



# Twenty-seven Member States in 2007

The European Union has changed a great deal since 1951. At the beginning, six countries decided to form a European Coal and Steel Community: the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), France, Belgium, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.

Between the six countries of 1951 and the twenty-seven of today, the EU has seen six waves of accessions commonly referred to as “enlargements”:

- 1973: Denmark, Ireland, United Kingdom
- 1981: Greece
- 1986: Spain and Portugal
- 1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden
- 2004: Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Slovenia
- 2007: Bulgaria and Romania.

