



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF DENMARK**

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

HISTORY & PERSPECTIVES

The Danish Embassy in [XXX] – [Date] [Month] 2023

WHAT IS EU ENLARGEMENT?

- Process whereby states join the EU after fulfilling a set of political and economic conditions
- Ongoing process since the establishment of the EEC (later EU)
- Several waves of enlargement taking place over the years



WHO CAN BECOME MEMBERS?

- Any European state who respects EU democratic values and is committed to promoting them may apply for EU membership
- The primary objective of EU enlargement is to promote stability, peace, and economic development among European countries by fostering closer cooperation and integration



THE COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

- On 21-22 June 1993, the EU's then-twelve heads of state and government met in Copenhagen to adopt a set of conditions that countries wishing to become member of the EU must adhere to
- Known as the Copenhagen Criteria, their adoption established – for the first time – a set of clear criteria on the basis of which applicant countries' merits could be assessed





DANMARK 1993



THE COPENHAGEN CRITERIA

CONDITIONS ALL CANDIDATE COUNTRIES MUST SATISFY TO BECOME AN EU MEMBER STATE

Political criteria: stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities

Economic criteria: a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces

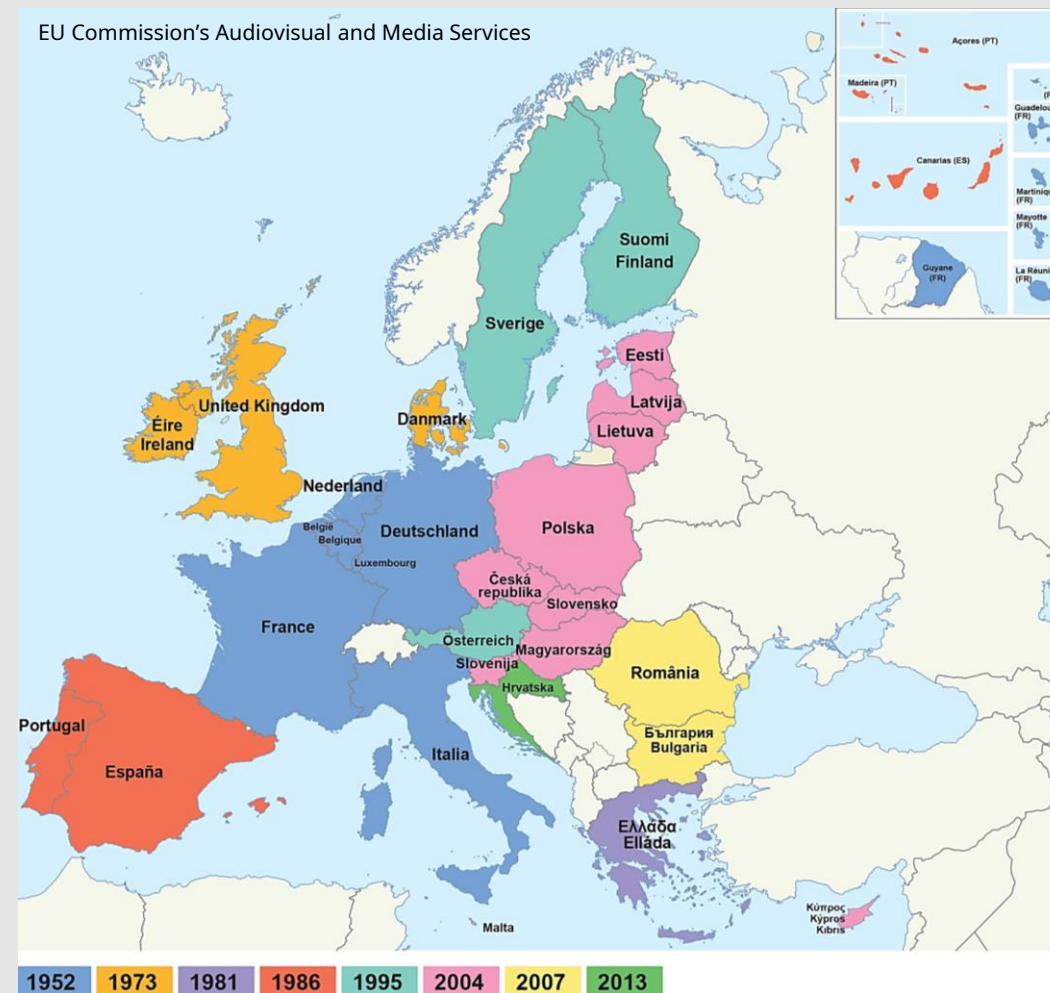
Administrative and institutional capacity to effectively implement the EU acquis (body of common rules and legislation) and ability to take on the obligations of EU membership

EU's **capacity to take in new members**, while maintaining the momentum of European integration, is also an important consideration. Sometimes called the 4th Copenhagen criterion

SUCCESSIVE WAVES OF EU ENLARGEMENT

Several rounds of enlargement

- **1973:** UK, Ireland and Denmark
- **1981:** Greece
- **1986:** Spain and Portugal
- **1995:** Austria, Finland, and Sweden
- **2004:** Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia
- **2007:** Bulgaria and Romania
- **2013:** Croatia





FURTHER EU ENLARGEMENT

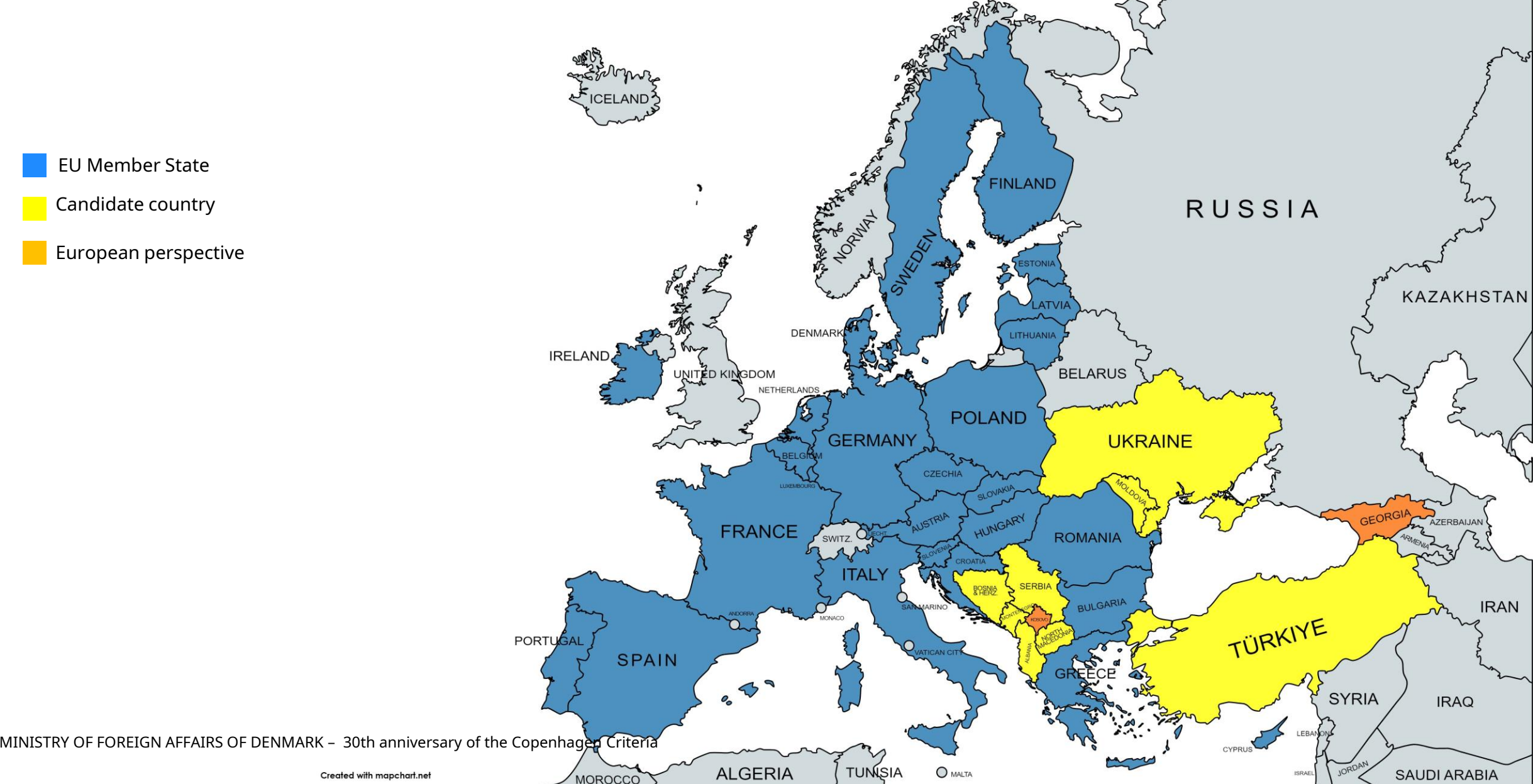
The Copenhagen Criteria play an important role in relation to the current enlargement process

The current candidate countries are:

- Montenegro
- Serbia
- North Macedonia
- Albania
- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Kosovo and Georgia have applied for EU membership. Both countries have a European perspective
- Türkiye became a candidate country in 1999, but negotiations have formally been put on hold since 2018
- Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, and Albania are currently engaged in accession negotiations

FURTHER EU ENLARGEMENT



PROGRESS MONITORING

- Candidate countries progress through a series of steps towards EU membership, involving negotiation and implementation of reforms
- Once a candidate country has met all the criteria and fulfilled the requirements, it may be granted membership
- Decision to admit a new member state lies with the existing EU member states, who must unanimously agree on the accession
- The Commission closely monitors the progress of candidate countries through regular assessments, evaluations, and benchmarks
- These monitoring mechanisms ensure that countries continue to meet the criteria throughout the accession process



CONCLUSION

- EU enlargement aims to promote stability and cooperation in Europe
- Past enlargements have given the EU a substantial size and weight internationally: 27 member states, 446 million inhabitants, a total gross domestic product of approximately €15.8 trillion
- Future enlargements may bring the number of member states up to 37 – or more.
- To become members, candidate countries must fulfill the Copenhagen Criteria. They must align their political, economic, and legal systems with those of the EU

