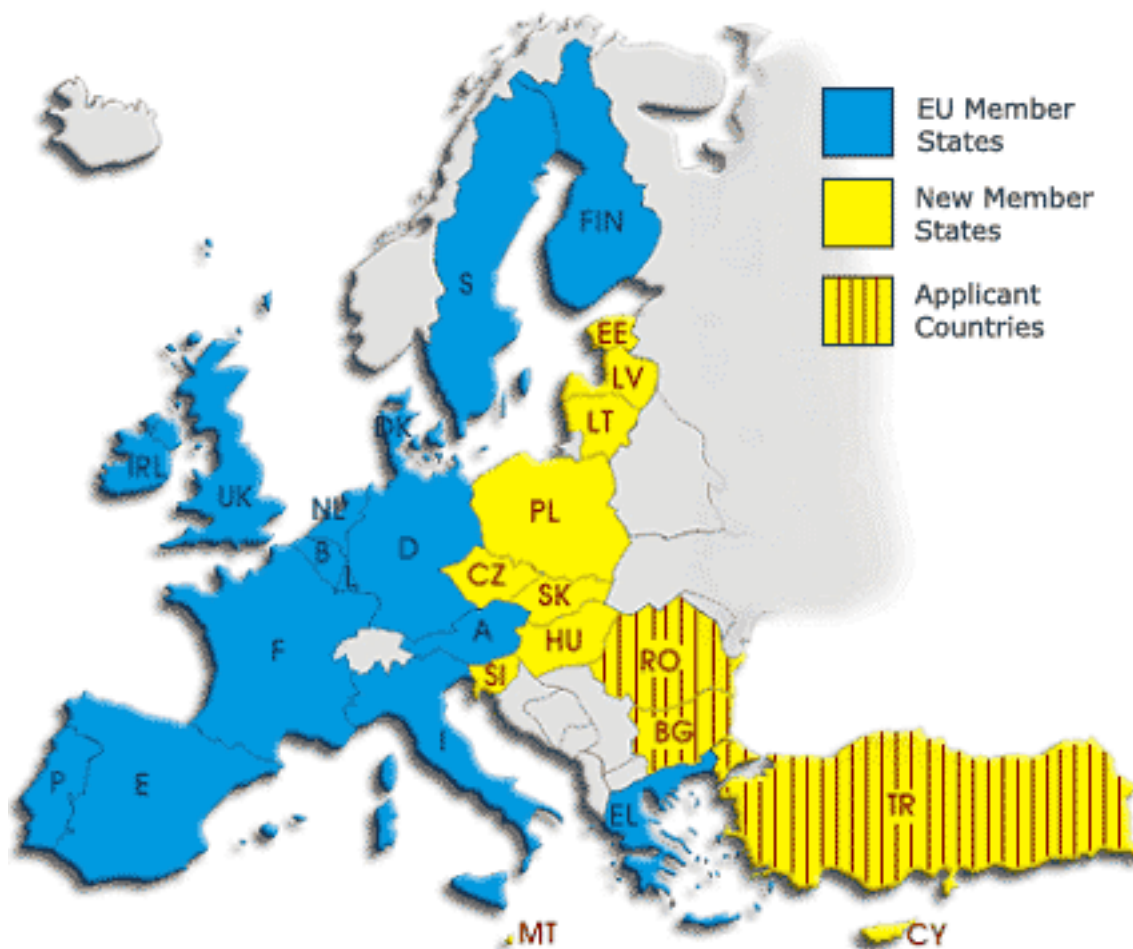


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## Deadline Approaches For New Opportunities For Trademark Owners In Europe

A picture can be worth 1,010 words. As shown in the map below, 10 additional countries are scheduled to join the European Union as Member States next year on May 1, 2004. Trademark owners that file applications for Community Trademarks with the European Union's Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (the source of the map) before October 31, 2003 will gain valuable advantages in the new Member States.



The deadline offers an opportunity to obtain a trademark registration covering an additional 100 million consumers at a reduced risk of refusal or opposition. For example, Community Trademark applications that are filed by that deadline cannot be blocked by existing trademark registrations in the new Member States. In addition, Community Trademark applications cannot be

refused based on the argument that they are too “descriptive” in the new Member States.

For more information and advice on this one time opportunity contact the author, John E. Lyhus at the Chicago Office of [Fitch, Even, Tabin & Flannery](#), at [jelyh@fitcheven.com](mailto:jelyh@fitcheven.com).

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