



In Focus

European Union in 2017: Background Information

Member	Date Joined	Number of MEPs	Euro Zone Membership ¹	Schengen Membership ²	Council of the European Union Presidency 2017–2030 ³
Austria	1995	18	1999	YES	Jul–Dec 2018
Belgium	1958	21	1999	YES	Jan–Jun 2024
Bulgaria	2007	17	N/A	NO	Jan–Jun 2018
Croatia	2013	11	N/A	NO	Jan–Jun 2020
Cyprus*	2004	6	2008	NO	Jan–Jun 2026
Czech Republic	2004	22	N/A	YES	Jul–Dec 2022
Denmark	1973	13	N/A	YES	Jul–Dec 2025
Estonia	2004	6	2011	YES	Jul–Dec 2017
Finland	1995	13	1999	YES	Jul–Dec 2019
France	1958	74	1999	YES	Jan–Jun 2022
Germany	1958	96	1999	YES	Jul–Dec 2020
Greece	1981	21	2001	YES	Jul–Dec 2027
Hungary	2004	22	N/A	YES	Jul–Dec 2024
Ireland	1973	11	1999	NO	Jul–Dec 2026
Italy	1958	73	1999	YES	Jan–Jun 2028
Latvia	2004	8	2014	YES	Jul–Dec 2028
Lithuania	2004	11	2015	YES	Jan–Jun 2027
Luxembourg	1958	6	1999	YES	Jan–Jun 2029
Malta	2004	6	2008	YES	Jan–Jun 2017 Jul–Dec 2030
Netherlands	1958	26	1999	YES	Jul–Dec 2029
Poland	2004	51	N/A	YES	Jan–Jun 2025
Portugal	1986	21	1999	YES	Jan–Jun 2021
Romania	2007	32	N/A	NO	Jan–Jun 2019
Slovakia	2004	13	2009	YES	Jan–Jun 2030
Slovenia	2004	8	2007	YES	Jul–Dec 2021
Spain	1986	54	1999	YES	Jul–Dec 2023
Sweden	1995	20	N/A	YES	Jan–Jun 2023
United Kingdom	1973	73	N/A	NO	N/A

* The whole of the island is in the EU. However, in the northern part of the island, in the areas in which the Government of Cyprus does not exercise effective control, EU legislation is suspended in line with Protocol 10 of the Accession Treaty 2003.

Elections in Member States in 2017

- The Netherlands' general election takes place on 15 March 2017.
- France's presidential elections are set for 23 April 2017, with a second round run-off on 7 May 2017 if required.⁴
- German federal elections are due to take place by October 2017.⁵

European Council Meetings in 2017

- 3 February: informal meeting of EU heads of state or government
- 8 March: Tripartite Social Summit
- 9–10 March: European Council
- 22–23 June: European Council
- 19–20 October: European Council

Members of the European Council⁶

Name	Position Held	Member State
Donald Tusk	President of the European Council	N/A
Christian Kern	Federal Chancellor	Austria
Charles Michel	Prime Minister	Belgium
Boyko Borissov	Prime Minister	Bulgaria
Andrej Plenković	Prime Minister	Croatia
Nicos Anastasiades	President of the Republic	Cyprus
Bohuslav Sobotka	Prime Minister	Czech Republic
Lars Løkke Rasmussen	Prime Minister	Denmark
Enda Kenny	Taoiseach	Ireland
Jüri Ratas	Prime Minister	Estonia
Juha Sipilä	Prime Minister	Finland
François Hollande	President of the Republic	France
Angela Merkel	Federal Chancellor	Germany
Alexis Tsipras	Prime Minister	Greece
Viktor Orbán	Prime Minister	Hungary
Paolo Gentiloni	Prime Minister	Italy
Māris Kučinskis	Prime Minister	Latvia
Xavier Bettel	Prime Minister	Luxembourg
Dalia Grybauskaitė	President of the Republic	Lithuania
Joseph Muscat	Prime Minister	Malta
Mark Rutte	Prime Minister	Netherlands
Beata Szydło	Prime Minister	Poland
António Costa	Prime Minister	Portugal
Klaus Werner Iohannis	President	Romania
Robert Fico	Prime Minister	Slovakia
Miro Cerar	Prime Minister	Slovenia
Mariano Rajoy Brey	President of the Government	Spain
Stefan Löfven	Prime Minister	Sweden
Theresa May	Prime Minister	United Kingdom
Jean Claude Juncker	President of the European Commission	N/A

¹ European Union, '[The Euro](#)', accessed 17 January 2017.

² European Commission, '[The Schengen Area](#)', 2014.

³ Council of the European Union, '[Council Rotating Presidencies: Decision on Revised Order](#)', 26 July 2016.

⁴ BBC, '[Who will be France's President in 2017?](#)', 7 December 2016.

⁵ Federal Returning Officer, '[Election to the 19th German Bundestag](#)', accessed 17 January 2017. Unless it is dissolved early, in accordance with German Basic Law, 23 August 2017 is the earliest date on which the elections could be held, the latest possible date would be 22 October 2017

⁶ European Council, '[Members of the European Council](#)', 8 December 2016.

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