



The European fleet is concentrated in Spain, the United Kingdom, France and Italy

81% of all European fishing vessels are under 12 metres and account for less than 10% of the total tonnage of the European fishing fleet.

The countries of Southern Europe (Greece, Italy, Spain and Portugal) have the most fishing vessels. However, they are often small. More than 90% of the fishing fleets of Finland, Greece, Cyprus, Malta and Portugal is made up of vessels under 12 metres.

This means that Spain, with nearly a quarter of the total tonnage, the United Kingdom, France and Italy account together for 57% of the total tonnage of the European Union.

Belgium, and especially the Netherlands, whose fleet is the fifth biggest in Europe in terms of tonnage, stand out with high percentages of larger vessels.

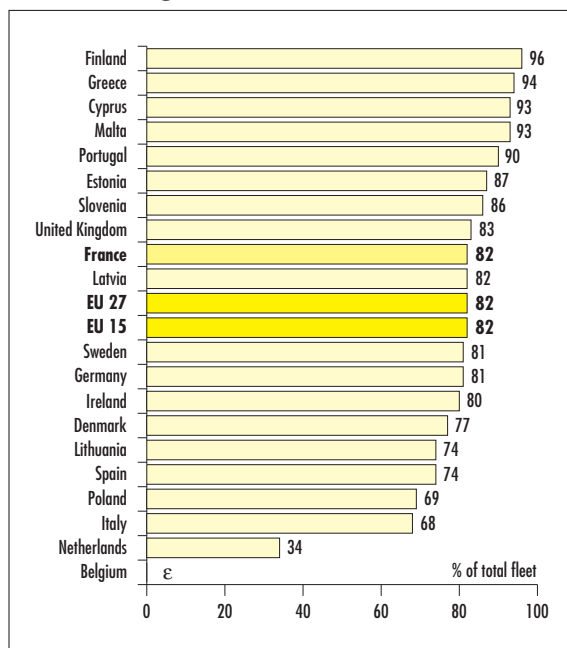
More statistics on page 36.

Definitions

The length of a ship is its total overall length measured along a straight line from the far end of the prow to the back of its stern.

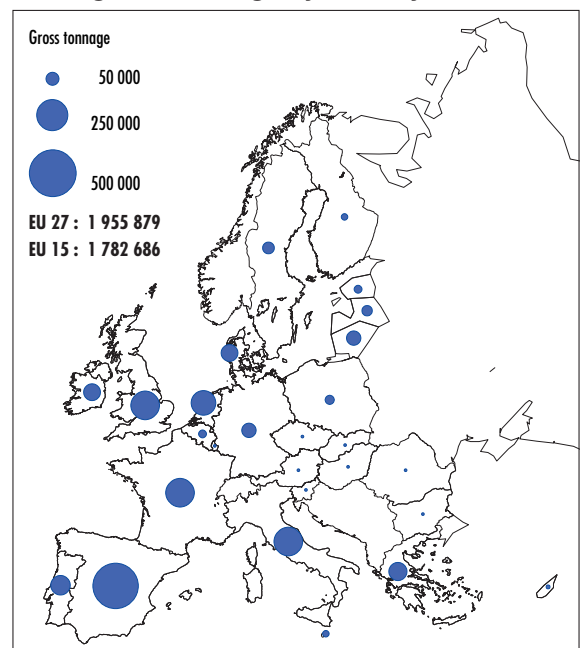
Originally, ship capacity was measured in **Gross Register Tonnes**, as defined by the London Convention. This unit has now been replaced by the **Gross Ton**, defined by the Oslo Convention. This change has been implemented over a number of years at a pace that has differed from country to country. The gross tonnage of a vessel is usually a higher figure than its gross register tonnage. Given this fact, during the period of implementation of the new system, discrepancies may appear between various countries.

Percentage of vessels under 12 metres in the fishing fleet as a whole



Source: Eurostat 2006

Fishing fleet tonnage by country



Source: Eurostat 2006