

# Current membership of the European Council

The European Council consists of the 27 Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States, who are voting members, together with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission, who have no vote (Article 15(2) TEU). The chart shows the current members, the national office they hold and their most recent European political affiliation, as well as the year their membership of the institution began.



Images taken from the European Council website – © European Union.



## Recent developments

The length of an individual Head of State or Government's membership of the European Council is not set down in the EU Treaties, but is instead directly linked to changes in the composition of national governments within the EU Member States. There are thus significant variations between Member States, reflecting the various electoral cycles and frequency in leadership changes in these countries. As a result, some individual Heads of State or Government may be participating in their very first meeting of the European Council, whereas others might have participated for ten years or more. In the period from February 2015 to September 2019, there were changes in membership on average every 2 months. Since the previous edition of this publication, in July 2020, national and European political developments have led to a number of changes in the European Council's membership, set out below.

### Changes of members and their status

- **Newest member of the European Council**

Following the formation of a new government on 1 October 2020, Alexander De Croo has become the new Prime Minister of Belgium.

### Changes in the balance between political party affiliations

As Alexander De Croo is a member of the same political family as his predecessor, his arrival does not change the political balance in the European Council.

The European Council currently includes eleven members from the EPP, seven from Renew Europe, six from the S&D/PES, one from the ECR, and two Independent members. The Greens remain the only major political force in the European Parliament with no affiliated Head of State or Government in the European Council.

NB: The Romanian constitution requires the country's President not to be a member of any political party. However, Klaus Iohannis, previously a member of an EPP-affiliated party, still regularly attends EPP pre-European Council meetings. With his party, Fidesz, suspended from the EPP since 20 March 2019, Viktor Orbán does not attend such meetings.