeks

**Average age:** 43.0 (2014)

**Official language:** Greek

**Population:** 10.8 million (2016)

**Population density:**

83.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 20 200 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 25.8 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 43.6 billion (2015)



**Area:** 131 957 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Thessaloniki, Piraeus, Patras,  
Peristeri, Heraklion

**Country's internet suffix:** .gr

**International dialling**

**code:** +30

**Country information:**

[www.visitgreece.gr](http://www.visitgreece.gr)



**Accession:** 1981

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 21

**Permanent Representation to**

**the European Union:** [www.mfa.gr/brussels/en/permanent-representation-eu](http://www.mfa.gr/brussels/en/permanent-representation-eu)

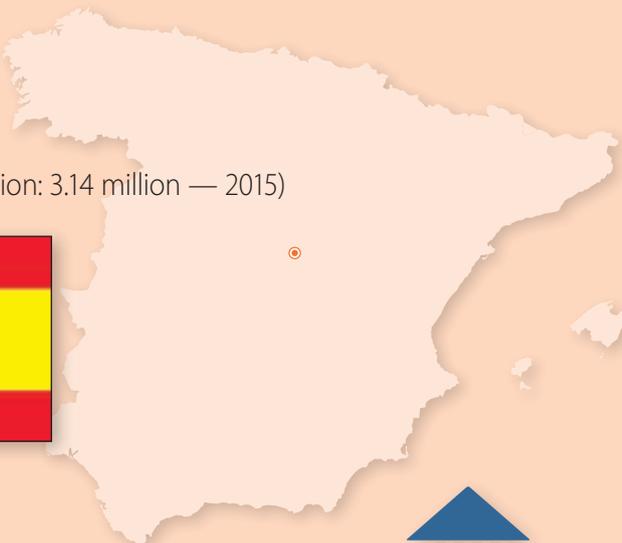


# SPAIN

Capital: Madrid (population: 3.14 million — 2015)



Kingdom of Spain



**Political system:** Spain has a bicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Cortes Generales*) is composed of the Congress (*Congreso de los Diputados*: 350 members elected for 4 years in general elections) and the Senate (*Senado*: 208 senators who are directly elected by citizens and around 60 nominated by the autonomous regions). The King is the head of state, but has no political powers. Power is shared between the central authorities and the autonomous regions. Spanish territory includes the Canary Islands and two enclaves in northern Africa: Ceuta and Melilla.

**Head of state's website:**

[www.casareal.es](http://www.casareal.es)

**Government website:**

[www.lamoncloa.gob.es](http://www.lamoncloa.gob.es)

**Senate website:**

[www.senado.es](http://www.senado.es)

**Congress website:**

[www.congreso.es](http://www.congreso.es)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 12 October

(Hispanic Day — the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus — 1492)



**Citizens:** Spaniards

**Average age:** 41.8 (2014)

**Official language:** Spanish

**Population:** 46.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

92.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita (PPS):**

EUR 26 200 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 254.0 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 278.8 billion (2015)



**Area:** 505 970 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Barcelona, Valencia, Seville,  
Zaragoza, Malaga

**Country's internet suffix:** .es

**International dialling code:** +34

**Country information:**

[www.spain.info](http://www.spain.info)

**Accession:** 1986

**Number of members in the European Parliament:** 54

**Permanent Representation to the European Union:**

[www.representacionpermanente.eu](http://www.representacionpermanente.eu)



# FRANCE

Capital: Paris (population: 2.2 million — 2015)



French Republic



**Political system:** France has a bicameral parliamentary system. The parliament is composed of the National Assembly (*Assemblée nationale*, 577 members elected in general elections for 5 years) and the Senate (*Sénat*, 348 senators elected by an electoral college for 6 years, with half of the seats up for re-election every 3 years). The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. He or she may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The President is the head of state. He or she has considerable political powers and appoints the Prime Minister from the parliamentary majority. France also has overseas departments and territories which enjoy a specific status within the republic.

**Head of state's website:**

[www.elysee.fr](http://www.elysee.fr)

**Government website:**

[www.gouvernement.fr](http://www.gouvernement.fr)

**Senate website:**

[www.senat.fr](http://www.senat.fr)

**National Assembly website:**

[www.assemblee-nationale.fr](http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 14 July

(the storming of the Bastille  
— 1789)



**Citizens:** Frenchmen/  
Frenchwomen

**Average age:** 40.8 (2014)

**Official language:** French

**Population:** 66.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

104.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 30 300 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 456.0 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 516.1 billion (2015)



**Area:** 633 186 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Marseille, Lyon,  
Toulouse, Nice, Nantes

**Country's internet suffix:** .fr

**International dialling  
code:** +33

**Country information:**

[www.france.fr](http://www.france.fr)



**Accession:** 1957 (founding  
member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 74

**Permanent Representation to the  
European Union:** [www.rpfrance.e](http://www.rpfrance.e)



# CROATIA

Capital: Zagreb (population: 0.8 million — 2015)



Republic of Croatia

**Political system:** Croatia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Sabor*) has 151 members elected in general elections for 4 years. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. He or she has mainly ceremonial functions, but appoints the Prime Minister, who must have the confidence of the majority of the members of parliament. The basic units of regional self-government are the counties.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.predsjednik.hr](http://www.predsjednik.hr)

**Government website:**

[www.vlada.hr](http://www.vlada.hr)

**Parliament website:**

[www.sabor.hr](http://www.sabor.hr)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 25 June

(independence from the former Yugoslavia — 1991)



**Citizens:** Croats

**Average age:** 42.6 (2014)

**Official language:** Croatian

**Population:** 4.2 million (2016)

**Population density:**

74.9/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 16 700 (2015)

**Currency:** kuna (HRK)

**Total exports:** EUR 11.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 18.4 billion (2015)



**Area:** 56 594 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Split, Rijeka,

Osijek

**Country's internet suffix:** .hr

**International dialling**

**code:** +385

**Country information:**

[www.croatia.hr](http://www.croatia.hr)



**Accession:** 2013

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 11

**Permanent Representation**

**to the European Union:**

[www.eu.mfa.hr](http://www.eu.mfa.hr)



# ITALY

Capital: Rome (population: 2.87 million — 2015)



Italian Republic

**Political system:** The parliament is bicameral and is composed of the Chamber of Deputies (*Camera dei Deputati*: 630 members elected for 5 years in general elections) and the Senate (*Senato della Repubblica*: 315 senators elected for 5 years at provincial level, with a few lifetime senators who are appointed by the head of state or are former Presidents of the Republic). The head of state is the President of the Republic. He or she is elected by the parliament for a period of 7 years, but the role is essentially ceremonial. However, the President appoints the Prime Minister, who needs the confidence of both chambers of parliament. At local level, the regions of Italy have different degrees of autonomy.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.quirinale.it](http://www.quirinale.it)

**Government website:**

[www.governo.it](http://www.governo.it)

**Senate website:**

[www.senato.it](http://www.senato.it)

**Chamber of Deputies**

**website:** [www.camera.it](http://www.camera.it)

**Voting age:** 18 (25 for elections to the Senate), voting not compulsory

**National day:** 2 June (the proclamation of the Italian Republic — 1946)



**Citizens:** Italians

**Average age:** 44.7 (2014)

**Official language:** Italian

**Population:** 61.4 million (2016)

**Population density:** 201.2/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 27 500 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 413.8 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 368.6 billion (2015)



**Area:** 302 073 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Milan, Naples, Turin, Palermo, Genoa

**Country's internet suffix:** .it

**International dialling code:** +39

**Country information:**

[www.italia.it](http://www.italia.it)



**Accession:** 1957 (founding member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the European Parliament:** 73

**Permanent Representation to the European Union:**

[www.italiaue.esteri.it/rapp\\_ue](http://www.italiaue.esteri.it/rapp_ue)



# CYPRUS

Capital: Nicosia (population: 0.25 million — 2015)



Republic of Cyprus

**Political system:** Cyprus has a unicameral parliamentary system. The House of Representatives (*Vouli ton Antiprosópon*) has 80 members, 56 of whom are elected for 5 years by direct universal suffrage, with the remaining 24 seats reserved for the Turkish community, but vacant since 1964. There are also three representatives of religious minorities (from the Maronite, Roman Catholic and Armenian churches) who have observer status. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for 5 years and is both head of state and head of government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.presidency.gov.cy](http://www.presidency.gov.cy)

**Government website:**

[www.cyprus.gov.cy](http://www.cyprus.gov.cy)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parliament.cy](http://www.parliament.cy)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting compulsory

**National day:** 1 October  
(the proclamation of the  
Republic of Cyprus — 1960)



**Citizens:** Cypriots

**Average age:** 36.8 (2014)

**Official languages:**

Greek, Turkish

**Population:** 0.8 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
92.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 23 500 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2008)

**Total exports:** EUR 1.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 5.0 billion (2015)



**Area:** 9 251 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Limassol,  
Larnaka, Paphos

**Country's internet suffix:** .cy

**International dialling  
code:** +357

**Country information:**  
[www.visitcyprus.com](http://www.visitcyprus.com)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 6

**Permanent Representation to  
the European Union:**

[www.mfa.gov.cy/permrepu](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/permrepu)



# LATVIA

Capital: Riga (population: 0.64 million — 2015)



Republic of Latvia

**Political system:** Latvia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Saeima*) has 100 members elected in general elections for 4 years. The President of the Republic is elected by the Parliament for 4 years and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The President appoints the Prime Minister, who forms the government. Before taking up work, a new government needs a vote of confidence by the Saeima.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.lv](http://www.president.lv)

**Government website:**

[www.mk.gov.lv](http://www.mk.gov.lv)

**Parliament website:**

[www.saeima.lv](http://www.saeima.lv)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 18 November  
(the proclamation of the  
Republic of Latvia – 1918)



**Citizens:** Latvians

**Average age:** 42.4 (2014)

**Official language:** Latvian

**Population:** 2.0 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
32/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 18 500 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2014)

**Total exports:** EUR 10.9 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 12.9 billion (2015)



**Area:** 64 573 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Daugavpils, Liepaja, Jelgava,  
Jurmala, Ventspils

**Country's internet suffix:** .lv

**International dialling  
code:** +371

**Country information:**  
[www.latvia.lv](http://www.latvia.lv)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 8

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.am.gov.lv/en/brussels](http://www.am.gov.lv/en/brussels)



# LITHUANIA

Capital: Vilnius (population: 0.54 million — 2015)



Republic of Lithuania

**Political system:** Lithuania has an unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Seimas*) has 141 members elected for 4 years: 71 elected by direct universal suffrage in a first-past-the-post system and 70 under a system of proportional representation. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. He or she may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Subject to the assent of the *Seimas*, the President appoints the Prime Minister, who forms the government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.lt](http://www.president.lt)

**Government website:**

[www.lrvk.lt](http://www.lrvk.lt)

**Parliament website:**

[www.lrs.lt](http://www.lrs.lt)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 16 February  
(independence from Russia  
— 1918)



**Citizens:** Lithuanians

**Average age:** 42.4 (2014)

**Official language:**

Lithuanian

**Population:** 2.9 million (2016)

**Population density:**

46.8/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 21 300 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, from 2015)

**Total exports:** EUR 23.0 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 25.5 billion (2015)



**Area:** 65 300 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Kaunas,

Klaipėda, Šiauliai

**Country's internet suffix:** .lt

**International dialling**

**code:** +370

**Country information:**

[www.lietuva.lt](http://www.lietuva.lt)

**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 11

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.eurep.mfa.lt](http://www.eurep.mfa.lt)



# LUXEMBOURG

Capital: Luxembourg (population: 0.12 million — 2016)



Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Political system:** Luxembourg has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Chamber of Deputies (*Chambre des Députés/Châmber vun Députéirten/Abgeordneten-kammer*) has 60 members elected for 5 years in general elections. The Grand Duke is the head of state, but has no real political powers. He appoints the Prime Minister, who chooses the other ministers. The government needs the confidence of the majority of members of parliament.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.monarchie.lu](http://www.monarchie.lu)

**Government website:**

[www.gouvernement.lu](http://www.gouvernement.lu)

**Parliament website:**

[www.chd.lu](http://www.chd.lu)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting compulsory

**National day:** 23 June  
(official birthday of the  
Grand Duke)



**Citizens:** Luxembourgers

**Average age:** 39.2 (2014)

**Official languages:** German,  
French, Luxembourgish

**Population:** 0.6 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
215.1/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 76 400 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 15.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 21.1 billion (2015)



**Area:** 2 586 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Esch-sur-Alzette,  
Dudelange, Schifflange

**Country's internet suffix:** .lu

**International dialling  
code:** +352

**Country information:**  
[www.luxembourg.lu](http://www.luxembourg.lu)



**Accession:** 1957 (founding  
member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 6

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**  
[www.bruxelles-rpue.mae.lu](http://www.bruxelles-rpue.mae.lu)



# HUNGARY

Capital: Budapest (population: 1.75 million — 2015)



Hungary

**Political system:** Hungary is a republic with a unicameral parliamentary system. The National Assembly (*Országgyűlés*) has 199 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is the head of state, elected by the parliament every 5 years. The President proposes the Prime Minister to the parliament, which must give its consent.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.keh.hu](http://www.keh.hu)

**Government website:**

[www.kormany.hu](http://www.kormany.hu)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlament.hu](http://www.parlament.hu)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 20 August  
(St Stephen's Day)



**Citizens:** Hungarians

**Average age:** 41.3 (2014)

**Official language:**

Hungarian

**Population:** 9.9 million (2016)

**Population density:**

106.1/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 19 700 (2015)

**Currency:** forint (HUF)

**Total exports:** EUR 88.8 billion (2013)

**Total imports:** EUR 83.5 billion (2013)



**Area:** 93 024 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Debrecen,  
Szeged, Miskolc, Pécs, Győr

**Country's internet suffix:** .hu

**International dialling  
code:** +36

**Country information:**

[www.gotohungary.com](http://www.gotohungary.com)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 21

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.brusszel.eu.kormany.hu](http://www.brusszel.eu.kormany.hu)



# MALTA

Capital: Valletta (population: 6 000 — 2014)



Republic of Malta

**Political system:** Malta has a unicameral parliamentary system. The House of Representatives (*Kamra tar-Rappreżentanti*) has 69 members elected for 5 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by the parliament for 5 years and has an essentially ceremonial role. Executive power lies with the Prime Minister and the government. The Prime Minister, appointed by the President, is the leader of the majority party or of a majority coalition in parliament. The other ministers are appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.gov.mt](http://www.president.gov.mt)

**Government website:**

[www.gov.mt](http://www.gov.mt)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlament.mt](http://www.parlament.mt)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 21 September

(independence from the United Kingdom — 1964)



**Citizens:** Maltese

**Average age:** 40.7 (2014)

**Official languages:**

English, Maltese

**Population:** 0.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

1 352.4/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 25 400 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2008)

**Total exports:** EUR 2.3 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 5.2 billion (2015)



**Area:** 316 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Birkirkara,  
Mosta, San Pawl il-Baħar

**Country's internet suffix:** .mt

**International dialling code:** +356

**Country information:**

[www.visitmalta.com](http://www.visitmalta.com)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the European Parliament:** 6

**Permanent Representation to the European Union:**

[www.foreign.gov.mt](http://www.foreign.gov.mt)



# THE NETHERLANDS

Capital: Amsterdam (population: 0.83 million — 2016)



Kingdom of the Netherlands

**Political system:** The Netherlands has a bicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Staten Generaal*) is composed of the First Chamber (*Eerste Kamer*: 75 members elected for 4 years by indirect universal suffrage by the 12 provinces of the kingdom) and the Second Chamber (*Tweede Kamer*: 150 members elected for 4 years by direct universal suffrage). The King is the head of state and appoints the Prime Minister, but has no real political powers. The Royal Court, the government, the Parliament and the Supreme Court are all located in The Hague. The Netherlands also has island territories in the Caribbean, which have a special status within the Netherlands.

**Head of state's website:**

[www.koninklijkhuis.nl](http://www.koninklijkhuis.nl)

**Government website:**

[www.rijksoverheid.nl](http://www.rijksoverheid.nl)

**Parliament website:**

[www.staten-generaal.nl](http://www.staten-generaal.nl)

**First Chamber's website:**

[www.eerstekamer.nl](http://www.eerstekamer.nl)

**Second Chamber's website:**

[www.tweedekamer.nl](http://www.tweedekamer.nl)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 27 April  
(King's Day)



**Citizens:** Dutchmen/  
Dutchwomen

**Average age:** 42.0 (2014)

**Official language:** Dutch

**Population:** 17.2 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
500.7/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita (PPS):**

EUR 36 800 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 511.2 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 455.9 billion (2015)



**Area:** 41 540 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Rotterdam, The Hague,  
Utrecht, Eindhoven, Tilburg

**Country's internet suffix:** .nl

**International dialling  
code:** +31

**Country information:**

[www.holland.com](http://www.holland.com)

**Accession:** 1957 (founding  
member state, Treaty of Rome)

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 26

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**  
[eu.nlmission.org](http://eu.nlmission.org)



# AUSTRIA

Capital: Vienna (population: 1.8 million — 2015)



Republic of Austria

**Political system:** Austria has a bicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Bundesversammlung*) is composed of the National Council (*Nationalrat*: 183 members elected for 5 years in general elections) and the Federal Council (*Bundesrat*: 61 members appointed by the provinces for the duration of the legislative period in the province concerned. Each province appoints between 3 and 12 members depending of the size of its population and therefore the total number of members of the Bundesrat can change). The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for 6 years and has mainly a ceremonial role. The Federal Chancellor, who leads the government, is appointed by the President. Austria is a federal state composed of nine autonomous regions, or *Bundesländer*.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.bundespraesident.at](http://www.bundespraesident.at)

**Government website:**

[www.bka.gv.at](http://www.bka.gv.at)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlament.gv.at](http://www.parlament.gv.at)

**Voting age:** 16,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 26 October

(adoption of Austria's Law of  
Neutrality — 1955)



**Citizens:** Austrians

**Average age:** 42.9 (2014)

**Official language:** German

**Population:** 8.6 million (2016)

**Population density:**

103.6/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita (PPS):**

EUR 36 600 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 137.3 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 139.9 billion (2015)



**Area:** 83 879 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Graz,

Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck,

Klagenfurt

**Country's internet suffix:** .at

**International dialling**

**code:** +43

**Country information:**

[www.austria.info](http://www.austria.info)



**Accession:** 1995

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 18

**Permanent Representation**

**to the European Union:**

[www.bmeia.gv.at/oev-bruessel](http://www.bmeia.gv.at/oev-bruessel)



# POLAND

Capital: Warsaw (population: 1.7 million — 2015)



Republic of Poland

**Political system:** Poland has a bicameral parliamentary system. The parliament is composed of the *Sejm* (460 members) and the *Senat* (100 members), the members of both chambers being elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. The term may be renewed once. The President appoints the Prime Minister, whose government needs a vote of confidence by the *Sejm*. The President has a right of veto over the proclamation of new laws.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.pl](http://www.president.pl)

**Government website:**

[www.premier.gov.pl](http://www.premier.gov.pl)

**Senat website:**

[www.senat.gov.pl](http://www.senat.gov.pl)

**Sejm website:**

[www.sejm.gov.pl](http://www.sejm.gov.pl)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**The two main national days:**

11 November (restoration of independence — 1918) and 3 May (Constitution Day — 1791)



**Citizens:** Poles

**Average age:** 39.2 (2014)

**Official language:** Polish

**Population:** 38.0 million (2016)

**Population density:**

124.1/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 19 800 (2015)

**Currency:** zloty (PLN)

**Total exports:** EUR 178.7 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 173.6 billion (2015)



**Area:** 312 679 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Cracow, Łódź,

Wrocław, Poznań, Gdańsk

**Country's internet suffix:** .pl

**International dialling**

**code:** +48

**Country information:**

[www.polska.pl](http://www.polska.pl)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 51

**Permanent Representation**

**to the European Union:**

[www.brukselaue.msz.gov.pl/en](http://www.brukselaue.msz.gov.pl/en)



# PORTUGAL

Capital: Lisbon (population: 0.5 million — 2015)



Portuguese Republic

**Political system:** Portugal has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Assembleia da República*) is composed of 230 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. He or she is the head of state, appoints the Prime Minister and plays a mediatory role. Portugal includes two autonomous island regions: Madeira and the Azores.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.presidencia.pt](http://www.presidencia.pt)

**Government website:**

[www.portugal.gov.pt](http://www.portugal.gov.pt)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlamento.pt](http://www.parlamento.pt)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 10 June  
(in commemoration of the  
death of the poet Luis de  
Camões — 1580)



**Citizens:** Portuguese

**Average age:** 43.1 (2014)

**Official language:**

Portuguese

**Population:** 10.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

112.8/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 22 300 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 49.8 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 60.1 billion (2015)



**Area:** 92 225 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Porto, Amadora,

Braga, Queluz, Setúbal

**Country's internet suffix:** .pt

**International dialling  
code:** +351

**Country information:**

[www.portugalglobal.pt](http://www.portugalglobal.pt)



**Accession:** 1986

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 21

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.ue.missaoportugal.mne.pt](http://www.ue.missaoportugal.mne.pt)



# ROMANIA

Capital: Bucharest (population: 1.9 million — 2015)



Romania



**Political system:** Romania is a republic. The Parliament (*Parlamentul României*) is composed of the Chamber of Deputies (*Camera Deputaţilor*: 322 members) and the Senate (*Senat*: 134 senators), the members of both chambers being elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for a term of 5 years, which may be renewed once, and has a primarily ceremonial and mediatory role. The President nominates the Prime Minister from the parliamentary majority to form a government. The government needs a vote of confidence from the Parliament.

**Head of state's website:**

[www.presidency.ro](http://www.presidency.ro)

**Government website:**

[www.guv.ro](http://www.guv.ro)

**Senate website:**

[www.senat.ro](http://www.senat.ro)

**Chamber of Deputies website:**

[www.cdep.ro](http://www.cdep.ro)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 1 December

(Union of Transylvania with the former Kingdom of Romania — 1918)



**Citizens:** Romanians

**Average age:** 40.8 (2014)

**Official language:** Romanian

**Population:** 19.9 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
86.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 16 300 (2015)

**Currency:** leu (RON)

**Total exports:** EUR 54.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 63.0 billion (2015)



**Area:** 238 390 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Cluj-Napoca,

Constanța, Craiova, Galați, Iași

**Country's internet suffix:** .ro

**International dialling**

**code:** +40

**Country information:**

[www.romaniatourism.com](http://www.romaniatourism.com)



**Accession:** 2007

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 32

**Permanent Representation**  
**to the European Union:**

[ue.mae.ro/en](http://ue.mae.ro/en)



# SLOVENIA

Capital: Ljubljana (population: 0.29 million — 2015)



Republic of Slovenia

**Political system:** Slovenia has a bicameral parliamentary system. The parliament is composed of the National Assembly (*Državni zbor*: 90 members elected for 4 years in general elections, two seats being reserved for the Hungarian and Italian minorities) and the Council of State (*Državni svet*: 40 members elected by indirect suffrage for 5 years). The President of the Republic is elected for a term of 5 years and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The President proposes the appointment of the Prime Minister to the parliament, which must give its consent.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.up-rs.si](http://www.up-rs.si)

**Government website:**

[www.vlada.si](http://www.vlada.si)

**Council of State website:**

[www.ds-rs.si](http://www.ds-rs.si)

**National Assembly website:**

[www.dz-rs.si](http://www.dz-rs.si)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 25 June

(independence from the former Yugoslavia — 1991)



**Citizens:** Slovenians

**Average age:** 42.5 (2014)

**Official language:** Slovenian

**Population:** 2.1 million (2016)

**Population density:**

102.4/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 23 700 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2007)

**Total exports:** EUR 28.8 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 26.8 billion (2015)



**Area:** 20 273 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Maribor, Celje, Kranj

**Country's internet suffix:** .si

**International dialling**

**code:** +386

**Country information:**

[www.slovenia.si](http://www.slovenia.si)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the European Parliament:** 8

**Permanent Representation to the European Union:**

[www.brussels.representation.si](http://www.brussels.representation.si)



# SLOVAKIA

Capital: Bratislava (population: 0.43 million — 2015)



Slovak Republic

**Political system:** Slovakia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The National Council of the Slovak Republic (*Národná rada Slovenskej republiky*) has 150 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by direct universal suffrage every 5 years. He or she is the head of state, but has limited power; however, he or she appoints the Prime Minister. Executive power is essentially exercised by the Prime Minister and the government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.prezident.sk](http://www.prezident.sk)

**Government website:**

[www.government.gov.sk](http://www.government.gov.sk)

**Parliament website:**

[www.nrsr.sk](http://www.nrsr.sk)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 1 September

(anniversary of the  
Constitution of the Republic  
— 1992)



**Citizens:** Slovaks

**Average age:** 38.6 (2014)

**Official language:** Slovak

**Population:** 5.4 million (2016)

**Population density:**

110.5/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 22 200 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2009)

**Total exports:** EUR 68.1 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 66.3 billion (2015)



**Area:** 49 035 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Košice, Prešov,  
Žilina, Nitra, Banská Bystrica

**Country's internet suffix:** .sk

**International dialling**

**code:** +421

**Country information:**

[www.slovakia.travel](http://www.slovakia.travel)



**Accession:** 2004

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 13

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.mzv.sk/web/szbrusel-en/home](http://www.mzv.sk/web/szbrusel-en/home)



# FINLAND

Capital: Helsinki (population: 0.63 million — 2016)



Republic of Finland

**Political system:** Finland has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Eduskunta/Riksdagen*) has 200 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for 6 years. He or she may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The President proposes and formally appoints the Prime Minister after consulting the Parliament. Responsibility for foreign affairs is shared between the President and the government. The Åland Islands are an autonomous Swedish-speaking region within the Republic of Finland.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.tpk.fi](http://www.tpk.fi)

**Government website:**

[www.vn.fi](http://www.vn.fi)

**Parliament website:**

[www.eduskunta.fi](http://www.eduskunta.fi)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 6 December  
(independence from Russia  
— 1917)



**Citizens:** Finns

**Average age:** 42.4 (2014)

**Official languages:**

Finnish, Swedish

**Population:** 5.5 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
18/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 31 200 (2015)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, since 2002)

**Total exports:** EUR 53.6 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 54.2 billion (2015)



**Area:** 338 435 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Espoo, Tampere,  
Vantaa, Turku, Oulu

**Country's internet suffix:** .fi

**International dialling  
code:** +358

**Country information:**  
[www.finland.fi](http://www.finland.fi)



**Accession:** 1995

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 13

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.finland.eu](http://www.finland.eu)



# SWEDEN

Capital: Stockholm (population: 1.47 million — 2016)



Kingdom of Sweden

**Political system:** Sweden has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament (*Riksdagen*) has 349 members elected by universal suffrage for 4 years. The King is the head of state, but has no political powers. The Speaker of the Parliament proposes the Prime Minister, who is then appointed by the Parliament. The Prime Minister then chooses the other ministers in the government.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.kungahuset.se](http://www.kungahuset.se)

**Government website:**

[www.government.se](http://www.government.se)

**Parliament website:**

[www.riksdagen.se/en](http://www.riksdagen.se/en)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 6 June  
(King Gustav Vasa's accession  
to the throne — 1523)



**Citizens:** Swedes

**Average age:** 40.9 (2014)

**Official language:** Swedish

**Population:** 9.8 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
23.8/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 35 600 (2015)

**Currency:** krona (SEK)

**Total exports:** EUR 126.1 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 124.0 billion (2015)



**Area:** 438 574 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Gothenburg, Malmö,  
Uppsala, Västerås, Örebro

**Country's internet suffix:** .se

**International dialling  
code:** +46

**Country information:**

[www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se)



**Accession:** 1995

**Number of members in the  
European Parliament:** 20

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.government.se/sweden-in-the-eu](http://www.government.se/sweden-in-the-eu)



# UNITED KINGDOM

Capital: London (population: 8.65 million — 2015)



The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

**Political system:** The Parliament is composed of the *House of Commons*, which has 650 members elected for 5 years in general elections, and the *House of Lords*, which has 809 members divided into three categories: hereditary peers, bishops and archbishops of the Church of England, and life peers. The Queen is the head of state of the United Kingdom as well as monarch of 15 other independent Commonwealth countries, but her role is essentially ceremonial. The Prime Minister exercises executive power with the government. The United Kingdom is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, but there are also overseas territories with special status within the United Kingdom.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.royal.gov.uk](http://www.royal.gov.uk)

**Government website:**

[www.number10.gov.uk](http://www.number10.gov.uk)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** the Queen's  
official birthday (a Saturday in  
June)



**Citizens:** Britons

**Average age:** 39.9 (2014)

**Official language:** English

**Population:** 64.8 million (2016)

**Population density:**  
266.4/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 31 600 (2015)

**Currency:** pound sterling (GBP)

**Total exports:** EUR 415.0 billion (2015)

**Total imports:** EUR 564.0 billion (2015)



**Area:** 248 527 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:**

Birmingham, Glasgow,  
Liverpool, Edinburgh, Leeds

**Country's internet suffix:** .uk

**International dialling  
code:** +44

**Country information:**

[www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com)



**Accession:** 1973

**Number of members in the**

**European Parliament:** 73

**Permanent Representation  
to the European Union:**

[www.gov.uk/government/world/  
uk-representation-to-the-eu](http://www.gov.uk/government/world/uk-representation-to-the-eu)





# CANDIDATE COUNTRIES

# TURKEY

Capital: Ankara (population: 5.15 million — 2015)



Republic of Turkey

**Political system:** Turkey has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Grand National Assembly has 550 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is the head of state and is elected by direct universal suffrage for 5 years. The term may be renewed once. The President appoints the Prime Minister.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.tccb.gov.tr](http://www.tccb.gov.tr)

**Government website:**

[www.basbakanlik.gov.tr](http://www.basbakanlik.gov.tr)

**Parliament website:**

[www.tbmm.gov.tr](http://www.tbmm.gov.tr)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 29 October

(founding of the Republic of Turkey — 1923)



**Citizens:** Turks

**Average age:** 30.4 (2014)

**Official language:** Turkish

**Population:** 77.7 million (2015)

**Population density:**

100.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 14 400 (2014)

**Currency:** lira (TRY)

**Total exports:** EUR 118.7 billion (2014)

**Total imports:** EUR 182.3 billion (2014)



**Area:** 783 562 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Istanbul, Izmir,

Bursa, Adana, Gaziantep

**Country's internet suffix:** .tr

**International dialling**

**code:** +90

**Country information:**

[www.goturkey.com](http://www.goturkey.com)

**Candidate country since:** 1999

**Mission to the European Union:**

[www.bruksel.be.mfa.gov.tr](http://www.bruksel.be.mfa.gov.tr)

**EU delegation to Turkey:**

[www.avrupa.info.tr](http://www.avrupa.info.tr)

# FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

Capital: Skopje (population: 0.5 million — 2014)



Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

**Political system:** The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The *Sobranie* has 123 members elected for 4 years in general elections. The President of the Republic is elected for 5 years in general elections, but has no executive powers.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.gov.mk](http://www.president.gov.mk)

**Government website:**

[www.vlada.mk](http://www.vlada.mk)

**Parliament website:**

[www.sobranie.mk](http://www.sobranie.mk)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 2 August  
(date of the uprising against  
the Ottoman Empire — 1903)



**Citizens:** citizens of the  
former Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia

**Average age:** 37.1 (2014)

**Official language:** language  
of the former Yugoslav Republic  
of Macedonia

**Population:** 2.1 million (2015)

**Population density:**  
83/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 10 000 (2014)

**Currency:** denar (MKD)

**Total exports:** EUR 3.7 billion (2014)

**Total imports:** EUR 5.5 billion (2014)



**Area:** 25 713 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Kumanovo,  
Bitola, Tetovo

**Country's internet suffix:** .mk

**International dialling  
code:** +389

**Country information:**  
[www.exploringmacedonia.com](http://www.exploringmacedonia.com)

**Candidate country since:** 2005

**Mission to the European Union:**

[www.mfa.gov.mk](http://www.mfa.gov.mk) > Diplomatic network

**EU delegation to the former Yugoslav  
Republic of Macedonia:** [www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/the\\_former\\_yugoslav\\_republic\\_of\\_macedonia](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/the_former_yugoslav_republic_of_macedonia)

# MONTENEGRO

Capital: Podgorica (population: 0.19 million — 2014)



Montenegro

**Political system:** Montenegro is a republic and has a unicameral parliamentary system. The Parliament has 81 members elected by universal suffrage for 4 years. The President of the Republic is elected by universal suffrage for 5 years and can be re-elected once. He or she appoints the Prime Minister, whose appointment must be approved by the Parliament.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.predsjednik.me](http://www.predsjednik.me)

**Government website:**

[www.gov.me](http://www.gov.me)

**Parliament website:**

[www.skupstina.me](http://www.skupstina.me)

**Voting age:** 18, two years of residence required, voting not compulsory

**National day:** 13 July  
(independence from the Ottoman Empire — 1878)



**Citizens:** Montenegrins

**Average age:** 37.4 (2014)

**Official language:**

Montenegrin

**Population:** 0.6 million (2015)

**Population density:**

45/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:** EUR 10 600 (2014)

**Currency:** euro (EUR, adopted unilaterally in 2002; Montenegro is not part of the euro area)

**Total exports:** EUR 0.3 billion (2014)

**Total imports:** EUR 1.8 billion (2014)



**Area:** 13 812 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Nikšić,

Pljevlja, Bar

**Country's internet suffix:** .me

**International dialling**

**code:** +382

**Country information:**

[www.montenegro.travel](http://www.montenegro.travel)



**Candidate country since:** 2010

**Mission to the European Union:**

[www.mvpei.gov.me](http://www.mvpei.gov.me)

**EU delegation to Montenegro:**

[www.delme.ec.europa.eu](http://www.delme.ec.europa.eu)

# SERBIA

Capital: Belgrade (population: 1.7 million — 2016)



Republic of Serbia

**Political system:** Serbia has a unicameral parliamentary system. The National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia has 250 members elected by direct universal suffrage every 4 years. The President of the Republic is the head of state and is elected for a 5-year term of office, renewable once. The President nominates the Prime Minister, who together with his or her government must have the confidence of the parliament.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.predsednik.rs](http://www.predsednik.rs)

**Government website:**

[www.srbija.gov.rs](http://www.srbija.gov.rs)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlament.rs](http://www.parlament.rs)

**Voting age:** 18,  
voting not compulsory

**National day:** 15 February  
(in commemoration of the  
first Serb revolt against the  
Turks — 1804)



**Citizens:** Serbs

**Average age:** 42.9 (2014)

**Official language:** Serbian

**Population:** 7.1 million  
(2015; excluding Kosovo (\*))

**Population density:**  
92.3/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 10 500 (2015)

**Currency:** dinar (RSD)

**Total exports:** EUR 10.6 billion (2014)

**Total imports:** EUR 13.5 billion (2014)



**Area:** 77 474 km<sup>2</sup>  
(excluding Kosovo\*)

**Other cities:** Novi Sad,  
Niš, Kragujevac

**Country's internet suffix:** .rs

**International dialling  
code:** +381

**Country information:**  
[www.serbia.travel](http://www.serbia.travel)

**Candidate country since:** 2012

**Mission to the European Union:**

[www.eu-brussels.mfa.gov.rs](http://www.eu-brussels.mfa.gov.rs)

**EU delegation to Serbia:**

[www.europa.rs/en/o\\_nama/  
uloga\\_delegacije\\_eu.html](http://www.europa.rs/en/o_nama/uloga_delegacije_eu.html)

\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

# ALBANIA

Capital: Tirana (population: 0.62 million — 2016)



Republic of Albania

**Political system:** Albania has a unicameral parliament, the Assembly (*Kuvendi*). It has 140 members who are elected by proportional representation based on closed party lists for a term of 4 years. The President of the Republic is the head of state and is elected by the Assembly for a 5-year term of office, renewable once. The President has limited political power, but formally appoints the Prime Minister, who must be approved by the Assembly along with the ministers.



**Head of state's website:**

[www.president.al](http://www.president.al)

**Government website:**

[www.kryeministria.al](http://www.kryeministria.al)

**Parliament website:**

[www.parlament.al](http://www.parlament.al)

**Voting age:** 18,

voting not compulsory

**National day:** 28 November

(independence from the Ottoman Empire — 1912)



**Citizens:** Albanians

**Average age:** 35.1 (2014)

**Official language:** Albanian

**Population:** 2.9 million (2015)

**Population density:**

105.6/km<sup>2</sup> (2014)

**GDP per capita in PPS:**

EUR 8 600 (2015)

**Currency:** lek (ALL)

**Total exports:** EUR 1.8 billion (2014)

**Total imports:** EUR 3.9 billion (2014)



**Area:** 28 748 km<sup>2</sup>

**Other cities:** Durrës, Elbasan,

Vlorë, Shkodër

**Country's internet suffix:** .al

**International dialling**

**code:** +355

**Country information:**

[www.albania.al](http://www.albania.al)



**Candidate country since:** 2014

**Mission to the European Union:**

[www.ambasadat.gov.al/](http://www.ambasadat.gov.al/european-union/en)

[european-union/en](http://european-union/en)

**EU delegation to Albania:**

[www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/](http://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/albania)

[albania](http://albania)



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