

1

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. How many nations are in the European Union today? **27**
2. What was the official aim of the European Union at first? **a project designed to create peace after World War II**
3. What was the European Coal and Steel Community? When and why was it founded? **founded in 1952 by six countries – aim to control the industrial production of member states, so that one state could not become too powerful**
4. Where was the EEC treaty signed? **Rome**
5. Which 6 countries were the original members? **West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg**
6. When did the first enlargement take place? Which countries joined? **1973 – United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark**
7. When did Spain and Portugal become members? **1986**
8. When was the Maastricht Treaty signed? What were its objectives? **1991 – creation of a political union and the promise to introduce a single currency**
9. When did the biggest enlargement take place? Which countries joined and why was this so important? **2004 – Communism was finally defeated, and the division of Europe overcome**
10. What are the tasks of the European Council? **goals and rules of the EU are set , big problems and topics are discussed**
11. Which organ is the law-making body of the EU? **Council of Ministers**
12. Who is the current head of the European Commission? **Ursula von der Leyen**
13. Which is the only institution that is elected by the people? What tasks must it fulfil? **the European Parliament – can make suggestions but not pass laws, strong influence of the EU budget**
14. Where are the headquarters of the European Central Bank? **Frankfurt**
15. Name a few advantages of the euro? no more exchange rates – **easier for business, consumers can compare prices, increased trade among member states, foreign bank payments have become easier, travelers don't have to exchange money**
16. Name a few problems that are currently blocking Turkish EU membership? **divided island of Cyprus, Kurds in Turkey, human rights problems**

2

Answer the following questions in your own words.

1. What does the term “single market” mean? **an agreement among a group of countries not to charge tax for products and services they trade with each other**
2. When did the euro become a currency in 12 EU states? **2002**
3. Why are euro coins not the same in all countries? **one side has national symbols and different designs**
4. Which EU countries have chosen not to have the euro as its currency? **Sweden, Denmark**
5. What happened at the UK referendum in 2016? **52% voted to leave the European Union**
6. What were the arguments in favor of leaving the EU? **no more money into the EU budget, better control of border and immigration, UK could pass its own laws**
7. What was the main problem in the Brexit negotiations? **border between Ireland and Northern Ireland**
8. How do goods travel across the Irish border? Which solution has been reached? **There is a so-called Irish Sea border between the EU and the UK. All Goods coming from the UK are checked at Northern Irish ports. Those goods destined for Northern Ireland can continue unchecked, those destined for EU countries go through a normal customs check. Therefore, there are no checks at the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland**
9. Which state was the last to become an EU member? **Croatia**
10. How many members are there in the European Commission and where do they come from? **27 commissioners, one from each member state**
11. What does the Court of Justice do? **decides if the actions of private citizens, companies and nations are legal or not**
12. Which military organization is Turkey a member of? **NATO**
13. How has crossing national borders been made easier? **no more passport checks in Schengen countries**
14. How has the EU made mobile phone use easier when travelling? **no more roaming costs, no more monopoly of state phone companies**
15. What is the Erasmus programme? **exchange programme for students**
16. Which country was hit hardest during the 2008 recession? How did the EU help? **Greece – received financial support from the EU**

3

TRUE or FALSE – Put a check into the correct box.

	T	F
The ECSC was founded because European countries didn't want Germany to become so powerful again.	✓	
In the Maastricht Treaty member countries decided to let eastern European nations join the EU.		✓
All European countries introduced the euro in 2002.		✓
Citizens in France and the Netherlands rejected the new constitution.	✓	
The Council of Ministers makes the laws in the EU.	✓	
In the European Parliament all states have the same number of representatives.		✓
The European Commission tries to keep the euro a strong currency.		✓
When you drive into a "Schengen" country you don't have to show your passport.	✓	
EU citizens can work and live anywhere they want to in the union.	✓	
Budget airlines emerged because buying airplanes has become cheaper.		✓
Some food names in the EU are protected by law.	✓	
The biggest enlargement took place in 2004.	✓	
Greek citizens live in the northern part of Cyprus.		✓
The Kurds make up 20% of the Turkish population.	✓	
Every year a different country serves as president of the EU.		✓
There is one commissioner from each EU country.	✓	
The European Parliament has great powers concerning budget issues.	✓	
More than 80% of the UK's population voted to leave the EU in 2016.		✓
There are no more roaming phone costs for EU citizens.	✓	
One of the advantages of the euro is that consumers can compare prices in EU countries more easily.	✓	
The EU still controls immigration to the UK.		✓

4

Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.

A	expand		E	promise
B	found		L	line that separates two countries
C	cooperate		R	difficult time when there is less trade and people buy fewer products
D	collapse		H	when people are asked to vote on an important topic
E	vow		O	a problem that comes up and is difficult to solve
F	sign		A	to become larger
G	currency		D	to fall apart; break down
H	referendum		J	set of rules that a country has
I	economy		N	the organ that has the power to make decisions
J	constitution		M	when all the people of a country vote for members of parliament and a government
K	agreement		G	the official money that a country has
L	border		P	to be officially allowed and legal
M	general election		S	to treat a group of people badly or in an unfair way
N	executive branch		B	to start something new; create
O	challenge		I	system by which a country's goods and services are produced
P	valid		K	two or more countries want to do something together
Q	unify		F	to put your name on a document
R	recession		Q	bring together, make stronger
S	oppress		C	to work together

THE EUROPEAN UNION – KEY

5

Match the beginnings of the sentences with the sentence endings.
There are TWO endings you will not need.

A	The European Union is a community	C	to prevent one country's industry from becoming too powerful.
B	In a 2016 referendum a majority of the British population	I	to join the EU.
C	The European Coal and Steel Community was founded	K	that the country could control immigration better.
D	The European Economic Community was founded	E	to enlarge the EEC.
E	In 1973 the UK, Ireland and Denmark became the first countries	H	was rejected by a few member countries.
F	The collapse of Communism and the Iron Curtain		to leave the union.
G	In Maastricht, the EU leaders promised	A	that was founded to secure peace in post-war Europe.
H	The newly written constitution of the EU	J	that agreements are carried out.
I	In 2013 Croatia became the last country	L	couldn't find a way to pass the withdrawal treaty.
J	The Council of Ministers passes laws and makes sure	D	to allow goods to travel freely between countries.
K	British citizens in favor of leaving the EU thought	M	that are preventing Turkey from becoming a member state.
L	For a long time, British parliament	F	brought West and East Germany together.
M	There are many problems		that decisions are unanimous.
		G	to create a political union and introduce a single currency.
		B	decided to leave the EU.

6

Put the events below into the order in which they happened.

6	The Maastricht Treaty is signed.
3	The UK, Ireland and Denmark join the EEC.
9	The biggest enlargement in history takes place when 8 former Communist countries join the EU.
1	The European Coal and Steel Community is founded by six nations.
8	The euro becomes the single currency in 12 member states.
5	East and West Germany unite to become the largest EU country.
2	The European Economic Community is founded in Rome.
10	In a referendum, the United Kingdom decides to leave the European Union.
7	Austria, Sweden and Finland join the EU.
4	The southern European nations Spain, Portugal and Greece become members of the union.

7

Explain the following terms and phrases in your own words.

free trade zone **goods and services can move freely between member countries**

Iron Curtain **border between free western states and Communist eastern countries**

Schengen country **there are no passport checks for travelers from EU countries**

referendum **people are asked about their opinion on a special topic**

monopoly **if only one company or the government controls an industry and there is no competition**

recession **difficult time when there is less trade and people buy fewer products**

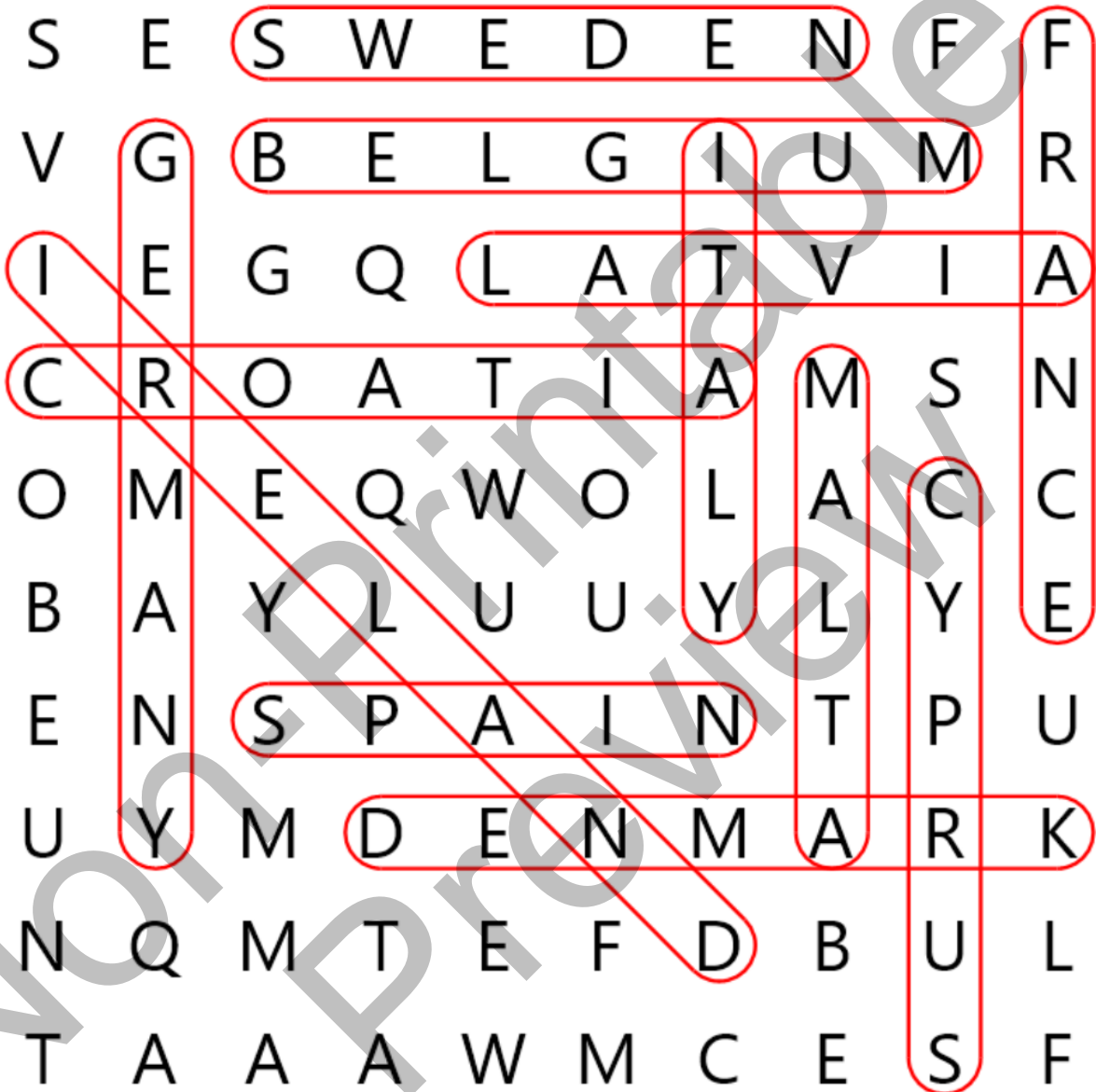
withdrawal agreement **document that shows the terms under which a country can leave the EU**

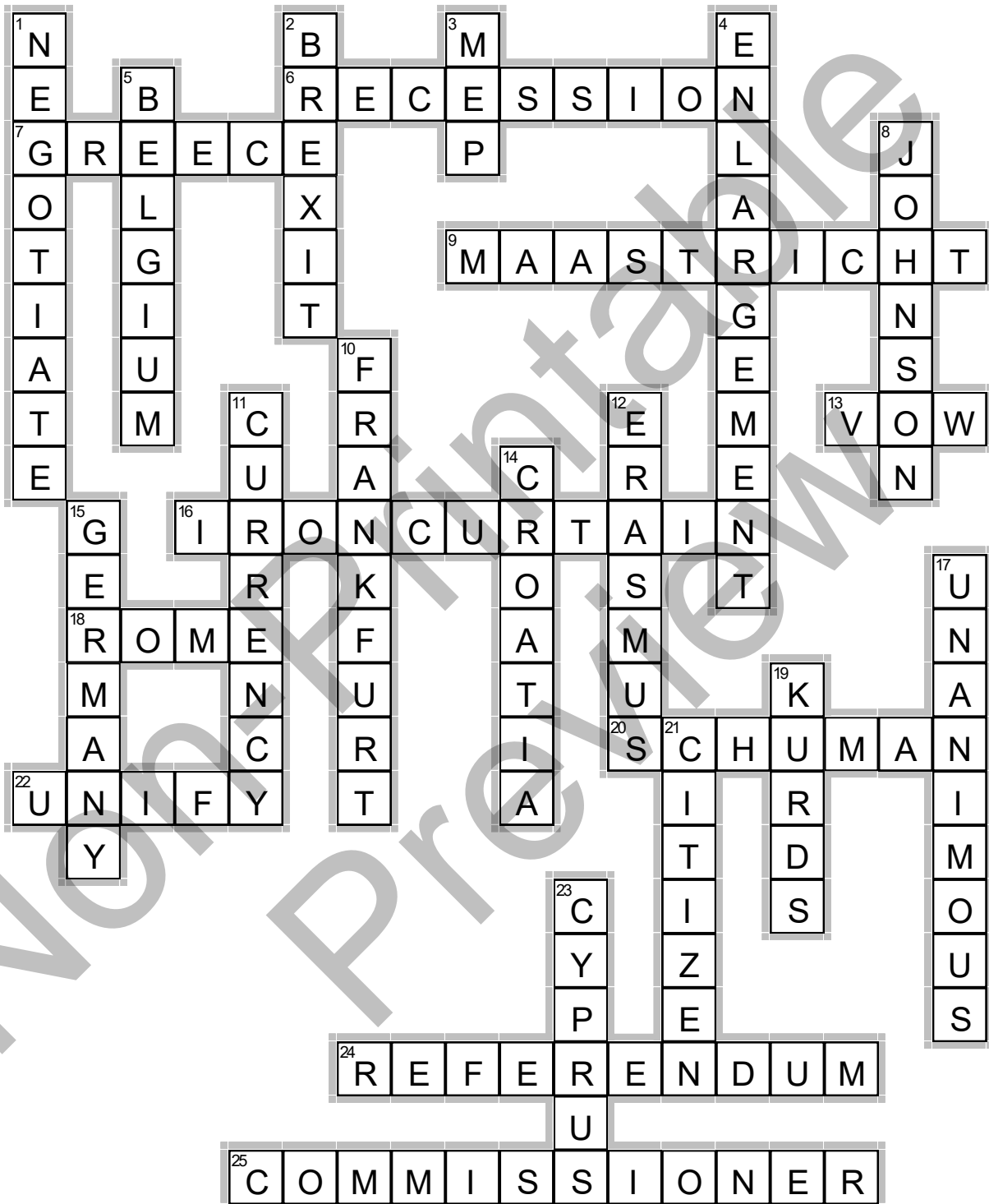
single currency **the same currency for all the member states**

MEP **Member of the European Parliament**

8

Find 12 EU countries in the grid below (→←↗↘↓↙↕↖↗) and mark them.





10

Organs of the European Union - Complete the text with the words from the box. There are TWO words you will not need.

Heads of (1) **state** get together at least twice a year to discuss the main problems that the EU has. Every six months a different (2) **country** is a host to these talks. The Council of (3) **Ministers** makes (4) **laws** in the EU and has one representative from each nation. It works together with the European (5) **Commission**, which is the (6) **executive** branch. It makes sure that rules are followed, and laws carried out. 27 commissioners from each of the member nations (7) **serve** for 5 years and are (8) **responsible** for certain areas, for example energy, transportation or farming.

The European (9) **Parliament** is the only organization of the EU that is (10) **elected** by the people every five years. It does not have the same powers as (11) **national** parliaments do but works closely together with the Council of Ministers and the Commission. Countries with a larger population, like Germany or the France have more (12) **representatives** than countries with a smaller population.

The European Council of (13) **Justice** is made up of 27 judges who decide (14) **arguments** and quarrels in court. Their decisions are final, and everyone must follow them.

The European (15) **Central** Bank was founded in 1998 and controls the (16) **value** of the euro and the amount of money in the union.

arguments

Central

Commission

country

elected

executive

Justice

laws

legislative

Ministers

national

Parliament

population

representatives

responsible

serve

state

value

11

The European Union – Decades of Rivalry - Complete the text by filling in the correct word for each blank.

Relationships between European countries have not always been (1) **friendly**. In the 1960s the EEC was dominated by France's powerful president Charles de Gaulle and his (2) **desire** to lead the way to Europe's future. He also wanted France to receive a large part of the organization's budget. He hated Great Britain and (3) **blocked** British membership until 1973.

The 1980s were dominated by Great Britain's "Iron Lady" Margaret Thatcher, who turned out to be everyone's enemy (4) **instead of** everyone's darling. There was hardly a meeting in which she didn't start (5) **a quarrel** with one of her fellow heads of state.

With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of Communism the EU gained (6) **speed** in the last decade of the millennium. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany and President Francois Mitterrand of France became the engines of European (7) **integration**. They wrote history by paving the way for the euro and signing the Maastricht treaty which is the basis of today's European Union. Not in all countries, however, were these new (8) **developments** welcomed. Britain and Denmark were very skeptical and didn't want to give up national power to Brussels.

When Poland, Hungary and other eastern European countries joined the EU the post-World War II division of the continent had finally become (9) **history**. Not all Europeans welcomed these new states. Many thought that richer countries would have to (10) **contribute** more money to the east to get these economies moving.

After the 2005 crisis over the new European constitution, which was to define the EU structures and (11) **policies** for the future, Jean Claude Juncker Prime Minister of Luxembourg, said that Europe's citizens had stopped believing in the European dream.

This became (12) **reality** in the United Kingdom when on June 23, 2016 more than 17 million voters declared that after four decades they wanted to leave the European Union and take (13) **matters** into their own hands.

1	familiar	thick	helpful	friendly
2	want	desire	need	liking
3	blocked	banned	closed	avoided
4	instead of	despite	rather	nevertheless
5	a difference	a struggle	an agreement	a quarrel
6	time	activity	speed	fast
7	combination	integration	segregation	negotiation
8	reactions	results	developments	additions
9	history	ancient	past	yesterday
10	add	share	deliver	contribute
11	political	politics	policies	politicians
12	truth	reality	certainly	actual
13	matters	fields	doings	sales

12

Fill in the names of the countries on the map.

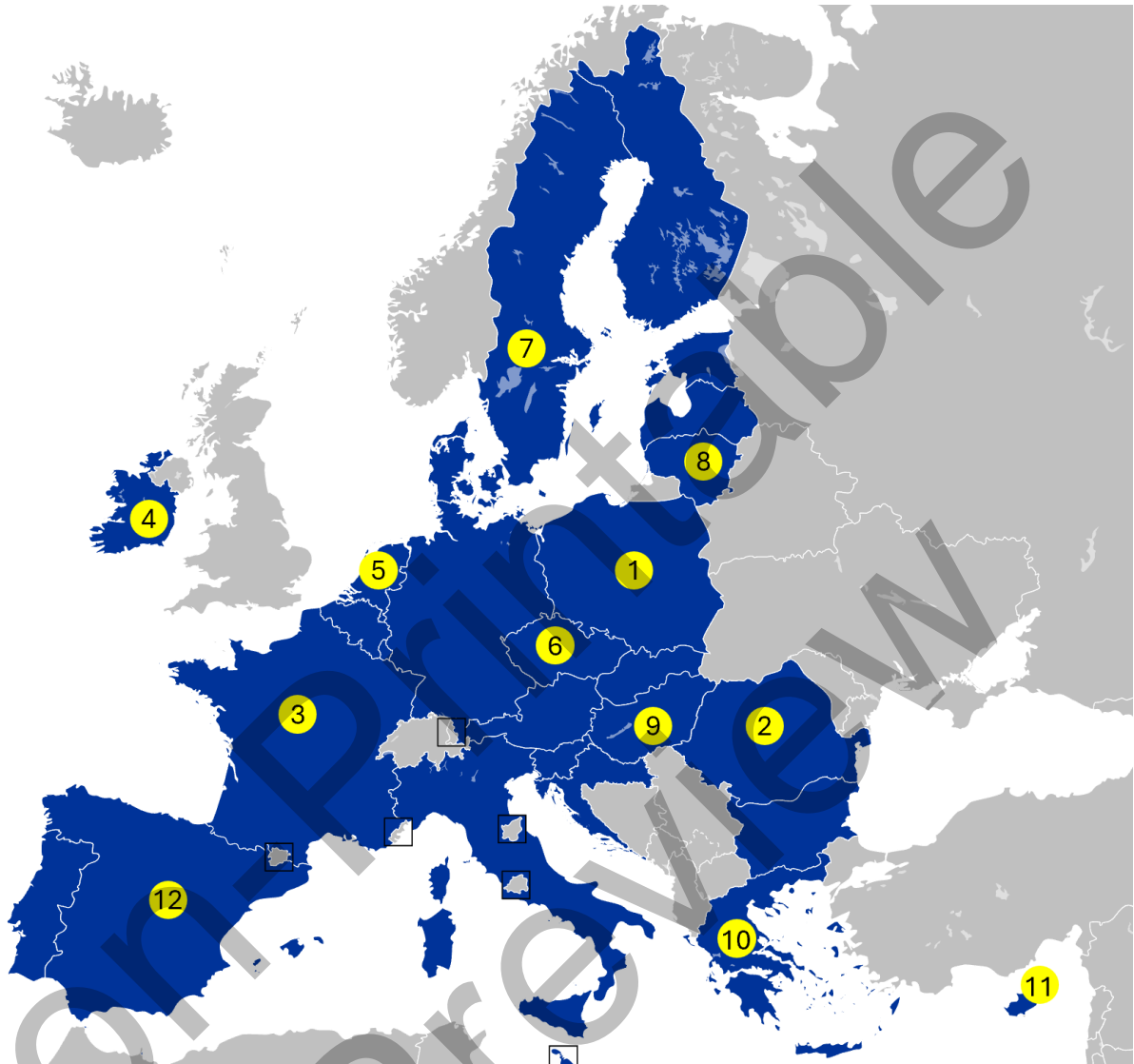


Image: [Kolja21](#), [CC BY 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons

1. Poland

2. Romania

3. France

4. Republic of Ireland

5. The Netherlands

6. Czech Republic

7. Sweden

8. Lithuania

9. Hungary

10. Greece

11. Cyprus

12. Spain