

Geopolitical balances on the European continent have been disrupted since the beginning of the Russian invasion. The enlargement of the European Union has gained importance in the political agenda. Overview of the European organisations in a state of upheaval:

1949



Council of Europe

- 46 Member States
- An intergovernmental organisation which promotes peace, human rights and democracy. It is behind the European Convention on Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights has the jurisdiction to apply it.
- Candidate country: Belarus



North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

- 30 Member States
- A political and military alliance focused on the collective defence and security of its members.
- Candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Georgia, Sweden, Ukraine.

1960 1957 1973



European Union (EU)

- 27 Member States
- An organisation for political and economic integration.
- Candidate countries: Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey.



European **Free Trade Association** (EFTA)

- 4 Member States
- Free trade agreement for goods and services.

Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

osce

- 57 Member States
- Organisation for cooperation on security and democratic issues.

1999



• 19 Member States

Area comprising the

EU Member States

that have adopted

the euro as their

single currency.

Croatia will join in

January 2023.



Schengen Area



- 26 Member States
- Agreement of free movement for people to which 22 EU Member States and 4 third countries are parties. This area is now fully governed by EU legislation.
- Candidate countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Romania.



1995 1994

European **Economic Area** (EEA)

- 30 Member States
- Agreement for free movement of goods and services, creating a single market between EFTA and the EU.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE WAR IN UKRAINE

Ukraine, followed by Moldova and Georgia, submitted an application to join the EU.

Denmark decided by referendum to join the European Common Security and Defence Policy.

Finland and Sweden have announced that they intend to submit their applications to join NATO, which would put an end to the neutral status these countries have upheld for centuries.

Following the invasion of Ukraine, Russia has been expelled from the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers suspended its relations with Belarus, a candidate country that has allied itself with Russia.

