

EU enlargement

The European Union has found new impetus for enlargement in the wake of Russia's war on Ukraine, making progress in what was once called the EU's most successful policy. A year ago, the EU granted Ukraine and Moldova official EU candidate status and also opened the same possibility for Georgia. Politicians and analysts more and more often say that the EU should become more involved in the Western Balkan countries, which saw their membership prospects open 20 years ago. If it does not, those countries could drift away politically from the Union and exacerbate conflicts in the post-Yugoslav area. For Turkey, EU membership is no longer a priority, while popular support for EU accession is declining in Serbia, partly due to the influence of Russia.

'There is a new awareness inside the EU. We finally realise that it is not enough to just wait for our friends outside the Union to move closer to us. It is not enough to say that the door is open. We must also take responsibility to bring the aspiring members of our Union much closer to us,' European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said at the GLOBSEC conference in Bratislava in May.

This note gathers links to the recent publications and commentaries from many international think tanks on enlargement and issues with EU accession countries.

[The future of the European Political Community](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, June 2023

[Who is afraid of Georgian democracy?](#)

Carnegie Europe, May 2023

[Time to get serious about Moldova](#)

Carnegie Europe, May 2023

[Is the EU ready for further enlargement?](#)

Carnegie Europe, May 2023

[The European Political Community: From Prague to Chisinau and beyond](#)

European Policy Centre, May 2023

[Applying for EU membership in time of war: 'Accession through war' of Ukraine](#)

Istituto Affari Internazionali, May 2023

[Keeping friends closer: Why the EU should address new geoeconomic realities and deepen partnerships with its neighbours](#)

Bertelsmann Stiftung, April 2023

[How Russia's invasion of Ukraine tested the international legal order](#)

Brookings Institution, April 2023



[Why Ukraine needs security guarantees](#)

Carnegie Europe, April 2023

[Bosnia and Herzegovina: Gas disputes along ethnic lines](#)

Centre for Eastern Studies, April 2023

[Croatia's prime minister: There should be fewer roadblocks for EU enlargement to the Balkans, and Ukraine](#)

Atlantic Council, March 2023

[Is the EU doing enough for Eastern Europe?](#)

Carnegie Europe, March 2023

[The politics of dialogue: How the EU can change the conversation in Kosovo and Serbia](#)

European Council on Foreign Relations, March 2023

[Georgia must get its act together to become an EU candidate country](#)

European Policy Centre, March 2023

[Ukraine's accession talks need bold action in Kyiv and Brussels](#)

European Policy Centre, March 2023

[Europe and Russia on the Balkan front: Geopolitics and diplomacy in the EU's backyard](#)

Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale, March 2023

[Making the EU and member states policy towards the Western Balkans socio-economically more sustainable](#)

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Europapolitik, March 2023

[Consequences of the war in Ukraine: Two areas of contention - Turkey and the Balkans](#)

Rand Corporation, March 2023

[The normalisation of relations between Kosovo and Serbia](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, March 2023

[Can enlargement be the EU's most successful foreign policy, again?](#)

Carnegie Europe via Aspenia, February 2023

[The EU must reconcile geopolitics and democracy](#)

Carnegie Europe, February 2023

[Closer to the West? Serbia's foreign policy after the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)

Centre for Eastern Studies, February 2023

[Dutch parliament demands geopolitical alignment in EU enlargement](#)

Clingendael, February 2023

[Ukraine: Conflict at the crossroads of Europe and Russia](#)

Council on Foreign Relations, February 2023

[Resolving the Kosovo-Serbia dispute: The key to limiting Russia's influence in the Balkans](#)

European Policy Centre, February 2023

[Can the EU still wrest the Balkans from their blighted history?](#)

Fondation Robert Schuman, February 2023

[Role of regional organizations and initiatives towards acceleration of the Western Balkans' European integration](#)

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, February 2023

[How enlargement accomplishes European unity while changing its nature](#)

Jacques Delors Institute, February 2023

[The EU should fast-track negotiations for Ukraine's membership](#)

Peterson Institute for International Economics, February 2023

[The impressive EU-Ukraine summits: Alongside the inadequate enlargement methodology](#)

Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies, February 2023

[Western Balkan foreign and security ties with external actors](#)

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, February 2023

[Hedging its bets: Serbia between Russia and the EU](#)

Carnegie Europe, January 2023

[Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union: Enlargement as a strategic decision](#)

EUROPEUM, January 2023

[Russia's war in Ukraine: Rethinking the EU's eastern enlargement and neighbourhood policy](#)

German Council on Foreign Relations, January 2023

DISCLAIMER AND COPYRIGHT

This document is prepared for, and addressed to, the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The content of the document is the sole responsibility of its author(s) and any opinions expressed herein should not be taken to represent an official position of the Parliament.

Reproduction and translation for non-commercial purposes are authorised, provided the source is acknowledged and the European Parliament is given prior notice and sent a copy.

© European Union, 2023.

eprs@ep.europa.eu

www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank (internet)

<http://epthinktank.eu> (blog)