‘She power’ in Europe

Slovakia, where Zuzana Čaputová is set to become President, becomes the eighth country in the 28-member European Union (EU) to currently have a woman in power. Čaputová, at 45, will be the youngest President in the history of the nation.

These are the women heads of state in the continent

KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ
Croatia
- Grabar-Kitarović won Croatia’s top job in January 2015, becoming the first woman to be elected President by universal suffrage in the Balkans.
- At 46 years of age, she also became the youngest person to assume the presidency.

ANGELA MERKEL
Germany
- Merkel became Germany’s first woman Chancellor when she was elected in 2005 and has led Europe’s biggest economy ever since, winning a fourth four-year term in March 2018.
- The EU’s most experienced leader, she has been named “the world’s most powerful woman” several times by Forbes magazine.

KERSTI KALJULAI
Estonia
- Kaljulaid, a trained biologist, became in October 2016 the first woman President of the Baltic country in May 2009. She is currently wrapping up her second term and cannot stand again.
- Referred to as ‘Iron Lady’ and ‘Steel Magnolia’

KATRÍN JÁKOBSDÓTTIR
Iceland

Dalia Grybauskaitė
Lithuania
- Former European Commissioner Grybauskaitė became the first woman President of the Baltic country in May 2009. She is currently wrapping up her second term and cannot stand again.
- Referred to as ‘Iron Lady’ and ‘Steel Magnolia’

Viorica Dăncilă
Romania
- Dăncilă, a teacher and an engineer, became in January 2018 the first woman to head the Romanian government.

MARIE-LOUISE COLEIRO PRECA
Malta
- Coleiro Preca became President in April 2014, on the proposal of the Prime Minister. She is the Mediterranean Island’s second woman President.

Other European (non-EU) countries that have women leaders

Zuzana Čaputová
Slovakia

Erna Solberg
Norway

Katrín Jakobsdóttir
Iceland

Salome Zurabishvili
Georgia

Ana Brnabić
Serbia

Theresa May
Britain
- May in July 2016 became Britain’s second woman PM after Margaret Thatcher.
- She took over after David Cameron resigned following the referendum vote to leave the EU.

SOURCE: AFP