

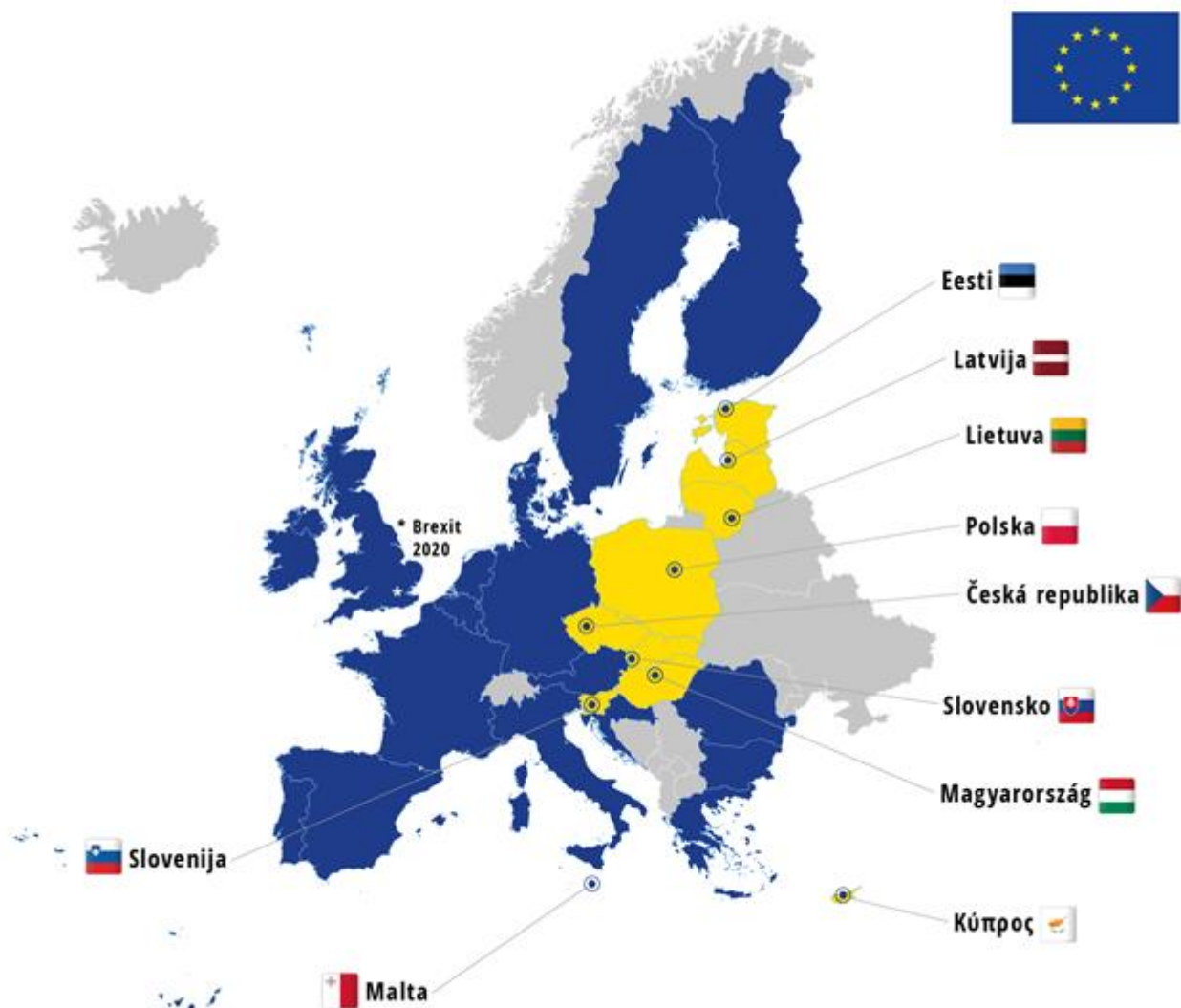


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20th anniversary of the accession of 10 States to the European Union

To mark this event, a conference will be held on Friday 3 May 2024 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Palais of the Court of Justice



On 1 May 2004, 10 new Member States joined the European Union: the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. This vast enlargement opened up new horizons of development and integration. To celebrate the 20th anniversary of this historic event, a conference will be held on

3 May at the Palais of the Court of Justice, centred around three working sessions.

After the welcome address by Ms Ineta Ziemele, judge at the Court of Justice, the opening remarks will be given by Mr Koen Lenaerts, President of the Court. The **first working session** will be dedicated to the history of the largest enlargement that the European Union has seen. This session will address, in the pre-accession context, the criteria that candidate States must meet (the “Copenhagen Criteria”) in order to advance in a standardised manner towards the fundamentals of European integration, namely the rule of law, a market economy and political pluralism. Later in the morning, the **second working session** will focus on the contribution of the 2004 enlargement to the development of the European Union as a ‘Union of values’; the common values which are enshrined in Article 2 of the Treaty on European Union and which define the identity of the European Union as a common legal order. In the afternoon, a **third working session** will be held, dedicated to EU economic regulation, with the objective of exploring how, over the course of the past 20 years, EU law has ensured, under the supervision of the EU Courts, the cohesion and convergence of the national economies of the new Member States in the European Union.

Key personalities from the judicial, political and diplomatic world will participate in the conference as speakers.

The event will be live streamed in full on the Court’s website: https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/p1_4335226/en/.

More information about the conference is available [here](#).

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