

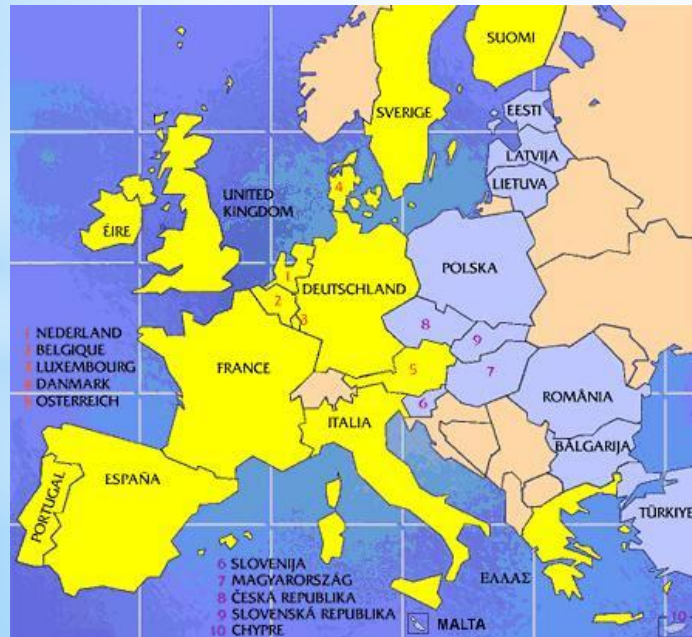
* EU ENLARGEMENT 2004



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- * The largest enlargement in EU history (2004)
- * 10 new countries joined the European Union:
 - * Malta, Cyprus, Czech Republic
 - * Estonia, Hungary, Latvia
 - * Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia
- * Strengthened European integration after the Cold War



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*Why Enlargement Happened

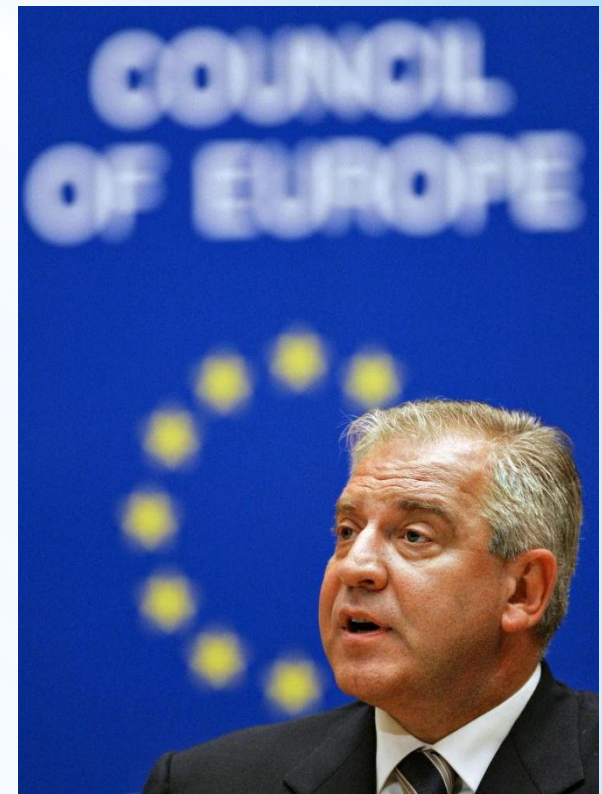
- *To unite Eastern and Western Europe
- *Promote democracy and stability
- *Expand the single market
- *Encourage economic growth
- *Reduce political divisions in Europe



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* Croatia in 2004



- * Croatia was not part of the 2004 enlargement
- * Became an official EU candidate in 2004
- * Post-war recovery still ongoing
- * Focus on:
 - * political stabilization
 - * economic reforms
- * Led by Ivo Sanader government



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* Croatia-EU Relations at the Time

- * Strong desire to join the EU
- * Signed Stabilisation and Association Agreement (2001)
- * Cooperation with international institutions
- * Key issue: cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
- * EU monitored reforms closely



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*Challenges Croatia Faced

- *War legacy and reconstruction
- *Judicial and political reforms
- *Corruption and governance issues
- *Economic transition to a market economy
- *Meeting strict EU criteria (Copenhagen criteria)



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* Comparison: Croatia vs 2004 Members

- * Many 2004 countries:
 - * had earlier reforms
 - * were politically more stable
- * Croatia:
 - * delayed by war (1990s)
 - * slower transition
- * Result: Croatia joined later (2013)



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* Conclusion



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- * 2004 enlargement reshaped Europe
- * Croatia was on the path, but not ready yet
- * Continued reforms led to EU membership in 2013
- * Shows how EU integration is a **long-term process**



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*Thank you for your
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