

Lingua inglese

Pagine di integrazione all'unità tematica 1.1 *Britain and the European Union* del libro *Temple Bar*, Milano, Vita e Pensiero, 2000. Gli studenti che seguono i corsi dell'anno accademico 2004-05 sono invitati a integrare il programma indicato sulla guida dello studente con le informazioni qui di seguito riportate, che devono essere studiate per sostenere gli esami a partire dal primo appello della sessione estiva 2004-05.

N.B. Le illustrazioni e i testi sono stati presi e in parte modificati dai siti indicati. Gli studenti che desiderano ampliare le informazioni sull'Unione Europea sono invitati a consultare il sito web ufficiale EUROPA-THE EUROPEAN UNION ON-LINE:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/> Possono leggere le informazioni nella versione inglese e chiarire eventuali dubbi linguistici consultando la versione italiana.





European Union

TO BE STUDIED FOR ENGLISH ONE (I) AND ENGLISH TWO (II)

The **European Union (EU)** is a union of twenty-five independent states based on the European Communities and founded to enhance political, economic and social co-operation. Formerly known as **The European Community (EC)** or **European Economic Community (EEC)**.

Key Events:

1950 Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, proposes that France and Germany and any other European country wishing to join them pool their Coal and Steel resources ("Schuman Declaration"). Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany subscribe to the Schuman declaration.

1951 Paris - The Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands) sign the **Treaty of Paris** establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

1952 - The ECSC Treaty enters into force.

The ground rules of the European Union are set out in a series of treaties:

1951-52 Paris - the **Treaty of Paris**, which set up the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

1957 Rome - the **Treaties of Rome**, which set up the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom).

1967 Rome - The **Merger Treaty**, fusing the separate institutions established by the three Community Treaties (ECSC, EEC, EURATOM), enters into force. From now on the European Communities will have a single Commission and a single Council.

These founding treaties were subsequently amended by:

1986 Luxembourg - The Hague – The **Single European Act**. It paves the way for creating the single market by 1993.

1992 Maastricht - The **Treaty on European Union** is signed at Maastricht by the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Member States.

1993 Brussels - A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. The Council issues a declaration to mark the entry into force of the **Treaty on European Union**.

What had been the European Community on 1st November 1993 became the **European Union**.

1997 Amsterdam – The **Treaty of Amsterdam**.

1999 – The **Treaty of Amsterdam** comes into force on 1st May.

2001 - The **Treaty of Nice**. Following the December 2000 European Council meeting held in Nice, France, a new Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaties establishing the European Communities is signed.

2003 –. **February** The **Treaty of Nice** enters into force.

2004 1st May The Accession Treaty enters into force and the European Union's biggest enlargement ever in terms of scope and diversity becomes a reality with 10 new countries - **Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia** - representing all together more than 100 million citizens, joining the European Union.

2004 5th May - The European Parliament proceeds to a formal vote of approval for the 10 new Commissioners from the 10 new member states during its last part-session of the current legislature. The Council of Ministers also formally appoints the ten new Commissioners.

2004 – Rome 29th October The Heads of State and Government and the EU Foreign Ministers sign the **Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe**.

***OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER**

***1979** - The first direct elections to the European Parliament.

***1987** Start of the "ERASMUS" programme, set up to help young Europeans study abroad, in other European countries.

***1995 – 15 Member countries.** Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, The United Kingdom.

***1999** -The Parliament approves the nomination of Mr Romano Prodi as President of the Commission.

***2001** - The euro-zone countries begin making the euro-kits available. It is now possible for citizens to purchase euro coins in advance of the changeover.

***2002** - **Euro** banknotes and coins have been in circulation since **1st January 2002** and are now a part of daily life for over 300 million Europeans living in the euro area. The euro coins and notes enter into circulation in the twelve participating Member States: **Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.**

***2002 – September 26th** - The first **European Day of Languages** is celebrated, and will continue to be celebrated annually in order to ensure that language issues remain visible throughout Europe.

Member States Before 1st May 2004 - EU 15 Member states (EUR: Euro currency):

- Austria (EUR)
- Belgium (EUR)
- **Denmark**
- Finland (EUR)
- France (EUR)
- Germany (EUR)
- Greece (EUR)
- Ireland (EUR)
- Italy (EUR)
- Luxembourg (EUR)
- The Netherlands (EUR)
- Portugal (EUR)
- Spain (EUR)
- **Sweden**
- **The United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland**

Ten countries **joined the EU on 1st May 2004:**

Cyprus (Greek part), the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Candidate Countries: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulgaria• Croatia• Romania• Turkey	Application Pending <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
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ENLARGING EUROPE

Information taken from the following websites:

<http://www.eurunion.org/states/home.htm>

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/static/in_depth/europe/2000/redefining_europe/default.stm

Students can study more interactively by visiting the webpages.

Maps and flags taken from the following websites:

<http://www.eurunion.org/legislat/agd2000/agd2000.htm>

http://www.tiscali.co.uk/reference/encyclopaedia/countryfacts/slovenia_flag.html

The websites offer further information on each country, such as general information, government, economy and resources, population and society, transport, practical information, and chronology.

EUROPE AND ITS FUTURE

"A day will come when all the nations of this continent, without losing their distinct qualities or their glorious individuality, will fuse together in a higher unity and form the European brotherhood. A day will come when there will be no other battlefields than those of the mind - open marketplaces for ideas. A day will come when bullets and bombs will be replaced by votes".

Victor Hugo spoke those prophetic words in **1849**. It took more than a century for his utopian predictions to start coming true. During that time, two world wars and countless other conflicts on European soil caused millions of deaths. There were times when all hope seemed lost. Today, the dawning of the 21st century offers brighter prospects and renewed hope. But it also brings Europe new difficulties and challenges.

Enlargement of the Union to 25 member states has gone ahead, keeping to the timetable set by the EU institutions. As a politician from one of the new member states put it: "Europe has finally managed to reconcile its history with its geography". The period 2007 to 2015 should see further enlargements of the European Union. In the meantime, its leaders - listening carefully to public opinion - will have to decide where, ultimately, to draw the Union's geographical, political and cultural frontiers.

TO BE STUDIED BY THE STUDENTS OF ENGLISH TWO (II) ONLY

The EU's foundational agreement is a pact between sovereign nations that have resolved to share a common destiny and to pool an increasing share of their sovereignty. It concerns the things that European peoples care most deeply about: peace, security, participatory democracy, justice and solidarity. This pact is being strengthened and confirmed all across Europe: half a billion human beings have chosen to live under the rule of law and in accordance with age-old values that centre on humanity and human dignity.

The current technological revolution is radically transforming life in the industrialised world, including Europe. In doing so, it creates new challenges that transcend national frontiers. Nations acting individually cannot effectively tackle issues like sustainable development, population trends or the need for social solidarity. National policies alone cannot secure economic growth, nor can individual governments provide the ethical response to world progress in the life sciences. Pollution of the oceans by wrecked oil tankers or the risk of a Chernobyl-type nuclear accident call for collective preventive measures that safeguard the 'common European good' and preserve it for future generations.

The enlarged European Union is part of a rapidly and radically changing world that needs to find new stability. Europe is affected by upheavals on other continents - whether it be the resurgence of religious fervour in the Islamic world, disease and famine in Africa, unilateralist tendencies in North America, economic crises in Latin America, the population explosion in Asia or the global relocation of industries and jobs. Europe must not only concentrate on its own development but also be fully involved in globalisation. While it can be proud of its achievements in trade policy, the European Union still has a

long way to go before it can claim to be speaking with one voice or to be a credible actor on the stage of world politics.

The EU institutions have proved their worth, but they must be adapted to cope with the growing number of tasks to be carried out by a growing Union. The more member states the EU has, the greater become the centrifugal forces that threaten to tear it apart. Short-term views of national interests can all too easily derail the long-term priorities of the Union as a whole. That is why everyone taking part in this unprecedented adventure must shoulder their responsibilities and act in such a way that the EU's institutional system continues working effectively. Any major change in the present system must ensure that Europe's plurality is respected.

After all, Europe's most precious asset is its rich diversity - the many differences between its nations. Reforms must also concentrate on the decision-making process. Insisting on unanimous agreement would simply lead to paralysis. The only kind of system that will work is a political and legal system based on majority voting, and with checks and balances built in.

The Constitution drawn up by the Convention is designed to simplify the Treaties and to make the EU's decision-making system more transparent. EU citizens need to know who does what in Europe and to feel it is relevant to their daily lives. Only then will people support the idea of European integration and feel motivated to vote in European elections. The Constitution clarifies what powers and responsibilities belong to the EU, to its member states and to regional authorities. It makes it clear that European integration is based on two kinds of legitimacy: the directly expressed will of the people and the legitimacy of the national governments. The nation state is still the legitimate framework within which European societies operate.

The Constitution is a further important step in the process of getting Europe's nations and peoples to act together.

http://www.europa.eu.int/abc/12lessons/index12_en.htm



MAP OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Legend: Yellow = Pre-May 1, 2004 EU Members; Blue = May 1, 2004 Acceding Members; Lavender = Post-May 1, 2004 Candidate Countries.

EU Members (Total: 25 States)

Country	Accession Date	Population (in million)	Area (in km2)
Austria	1995	8,1	83'858
Belgium*	1957	10,2	30'128
Cyprus	2004	0,8	9'000
Czech Republic	2004	10,3	79'000
Denmark	1973	5,3	43'094
Estonia	2004	1,4	45'000
Finland	1995	5,1	338'000
France*	1957	60,4	550'000
Germany*	1957	82	356'854
Greece	1981	10,5	131'957
Hungary	2004	10,2	93'000
Ireland	1973	3,7	70'000
Italy*	1957	57,6	301'263
Latvia	2004	2,4	65'000
Lithuania	2004	3,7	65'000
Luxembourg*	1957	0,4	2'586
Malta	2004	0,4	316
Netherlands*	1957	15,8	41'864
Poland	2004	38,6	313'000
Portugal	1986	10,8	92'072
Slovakia	2004	5,4	49'000
Slovenia	2004	2,0	20'000
Sweden	1995	8,9	450'000
Spain	1986	39,4	504'782
United Kingdom	1973	58,6	242'500
Total		446,6	3'977'304

* Founding Member

Source: [EU-Website](#)

Introduction

The European Union has grown from six to 15 countries since its beginnings in 1951 and is now tackling its fifth and largest round of expansion. Ten countries from central Europe and the Mediterranean signed an accession treaty in April 2003 and joined the EU in May 2004. Two more countries, Bulgaria and Romania, may join in 2007. Turkey could start membership talks in 2005 and other countries are in the “candidate list”.

In the pages below you will find some geographical, political and economic information concerning the new member states as well as the pictures and the descriptions of their flags.

Poland

Locator map for the European country of Poland. It is bounded to the north by the Baltic Sea, to the northeast by Lithuania, to the east by Belarus and Ukraine, to the south by the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, and to the west by Germany.



Overview

Poland is the largest of the candidate states with a population of 39 million. Its large and unwieldy agricultural sector (employing 27% of the workforce) makes it one of the most difficult for the EU to swallow. Because of Polish fears that foreigners, particularly Germans, will buy up large tracts of the Polish countryside, the EU has agreed that sales of farmland to outsiders can be suspended for 12 years. A referendum in June 2003 resulted in a 77.5% vote in favour of EU membership. The accession treaty was ratified in July.

Economy

Poland's economy has slowed sharply in recent years, with high interest rates and high unemployment, while its economic reform programme has stalled. Poland's infrastructure and labour markets are in desperate need of an overhaul. The EU has criticised Poland for a lack of strategy for its massive agriculture sector, which poses a potential burden on the EU's coffers. One fifth of all Poles are employed on the land but agriculture represents just 5% of GDP.

Facts

Population (millions): 38.6

GDP (bn euros): 196.7

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):

9,410 euros (41% of EU average)

Unemployment:

20%

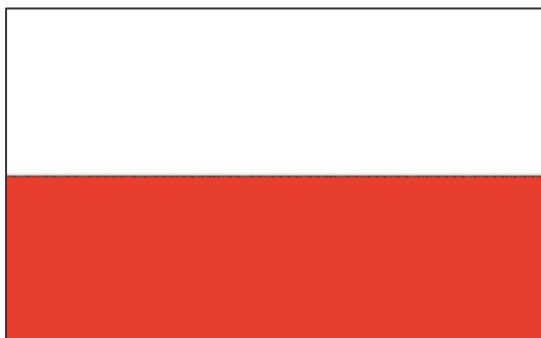
Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):

69%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Poland



Flag

Red and white are the national colours, derived from a 13th-century emblem bearing a white eagle on a red field. Effective date 23 March 1956.

Czech Republic

Czech Republic Map Locator map for the European country of the Czech Republic. It is bounded to the north by Poland, to the northwest and west by Germany, to the south by Austria, and to the east by the Slovak Republic.



Overview

The Czech Republic is one of the best-prepared candidates, though a dispute with Austria over the Temelin nuclear power plant overshadowed its final push for membership. The country's refusal to revoke the Benes decrees authorising the post-war expulsion of Germans, and confiscation of their property, also ruffled feathers in Austria and Germany. The European Commission voiced concern in 2002 about organised crime and corruption, and discrimination against the Roma minority. A referendum in June 2003 resulted

in a 77.3% vote in favour of EU membership.

Economy

The Czech Republic has done well out of its position as a neighbour to Austria and Germany and has high levels of foreign investment. But persistent economic crime and corruption have been a problem. The EU says financial regulations should be more transparent and the budget deficit should be reduced.

Facts

Population (millions): 10.3

GDP (bn euros): 63.3

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
13,700 euros (59% of EU average)

Unemployment:

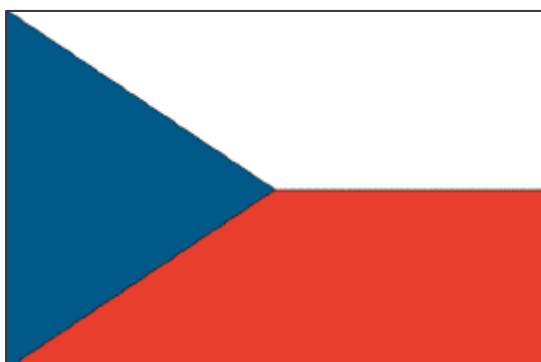
7.3% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
75% (2002)

Data for 2001, unless stated

Czech Republic



Flag

Red and white are the colours of Bohemia, dating back to the 13th century. Blue represents Moravia. Unlike that of the Slovak Republic, the Czech flag is not based on the pan-Slav colours. Effective date 1 January 1993.

Hungary

Hungary Map Locator map for the European country of Hungary. It is bounded to the north by the Slovak Republic, to the northeast by the Ukraine Republic, to the east by Romania, to the south by Serbia Montenegro and Croatia, and to the west by Austria and Slovenia.



Overview

Hungary is well prepared both politically and economically. The final European Commission report on progress made by candidate states praised its reforms of public administration and its well-functioning judicial system. But it said Roma ethnic minority - who constitute up to 10% of the population - "continue to suffer discrimination".

Hungary still needs to reach agreement with Slovakia and Romania on implementation of a law offering rights and benefits to Hungarian minorities abroad. Of Hungarians who voted in a referendum on EU membership in April 2003, 83.8% were in favour.

Economy

The Hungarian economy is in good health with high GDP growth and relatively low levels of unemployment. The government has also won praise in Brussels for its efforts to fight fraud, corruption and money laundering. But Hungary's massive agriculture sector is still in need of a major overhaul to come into line with EU standards and both the rail and energy sectors have yet to be restructured. The EU has also expressed concern about the level of public spending.

Facts

Population (millions): 10.2

GDP (bn euros): 58

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
2,250 euros (53% of EU average)

Unemployment:

5.6% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
75%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Hungary



Flag

Red stands for strength. White symbolizes faithfulness. Green represents hope. Effective date 1 October 1957.

Estonia

Estonia Map Locator map for the European country of Estonia. It is bounded to the east by Russia, to the south by Latvia, and to the north and west by the Baltic Sea.



Overview

Estonia is one of the best-prepared countries for EU membership. In order to join the EU it will have to de-liberalise its economy. The Estonian Central Bank aims to join the euro in 2006 – no other new member has set such an ambitious deadline. Concerns in Brussels about the treatment of minorities (the Russian minority, in particular) have largely abated.

Economy

The EU is full of praise for Estonia's success at modernising its administration. Growth remains high and the utilities, energy and agricultural sectors have been reformed. Estonians have also taken to information technology, boasting the largest number of internet connections of all the candidate countries. But the EU says the economy is hampered by an inflexible labour market which leaves many posts unfilled despite high levels of unemployment.

Facts

Population (millions): 1.36

GDP (bn euros): 6.2

GDP per head (purchasing power standard):
9,240 euros (40% of EU average)

Unemployment:

12.4% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
69%

Data for 2001 unless stated

Estonia



Flag

Blue stands for faith and loyalty, the sea, lakes and the sky. Black represents past suffering and is the colour of the traditional peasant's jacket. White symbolizes virtue and enlightenment, and is the colour of snow, birch bark and the midnight sun. Effective date 16 November 1990.

Cyprus

Cyprus Map Locator map for the European country of Cyprus. The country is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, off the south coast of Turkey and west coast of Syria.

Overview

The failure in 2003 of a UN attempt to unite the island of Cyprus, divided since the Turkish invasion of 1974, means that in effect only the southern two-thirds joined the EU in 2004. If Turkey continues to refuse to recognise the (southern) Cypriot Government, this would complicate Turkey's own EU membership bid.



Economy

Cyprus is well prepared economically for membership and does not face the difficult transition of some of its east European counterparts. Unemployment and inflation have been kept low and the success of the tourist industry has ensured Cyprus's prosperity, although there have been worries about the transparency of the island's banks. However, the north of the Island is very poor – a situation aggravated by Turkey's recent economic turmoil. The prospect of EU aid has increased support in the north for a political settlement with the south.

Facts

Population (millions)

0.762

GDP (bn euros): 10.2

GDP per head (purchasing power standards)

17,180 euros (74% of EU average)

Unemployment

5.3% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports)

54% (2002)

Data for 2001, unless stated

Cyprus



Flag

Although often coloured yellow, the island is intended to be copper, reflecting the country's name, Copper Island. Effective date c. September 1960.

Slovakia (Slovak Republic)

Slovak Republic Map Locator map for the European country of Slovak Republic. It is bounded to the north by Poland, to the east by the Ukraine, to the south by Hungary, to the west by Austria, and to the northwest by the Czech Republic.



Overview

Slovakia passed an important hurdle in 2002 when the electorate stopped short of voting back into office the authoritarian former Prime Minister, Vladimir Meciar. The European Commission welcomed constitutional changes to decentralise power and strengthen the independence of the judiciary. However, it was still concerned in 2002 about corruption and recommended passing anti-discrimination laws to further improve the lot of the Roma minority. A referendum in May 2003 resulted in a 92.5% vote in favour of EU membership.

Economy

Slovaks always suffered as being the Czechs' poor relations and have been slower off the mark in establishing their market economy. Some privatisation and restructuring has been successfully completed but farming still needs a big shake-up. Unemployment remains high, as does the budget deficit. But the main blight is persistent corruption, a matter of major concern to Brussels.

Facts

Population (millions): 5.4m

GDP (bn euros): 22.8

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
11,200 euros (48% of EU average)

Unemployment:

19.4%

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
60%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Slovak Republic



Flag

The arms depict the Carpathian Mountains which traverse the Slovak Republic. The flag uses the pan-Slav colours representing liberation from foreign domination. Effective date 3 September 1992.

Malta

Malta Map Locator map for the European country of Malta. The country is an island in the Mediterranean Sea, south of Sicily, east of Tunisia and north of Libya.



Overview

Unlike most other candidate countries, Malta has not had to overhaul its democratic and economic structures in order to join the EU but the European Commission's final progress report in 2002 said it needed to do more to improve gender equality. A referendum in March 2003 resulted in a 53.6% vote in favour of EU membership. A protocol to the accession treaty says Malta is free to apply national legislation on abortion; a declaration also says that Malta's participation in the EU's defence and security policy does not affect its neutrality.

Economy

Malta meets many of the economic conditions for membership, although the EU would prefer to see more liberalisation of its markets and a lower budget deficit. Unemployment remains relatively low and GDP growth is steady. Malta has been part of a free trade zone with the EU since 1971.

Facts

Population (millions): 0.390

GDP (bn euros): 4.0

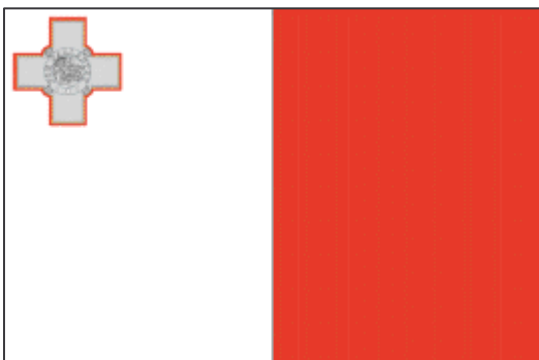
GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
10,340 euros (1999)

Unemployment:
5.3%

Exports within EU
(as % of total national exports):
33.5%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Malta



Flag

The George Cross was awarded by King George VI and originally appeared in a small blue canton. The present design dates from 1964 when the islands gained independence. Effective date 21 September 1964.

Latvia

Latvia Map Locator map for the European country of Latvia. It is bounded to the east by Russia, to the north by Estonia, to the north and northwest by the Baltic Sea, to the south by Lithuania, and to the southeast by Belarus.

Overview

The European Commission's final progress report on Latvia in 2002 called for more efforts to integrate minorities, noting that some 22% of the population - mostly ethnic Russians - lacked citizenship. A ministry for integration began operations in 2003; it planned to campaign for ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, after a referendum on EU membership. The 2002 report also called for action against corruption and for work to improve conditions in pre-trial detention.



Economy

Latvia has a functioning market economy, although it needed substantial reform before it was ready for EU membership. Privatisation has slowed and unemployment remains high. Although it has made progress on the crucial agricultural sector, it still needs to reform energy and telecommunications. Brussels would also like Latvia to step up its fight against organised crime, money laundering, fraud and corruption.

Facts

Population (millions): 2.35 (2002)

GDP (bn euros): 8.5

GDP per head (purchasing power standard):
7,750 euros (33% of EU average)

Unemployment:

13.1%

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
61%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Latvia



Flag

It is said that berries were used to dye the flag. Red represents the blood shed in the past and the willingness to offer it again. White stands for right, truth, the honour of free citizens, and trustworthiness. Effective date 27 February 1990.

Lithuania

Lithuania Map Locator map for the European country of Lithuania. It is bounded to the north by Latvia, to the east by Belarus, to the south by Poland and the Kaliningrad area of Russia, and to the west by the Baltic Sea.

Overview

Lithuania is a stepping stone between the Russian Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad and Russia proper. On 1 July 2003 it began preparing for entry into the EU Schengen "open borders" scheme by insisting that Russian citizens should obtain a travel document to cross the country by land. Lithuania has agreed to close the Ignalina nuclear power plant, which supplies much of its electricity, by 2009. In return the EU has agreed to contribute 285 million euros towards the cost of decommissioning between 2004 and 2006. A referendum resulted in a 91% vote in favour of EU membership.



Economy

Lithuania has shaken off the post-Soviet problems which have beset neighbouring Russia and has forged ahead with its transition to a market economy. Its programme of privatisation is almost complete. More reforms, however, are required before Lithuania is ready for the buffeting winds of the EU's internal market. Unemployment is persistently high and more reforms are needed in the agriculture sector.

Facts

Population (millions): 3.48

GDP (bn euros): 13.4

GDP per head (purchasing power standard):
8,960 euros (39% of EU average)

Unemployment:
13.1%

Exports within EU
(as % of total national exports):
48%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Lithuania



Flag

Yellow stands for grain and freedom from need. Green symbolizes the forests and hope. Red represents bloodshed and courage. Effective date 20 March 1989.

Slovenia

Slovenia Map Locator map for the European country of Slovenia. It is bounded to the north by Austria, to the east by Hungary, to the west by Italy, and to the south by Croatia.



Overview

Slovenia, the only candidate country from the former Yugoslavia, is also the most prosperous, after Cyprus, with a per capita income some 70% of the EU average. The European Commission said in 2002 that it wanted Slovenia to continue upgrading border management along what will become the EU's external border. A referendum in March 2003 resulted in an 89.6% vote in favour of EU membership.

Economy

With a GDP above that of Greece and close to Portugal's, Slovenia's economic qualifications for EU membership are not in doubt. Unemployment is low and the budget deficit has been cut. The agricultural sector has also been brought up to date. The EU's criticisms have focused on persistently high levels of inflation and the inflexibility of the Slovenian labour market.

Facts

Population (millions): 2

GDP (bn euros): 20.9

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
16,210 euros (70% of EU average)

Unemployment:

6.4% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
59%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Slovenia



Flag

The three stars are taken from the arms of the Duchy of Selje. The flag uses the pan-Slav colours. Effective date 25 June 1991.

Romania - CANDIDATE

Romania Map Locator map for the European country of Romania. It is bounded to the north and east by Ukraine, to the east by Moldova, to the southeast by the Black Sea, to the south by Bulgaria, to the southwest by Serbia and Montenegro, and to the northwest by Hungary.



Overview

Like its neighbour Bulgaria, Romania hopes to join the EU in 2007. The European Union adopted a "roadmap" for both countries in 2002, spelling out the administrative and economic reforms they need to carry out before this can happen. Romania is making slow progress in adopting EU legislation. It has tried to improve its record on the treatment of children in institutions, discrimination against the Roma, and human trafficking, but with mixed results. The European Commission says corruption is "a cause for very serious concern". Support for membership is sky high, at 80% or more.

Economy

The weakness of Romania's administration has allowed corruption to flourish while the economy has languished. Romania is still far from ready to deal with the forces of the EU's single market. The government has renewed its efforts to meet a programme laid out by the IMF but inflation remains high, as does the budget deficit. In some sectors, such as agriculture, restructuring is barely under way.

Facts

Population (millions): 22.4

GDP (bn euros): 40

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
5,560 (24% of EU average)

Unemployment:

8% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
67.8%

Data for 2001 unless stated

Romania



Flag

Nowadays the colours are said to stand respectively (from left to right) for Moldavia, Transylvania, and Wallachia. Effective date 27 December 1989.

Bulgaria - CANDIDATE

Bulgaria Map Locator map for the European country of Bulgaria. It is bounded to the north by Romania, to the west by Serbia and Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to the south by Greece, to the southeast by Turkey, and to the east by the Black Sea.



Overview

Bulgaria hopes to join the EU in 2007, along with Romania. In a roadmap approved in 2002, designed to steer the two countries towards membership, the EU says Bulgaria needs to draw up a reform to improve its administrative capacity. It also says Bulgaria has a functioning market economy – but that it would not yet be able to cope with the competitive pressures and market forces within the union. The 2002 progress report drew attention to poor conditions in institutions, particularly those for mentally disabled people, and the harsh treatment of people in pre-trial detention. Support for membership in Bulgaria is high, with 70% in favour.

Economy

Bulgaria's creaking economy is struggling to make progress towards Europe's single market. Its main stumbling block is endemic corruption and weak public administration. The European Commission says the government's efforts to combat these scourges have had little concrete effect. The lack of transparency and effective regulation have also hindered investment and scared off entrepreneurs.

Facts

Population (millions): 8

GDP (bn euros): 15.2

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):
5,710 euros (25% of EU average)

Unemployment:

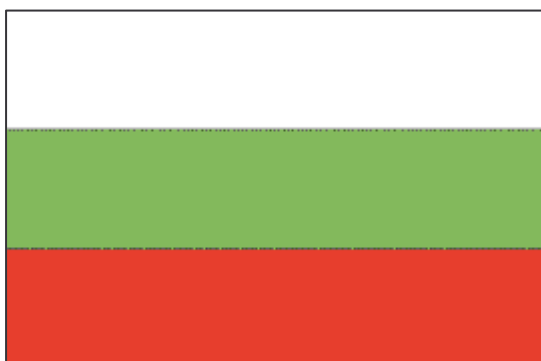
18.6% (2002)

Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):
54.8%

Data for 2001, unless stated

Bulgaria



Flag

White represents a desire for peace and liberty. Green symbolizes freedom and agricultural wealth. Red stands for the courage and spilt blood of the freedom fighters. Effective date 22 November 1990.

Turkey – APPLICANT

Turkey Map Locator map for the European country of Turkey. It is bounded to the east by Armenia, Georgia and Iran, to the southeast by Iraq and Syria, to the west by Greece and the Aegean Sea, and to the northwest by Bulgaria.



Overview

Turkey was awarded candidate status in 1999, but membership talks have yet to begin because of the country's dubious human rights record. Since 2001, new laws have been passed strengthening freedom of speech and freedom of the press, abolishing the death penalty, and allowing broadcasting and education in Kurdish. Steps have also been taken to reduce the power of the military in politics. The European Commission must check whether the reforms are being implemented in practice. If they are, and if there are no outstanding problems relating to Cyprus, membership talks could begin in 2005.

Economy

Turkey was plunged into economic crisis in 2001 – share prices plummeted, inflation soared and interest rates spiralled. The government focused on halting the decline and renegotiating Turkey's IMF loans. The country remains far from alignment with EU norms. Nonetheless there is healthy trade between the EU and Turkey, and many Turkish people work in EU countries.

Facts

Population (millions): 68

GDP (bn euros): 165

GDP per head (purchasing power standards):

5,230 euros (23% of EU average)

Unemployment:

10.4% (2002)

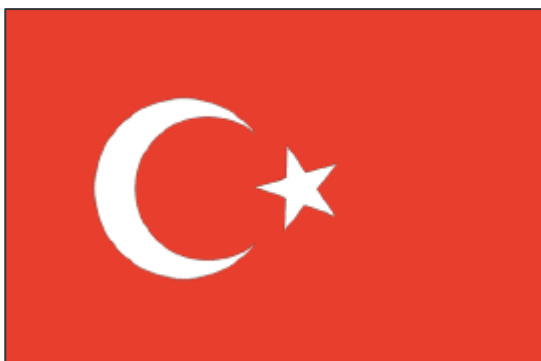
Exports within EU

(as % of total national exports):

52%

Data for 2001, unless stated.

Turkey



Flag

The star, which was added to the flag in 1793, initially had more than five points. The star may represent the Morning Star mentioned in the Koran. Effective date 5 June 1936.