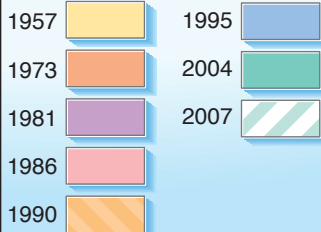


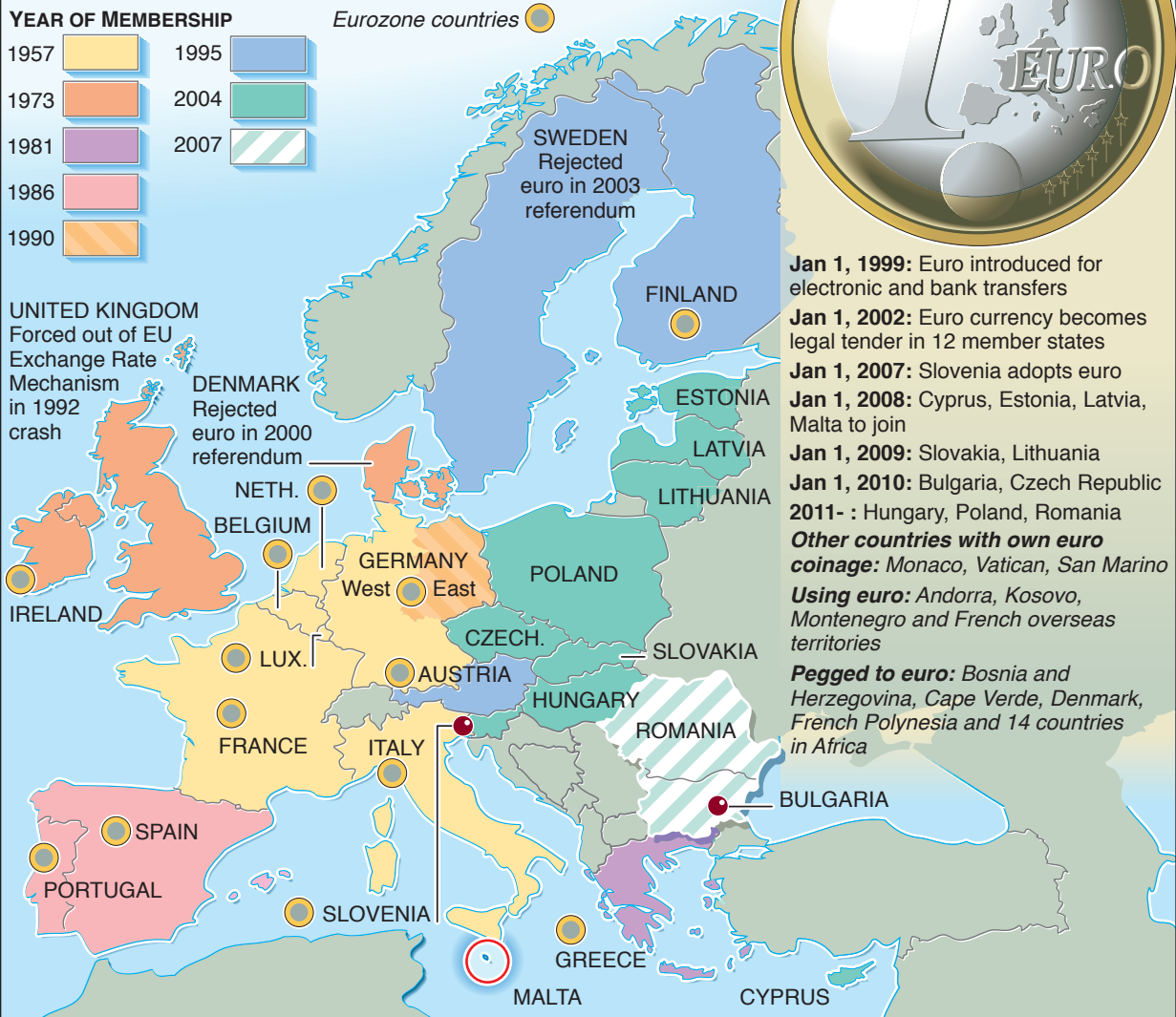
Euro marks fifth anniversary with EU expansion

Five years after its introduction in 12 countries, the euro is set to extend its reach with Slovenia adopting the currency on January 1, 2007, new members Romania and Bulgaria committed to joining the common currency, and countries around the world switching their reserves away from the dollar

YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP



Eurozone countries



Jan 1, 1999: Euro introduced for electronic and bank transfers

Jan 1, 2002: Euro currency becomes legal tender in 12 member states

Jan 1, 2007: Slovenia adopts euro

Jan 1, 2008: Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Malta to join

Jan 1, 2009: Slovakia, Lithuania

Jan 1, 2010: Bulgaria, Czech Republic

2011-: Hungary, Poland, Romania

Other countries with own euro coinage: Monaco, Vatican, San Marino

Using euro: Andorra, Kosovo, Montenegro and French overseas territories

Pegged to euro: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Denmark, French Polynesia and 14 countries in Africa

RIISING CURRENCY

Since 2002, euro has strengthened against other leading currencies and now makes up 25% of world's currency reserves

