

The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements

TABLE D1		Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements			
Country	Start of Negotiations	Agreement Concluded	Agreement Signed	Entry into Force	
Tunisia	December 1994	June 1995	July 1995	December 1997	
Israel	December 1993	September 1995	November 1995	June 2000	
Morocco	December 1993	November 1995	February 1996	March 2000	
Palestine	May 1996	December 1996	February 1997	July 1997*	
Jordan	July 1995	April 1997	November 1997	May 2002	
Egypt	March 1995	June 1999	June 2001	June 2004	
Algeria	June 1997	December 2001	April 2002	September 2005	
Lebanon	November 1995	January 2002	June 2002	April 2006	
Syria	March 1998	October 2004 / December 2008			

* Interim agreement signed by the EU and the PLO (to the benefit of the Palestinian Authority).

- To enter into force each Association Agreement must be ratified by the European Parliament, the Parliament of the Partner Country and the Parliaments of the 25 Member States of the European Union.
- Until its accession to the EU, Turkey shall be governed by the Customs Union Agreement, which entered into force in January 1996 and is based on the First Generation Agreement of 1963.
- In 2008 the Association Agreement with Syria was revised. It was planned to be ratified on 26 October 2009. However, Syria indefinitely postponed signing the Association Agreement with the European Union. The agreement will enter into force provisionally when it is signed by Syria. The definitive entry into force requires the European Parliament's evaluation and ratification by the Member States. In December 2011, Syria suspended its accession to UfM. Since 2012, as a result of the conflict escalation and the pressure from the international community, there has not been progress in the signing and ratification of the Association Agreement.
- Negotiations for a Framework Agreement with Libya were launched in 2008, but suspended in 2011 due to the Libyan Civil War; as of 2014 the EU is seeking to re-launch the negotiations.

TABLE D2		Stabilisation and Association Agreements and EU Accession Process of the of Western Balkan Countries					
Country	Start of Negotiations	Agreement Signed	Entry into Force (Interim Agreement)	Entry into Force	Candidate Country	Start of Negotiations	Entry into the EU
Albania	January 2003	June 2006	December 2006	April 2009	June 2014		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	November 2005	June 2008	July 2008	June 2015			
Croatia	November 2000	October 2001	March 2002	February 2005	June 2004	October 2005	July 2013
Kosovo under UNSC Resolution 1244	October 2013	October 2015		April 2016			
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	March 2000	April 2001	June 2001	April 2004	December 2005		
Serbia	October 2005	April 2008	February 2010	September 2013	March 2012	January 2014	
Montenegro	October 2005 / July 2006*	October 2007	January 2008	May 2010	December 2010	June 2012	

* On 21 May 2006, a referendum was held, which led to Montenegro's independence from the Federation it had formed with Serbia.

- EU relations with the Western Balkan Countries are regulated by the Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP). The SAP serves as a framework for the development of various instruments and helps each country to carry out political and economic transition preparing them for a new contractual relationship with the EU: the Stabilisation and Association Agreements (SAAs), under which they aim to progress towards closer association with the EU.
- Negotiations with Serbia were interrupted in May 2006 due to lack of progress in cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). In early 2007, the new administration in Belgrade launched a plan and constituted a National Council for cooperation with the ICTY, a measure which allowed negotiations to resume on 13 June 2007. In April 2008, the European Union and Serbia signed the agreement. The Interim Agreement will not enter into force until the EU Council considers that Serbia is fully cooperating with the ICTY. In December 2009, the Council unfroze the Interim Agreement, which entered into force in February 2010. In March 2012 Serbia achieved the status of candidate for EU membership. In September 2013 a Stabilisation and Association Agreement between the EU and Serbia entered into force. In line with the decision of the European Council in June 2013 to open accession negotiations with Serbia, the Council adopted in December 2013 the negotiating framework and agreed to hold the 1st Intergovernmental Conference with Serbia in January 2014.
- After its declaration and the EU's acknowledgement of Montenegro as a sovereign and independent State, the EU has maintained relations with independent Montenegro. The SAA was signed on 15 October 2007. In January 2008, the entry into force of the Interim Agreement represented progress towards the national ratification process and closer relations with the EU. The SAA entered into force in May 2010. In June 2012 negotiations began for the accession of Montenegro to the EU. As of 13 December 2016, 26 negotiating chapters, have been opened, of which two have been provisionally closed.
- Three years after the start of negotiations between the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2005, the SAA was signed and the Interim Agreement took effect. However, despite real progress in collaboration with the ICTY, the Commission still notes numerous dysfunctions in the institutional and judiciary spheres. On April 21, 2015 the EU notes that Bosnia and Herzegovina meets certain pre-basic criteria: the adoption of a federal law governing public aid and the establishment of a stable system of population census; the implementation of the European Court of Human Rights verdict on the Sejdic-Finci case requiring constitutional amendments for members of the communities of the country, other than the Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian, to be elected to the Presidency or as deputies; and that the country creates a unitary body to regulate bilateral relations with the EU. For all these reasons the EU adopts the SAA on April 21, 2015, allowing its entry into force on June 1, 2015. In February 15, 2016 Bosnia and Herzegovina submits its application to join the EU.
- More than seven years after the start of the negotiations, Croatia joined the European Union on 1st July 2013.
- In June 2003, the Thessaloniki European Council decided that all Western Balkan countries be considered as potential candidates for EU accession. Macedonia (2005) and Serbia (2012) have already been granted candidate country status. Albania (2009) has also applied for EU accession. In October 2012, Commission recommended that Albania be granted EU candidate status, subject to completion of key measures in the areas of judicial and public administration reform and revision of the parliamentary rules of procedures. In June 2014, Albania was granted the EU candidate status.
- The negotiations for the signing of an SAA with Kosovo officially began on October 28, 2013. Because this is the first SAA is negotiated after the promulgation of the Treaty of Lisbon, which gave EU legal personality, the SAA with Kosovo did not require ratification by each and every one of the Member States of the EU (EU five states - Greece, Spain, Cyprus, Slovakia and Romania do not recognize the status of Kosovo as an independent state). In the case of Kosovo and because of its unique specificities there is no commercial Interim Agreement associated with the SAA. The SAA was signed in October 27, 2015, and enters into force in April 1, 2016.