

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



Chicago, IL

November 4, 2017

Welcome to the European Union!



Dear SIMUN Delegates,

My name is Juliet Welsh and I will be chairing the European Union. I am honored to welcome you to the 2017 Saint Ignatius Model United Nations Conference. I am a senior at Saint Ignatius College Prep and a member of the SIMUN Executive Board. This will be my third year of participating in Model United Nations and my second time chairing. I look forward getting to know each of you in committee and making SIMUN a rewarding experience.

The European Union is a continental union with the goal of addressing and fixing the problems Europe faces. The organization has been in the news a lot recently as the world looks at their response to numerous terrorist attacks, Brexit and the refugee crisis. The committee will flow like a standard crisis committee and we will be addressing our three topics through caucuses and directives. Our topics are the Security, Economics and Membership. Each country has its own view of the three issues and all countries are highly effected by all of them. Your position paper should be one page and include creative ways to solve each of these diverse issues.

SIMUN XVI is a training conference where members that are new to Model UN can learn about this organization and more experienced members can continue to gain skills that can be used in larger conferences. However, this is still a competition and I expect each of you to bring your best work to committee. As your Chair, my goal is to make this conference as exciting and interesting as possible. I look forward to working and learning with you.

If you have any questions about of this committee or this conference, don't hesitate to email me at juliet.welsh@students.ignatius.org. Simply include your name and country, I will get back to you as soon as I can. Good luck with research and preparation. I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Juliet Welsh

A letter from your Vice Chair,

My name is Cristina Rinella and I will be vice chairing the European Union at Saint Ignatius' 16th Model United Nations Conference. I am a junior at Saint Ignatius College Prep and this is my second year on the SIMUN team, and my first time serving on the dias. I hope that SIMUN gives to you what you seek within it, whether that be the gavel or just a learning opportunity. Model United Nations is about working together and seeking conclusions to real world problems and it is important to keep that in mind when preparing but also most importantly when in committee. I am beyond excited to welcome each and every one of you and see what is brought to the committee room.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email your chair, Juliet Welsh at juliet.welsh@students.ignatius.org, or I at cristina.rinella@students.ignatius.org.

Sincerely,

Cristina Rinella '19

Topic A: Security



The European Union faces many large security concerns, and many of them just became relevant in the last few years. Considering that the EU foreign and security policy enables the EU to speak and act as one in world affairs, this body will attempt to find solutions to these security problems and prevent future concerns. The two biggest topics of concern are the refugee and migrant crisis, and the recent surge of terrorism. The two topics are intertwined and it is hard to discuss one without bringing in the other. Each country has its own opinion of how these issues should be solved and how relevant they are to the EU. All countries have dealt with refugees and almost every countries has been directly effected by terrorism.

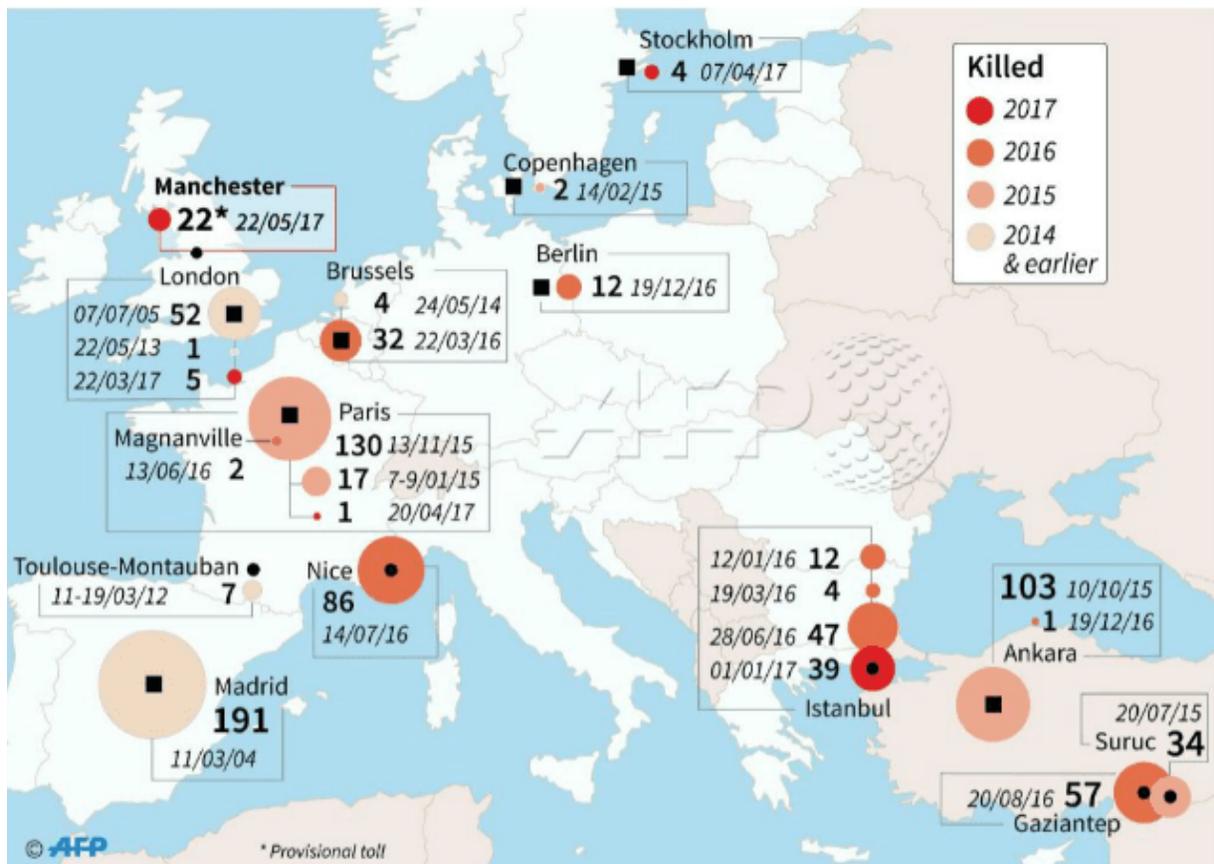
The refugee and migrant crisis mostly affects Europe as we debate who should be allowed into our countries and how many. Each year millions of people are forced to leave their homes and seek refuge from conflicts, violence, human rights violations, persecution and natural disasters. Others seek new homes in countries with better economic prospects. Since 2016 the EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid has given



more than €1972 million, which is 87% of our annual budget, to projects helping the forcibly displaced and their host communities in 56 countries (Turkey, Greece, Syria, Iraq and South Sudan being largest). Many migrants have been illegally entering countries by boat and land. This is dangerous for those making the trips and the countries that have illegal migrants entering their borders. The EU needs to figure out how much more we can help refugees. The concern is whether or not this brings risk to our countries. Hopefully we can solve these intertwined crisis during this committee.

This leads into the second major concern for the citizens of the European Union: terrorism. Terrorism is not a new phenomenon in Europe, but it poses a threat to our security and lives of EU citizens. The EU has been doing what it can to prevent attacks,

Main attacks in Europe and Turkey



the member states adopted the EU counter-terrorism strategy in 2005. Which has been somewhat successful focusing on four main pillars: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. However, it is time for us to make new strategies, and make sure events like the Paris attacks and the Manchester Arena bombings never happen again. All the countries in the EU have differing opinions on what is causing these attacks and what needs to be done. It

is time update our counter terrorism strategies and find common ground on how to effectively end the crisis.

Questions to consider:

- What security concerns come with opening our borders to refugees?
- How do we make the distinction between migrants and refugees?
- What can be done to stop the flow of migrants?
- What is causing the surge in terror attacks?
- What can be done to end this era of terrorism in Europe?
- How do these two issues effect one another?

Topic B: Economics

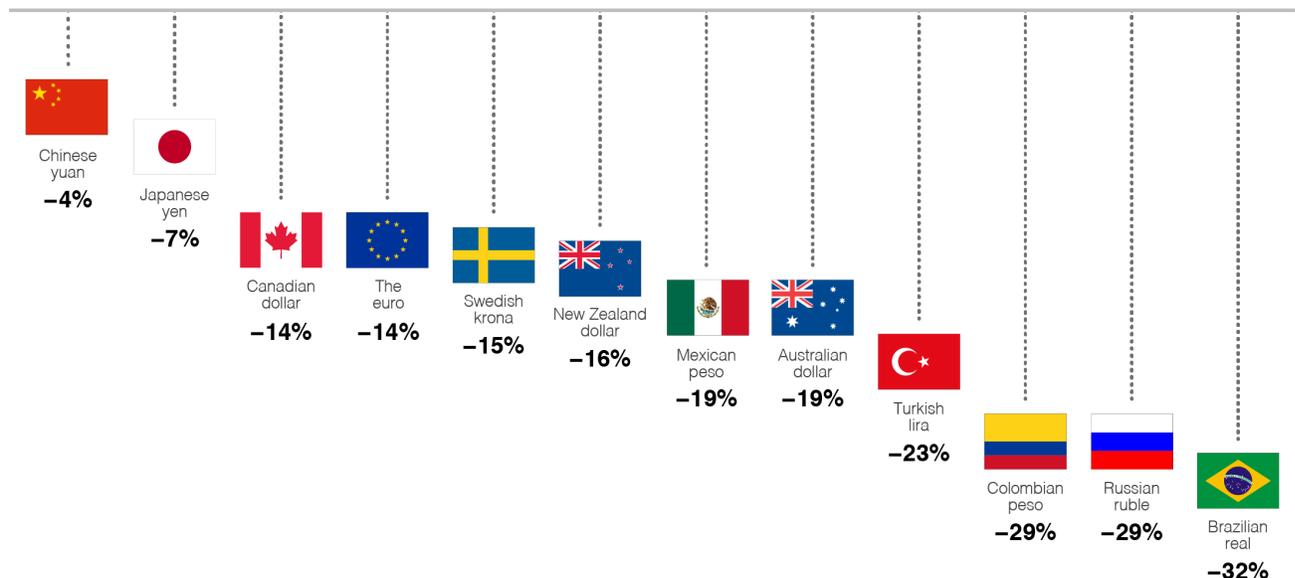


The European economy is held together by cooperation and communication within the EU. The member countries have coordinated our national economic policies so we can act together when faced with challenges such as financial crisis. This coordination has been pushed even further by the 19 countries that have adopted the euro as their currency. We began this coordination after the 2008 crisis, and since the national governments, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the European Commission have been working together. Our goals include restoring financial stability, maintaining affordable credit, and placing a better system of economic and financial governance. The EU has also been able to improve trade amount European countries and monitor debt.

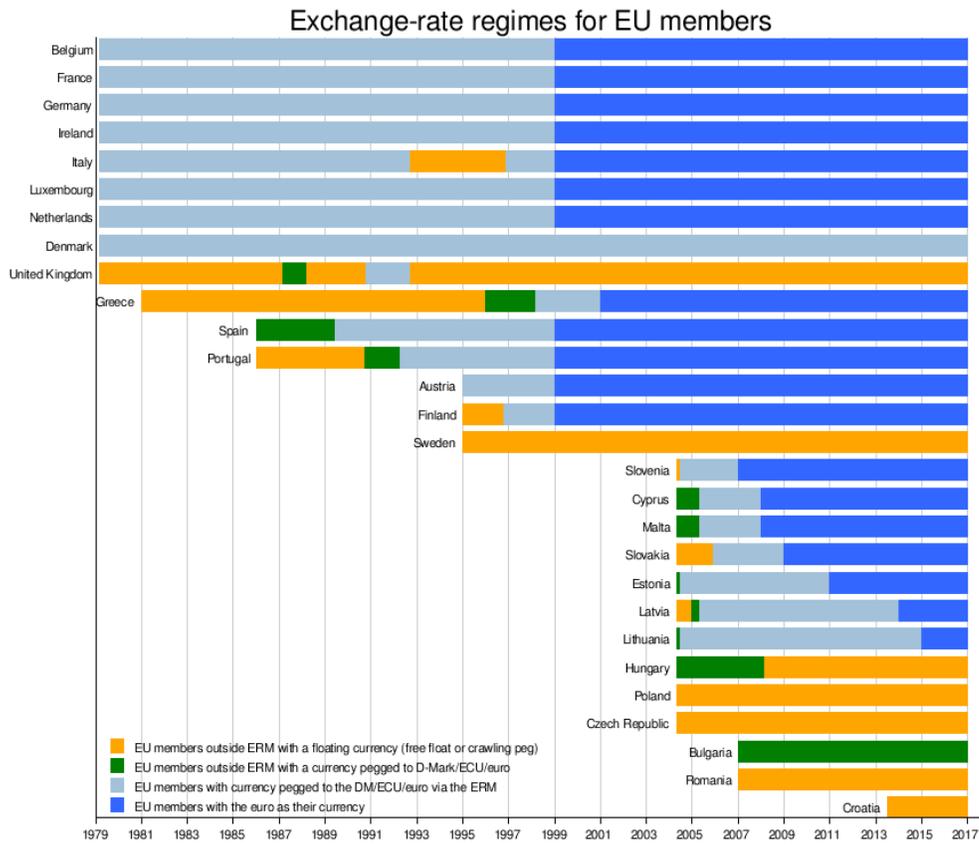


We have two major problems with our economy: foreign trade and the economic status of individual members. These two issues have disrupted an economy that has otherwise been on the mend and give reason for members to question a united economy.

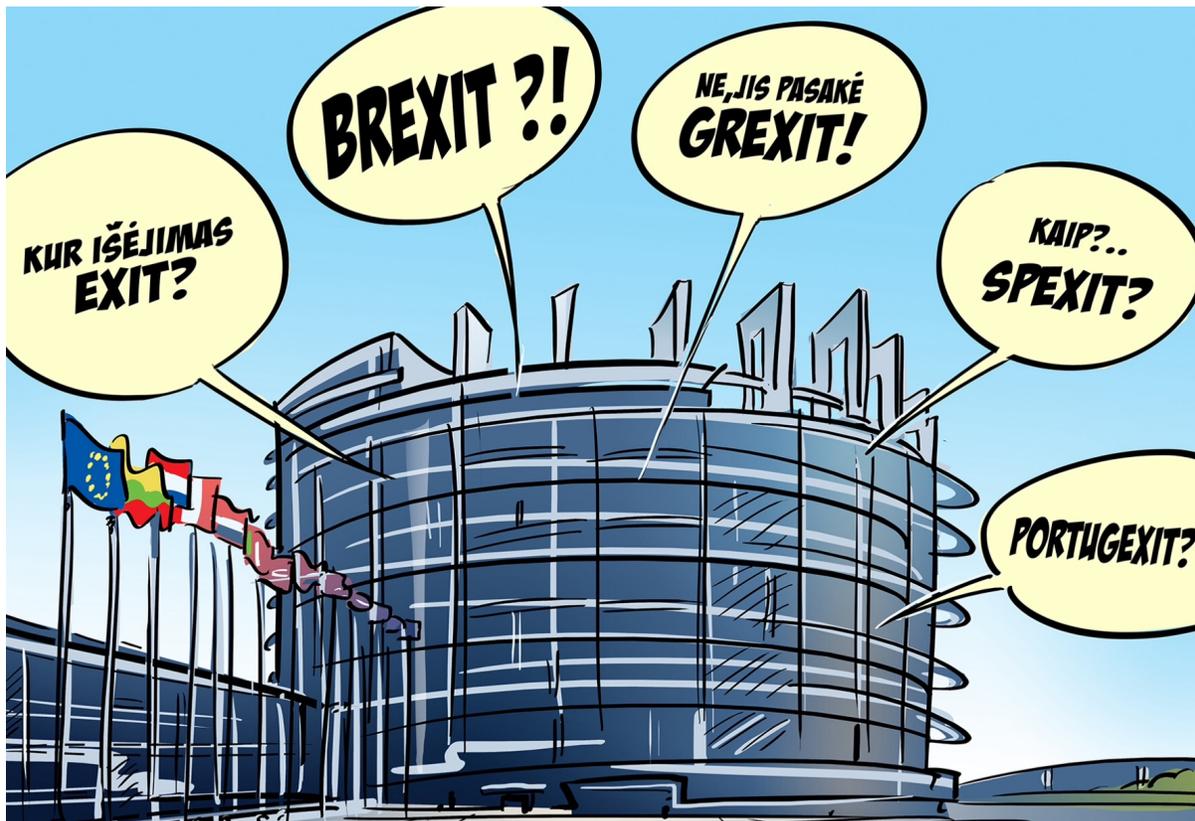
With just 7% of the world's population, the EU's trade with the rest of the world accounts for an impressive 20% of global exports and imports. However, over 62% of EU countries' total trade is done with other EU countries. The EU is one of the three largest global players for international trade, next to the United States and China. Yet, we have



hit road blocks when it comes to trading with these leading countries. The difficulty the EU had in getting the EU-Canada trade agreement (CETA) ratified shows the challenges we might face in the future. The European Court of Justice has ruled that any new trade agreement that goes beyond external tariff cuts, which is the case for all modern trade agreements, must be ratified not only by the European Parliament, but also by all national parliaments across the EU. On top of that, the future of the Transatlantic Trade and



Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the EU and the US looks highly uncertain with Donald Trump in the White House.



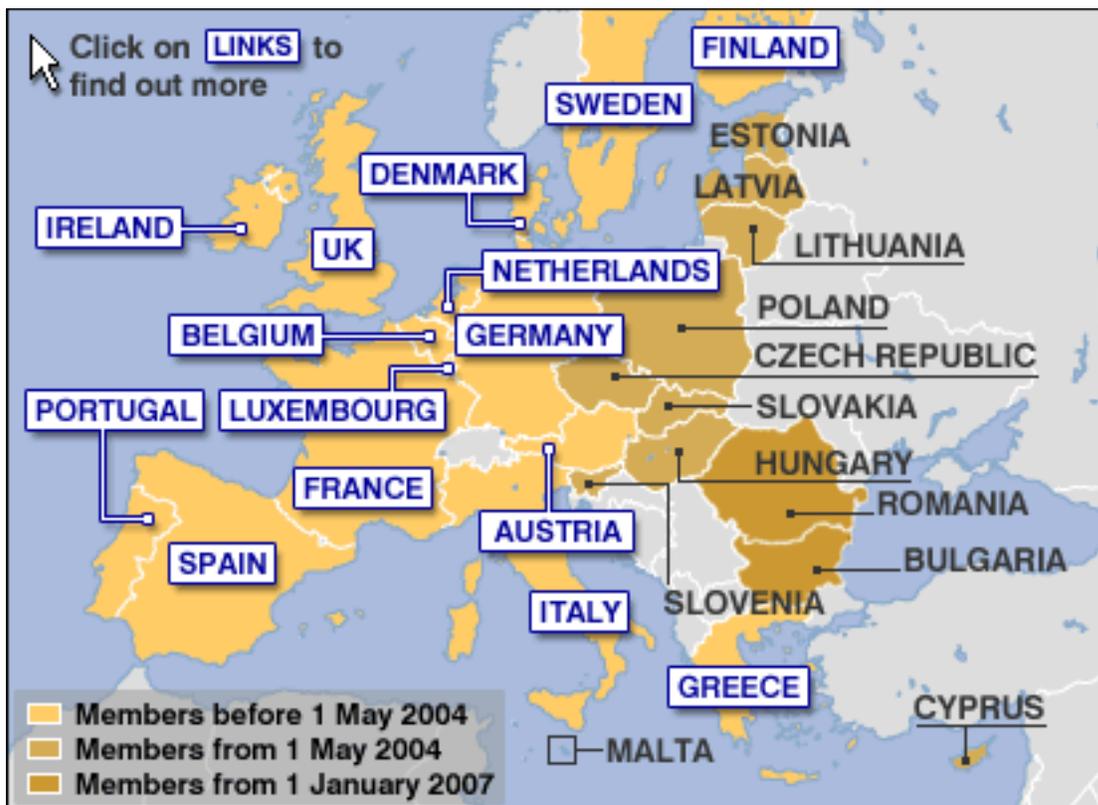
The EU economy seems to be gradually improving as a whole, but each individual country has its own set of financial ups and downs. When Greece declared bankruptcy and the EU had to bail it out, we learned an important lesson: the economy of each individual country makes a difference. Just because Germany's economy is showing healthy economic momentum with no signs of abating does not mean the same can be said for Italy. Italy has taken steps to improve financial stability, but the many structural weaknesses continue to restrain growth potential. The EU needs to figure out exactly what the responsibilities of each country are when it comes to Europe's economy. The Euro can not collapse, so the EU needs to find a way to protect its future stability and solve any financial problems before they become serious.

Questions to Consider:

- What are the biggest economic problems that the EU faces?
- How will the new restrictions on trade deals affect the European economy?
- How will new leadership in trade partners hinder trade?
- What responsibility does each country have in the European economy?
- How can the EU keep each individual economy separate? Does it need too?
- Is your country doing well financially? Or is it struggling?
- How involved should the EU be individual country's economic policy making?

Topic C: Membership

The EU currently has 28 members that grew out of an original six members (Belgium, France, West Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands). Countries join the EU by becoming party to the founding treaties, thereby subjecting themselves to the privileges and obligations of membership. One of the main things that keeps countries from joining is the partial delegation of sovereignty in return for representation in the EU. To become a member, a countries must meet the "Copenhagen criteria", which was created at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen in 1993. Requirements



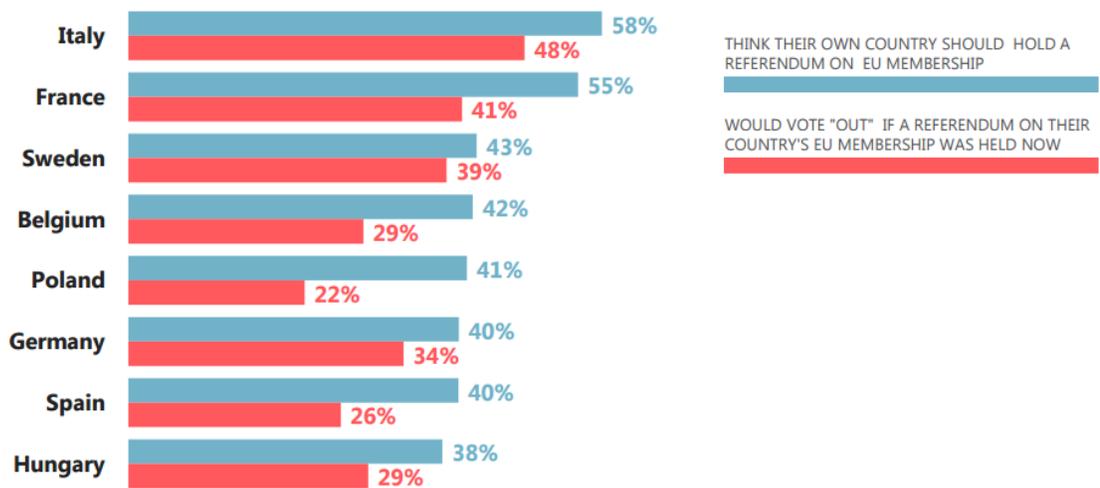
include stable democracy, a functioning market economy, and the acceptance of the

obligations of membership. One issue that the EU currently faces with membership is if they should allow any new members to join. The other issue concerning membership is the countries considering leaving the EU, like the UK did with Brexit.

On June 23rd, 2016 around 52% of British citizens voted yes on a referendum to leave the EU. The EU was put on the track to exit the EU by March of 2019. The UK has two years to negotiate its terms of exit. There has been a lot of question as to whether or

Who wants a referendum on the EU and would vote "OUT"?

Do you think your own country should or should not hold a referendum on its European Union membership?
How would you vote if your country held such a referendum now?



Base: 6017 adults aged 16-64 across Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, March-April 2016

Ipsos Public Affairs

Source: Ipsos Global @dvisor

not the UK will go through with Brexit. The EU is still recovering from the aftermath of the financial problems that erupted as a result of Brexit. A new question has emerged, who will leave next? With the recent French elections it became a real possibility that Brexit could happen, and the world questioned if the EU could survive another exit. The EU is

in a turmoil due to the possibility that any country could decide to leave. Considering this we need to find better solutions to countries leaving and create new legislation around exiting. The ultimate problem the EU faces is, whether or not the EU is on the the edge of collapse.

The EU has a diversity of different countries that work together as a body, but not all of Europe is a member. Currently Albania, Iceland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina are all considered candidates for membership (some more qualified then others). The EU must take each of these candidates seriously and evaluate which countries could benefit the EU. Especially



with the UK possibly leaving it could certainly be time for a new member. With new

members, however, comes new concerns with security, economics and all other issues the EU concerns ourselves with. For example, many have purposes that Turkey could be a good addition to the EU, but others argue that geography and refugee intake makes their membership impossible. Another complicated membership decision comes with whether the EU should entertain the possibility of Scotland becoming a member of the EU after Brexit. There are endless possibilities and the EU needs to make a united decision in who should be considered and who should not be.

Questions to consider:

- What are the requirements for membership? Requirements for exit?
- How can the EU adapt after Brexit?
- What will the EU do in the event of more exits?
- Which countries are eligible for membership?
- What countries would benefit your country if they were to gain membership?
- Is your country considering leaving? What steps would they like to put in place to make exit easier?

COUNTRIES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Austria- Joined in 1995

Belgium- Joined in 1958

Bulgaria- Joined in 2007

Croatia- Joined in 2013

Cyprus- Joined in 2004

Czech Republic- Joined in 2004

Denmark- Joined in 1973

Estonia- Joined in 2004

Finland- Joined in 1995

France- Joined in 1958

Germany-Joined in 1958

Greece-Joined in 1981

Hungary-Joined in 2004

Ireland- Joined in 1973

Italy- Joined in 1958

Latvia-Joined in 2004

Lithuania-Joined in 2004

Luxembourg- Joined in 1958

Malta-Joined in 2004

Netherlands- Joined in 1958

Poland-Joined in 2004

Portugal-Joined in 1986

Romania- Joined in 2007

Slovakia-Joined in 2004

Slovenia-Joined in 2004

Spain- Joined in 1986

Sweden-Joined in 1995

United Kingdom- Joined in 1973. For the moment the UK remains a full member of the EU, however, it is in the process of withdrawing membership.

COUNTRIES INTEGRATING INTO THE EU

Several countries are in the process of integrating or transitioning into the European Union. Membership in the EU is a long and difficult process, it also requires a free-market economy and a stable democracy. Countries must also accept all the EU legislation, which can often take years to accomplish.

Albania

Montenegro

Serbia

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Turkey

