

France may axe two public holidays

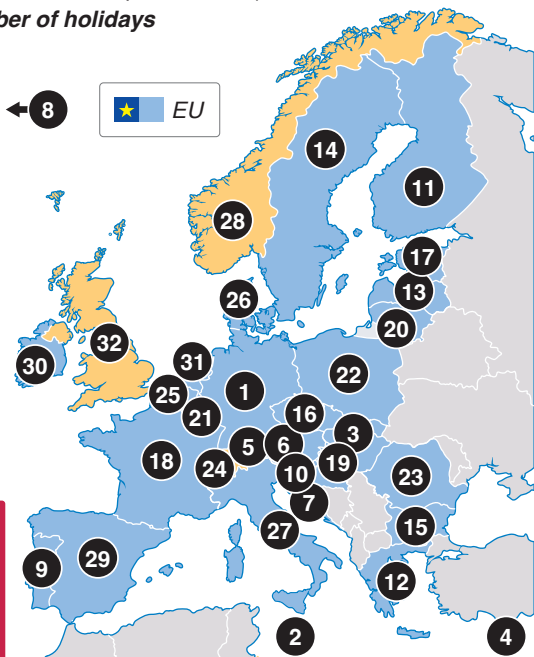
French Prime Minister *Francois Bayrou* would like to cut two national holidays from the country's annual allowance in a bid to increase productivity and reduce its crippling debt

NUMBER OF PUBLIC HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE PER YEAR

(European Union and select other European nations)

Map Country Number of holidays

Map	Country	Number of holidays
1	★ Germany*	15
2	★ Malta	15
3	★ Slovakia	15
4	★ Cyprus	14
5	Liechtenstein	14
6	★ Austria	13
7	★ Croatia	13
8	Iceland	13
9	★ Portugal	13
10	★ Slovenia	13
11	★ Finland	12
12	★ Greece	12
13	★ Latvia	12
14	★ Sweden	12
15	★ Bulgaria	11
16	★ Czech Rep.	11
17	★ Estonia	11
18	★ France	11
19	★ Hungary	11
20	★ Lithuania	11
21	★ Luxembourg	11
22	★ Poland	11
23	★ Romania	11
24	Switzerland	11
25	★ Belgium	10
26	★ Denmark	10
27	★ Italy	10
28	Norway	10
29	★ Spain	10
	★ France	9
30	★ Ireland	9
31	★ Netherlands	9
32	UK	8



■ If enacted, France would tumble down ranking for number of public holidays

■ France's debt increases by €5,000 per second and, if left unchecked, is on target to cost France €100 billion annually in interest costs alone by 2029

*Six holidays are allocated to only certain Länders (states within the federal system), of which Germany has 16