

EU invites Bosnia to membership talks

European Union leaders have agreed to open membership talks with Bosnia-Herzegovina as the bloc seeks to pull a divided Western Balkan country closer into its orbit to counter Russian influence

EU members by joining date

1957-1995 2004-13

Candidate countries

Official candidate status
Year granted

Potential candidate

UK
EU member
1973-2020

Serbia
2012

Moldova
2022

RUSSIA

Ukraine
2022

Georgia

Kosovo

Türkiye
1999

Montenegro
2010

Albania 2014

North Macedonia 2005

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

EU candidate 2022
Population 3.2 million
GDP \$24.5 billion

Comprises two entities linked by weak central government

Republika Srpska
Largely Serb-populated

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
Mainly Croat-Bosniak

Serb leader **Milorad Dodik**
(above right), who counts Putin as ally, has long threatened to secede from rest of country



* Serbs, Bosniaks and Croats