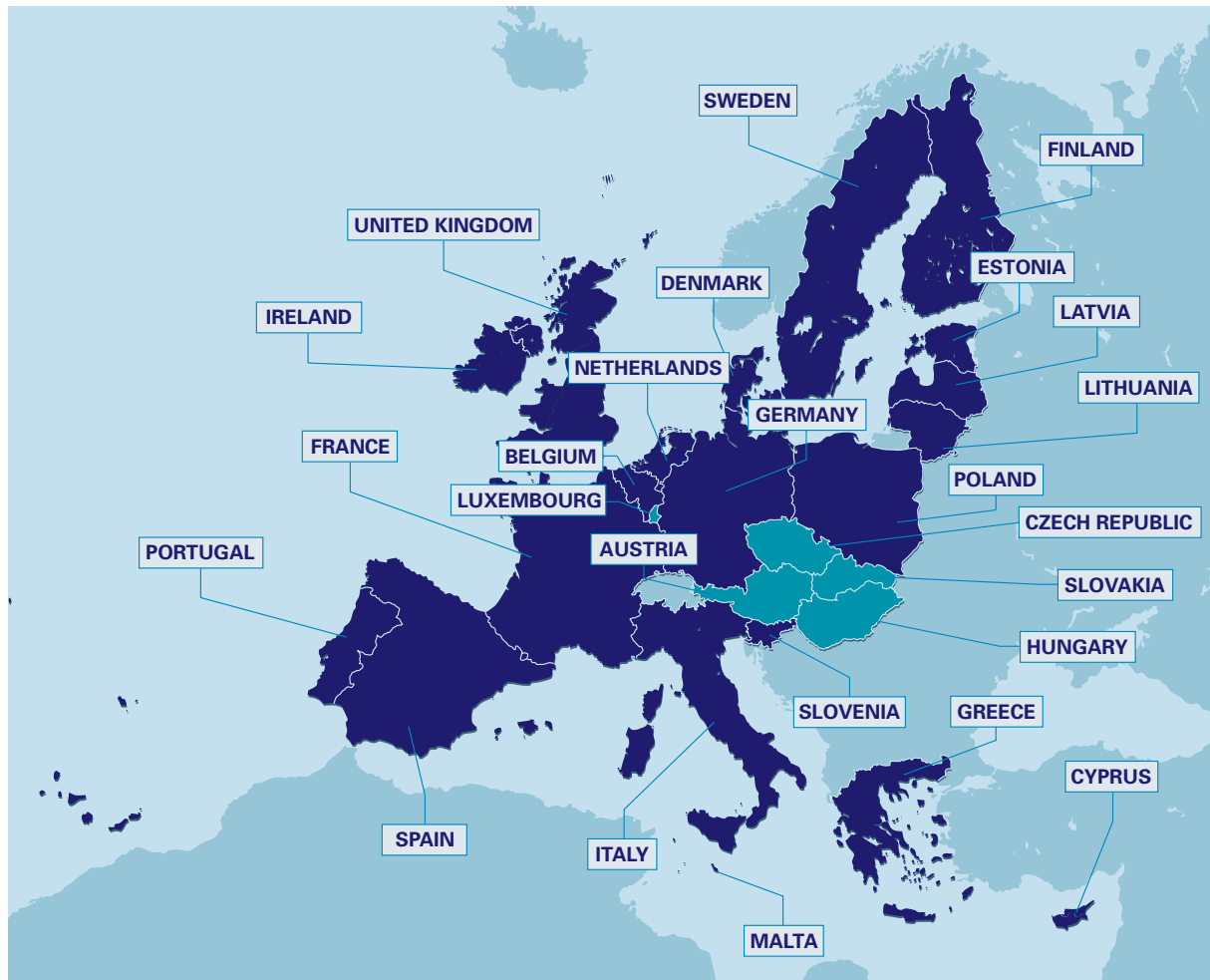# 1. The sea,
a vital EU resource

The maritime countries of the European Union

- **20 European Union Member States have coasts:** Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Cyprus, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Finland and the United Kingdom.

- **The capitals of seven states are located on the coast:** Athens, Valetta, Lisbon, Dublin, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki.

- The European Union has a coastline **of 68,000 km.**

- Over the last 50 years, the population living by the sea has more than **doubled** today, reaching **70 million people** (or 16% of the EU 25).

- Almost **half of the Union's population** lives less than 50 km from the sea.
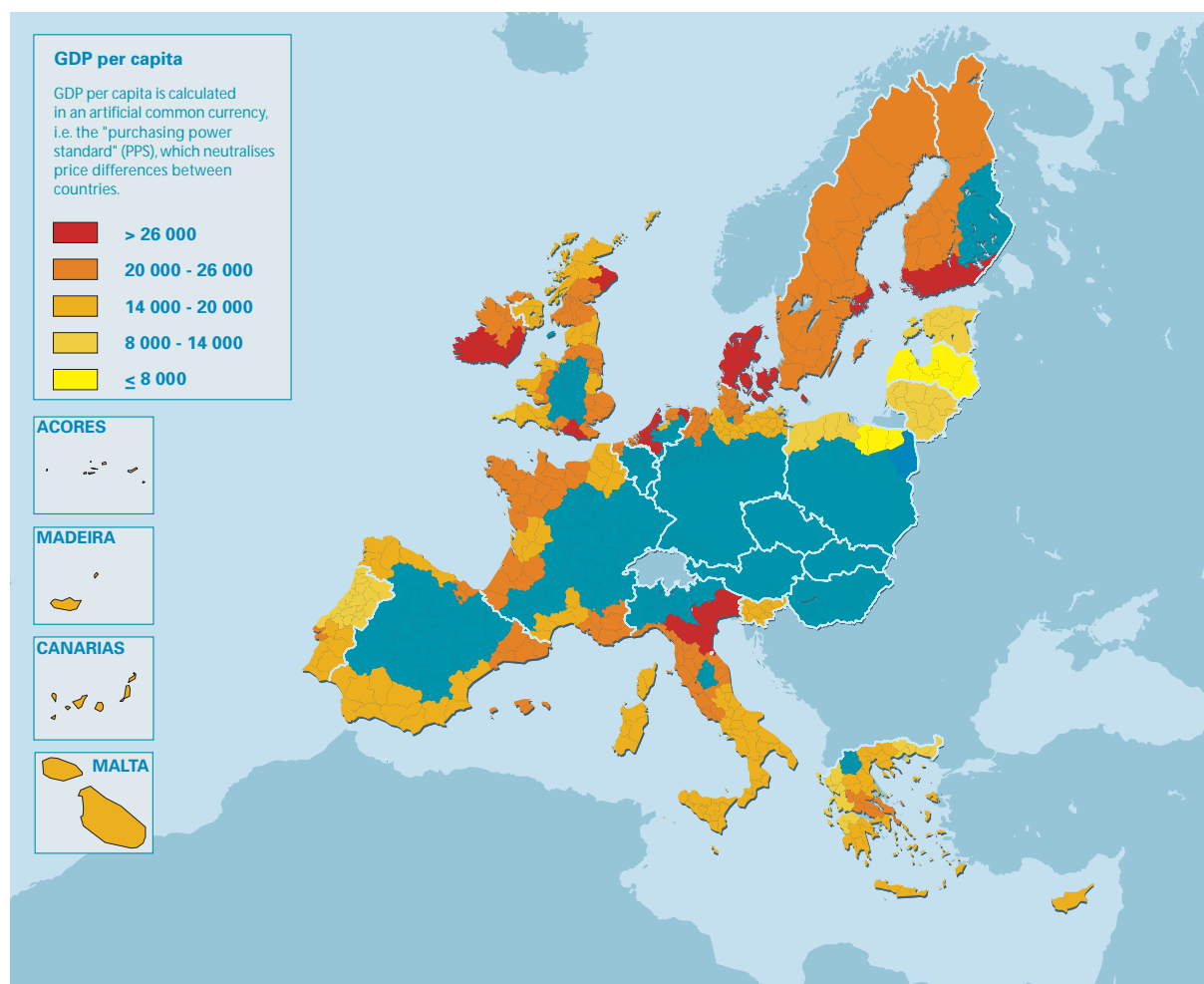
European ports

- Europe has more than **1,000 maritime ports** which handle more than 1 billion tonnes of cargo per year.

- **300 million passengers** transit annually through European maritime ports.

- Europe's busiest ports in 2003 were: Rotterdam (320 Mt), Antwerp (143 Mt), Hamburg (106 Mt), Marseilles (95 Mt), Le Havre (71 Mt), Amsterdam (65 Mt), Algeciras (60 Mt), Genoa (52 Mt) and London (51 Mt).

Number of ports in Europe with traffic of over 1 million tonnes (2002)

Country	Number	Country	Number
Belgium	4	Ireland	7
Germany	17	Italy	38
Denmark	22	Lithuania	1
Estonia	5	Latvia	4
Spain	26	Malta	1
Finland	21	Netherlands	10
France	20	Portugal	6
United Kingdom	48	Sweden	28
Greece	20	Slovenia	2

GDP per capita in coastal regions

GDP per capita

GDP per capita is calculated in an artificial common currency, i.e. the "purchasing power standard" (PPS), which neutralises price differences between countries.

- \> 26 000
- 20 000 - 26 000
- 14 000 - 20 000
- 8 000 - 14 000
- ≤ 8 000

ACORES

MADEIRA

CANARIAS

MALTA

Overseas Departments: no data available