

# The Member States of the European Union

*"Many are wondering whether Brexit is the beginning of the disintegration process of the EU. Allow me to state, we respect and at the same time regret the UK's decision, but the EU as such is not at risk."*

Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission (13.09.2016)

*"There's no hiding the fact that we wanted a different outcome of yesterday's referendum. I am fully aware of how serious, or even dramatic, this moment is politically. And there's no way of predicting all the political consequences of this event, especially for the UK. It is a historic moment but for sure not a moment for hysterical reactions. I want to reassure everyone that we are prepared also for this negative scenario. As you know the EU is not only a fair-weather project."*

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council (24.06.2016)

*"The future deal between the EU and the UK must be good for all sides and must be one which allows the UK and the EU to keep working closely together on various aspects. The UK has decided to leave the EU but it will continue to be a European country with values and geopolitical interests which are common to the rest of the continent."*

Martin Schulz, Former President of the European Parliament (22.09.2016)



# Austria

Population: 8,725,931

Seats in EU Parliament: 18

GDP: US \$ 387.299 Billion



*"I think it is better to accept the result of the majority of people of the UK – you can regret it but it is the reality. And now we have to manage with this, and I hope we can find a good solution between the EU and the United Kingdom."*

Hans Joerg Schelling, Finance Minister of Austria (01.10.2016)

Austria has developed a high standard of living and in 2014 was ranked 21st in the world for its Human Development Index. Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955, joined the European Union in 1995, and is a founder of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Austria also signed the Schengen Agreement in 1995, and adopted the euro currency in 1999. Austria attaches great importance to participation in the OECD and other international economic organisations, and it has played an active role in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Austria has always been a very export-oriented country and since joining the EU in 1995, its exports have tripled. It is estimated that Austria's membership in the EU, including the effects of Economic and Monetary Union and Enlargement, on average added 18,500 jobs and 0.9% to its GDP growth every year.<sup>35</sup> Today, around 70% of Austria's total trade is being carried out with the other EU Member States, so an economic impact of Brexit is at stake. Despite good economic growth due to membership in the EU, Austrians are not so positive about the EU anymore, reflecting a trend in other EU Member States. 31 % of Austrian citizens believe that it would be better to leave the EU.<sup>36</sup> It follows that Brexit could also be the trigger for more people to vote for right-wing parties in Austria.<sup>37</sup>

## Ministries of Austria:

Ministry of European Integration and Foreign Affairs: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/>

Ministry of Finance: <https://english.bmf.gv.at/>

Ministry of Science, Research and Economy: <http://www.en.bmwf.gv.at/Seiten/default.aspx>

Ministry of Justice:

[https://www.justiz.gv.at/web2013/service\\_navigation/home~8ab4a8a422985de301229895ea7a0062.de.html](https://www.justiz.gv.at/web2013/service_navigation/home~8ab4a8a422985de301229895ea7a0062.de.html)

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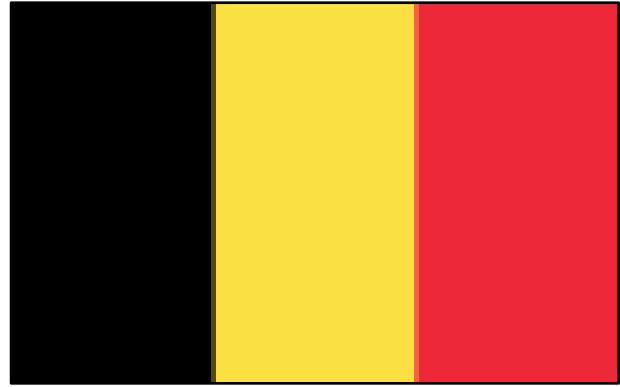
<sup>35</sup> <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2016/06/21/brexit-ambassador-series-austria/>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/austrias-take-brexit-debate/>

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/739257/Austria-leave-EU-what-happens-Norbert-Hofer-wins-Austrian-election-effect-on-EU-Europe>

# Belgium

Population: 11,250,585  
Seats in EU Parliament: 21  
GDP: US \$ 470.179 Billion



*"This is not at all what we would have wanted, and it's not good news. It's a simple fact that Europe is stronger with 28 members than with 27. This is not a good thing for the image of the union, but the end of Europe? I really don't think so."*

Marianne Thyssen, Belgium's representative in the European Commission (01.07.2016)

Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the European Union and hosts the European Commission, Council of the European Union, and European Council, as well as the European Parliament in the country's capital, Brussels. Belgium is also a founding member of the Eurozone, NATO, OECD and the World Trade Organization. Belgium is a developed country, with an advanced high-income economy and is categorized as "very high" in the Human Development Index. The Belgian state is organised into three distinctive regions and languages: Flanders (Flemish), Brussels-Capital (French/Flemish) and Wallonia (French/German). Not only do the different languages play a key role in tensions between the two regions, but there are also economic differences like unemployment. Pro-independence movements have gained high popularity in Flanders as a consequence.

Belgium is highly exposed, especially via the trade channel, to the economic impact of the UK's vote to leave the EU. The UK's referendum on EU membership will affect the Belgian economy in a number of ways. In 2015, 8.8% of all Belgian exports went to the UK. This means that Belgium is one of the EU Member States which is likely to be effected by a downturn in British demand.<sup>38</sup>

Because of its own divisions, Belgium is a strong voice for a more integrated EU. Indeed, Belgium was one of the more enthusiastic supporters of the freedom of movement. In the event of Brexit, one of Belgium's priorities is still to continue on the path of greater integration – even if the EU has to simultaneously negotiate the withdrawal of the UK.

Belgium will not accept any 'Plan B' for the relationship between the EU and the UK. For the Belgian government, the UK has to be either out or in -it cannot choose a 'third way' envisaged by some Member States. One thing is sure from the Belgian perspective: in the event of a Brexit, Belgium will not accept the creation of any 'special status' for the UK. This is because of a fear of triggering a domino effect that may result in other EU Member States demanding the same privileges. It is important for Belgium that any withdrawal negotiation undertaken with the UK does not block deeper integration within the Union. Indeed, the Belgian Government sees Brexit as a possible opportunity to clarify the design and the finality of the European Union.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup><http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=774361061&Country=Belgium&topic=Economy&subtopic=Forecast&subsubtopic=External+sector&u=1&pid=85063392&oid=85063392&uid=1>

<sup>39</sup><http://www.brusselstimes.com/magazine2/7017/five-things-we-learned-from-brexit-s-impact-on-belgium-panel>

Ministries of Belgium:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and development cooperation:

<http://diplomatie.belgium.be/en>

Ministry of Finance: <http://finance.belgium.be/en/>

Ministry of Economy: [http://economie.fgov.be/en/fps/#.WI\\_zsn94BXU](http://economie.fgov.be/en/fps/#.WI_zsn94BXU)

Ministry of Justice: <http://issat.dcaf.ch/Share/People-and-Organisations/Organisations/Belgian-Federal-Public-Service-for-Justice>

# Bulgaria

Population: 7,202,198

Seats in EU Parliament: 17

GDP: US \$ 48.957 Billion



*"After the U.K.'s referendum on leaving the EU a united Europe needs a new integration push. Bulgaria needs to accelerate its preparation for joining the zone of the common European currency, or it risks falling behind in the decision-making process."*

Rosen Plevneliev, Bulgarian President (21.09.2016)

Bulgaria is a member of the European Union, NATO, and the Council of Europe; a founding state of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); and has taken a seat at the United Nations Security Council three times. In 2007 Bulgaria was allowed to join the EU, mostly for geopolitical reasons, even though the country didn't fully assume the rights and obligations of membership. Bulgaria has not yet met the criteria to join the Eurozone. Furthermore, Bulgaria is also not part of the Schengen Area, but the European Commission stressed that Bulgaria is meeting all the requirements to enter the area. Now a unanimous decision of all members is required. In 2018, Bulgaria will hold the revolving presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time. Bulgaria's main export partners are Germany, Italy and Turkey, while its main import partners are Germany, Russia and Italy.

The relationship between Bulgaria and the UK could be affected strongly by the UK vote to leave the EU.<sup>40</sup> Both countries have a lot of bilateral work on border protection, security, education and culture. In 2014, at the ten-year anniversary of Bulgaria's membership to NATO, the UK reaffirmed its commitment to the strong bilateral relationship.<sup>41</sup> The uncertainty as a result of Brexit is already affecting the Bulgarian economy. This effect nevertheless is more indirect than direct, through the overall European deceleration in economic growth. But in the long term it is expected that Brexit will not have a massive effect on the economy in Bulgaria. Moreover, uncertainty exists both for Bulgarians who live in the UK and for Britons who live in Bulgaria. Approximately 65 000 Bulgarians are working at the moment in the UK. In comparison to that there are only around 9 000 Britons living in Bulgaria.

## Ministries of Bulgaria:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.bg/setlang/en/>

Ministry of Finance: <https://www.minfin.bg/en/>

Ministry of Economy: <http://www.mi.government.bg/en>

Ministry of Defence: <https://www.md.government.bg/en/>

Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communication:  
<https://www.mtitc.government.bg/en>

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<sup>40</sup> <http://www.novinite.com/articles/177858/Will+Brexite+Affect+Bulgaria-UK+Business+Ties%3F>

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-bulgaria-reaffirm-commitment-to-strong-bilateral-relations>

# Croatia

Population: 4, 190,70  
Seats in EU Parliament: 11  
GDP: US \$ 51.945 Billion



*"It is not only about trading arrangements and access to the EU's Single Market it is also about preserving our joint and unique culture, our decades of strategic partnership and our commitment to the same shared values. This relationship needs to be tailor-made."*

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, President of Croatia (12.10.2016)

Croatia is the newest member of the European Union. Even though Croatia is now part of the EU it hasn't yet joined the Schengen Area, nor the Eurozone (having not met the criteria). Croatia is part of important worldwide organisations such as the UN, NATO and the WTO. The service sector is the most important sector for the Croatian economy, but Tourism also plays a major role. Croatian exports are primarily destined for Italy, Germany and Slovenia. These countries are also the most important trading partners for Croatian imports.

Croatia will probably be spared from major negative effects as a result of Brexit.<sup>42</sup> The trade between Croatia and the UK is very modest. The average share of Croatia's exports to the UK in recent years was around 1.2 to 1.7%. The only negative impact for Croatia could come from a general weakening of the European economy. Therefore, Brexit is likely to have only an indirect effect on the Croatian economy. Further, as a major recipient of European development funds, Brexit will also mean less money for Croatian development.

## Ministries of Croatia:

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs: <http://www.mvep.hr/en/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mfin.hr/en>

Ministry of Defence: <https://www.morh.hr/en/>

Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure: <http://www.mppi.hr/default.aspx?id=7397>

Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneur and Crafts: <http://www.mingo.hr/en>

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<sup>42</sup> <http://www.total-croatia-news.com/item/12561-how-would-brexite-affect-croatia>

# Cyprus

Population: 1,141,16

Seats in EU Parliament: 6

GDP: US \$ 23.263 Billion



*"I will say let the dialogue in the European Council develop, always keeping in mind the best interests of Europe and of each Member State. At the same time, the EU of 27 Member States will continue to exist and the Republic of Cyprus underlines its full commitment to the European project."*

Nicos Anastasiades, Cypriot President (25.06.2016)

Cyprus is a developed country and an island in the Eastern Mediterranean. The island has been divided between the Turkish Cypriot state in the north and the Republic of Cyprus, since the Turkish occupation in 1974, creating an ongoing issue between both nations. Even if the Republic of Cyprus has de jure the sovereignty over the whole island through law, de facto it is divided. In 2008 Cyprus established the euro as their currency, but the country is not a member of the Schengen Area. Cyprus's main export partners are Greece, Ireland and the UK, while its main import partners are Greece, the UK and Italy.

The ties between Cyprus and the UK are historically strong, because it is a member of the Commonwealth. Additionally, the UK still has an airbase in Cyprus to keep an important strategic position in the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea. With Brexit, the EU will have a weakened political position in the world, but for Cyprus this was one of the reasons to join the EU in 2004. Cyprus is now afraid to lose the political advantage of the EU and thereby the advantage against pressure from Turkey.<sup>43</sup> Nevertheless, the government of Cyprus has underlined its full commitment to the EU since the vote. The UK is the third biggest trading partner for Cyprus and any import taxes on both sides will affect commerce, with Cypriot agricultural products suffering most. There are also a lot of Cypriot students who study in the UK and benefit from the low fees for European Students, a policy that could end with the UK leaving the EU.

## Ministries of Cyprus:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

[http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2016.nsf/index\\_en/index\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/mfa2016.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument)

Ministry of Finance: [http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/index\\_en/index\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.mof.gov.cy/mof/mof.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument)

Ministry of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism:

[http://www.mcit.gov.cy/mcit/mcit.nsf/dmlindex\\_en/dmlindex\\_en](http://www.mcit.gov.cy/mcit/mcit.nsf/dmlindex_en/dmlindex_en)

Ministry of Defence: [http://www.mod.gov.cy/mod/mod.nsf/index\\_en/index\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.mod.gov.cy/mod/mod.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument)

Ministry of Justice and Public Order:

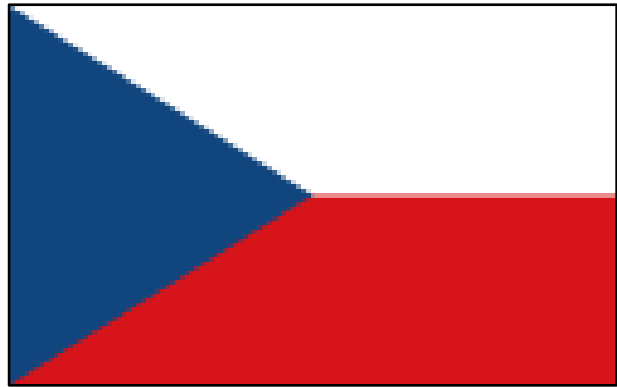
[http://www.mjpo.gov.cy/mjpo/mjpo.nsf/index\\_en/index\\_en?OpenDocument](http://www.mjpo.gov.cy/mjpo/mjpo.nsf/index_en/index_en?OpenDocument)

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<sup>43</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/uk-europe/news/mep-the-cypriot-economy-will-be-hard-hit-by-a-brexite/>

# Czech Republic

Population: 10,553,948  
Seats in EU Parliament: 21  
GDP: US \$ 189.982 Billion



*"The European Union must change quickly. Not because Britain has left, but because the European project needs much stronger support of its citizens. Europe must be more ready to act, be flexible, less bureaucratic and much more sensible to the diversity that the 27 Member States represent."*

Bohuslav Sobotka, Czech Prime Minister (24.06.2016)

The Czech Republic is not only part of the European Union, but is also a member of NATO, the UN, the OECD and other important organisations. It is a developed country and has the lowest level of unemployment in the whole of the EU. The Czech Republic uses the euro and is also part of the Schengen Area.

For the Czech Republic, Brexit may mean negative consequences but also a few opportunities. Many have predicted the UK itself will slip back into economic recession, which will then have an impact for Europe, as less goods and services are purchased from the rest of the continent by UK businesses and consumers. Given the high ratio of Czech exports being sold to the UK (it is the Czech Republic's fifth largest export market) this will be worrying for many Czech businesses.<sup>44</sup> The Czech Republic might also lose some EU funds since the UK will no longer contribute to the EU's budget. But there are also chances for the Czech Republic as a result of Brexit. The greater uncertainty in the UK property investment market, for example, may draw investors to other countries, such as the Czech Republic.<sup>45</sup>

## Ministries of Czech Republic:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mzv.cz/en>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mfcr.cz/en/>

Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces: <http://www.army.cz/en/>

Ministry of Justice: <http://portal.justice.cz/Justice2/MS/ms.aspx?j=33&o=23&k=373&d=17992>

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs: <http://www.mpsv.cz/en/>

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<sup>44</sup>[https://www.cnb.cz/en/monetary\\_policy/inflation\\_reports/2016/2016\\_III/boxes\\_and\\_annexes/zoi\\_2016\\_III\\_box\\_3.html](https://www.cnb.cz/en/monetary_policy/inflation_reports/2016/2016_III/boxes_and_annexes/zoi_2016_III_box_3.html)

<sup>45</sup><https://www.quora.com/How-will-Brexit-affect-the-Czech-Republic>

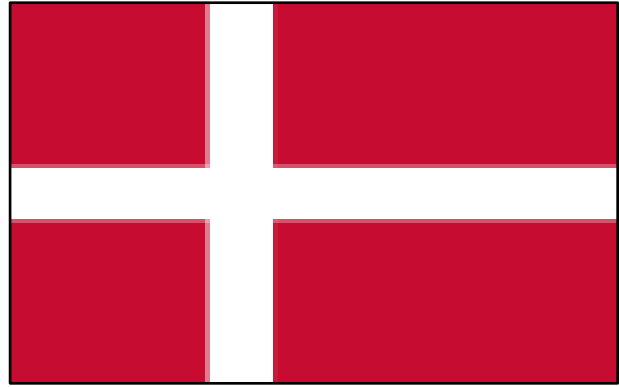


# Denmark

Population: 5,707,251

Seats in EU Parliament: 13

GDP: US \$ 302.571 Billion



*"The British referendum does not change the fact that Denmark belongs in the EU. The EU is Denmark's best opportunity to influence the world that we are a part of for better or worse. We can do some things better alone, but we are stronger together. Denmark and the Danish economy are highly dependent on the European community."*

Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Danish Prime Minister (24.06.2016)

Denmark is a developed country and member of the European Union. Nevertheless, it never took the euro currency. Denmark is a founding member of NATO, the Nordic Council, the OECD, OSCE, and the United Nations; it is also part of the Schengen Area. Danes enjoy a high standard of living and the country ranks highly in some metrics of national performance, including education, health care, protection of civil liberties, democratic governance, prosperity and human development. The country ranks as having the world's highest social mobility, a high level of income equality, the lowest perceived level of corruption in the world, has one of the world's highest per capita incomes, and one of the world's highest personal income tax rates.

Because of the Brexit vote, there is strong uncertainty spreading in Denmark. This could impact the growth of the Danish Economy negatively.<sup>46</sup> The greatest worry, however, is the risk of administrative burdens and that Brexit could negatively impact Danish exports to the UK in the long run. At this point it is difficult to say how the vote will affect British expats living in Denmark. At least around 8,800 Britons live and work in Denmark, and it is hard to say exactly how the Brexit decision will affect the daily lives of the expats living there,<sup>47</sup> especially since Theresa May refuses to guarantee the rights of EU citizens living in Britain.

## Ministries of Denmark:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://um.dk/en>

Ministry of Finance: <https://uk.fm.dk/>

Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs: <http://em.dk/english>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.fmn.dk/Eng/Pages/frontpage.aspx>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justitsministeriet.dk/>

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<sup>46</sup> <https://en.kromannreumert.com/News/2016/07/What-does-Brexit-mean-for-Danish-companies>

<sup>47</sup> <http://cphpost.dk/news/what-brexit-means-for-denmark-and-for-the-expats.html>

# Estonia

Population: 1,317,797  
Seats in EU Parliament: 6  
GDP: US \$ 24.609 Billion



*"UK citizens have spoken in the referendum. The decision was a disappointment for me and the European Union, but of course the remaining 27 Member States will accept it."*

Toomas Hendrik Ilves, Estonian President (25.06.2016)

Estonia is a developed country with an advanced high income economy, but it's still one of the lowest among the EU. That being said, it is among the fastest growing in the EU. Since 2007, it has been part of the Schengen Area and since 2011 also part of the Eurozone. Estonia will hold the revolving Presidency of the Council of the EU for the first time in the second half of 2017. Through the presidency, European politics can be influenced significantly and they will be able to draw attention to political issues that are important for Estonia. Estonia's main trading partners for export are Sweden, Finland and Latvia, while its main import partners are Finland, Germany and Lithuania.

Brexit is going to have some impact on Estonia, although this will not be very large on the economy,<sup>48</sup> as trade with the UK amounts to only around 3% of the total trade of Estonia. Additionally, only about 18,000 Estonians have lived or worked in the UK during the past decade.<sup>49</sup> Rather Brexit will have more political consequences. Estonia will lose a likeminded partner in some political areas, especially in security. Unlike Britain, in Estonia the population are strongly in favour of EU membership (78%).<sup>50</sup>

## Ministries of Estonia:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.vm.ee/en>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.fin.ee/?lang=en>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.kaitseministeerium.ee/en>

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communication: <https://www.mkm.ee/en>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.just.ee/en>

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<sup>48</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-10/security-ties-with-post-brex-it-britain-are-top-estonian-priority>

<sup>49</sup> <http://estonianworld.com/life/map-estonians-england-wales/>

<sup>50</sup> <https://valitsus.ee/en/news/survey-eu-support-continues-be-strong-among-estonians>

# Finland

Population: 5,488,543

Seats in EU Parliament: 13

GDP: US \$ 234.578 Billion



*"Britain is an extremely important partner to both Finland and the EU. It is important for Finland that we are able to see the situation pragmatically and negotiate objectively, without the emotional baggage behind both sides of the argument."*

Juha Sipilä, Prime Minister of Finland (27.06.2016)

Finland is a top performer in numerous metrics of national performance including: education, economic competitiveness, civil liberties, quality of life, and human development. In 2015, Finland was ranked first in the World Human Capital and the Press Freedom Index, as the most stable country in the world during 2011–2016 in the Fragile States Index, and second in the Global Gender Gap Report. Finland's main export partners are Germany, Sweden and the US, while its main import partners are Germany, Sweden and Russia.

One of the main risks for Finland as a result of Brexit is a potential economic fall into recession. Economic growth could fall more than 1% in 2017, because they have to rely on exports and investments.<sup>51</sup> The Brexit vote also had a significant impact on the people of Finland and their view on the EU. After the vote loyalty towards the EU rose again in Finland. More than 65% of the Finns would vote to remain in the EU if there was to be a referendum in Finland.<sup>52</sup> The relationship with the UK is not only on an economic basis. In areas like security, both countries have bilateral agreements. For example in 2016, they announced they would strengthen their partnership with the signing of a defence cooperation pact.<sup>53</sup>

## Ministries of Finland:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://formin.finland.fi/public/default.aspx?culture=en-US&contentlan=2>

Ministry of Finance: <http://vm.fi/frontpage>

Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment: <https://tem.fi/en>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.defmin.fi/english>

Ministry of Environment: <http://www.ym.fi/en>

Ministry of Transport and Communication: <https://www.lvm.fi/en/home>

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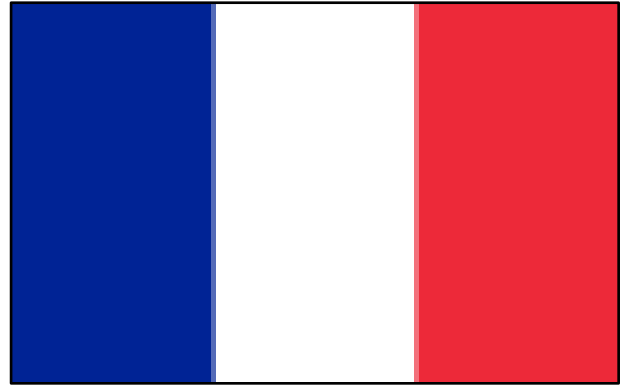
<sup>51</sup><http://nordic.businessinsider.com/brexit-could-put-denmark-and-finland-in-recession-and-slow-down-nordic-growth-by-a-whole-percentage-point-2016-6>

<sup>52</sup><https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-06-30/brexit-mess-scares-finns-away-from-eu-referendum-many-had-sought>

<sup>53</sup>[http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/daily\\_finland\\_to\\_sign\\_defence\\_cooperation\\_pact\\_with\\_uk/8996698](http://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/daily_finland_to_sign_defence_cooperation_pact_with_uk/8996698)

# France

Population: 66,991,000  
Seats in EU Parliament: 74  
GDP: \$2.422 Trillion



*"We have to preserve the rest of the European Union and not convey the message that you can decide to leave without any consequences."*

Emmanuel Macron, French President (08.05.2017)

France is a developed country and has, after Germany, the second largest economy in the EU-28 and the world's sixth-largest. France remains a strong power in the world, being one of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council with the power of veto and is an official nuclear-weapon state. It's a founding and leading Member State of the European Union and the Eurozone. It is also a member of the Group of 7, NATO, OECD, WTO and La Francophonie.

France has historically been a large producer of agricultural products. Extensive tracts of fertile land, the application of modern technology, and EU subsidies have combined to make France the leading agricultural producer and exporter in Europe. It represents 20% of the EU's agricultural production and is also the world's third biggest exporter of agricultural products.

Brexit is going to have a significant impact on the French-UK relationship, especially in the case of trade. France is the United Kingdom's third-biggest export market, after the United States and Germany. British exports to France increased 14.3% from £16.542 billion in 2010 to £18.905 billion in 2011. Over the same period, French exports to Britain rose 5.5%.<sup>54</sup> France exports over \$41 billion-worth of goods to the UK, much of which will be subject to higher level of duties and taxes if it is still sent to the UK after the Brexit.<sup>55</sup> Research suggests that, it is much more likely that most of these exports will have to find new market destinations.<sup>56</sup> Not only will French exports be under pressure, but imports from the United Kingdom to France will also be affected. Some of the most common shipments from the United Kingdom to France include aircraft parts and hard liquor, both of which would probably become significantly more expensive. With costs as much as 30% higher, there could be damaging consequences for consumers as well as businesses of all sizes.

The nations have a close relationship and overcame long historical rivalries. In 2008 Prime Minister Brown said "there has never been greater cooperation between France and Britain as there is now"<sup>57</sup>. In recent years the two countries have experienced a particularly close relationship, especially on defence and foreign policy issues. The two countries tend, however, to disagree on a range of other matters, most notably the European Union.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>54</sup> <http://www.france24.com/en/20160628-how-will-brexit-affect-french-industry>

<sup>55</sup> <http://francobritishchamber.com/how-a-brexit-might-affect-trade-between-the-uk-and-france/>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.parcelhero.com/blog/news-updates/revealed-the-true-cost-of-brexit>

<sup>57</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France%E2%80%93United\\_Kingdom\\_relations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France%E2%80%93United_Kingdom_relations)

<sup>58</sup> <http://www.e-ir.info/2017/01/22/uk-france-relations-after-brexit/>

Earlier this month, Emmanuel Macron was elected President of France. Macron is pro-european, and while he wishes a fair deal for both parties in Brexit negotiations he does not want to see the UK unduly benefit.<sup>59</sup> For instance he has made it clear that he did not think that the UK should be granted access to the single market without contributing to the EU budget. Overall, his stance will remain in line with that of his predecessor, Francois Hollande.

Ministries of France:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development: <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en>

Ministry of Economy and Finance: <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/welcome-to-the-french-ministry-for-the-economy-and-finance>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/english>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gouv.fr/multilinguisme-12198/english-12200/justice-in-france-22126.html>

Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea: <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/>

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<sup>59</sup><http://www.express.co.uk/news/world/796459/French-elections-2017-Emmanuel-Macron-what-mean-Brexit-UK-relations>

# Germany

Population: 82.175.684  
Seats in EU Parliament: 96  
GDP: US \$3.371 Trillion



*"we make clear that access to the Single Market can only be possible on the condition of respecting the four basic freedoms. Otherwise one has to talk about limits (of access)."*

Angela Merkel, German Chancellor (09.01.2017)

Germany is one of the most important countries in the European Union (EU-28). Not only is it the biggest net contributor (providing 20% of the EU budget), Germany is also the biggest economy in Europe and has the world's fourth-largest economy by nominal GDP. As a global leader in several industrial and technological sectors, it is both the world's third-largest exporter and importer of goods. Germany is a developed country with a very high standard of living sustained by a skilled and productive society. Germany was a founding member of the European Economic Community in 1957. It is part of the Schengen Area, and became a co-founder of the Eurozone in 1999. Germany is a member of the United Nations, NATO, the G8, the G20, WTO and the OECD. It has played an influential role in the European Union since its inception and has maintained a strong alliance with France and all neighbouring countries. Germany promotes the creation of a more unified European political, economic and security system.

For Germany, Brexit could have a massive impact on their economy.<sup>60</sup> Great Britain is the third most important trading market for Germany, with approximately 89 billion euros of exports. In 2015, the export rate increased over 12.3 % but it shrunk to only 0.5 % growth in the first half-year of 2016, because of the possible outcome of a Brexit after the referendum. After the exit of Great Britain from the European Union, one possibility is that there could potentially be new tariffs, a lot of bureaucracy, and an increase in the price of German exports in Britain due to the likely collapse of the British pound. Nevertheless, German companies are still quite relaxed and barely believe in a serious impact on the German labour market as a result of the Brexit.<sup>61</sup>

With the departure of Great Britain, some European organizations will have to be relocated, such as the European Banking Supervisory Authority. Frankfurt could become more important as a financial metropolis, as it is expected that many banks will leave London as well.<sup>62</sup> Brexit could force Germany and France to take on bigger leadership roles, thereby allowing the EU to become stronger without Britain who was "holding it back".

German Ministries:

Federal Foreign Office: [http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite\\_node.html](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/EN/Startseite_node.html)

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<sup>60</sup> <https://www.ft.com/content/56f0afca-100d-32f1-b816-7b885fec767a>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-01-11/german-companies-take-a-relaxed-view-of-potential-brexit-impact>

<sup>62</sup> <http://www.businessinsider.com.au/london-stock-exchange-deutsche-boerse-brexit-city-of-london-passporting-2017-1?r=UK&IR=T>

Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs:

<http://www.bmwi.de/Navigation/EN/Home/home.html;jsessionid=9F40CE309D3EB1E9DF8144F5485BF5CF>

Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development: <http://www.bmz.de/en/index.html>

Federal Ministry of Finance:

<http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Web/EN/Home/home.html;jsessionid=05AD4C2EEF95EE3C6A5F1DDE6A2A93CE>

Federal Ministry of the Interior: [http://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Home/home\\_node.html](http://www.bmi.bund.de/EN/Home/home_node.html)

# Greece

Population: 10,955,000  
Seats in EU Parliament: 21  
GDP: US \$ 204.941 Billion



*"We need a new vision for a better Europe, where politics will take precedence over the economy and the technocrats"*

Alexis Tsipras, Greek Prime Minister (24.06.2016)

Greece is a developed country which joined the EU in 1981. Greece is also part of the Eurozone, is a founding member of the UN and is part of NATO, the OECD and WTO. Greece's unique cultural heritage, large tourism industry, prominent shipping industry classify it as a middle power. It is also a country with significant geostrategic importance, because it has borders with non-EU members such as Turkey. Greece is part of the Schengen Area. Greece's main export partners are Italy, Germany and Turkey, while its main import partners are Germany, Italy and Russia.

As one of the economically weakest members of the EU, currently relying on EU bailouts for its failed economy, Brexit could have a massive impact on Greece.<sup>63</sup> It's clear that for Greece, any deterioration in exports to the UK or the number of visitors coming over would be a substantial blow to its fragile economy. Countries which are net recipients of funds through the EU's cohesion policies, such as Greece, would see a decrease in the money that is available if the UK leaves, as it is a net contributor to the EU budget, even after its rebate. Britain's exit will cause a 10 percent reduction in funds available for EU payments.<sup>64</sup> Brexit could also trigger other countries like Greece to think about leaving the EU as well. In the case of Greece this idea was born even before Cameron announced the referendum in the UK, due to the fact that Greece has been in an ongoing crisis since the global financial and economic crash.

## Ministries of Greece:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gr/en/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.minfin.gr/?q=en>

Ministry of National Defence: <http://www.mod.mil.gr/mod/en/>

Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights:

<http://www.ministryofjustice.gr/site/en/Leadership/Greetings.aspx>

Ministry of Environment and Energy: [www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=37&locale=en-US](http://www.ypeka.gr/Default.aspx?tabid=37&locale=en-US)

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<sup>63</sup> <http://www.ekathimerini.com/209770/article/ekathimerini/business/greece-has-plenty-to-fear-from-brexit>

<sup>64</sup> [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/brexit-greece-economy-experts\\_us\\_577156d1e4b0f168323a4349](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/brexit-greece-economy-experts_us_577156d1e4b0f168323a4349)



# Hungary

Population: 9,830,485

Seats in EU Parliament: 21

GDP: US \$ 132.683 Billion



*"Hungary definitely would not like to see any revenge on the British. We are a democratic country and we accept that democratically another country's population decided to leave. The question is not whether we are happy with that or not, rather how the two countries could learn to live together for the next 1000 years."*

Viktor Orban, Hungarian Prime Minister (21.10.2016)

Hungary is a country with a rich cultural history and has contributed significantly to arts, music, literature, sports and science and technology. It is part of the European Union, the Schengen Area and has also implemented the single currency. Hungary is also member of NATO, the UN, OECD and the WTO. At the moment, right-wing populism is on the rise in Hungary. President Orban has adopted a series of laws in the past few years which have been criticised as "a threat to the right to freedom of expression" by Amnesty International.<sup>65</sup> Hungary's response to the migrant crisis was highly criticized by the other Member States of the EU.

The Hungarian economy is fairly open and relies strongly on International Trade. 79% of all Hungarian exports are destined for the EU. As of 2015, the key trading partners of Hungary were: Germany, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, France, Italy, Poland and Czech Republic. As the United Kingdom is not one of the biggest trading partners of Hungary, the possible impact of Brexit is indirectly through its other major trading partners such as France and Germany.<sup>66</sup> A direct consequence for Hungary will be a shrinking EU budget, since the United Kingdom is one of the largest net contributors and Hungary is one of the main beneficiaries. It is not realistic that the remaining net contributors increase their share, so many grants and other funding will most likely be cut.<sup>67</sup>

## Ministries of Hungary:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-foreign-affairs-and-trade>

Ministry for National Economy: <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-for-national-economy>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-defence>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.kormany.hu/en/ministry-of-justice>

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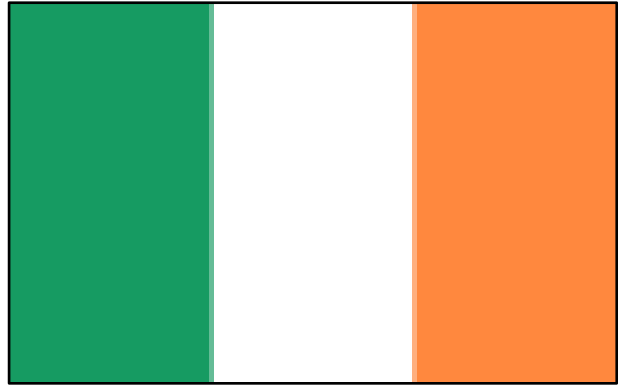
<sup>65</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/oct/13/hungary-future-europe-far-right-viktor-orban>

<sup>66</sup> <http://bbj.hu/economy/official-brexits-to-have-minimal-impact-on-hungarian-economy-118376>

<sup>67</sup> <http://www.budapestpost.eu/2016/07/brexits-impact-on-hungary/>

# Ireland

Population: 4,757,976  
Seats in EU Parliament: 11  
GDP: US \$ 308 Billion



*"Today's encouraging data is mirrored in strong employment growth as well as tax receipts. They show the immediate impact from Brexit has been more benign than initially anticipated. However, we cannot be complacent."*

Michael Noonan, Irish Finance Minister (09.12.2016)

Ireland is a member of the European Union and is a founding member of the Council of Europe and the OECD. The Irish government has followed a policy of military neutrality through non-alignment and the country is consequently not a member of NATO. Ireland is also not part of the Schengen Area, but did establish the euro as its currency in 1999. Ireland, like Great Britain, has had an uneasy relationship with the EU. In 2001 the signing of the Treaty of Nice was rejected by the Irish people in a referendum. Consequently, the Treaty could not come into force until 2003, after a second referendum. Ireland's main export trading partners are the US, the UK and Belgium, while its main import partners are the UK, the US and France.

Ireland is potentially the country that will be the most impacted by Britain's decision to leave the EU. No other Member State has a physical border with the UK. The trade between both countries has a combined value of around €34 billion. On a weekly basis goods and services cross the border, or make the short trip across the Irish Sea. With about 40 per cent of Irish food exports going to the UK, agriculture is the area most exposed to Brexit and possible tariffs. This is why Ireland would like to keep the trade relationship with the UK as open as possible.<sup>68</sup> Therefore, the impact on Ireland, given the close economic ties and the geography, will be significant. Additionally, Ireland is losing an ally in the European Union on topics such as the harmonisation of tax laws. After Brexit, more people are in favour of a reunification of the both Irish countries. In Northern Ireland, the majority of the people voted for remaining in the EU.

## Ministries of Ireland:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade: <https://www.dfa.ie/>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.defence.ie/website.nsf/home+page?openform>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.finance.gov.ie/>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.justice.ie/>

Ministry of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/>

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<sup>68</sup> <http://www.mazars.ie/Home/News/Latest-News/Brexit-The-implications/Brexit-potential-impact-for-Ireland>

# Italy

Population: 60,674,003

Seats in EU Parliament: 73

GDP: US \$ 1.852 Trillion



*"The people of the UK decided the way for the future, now the situation is that we can - and we have to - build the best alliance between the UK and the EU for the future because we will be the best friends for the next years. And at the same time, I think this decision could push European leaders to invest in a new way for Europe."*

Matteo Renzi, Italian Prime Minister (29.09.2016)

Italy plays an important role in regional and global economic, military, cultural and diplomatic affairs, and it is a middle power. It has a very high level of human development and is ranked sixth in the world for life expectancy. Italy is a founding and leading member of the European Union and is a member of numerous international institutions, including the UN, NATO, the OECD, the WTO, the G7/G8, G20 and many more. At the moment, Italians hold several high ranking positions in the EU: among others, the Vice President of the European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Frederica Mogherini,<sup>69</sup> and Antonio Tajani,<sup>70</sup> the President of the European Parliament. The country has the third largest economy in the Eurozone and the eighth largest in the world. Italy is well known for its creative and innovative businesses, a large and competitive agricultural sector (Italy is the world's largest wine producer), and for its influential and high-quality automobile, machinery, food, design and fashion industry. Its largest EU trade partners are Germany (12.9%), France (11.4%), and Spain (7.4%).

A large North–South divide is a major factor of socio-economic weakness. The gap can be seen in the huge difference in statistical income between the northern and southern regions and municipalities. The richest region, Lombardy, earns 127% of the national GDP per capita, while the poorest, Calabria, earns only 61%. The unemployment rate (11.9%) stands slightly above the Eurozone average. However, the average figure is 7.9% in the North and 20.2% in the South.

Following the result of the referendum, many Italians felt insecure. Several Italian politicians believe that Brexit is the first step towards a disintegration of the EU<sup>71</sup>. Like other EU Member States, Italy has faced an upswing in right-wing political parties. The Brexit vote could encourage them to pursue a similar avenue if it is shown to have a positive outcome for Britain.

Another reason why Italians feel uncertain is because the high unemployment rate resulted in around half a million young Italians moving to Great Britain to find new jobs, and now they might be forced to return to Italy.<sup>72</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/mogherini\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/commission/2014-2019/mogherini_en)

<sup>70</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170113IPR58026/antonio-tajani-elected-new-president-of-the-european-parliament>

<sup>71</sup> <http://ukandeu.ac.uk/a-brex-it-would-create-a-dangerous-political-precedent-for-italy/>

<sup>72</sup> <http://www.thelocal.it/20160624/where-does-the-britains-exit-from-the-eu-leaves-italy>

Ministries of Italy:

Ministry of Economy and Finance: <http://www.mef.gov.it/english-corner/index.html>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.difesa.it/EN/Pagine/Home.aspx>

Ministry of economic Development: <http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php/en/>

Ministry of Justice: <https://www.giustizia.it/giustizia/it/homepage.page;jsessionid=Pe-554D5e3bIMQT+hxB2sArI>

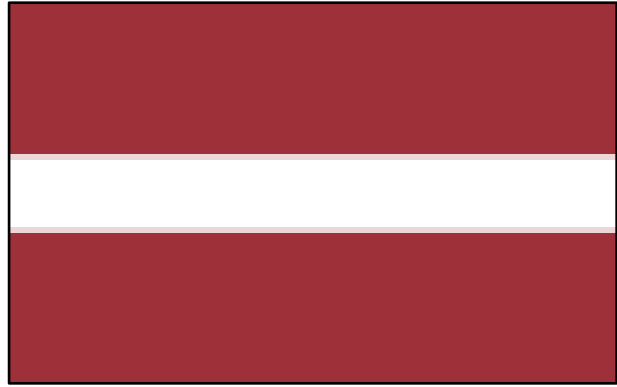
Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport: <http://www.mit.gov.it/en>

# Latvia

Population: 1,957,200

Seats in EU Parliament: 8

GDP: US \$ 28 Billion



*"To be pragmatic, especially now, when so many loud statements are being made from all sides is something I would advocate for. We are not the country in the EU that thinks that we need to see Britain punished for voting to leave."*

Edgars Rinkevics, Latvian Foreign Minister (23.09.2016)

Latvia is a democratic and developed country and member of the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. Since 2007 it has been part of the Schengen Area and established the euro as its currency in 2014. Since the early years of the 21st century Latvia had the highest growth rate in GDP per capita in the EU, but as a result of the global economic crisis, the Latvian economy fell 18% in the first three months of 2009, the biggest fall in the European Union.<sup>73</sup> However, since 2012 the annual growth rate has been continuously rising. Latvia's main export partners are Lithuania, Russia and Estonia, while its main import partners are Lithuania, Germany and Poland.

Brexit could have a direct effect on the growth of Latvia. The UK ranks eighth among Latvia's key foreign trade partners and also is the eighth largest foreign investor with €334 million invested in Latvia.<sup>74</sup> A large number of young Latvians have moved to the UK to study or find a job. This could now be more difficult. This may be positive however, because they might remain in Latvia, which is suffering from a decreasing population and a birth rate crisis.<sup>75</sup>

Another negative effect could be the reduction of the EU budget, because the UK is one of the main net contributors. The money sent to Latvia from the EU could be reduced because of Brexit. Moreover, it is possible that the remaining EU Member States will now have to pay more into the EU budget. Both of these possibilities would have a direct effect on the Latvian budget.<sup>76</sup>

## Ministries of Latvia:

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.fm.gov.lv/en/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mfa.gov.lv/en/>

Ministry of Economics: <https://www.em.gov.lv/en/>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.mod.gov.lv/en.aspx>

Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development: <http://www.varam.gov.lv/eng/>

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<sup>73</sup> <http://www.latvia.eu/economy/economic-history>

<sup>74</sup> <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/990950.shtml>

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/04/29/latvia-fights-against-the-great-eu-exodus/>

<sup>76</sup> <http://www.lsm.lv/en/article/economics/economy/latvia-weighs-up-brexit-knock-on-effect.a211742/>

# Lithuania

Population: 2,849,317

Seats in EU Parliament: 11

GDP: US \$ 43 Billion



*"We have no other choice but to search for solutions."*

Dalia Grybauskaite, Lithuanian President (25.06.2016)

Lithuania is a member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, a full member of the Eurozone, Schengen Area and NATO. Furthermore, the country is part of the WTO and seeks membership in the OECD. Lithuania has been among the fastest growing economies in the European Union. Lithuania's main export partners are Russia, Latvia and Poland while its main import partners are Russia, Germany and Poland. The largest sector in Lithuania is wholesale and retail trade followed by the food and accommodation service sector.

Lithuania will not feel many negative effects in the short- to mid-term due to Brexit.<sup>77</sup> Lithuania will be most affected due to the high number of Lithuanian emigrants living in the UK. According to calculations approximately 200 000 Lithuanians live in the UK, and among these people there is great uncertainty. Lithuanian students who study in the UK and benefit from the lower fees for European Students will also be affected by Brexit. Their future is uncertain and they have expressed concerns about their ability to find work and access affordable education if their current EU privileges are revoked in Great Britain.

## Ministries of Lithuania:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.urm.lt/default/en/>

Ministry of National Defence: <https://kam.lt/en/title.html>

Ministry of Finance: <https://finmin.lrv.lt/en/>

Ministry of Economy: <https://ukmin.lrv.lt/en/>

Ministry of Justice: <http://en.tm.lt/>

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<sup>77</sup> <https://www.quora.com/How-will-Brexit-affect-Lithuania-How-does-Lithuania-feel-about-Brexit-and-what-are-its-plans-to-react-to-Brexit>

# Luxembourg

Population: 576,249

Seats in EU Parliament: 6

GDP: US \$ 60.176 Billion



*"We are not going to make a status of 'a little bit member' or 'not completely', 'pending divorced' or 'nearly divorced'. Either you're a member or you're not a member of the European Union. There is no in-between status, there is no hybrid status between the two."*

Xavier Bettel, Prime Minister of Luxembourg (29.11.2016)

Luxembourg is a founding member of the European Union, OECD, United Nations, NATO, and Benelux, reflecting its political consensus in favour of economic, political, and military integration. Luxembourg has long been a prominent supporter of European political and economic integration. Luxembourg is the site of the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Auditors, the Statistical Office of the European Communities ("Eurostat") and other vital EU organs. The Secretariat of the European Parliament is located in Luxembourg, but the Parliament usually meets in Brussels and sometimes in Strasbourg. In 2011, according to the IMF, Luxembourg was the second richest country in the world, with a per capita GDP on a purchasing-power parity (PPP) basis of \$80,119. Luxembourg has especially close trade and financial ties to Belgium and the Netherlands, and as a member of the EU it enjoys the advantages of the open European Market.

The UK is the second largest EU partner of Luxembourg for exports of services and first for imports of services, the largest EU investor in Luxembourg as well as the top destination for investment flows. In addition, the UK accounts for 16.4% of all net assets under management in Luxembourg and is sixth in terms of bank representation. The interplay between Britain and Luxembourg is striking, especially in the financial industry, which means Luxembourg will want to maintain close economic and financial links with the UK.<sup>78</sup> Brexit has spread uncertainty among not only the citizens of Luxembourg but also to the more than 2000 British citizens who live in Luxembourg.<sup>79</sup>

## Ministries of Luxembourg:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Affairs: <http://www.gouvernement.lu/maee>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mf.public.lu/>

Ministry of Development and Infrastructure: <http://www.developpement-durable-infrastructures.public.lu/fr/index.php>

Ministry of Economy and Foreign Trade: <http://www.gouvernement.lu/3313559/minist-economie>

Ministry of Social Security: <http://www.mss.public.lu/>

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<sup>78</sup> <http://www.chronicle.lu/categoriesluxembourg/economic/item/17395-brexit-luxembourg-would-be-2nd-most-affected-eu-state-behind-ireland-if-britain-leaves-eu>

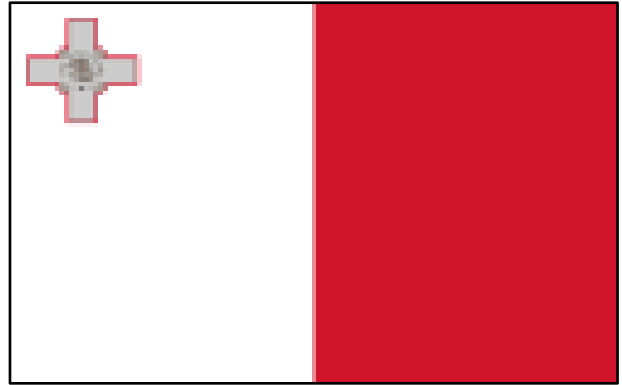
<sup>79</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/jun/03/luxembourg-britain-brexit-referendum-eu>

# Malta

Population: 445,426

Seats in EU Parliament: 6

GDP: US \$ 10.463 Billion



*"Yesterday's statement by my colleague and friend, Prime Minister Theresa May helps clarify the priorities of the British government during the impending negotiations. That May said the UK would not aim to stay in the EU's Single Market, respects our position that our four freedoms are a package. "*

Joseph Muscat, Prime Minister of Malta (18.01.2017)

Malta is the smallest member of the European Union. The population of Malta accounts for only 0.1% of the entire population of the EU. Nevertheless, Malta is an important member of the EU for geopolitical reasons, because of the business interests of Europe in the North African states<sup>80</sup> and as a naval base. Malta has a long history of being occupied by other states including the French (1798-1800) and the British (1800-1964). Malta is part of the Schengen Area and also part of the Monetary Union. Malta currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time and with the presidency of the Council, European policy can be influenced significantly. Malta is strongly dependent on trade with other countries because they only produce 20% of their own food. The largest trading partners of Malta for imports are Italy, the Netherlands and the UK. For exports, it is Germany, France and Hong Kong.

Because of Brexit, Malta is going to lose a strong ally in political discussions in Brussels. Malta will no longer be able to rely on Britain's support on issues such as taxation, social security changes and working time restrictions, thus weakening the voice of Malta in these areas. In the area of economy, Brexit could hit Maltese exports. The traditional export sectors are agriculture and fishing. But also, tourism is growing annually. If the British economy goes through a recession or slow-down, it would push down UK consumption of Maltese goods and services.<sup>81</sup>

## Ministries of Malta:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://foreignaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

Ministry of Finance: <http://mfin.gov.mt/en/Pages/default.aspx>

Ministry of Economy, Investment and Small Business:

<https://economy.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

Ministry of Home Affairs: <http://homeaffairs.gov.mt/en/Pages/Home.aspx>

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<sup>80</sup> <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20150313/opinion/Geopolitical-role-to-play.559666>

<sup>81</sup> <http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20160626/local/brexit-how-malta-may-be-hit.616729>



# Netherlands

Population: 17,000,059  
Seats in EU Parliament: 26  
GDP: US \$ 762.521 Billion



*"We [the EU] are not enemies of the United Kingdom, we want good relations with the United Kingdom. At the same time we should negotiate well. The whole process should not take too long. It's important there's a clarification as soon as possible about the relationships between the United Kingdom and Europe."*

Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (03.10.2016)

The Netherlands is a founding member of the EU, Eurozone, NATO, OECD and WTO, and a part of the trilateral Benelux Union. The country is host to five international courts: the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court and the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. The Netherlands has a developed economy and has played a key role in the European economy for many centuries. The Dutch geographical location gives it prime access to markets in the UK and Germany. The Netherlands continues to be one of the leading European nations for attracting foreign direct investment and is one of the five largest investors in the United Kingdom.

There are many possible outcomes because of Brexit for the Netherlands.<sup>82</sup> Not only will Brexit affect the Dutch economy, it has also encouraged Eurosceptic parties to propose a referendum for the Netherlands themselves.<sup>83</sup> On the other hand, there are also chances for the Netherlands. For example, Amsterdam was placed ahead of Dublin, Frankfurt and Paris by the New York Times as most likely to succeed London as global financial capital, after Britain exits the EU.<sup>84</sup>

## Ministries of the Netherlands:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-foreign-affairs>

Ministry of Economic Affairs: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-economic-affairs>

Ministry of Finance: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-finance>

Ministry of Defence: <https://www.defensie.nl/english>

Ministry of Security and Justice: <https://www.government.nl/ministries/ministry-of-security-and-justice>

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<sup>82</sup> <http://www.voanews.com/a/netherlands-reaction-to-brexit/3391742.html>

<sup>83</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36722915>

<sup>84</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-eu-referendum-36549603>

# Poland

Population: 38,454,576  
Seats in EU Parliament: 51  
GDP: US \$ 508.857 Billion



*"This is bad news for Europe, for Poland. This is a great dilemma for the eurocrats, we all want to keep the EU, the question is in what shape."*

Witold Waszczykowski, Foreign Minister of Poland (25.06.2016)

Poland is the eighth largest economy of the European Union and among the fastest growing European economies. In recent years, Poland has extended its responsibilities and position in European and international affairs, supporting and establishing friendly relations with other European nations and a large number of developing countries. Besides the EU, Poland is also part of the NATO, UN, OECD and other important organisations.

Brexit could have a strong impact on the relationship between Poland and the UK, not only economically, but also politically.<sup>85</sup> Poles make up the second-largest overseas-born community in the UK, after residents born in India, and the Polish language is the second most spoken language in England and the third most spoken language in the UK after English and Welsh.<sup>86</sup> An extremely large number of Poles live and work in the UK. Possible disadvantages from Brexit for Poland include: a decrease in work permits, higher fees for Polish students, the end of cheap flights between the UK and Poland and more expensive Scotch whisky.<sup>87</sup> Poland is losing a powerful ally in the EU, one with a similar outlook towards the Single Market and towards retaining sanctions against Russia.

## Ministries of Poland:

Ministry of National Defence: <http://en.mon.gov.pl/>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/ministry\\_of\\_foreign\\_affairs](http://www.msz.gov.pl/en/ministry_of_foreign_affairs)

Ministry of Development: <https://www.mr.gov.pl/en/>

Ministry of Justice: <https://ms.gov.pl/en/about-the-ministry-of-justice/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mf.gov.pl/en/news>

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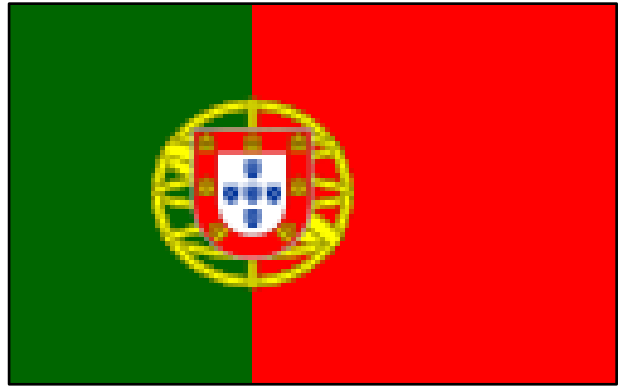
<sup>85</sup> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-36620886>

<sup>86</sup> <http://www.financialobserver.eu/poland/how-brexit-might-impact-roles-and-the-polish-economy/>

<sup>87</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/22/polish-uk-brexit-dont-think-many-will-stay-poland-immigration>

# Portugal

Population: 10,341,330  
Seats in EU Parliament: 21  
GDP: US \$ 204.186 Billion



*"The British people decided that the United Kingdom should no longer continue be part of the European Union, which can only bring us sadness. We should respect with serenity the decision of the majority of the British people in the certainty that the European project remains valid in the defence of the values that have, already for many centuries, shaped our common identity."*

Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, Portuguese President (30.06.2016)

Portugal is a developed country with a high-income, advanced economy and a high living standard. It is a founding member of NATO and it is also a member of numerous other international organizations, including the United Nations, the European Union, the Eurozone, and OECD. Portugal is a significant European minerals producer and is ranked among Europe's leading copper producers. Travel and tourism continue to be extremely important for Portugal. Portugal is among the 20 most visited countries in the world, receiving an average of 13 million foreign tourists each year.

The UK is one of the major export destinations for Portugal, with almost €3 billion worth of goods travelling to the United Kingdom every year. There are only a few countries that do more business with Portugal, and accordingly the impact of Brexit on this market could be huge. By leaving the EU, the cost of goods imported to the UK from Portugal could change by up to 30%. That price change will come from different factors, such as, raised shipping costs, duties and taxes and handling costs. This price change would make Portuguese goods less attractive to British consumers and reduce Portuguese manufacturers' abilities to compete on price in the UK market.<sup>88</sup> Some of the main exports of Portugal include wine and port, both of which will likely continue to be sent to the UK. However, research suggests that alcohol will be subject to higher duties and taxes than other commodities, which will further raise the costs for Portuguese businesses hoping to sell in the UK.<sup>89</sup>

## Ministries of Portugal:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://idi.mne.pt/pt/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.portaldasfinancas.gov.pt/at/html/index.html>

Government of Portugal: <http://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt.aspx>

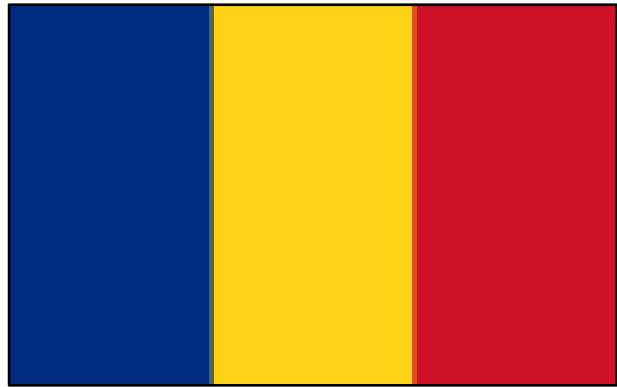
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<sup>88</sup> <http://www.bpcc.pt/spotlight-arch/256-spotlight-117.html>

<sup>89</sup> <http://www.theportugalnews.com/news/reaction-in-portugal-over-brexite/38700>

# Romania

Population: 19,511,000  
Seats in EU Parliament: 32  
GDP: US \$ 186.514 Billion



*"Now is the time for us to make up for the lost time, to draw up a new country project, which we will do together. I will assure Romanians that the so-called Brexit crisis has import opportunities for Romania and together with the entire political class we will make sure Romania and the EU will come out of the crisis strengthened."*

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania (27.06.2016)

Romania has been a member of the European Union since 2007 and a few years before that it also joined NATO. Romania is a founding member of the World Trade Organisation. The country attempted to join the Schengen Area but was rejected by the European Council in 2011. Furthermore, it has not yet met the criteria for adopting the euro, although it is expected that this will happen sometime around 2020. Since Romania joined the EU, their GDP per capita has risen by about 41%, making it one of the fastest growing economies in Europe. Despite this, Romania is still one of the poorest members of the European Union and their economy can't compete with the big nations like France, Italy or Germany.

In Romania, the most negative effect of Brexit will probably come from a reduction of EU funding, due to the loss of one of the biggest net contributors.<sup>90</sup> On the other hand, Brexit is going to have a relatively low impact on Romania's short-term macroeconomic situation, because local economic growth is mostly connected to private consumption, and the direct links to the British economy are minimal.<sup>91</sup> In recent years the number of people leaving Romania to go to the UK has risen constantly. In 2015 more than 200,000 people emigrated to the UK from Romania. However, reducing the number of immigrants was one of the main points of the UKIP in the referendum campaign.<sup>92</sup>

## Ministries of Romania:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.mae.ro/en>

Ministry of National Defence: <http://english.mapn.ro/>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.just.ro/>

Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure: <http://mt.gov.ro/>

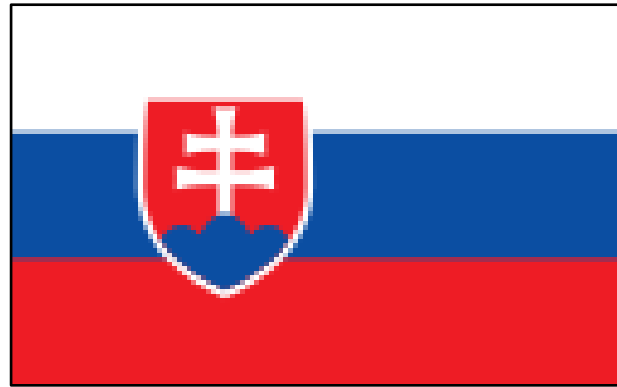
<sup>90</sup> <http://europeanacademy.ro/2016/08/11/analysis-impact-brexit-romanian-economy/>

<sup>91</sup> <http://www.nineoclock.ro/the-effects-of-the-brexit-vote-on-romania-president-iohannis-calls-emergency-meeting-at-the-cotroceni-palace/>

<sup>92</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/immigration/11987954/Romanian-and-Bulgarian-workers-top-200000-for-first-time-say-official-figures.html>

# Slovakia

Population: 5,426,252  
Seats in EU Parliament: 13  
GDP: US \$ 90.263 Billion



*"I would support any measure that will help reverse the position of the British people, which we have to respect but also regret."*

Miroslav Lajčák, Foreign Minister of Slovakia (28.06.2016)

Slovakia joined the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone on 1 January 2009. Slovakia is also a member of the Schengen Area, NATO, the United Nations, the OECD and the WTO. Slovakia's main export partners are Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland, while its main import partners are Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria. Slovakia has an important geographical position, due to its border with the Ukraine. All its other neighbour countries are part of the European Union and therefore important trading partners for Slovakia. The political relationship with these countries is also very good.<sup>93</sup>

The direct effect of Brexit to Slovakia won't be as big as for some other EU Member States but is more than negligible. Based on some calculations, Brexit might slow down the Slovak economy by an aggregate 0.34 percent until 2020, which could mean 5,300 less jobs created and a hike in prices by an additional 0.4 percent.<sup>94</sup> A major concern is the status of EU funds and what form they will take after Brexit. The UK's contribution to the EU budget constitutes 15 percent of the total, which would imply that the overall amount of EU funds will decrease by a proportional amount. This also will affect Slovakia directly, as it receives more money from the EU than it pays. This money helps to build roads, subsidises science and research, and protects the environment.

## Ministries of Slovakia:

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs: <https://www.mzv.sk/web/en>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.finance.gov.sk/En/>

Ministry of Economy: <http://www.economy.gov.sk/home/126312s>

Ministry of Environment: <https://www.minzp.sk/en/>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.mosr.sk/ministry-of-defence-of-the-slovak-republic/>

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<sup>93</sup> <https://www.quora.com/How-does-your-country-get-along-with-its-neighbors>

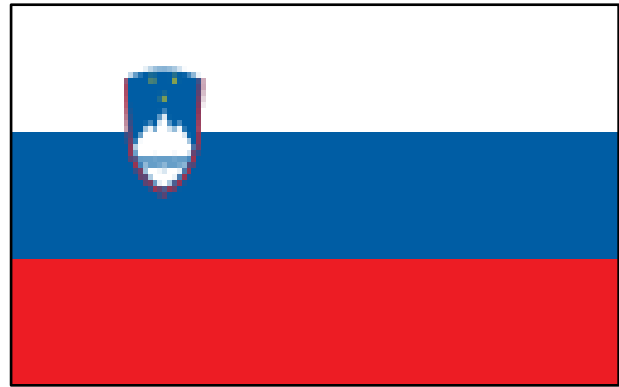
<sup>94</sup> <https://spectator.sme.sk/c/20199957/brexit-may-directly-hurt-slovakias-economy.html>

# Slovenia

Population: 2,064,188

Seats in EU Parliament: 8

GDP: US \$ 45.917 Billion



*"I am convinced that the decision will, after a brief period of relative uncertainty on the international markets, result in additional strengthening of the Union and incentives to carry out its reform that will allow us to face similar challenges more effectively, with a greater measure of solidarity and determination, and in a closer partnership."*

Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of Slovenia (01.07.2016)

Slovenia has been part of the European Union since 2004, and joined the Monetary Union and the Schengen Area three years later. Slovenia was the first formerly communist country to join the Eurozone. Slovenia's main export and import partners are Germany, Italy and Austria. The service sector is the most important sector for the Slovenian economic. With the entry of Croatia in 2014, all the neighbour countries of Slovenia are now part of the European Union.

The UK leaving the European Union is going to have a mainly indirect effect on the economic growth of Slovenia, because its main trading partners such as Germany and Italy will be directly affected.<sup>95</sup> The direct effects for Slovenia will likely be related to payments from, and to, the EU budget, although it should be acknowledged that Slovenia's financial position is strong at the moment. For countries like Slovenia there will also be political changes as a result of Brexit. With one of its largest members leaving, there will be the opportunity for smaller countries to take a more leading role in EU decisions due to the fact that the seats in the European Parliament will be redistributed. With the loss of one of the largest countries of the EU it will be difficult for the other large members such as Germany, France and Italy to be able to gain a qualified majority amongst themselves.<sup>96</sup>

## Ministries of Slovenia:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.mzz.gov.si/en/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.mf.gov.si/en/>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.mo.gov.si/en/>

Ministry of economic development and technology:

[http://www.vlada.si/en/about\\_the\\_government/ministries/ministry\\_of\\_economic\\_development\\_and\\_technology/](http://www.vlada.si/en/about_the_government/ministries/ministry_of_economic_development_and_technology/)

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<sup>95</sup>[http://www.vlada.si/en/media\\_room/newsletter/slovenia\\_weekly/news/article/after\\_brexit\\_indirect\\_effect\\_on\\_the\\_slovenian\\_economy\\_58370/](http://www.vlada.si/en/media_room/newsletter/slovenia_weekly/news/article/after_brexit_indirect_effect_on_the_slovenian_economy_58370/)

<sup>96</sup><http://www.russia-direct.org/debates/post-brexit-eu-seen-small-central-european-nation>

# Spain

Population: 46,423,064  
Seats in EU Parliament: 54  
GDP: US \$1.242 Trillion



*"This result must make all (EU) Member States reflect on how to strengthen ourselves more than ever to win back the vigour of the original spirit behind the European project and recover the interest, sympathy and attraction our citizens feel towards."*

Mariano Rajoy, Spanish prime Minister (24.06.2016)

Spain is a middle power and a developed country with the world's fourteenth largest economy by GDP and the 5th in the European Union. Spain's EU membership represents an important part of its foreign policy. Even on many international issues beyond western Europe, Spain prefers to coordinate its efforts with its EU partners through the European political co-operation mechanisms. Spain supported the euro from the beginning. Spain is a member of the United Nations, the OECD, the WTO and many other international organisations. The main economic strengths of Spain are the agriculture sector and tourism. In the last five decades, international tourism in Spain has grown to become the second largest in the world in terms of spending, worth approximately 40 billion Euros.

The Spain-UK relationship is characterised by the huge inflow of people (tourists as well as migrants) and the substantial amount of Spanish direct investment in Great Britain. In trade terms, Spain's trade surplus with the UK stood at 1.3% of GDP in 2014. This means that Spain exports more goods to the UK than it imports. Unlike other big economies in the euro area, Spain has a trade surplus in both goods and services with the UK (the latter as a result of tourism). British tourists account for almost 25% of the total number of visitors to Spain. Brexit may have a negative impact on these trade flows, given that the expectations are for British consumers' confidence and purchasing power to decline).<sup>97</sup>

Around 300 000 British people live permanently in Spain and in the other direction, the UK is the main destination for Spanish emigration, accounting for 14% of all Spanish immigrants. According to estimations, Spanish immigration to the UK rose 25% in 2014 from 2013. Brexit spreads uncertainty for these people. It is uncertain how the British government will decide on the free movement of workers, one of the founding principles of the European Union.<sup>98</sup> If the UK decides to repatriate Spanish migrants, Spain may in turn make it harder for Britons living there.

## Ministries of Spain:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation:

<http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/en/Paginas/inicio.aspx>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.defensa.gob.es/>

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<sup>97</sup> <http://www.thelocal.es/20160623/spain-really-wants-britain-to-stay-within-the-eu-and-heres-why>

<sup>98</sup> [http://spanishnewstoday.com/what-impact-will-brexite-have-on-spain\\_76693-a.html](http://spanishnewstoday.com/what-impact-will-brexite-have-on-spain_76693-a.html)

Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness:

[http://www.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/mineco?lang\\_chosen=en](http://www.mineco.gob.es/portal/site/mineco?lang_chosen=en)

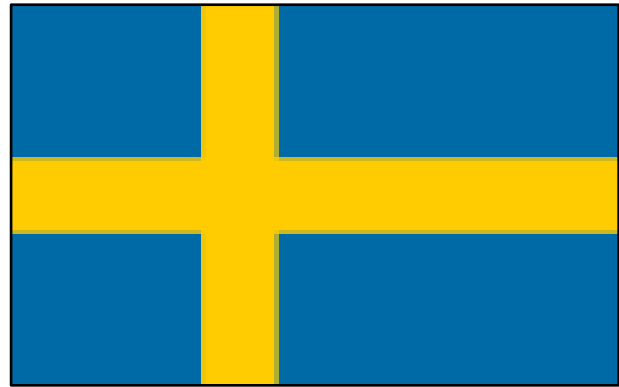
Ministry of Finance and public administration: <http://www.minhfp.gob.es/en-GB/El%20Ministerio/Paginas/El%20Ministerio.aspx>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.mjusticia.gob.es/cs/Satellite/Portal/en/inicio>



# Sweden

Population: 10,005,60  
Seats in EU Parliament: 20  
GDP: US \$ 517.440 Billion



*"We, of course, need a good Brexit both for Britain and the European Union. But also within the European Union we need to take steps forward to develop the union and not only be hijacked by Brexit."*

Magdalena Andersson, Swedish Minister of Finance (09.09.2016)

Sweden joined the European Union in 1995, but declined NATO membership, as well as Eurozone membership following a referendum. It is also a member of the UN, Council of Europe, the WTO and OECD. Sweden maintains a Nordic social welfare system that provides universal health care and tertiary education for its citizens. It has the world's eighth-highest per capita income and ranks highly in numerous metrics of national performance, including quality of life, health, education, protection of civil liberties, economic competitiveness, equality, prosperity and human development. The largest trade flows are with Germany, the United States, Norway, the United Kingdom, Denmark and Finland. Since Sweden joined the EU it has been one of Britain's most important allies in dealing with the Eurozone. Support for remaining within the European Union has grown in Sweden since Britain's vote to leave. More than 63% of the Swedish Population would vote to remain in the EU. This is 10 % more than it was before the vote of the Britain to leave.<sup>99</sup>

Sweden is in favour of a soft Brexit. This opinion is shared by more than three-quarters of Swedish companies. They are starting to feel the chilling effect of the sharp fall in the pound sterling - Swedish exports to Britain are in free-fall, with a drop of 19% over the period from January to July 2016 compared to the same period a year ago.<sup>100</sup> Sweden and the UK worked closely together in the area of security. In 2016 the two countries signed a Defence Cooperation Program which includes more than 50 activities. For Sweden, this was a priority. The impact of Brexit on this close cooperation is yet to be seen.<sup>101</sup>

## Ministries of Sweden:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-for-foreign-affairs/>

Ministry of Finance: <http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-of-finance/>

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation: <http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-of-enterprise-and-innovation/>

Ministry of Defence: <http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-of-defence/>

Ministry of Justice: <http://www.government.se/government-of-sweden/ministry-of-justice/>

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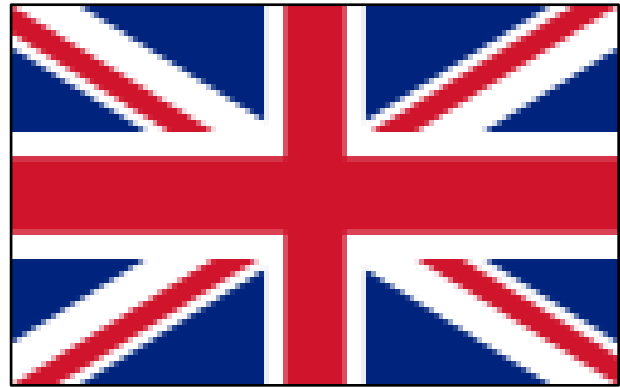
<sup>99</sup> <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/brexit-latest-news-sweden-support-eu-swedish-membership-surges-a7136426.html>

<sup>100</sup> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2016/10/24/sweden-holds-out-olive-branch-to-brexit-britain/>

<sup>101</sup> <http://www.government.se/articles/2016/06/sweden-and-the-united-kingdom-enhances-defence-cooperation/>

# United Kingdom

Population: 65,110,000  
Seats in the EU Parliament: 73  
GDP: US \$2.65 Trillion



*"Our vote to leave the European Union was no rejection of the values we share. The decision to leave the EU represents no desire to become more distant to you, our friends and neighbours. It was no attempt to do harm to the EU itself or to any of its remaining Member States. We do not want to turn the clock back to the days when Europe was less peaceful, less secure and less able to trade freely. It was a vote to restore, as we see it, our parliamentary democracy, national self-determination, and to become even more global and internationalist in action and in spirit."*

Theresa May, British Prime Minister (17.01.2017)<sup>102</sup>

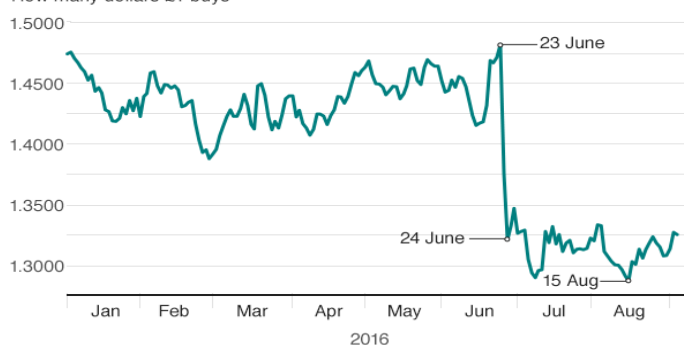
The UK has been a leading member of the EU since their entry in 1973. Membership in the EU has brought large economic benefits to Great Britain over the last 40 years. Of course, there were also some detriments but, in a cost benefit analysis, UK membership in the EU was positive. However, on 23 June 2016, a national referendum on the UK's membership of the EU resulted in around 52% voting to exit the Union.

The UK's main export partners are: the US, Germany and Switzerland, while its main import partners are Germany, China and the US. In total, the European Union is the largest trading partner for the UK, with around half of its total trade being with the EU. As a result of Brexit, the trade between the EU and the UK is likely to be reduced because of higher tariffs and other non-tariff barriers to trade. On the other hand, without the EU, Britain can independently pursue international trade deals with China, India and the US.

The potential implications of Brexit are complex, as they hinge largely on what economic actions the UK takes after splitting from the EU. The collapse of the British economy, projected after the Brexit vote, has so far not occurred. However, the British pound fell significantly in the months following the vote. It then declined to a three-year low against the euro after the Prime Minister's announcement that the UK would begin formal Brexit negotiations by the end of March.

**Pound plunged against the dollar after vote result**

How many dollars £1 buys



Source: Bloomberg

BBC

(Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/business-36611512>)

<sup>102</sup> May, Theresa, available at: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/full-text-theresa-may-brexit-speech-global-britain-eu-european-union-latest-a7531361.html>

However, the biggest issue at moment is the persistent uncertainty. Many Britons who live in other EU countries and receive their pensions there, are worried that Brexit could alter their living circumstances. The same applies for all EU inhabitants living in the UK. When Britain leaves the EU, they will no longer receive any money from the different EU funds. For example, Britain will no longer receive grants from the European Regional Development Fund which helps finance the British television and movie industry, including productions such as *Game of Thrones*.<sup>103</sup>

Another effect of Brexit is that the UK could also face another internal unity problem. The popularity of the independence movements in Scotland and Northern Ireland could rise again, especially in Scotland, where calls to repeat the referendum of 2014 have been renewed after Scotland voted overwhelmingly to remain in the EU. The impacts of Brexit on the UK will begin to emerge after Article 50 is triggered. In the long term, the effects depend on the conditions which are negotiated - if, for example, the UK retains access to the Single Market and or makes compromises on the movement on people.

However, the fact that 48 % of the British people voted to remain in the EU is potentially destabilising. Many of these people still hope that the referendum will be repeated and that the UK will remain in the EU.

#### Ministries of the United Kingdom:

Foreign and Commonwealth Office: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-office>

Ministry of Defence: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-defence>

Ministry of Economic and Finance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>

Ministry of Justice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-justice>

Department for Exiting the European Union:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-exiting-the-european-union>

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<sup>103</sup> <http://www.theverge.com/2016/6/24/12023344/brexit-entertainment-industry-impact-game-of-thrones>