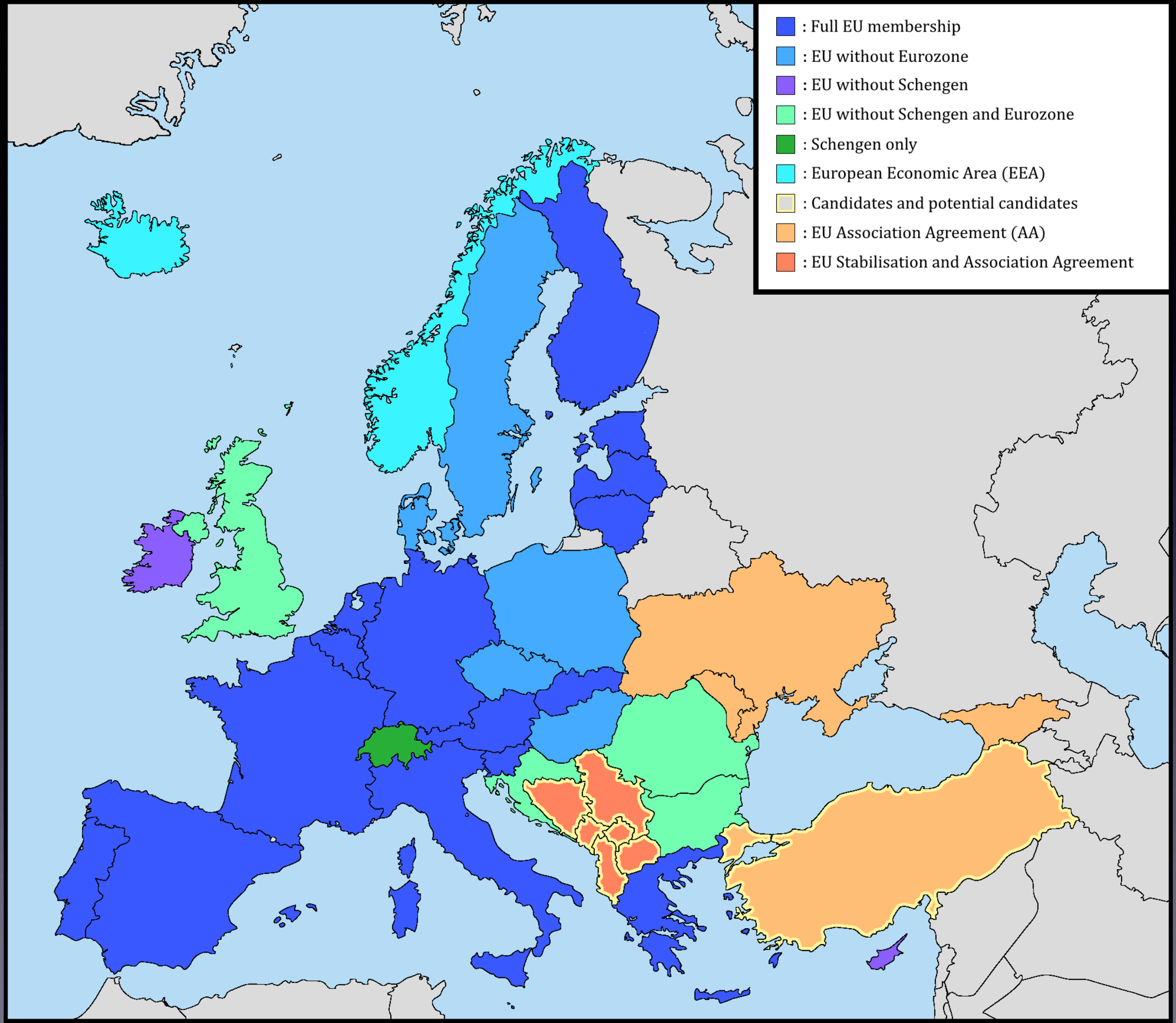

: Full EU membership
: EU without Eurozone
: EU without Schengen
: EU without Schengen and Eurozone
: Schengen only
: European Economic Area (EEA)
: Candidates and potential candidates
: EU Association Agreement (AA)
: EU Stabilisation and Association Agreement

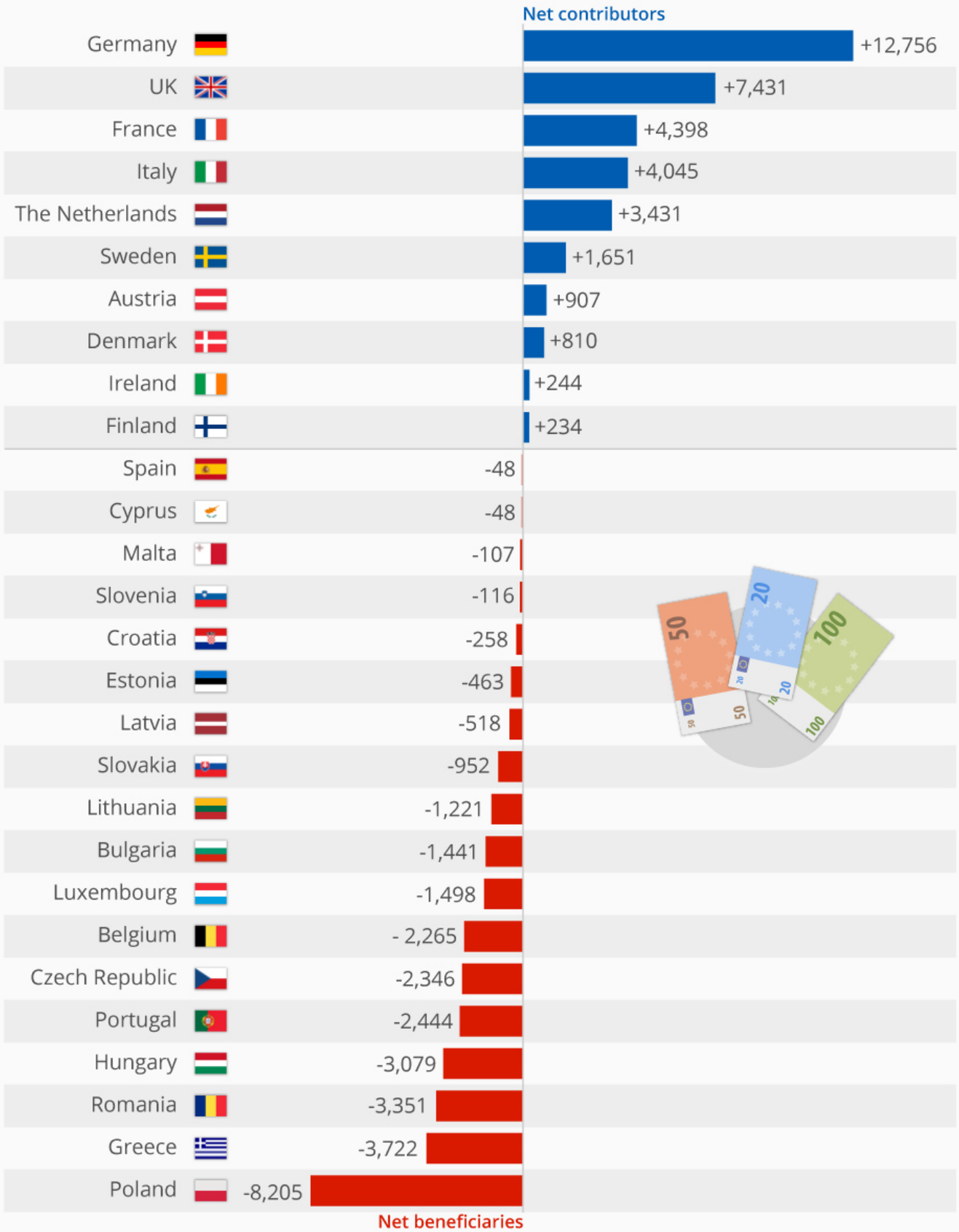
EU Membership

- Western Balkans candidates – North Macedonia 2004, Montenegro 2008, Serbia 2009, Albania 2009
- Turkey 1987
- Brexit
- Potential Candidates: Bosnia & Herzegovina, Kosovo

- Free movement of goods
- Freedom of movement for workers
- Right of establishment and freedom to provide services
- Free movement of capital
- Public procurement
- Company law
- Intellectual property law
- Competition policy
- Financial services
- Information society and media
- Agriculture and rural development
- Food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary policy
- Fisheries
- Transport policy
- Energy
- Taxation
- Economic and monetary policy
- Statistics
- Social policy and employment (including anti-discrimination and equal opportunities for women and men)
- Enterprise and industrial policy
- Trans-European networks
- Regional policy and co-ordination of structural instruments
- Judiciary and fundamental rights
- Justice, freedom and security
- Science and research
- Education and culture
- Environment
- Consumer and health protection
- Customs union
- External relations
- Foreign, security and defence policy
- Financial control
- Financial and budgetary provisions
- Institutions
- Other issues

Which Countries are EU Contributors and Beneficiaries?

Net contributions to the EU budget, by member state (2017, in million euros)*



@StatistaCharts

* contributions minus funds received

Source: European Commission

statista

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

The thing is, the best way to understand Theresa May’s predicament is to imagine that 52 percent of Britain had voted that the government should build a submarine out of cheese.

♡ 18.2K 8:11 PM - Dec 10, 2018

8,608 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

Now, Theresa May was initially against building a submarine out of cheese, obviously. Because it’s a completely insane thing to do.

♡ 2,480 8:12 PM - Dec 10, 2018

316 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

However, in order to become PM, she had to pretend that she thought building a submarine out of cheese was fine and could totally work.

♡ 2,462 8:12 PM - Dec 10, 2018

311 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

"Cheese means cheese," she told us all, madly.

♡ 2,554 8:13 PM - Dec 10, 2018

280 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

Then she actually built one.

♡ 1,844 8:13 PM - Dec 10, 2018

💬 175 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

It’s sh t. Of course it is. For God’s sake, are you stupid? It’s a submarine built out of cheese.

♡ 3,450 8:13 PM - Dec 10, 2018

💬 313 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

So now, having built a sh t cheese submarine, she has to put up with both Labour and Tory Brexiters insisting that a less sh t cheese submarine could have been built.

♡ 2,785 8:14 PM - Dec 10, 2018

360 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

They’re all lying, and they know it. So does everybody else. We've covered this already, I know, but it’s cheese and it’s a submarine. How good could it possibly be?

♡ 2,693 8:15 PM - Dec 10, 2018

252 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

So that’s where we are.

♡ 1,741 8:16 PM - Dec 10, 2018

145 people are talking about this

Hugo Rifkind
@hugorifkind

Replying to @hugorifkind

On balance, I this analogy works fine, perhaps except for the submarine and cheese parts, which need a little work.

♡ 4,477 8:16 PM - Dec 10, 2018

284 people are talking about this

I'm not saying there wasn't a democratic mandate for brexit at the time. I'm just saying if I narrowly decided to order fish at a restaurant that was known for chicken, but said it was happy to offer fish, and so far i've been waiting three hours, and two chefs who promised to cook the fish had quit, and the third one is promising to deliver the fish in the next five minutes whether it's cooked or not, or indeed still alive, and all the waiting staff have spent the last few hours arguing amongst themselves about whether I wanted battered cod, grilled salmon, jellied eels or dolphin kebabs, and if large parts of the restaurant appeared to be on fire but no one was paying attention to it because they were all arguing about fish, I would quite like, just once, to be asked if I definitely still wanted the fish.