

The Growth and Evolution of the European Union

- 19. 9. 1946 British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill calls in Zurich for the creation of the “United States of Europe.”
- 5. 5. 1949 Establishment of the Council of Europe, headquartered in Strasburg.
- 9. 5. 1950 French foreign minister Robert Schuman proposes the establishment of a European Community for Coal and Steel.
- 18. 4. 1951 Signing of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). It came into force on 23 July 1952.
- 30. 8. 1954 The Treaty establishing a European Defence Community is vetoed by the French National Assembly.
- 1.–3. 6. 1955 Messina Conference on the preparation of the European Economic Community (EEC).
- 25. 3. 1957 Signing of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands (Treaty of Rome).
- 1. 1. 1958 Entry into force of the Treaty of Rome; assumption of office by the first EEC Commission under President Walter Hallstein.
- 1. 1. 1959 First 10% tariff reduction in the EEC.
- 3.-12.7.1959 EEC agricultural conference in Stresa to prepare the Common Agricultural Market.
- 21. 7. 1959 Seven OECD Member States (Great Britain, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Portugal) decide to create a free trade area (European Free Trade Area - EFTA).
- 9. 7. 1961 The EEC signs its first association agreement with Greece.
- 10. 8. 1961 First accession application by Great Britain.
- 30. 7. 1962 The first agricultural market regulations enter into force.
- 20. 7. 1963 Signing of the association agreement between the EEC and the then 17 African States and Madagascar (Yaounde Agreement); effective as of 1. 6. 1964.
- 12. 9. 1963 Signing of the association agreement with Turkey.
- 29. 1. 1966 Luxemburg compromise on the settlement of a seven-month EEC crisis (France’s “empty chair policy”).
- 10. 5. 1967 Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark (11. 5.) file an accession application for the second time.

- 15. 5. 1967 Successful conclusion of the Kennedy round (halving of import duties).
- 1. 7. 1967 Merger of the organs (Council of Ministers and Commission) of the three European Communities (Coal and Steel community, European Atomic Energy Community and European Economic Community) into the European Communities (EC).
- 30. 7. 1967 Entry into force of the first common agricultural regulations with uniform price level (cereals, pork, eggs and poultry) of later more than 20 market regulations.
- 1. 7. 1968 Completion of the customs union for industrial and agricultural products, 18 months before the foreseen period.
- 1. 1. 1970 After the end of the transition period, the EC entered its final phase (e.g. beginning of common international trade policy).
- 11. 5. 1971 “Temporary” lifting of controls on the exchange rate of the DEM and HFL, giving rise to the currency turbulence.
- 15. 8. 1971 Ending of the dollar-gold convertibility; end of the Bretton Woods currency system.
- 25. 9. 1972 Norway’s population votes against accession to the EC by 53.5% to 46.5%.
- 1. 1. 1973 First expansion of the EC, with the accession of Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark.
- 1. 1. 1973 The free trade agreement with Sweden, Switzerland, Austria and Portugal enters into force.
- 9./10.12.1974 Decision of the new heads of state and of government to meet thrice yearly in the European Council (summit meeting). They also agree on direct elections for the European Parliament.
- 28. 2. 1975 Signing of the first Lomé (Togo) agreement on cooperation between the EU and the then 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states.
- 25. 10. 1977 Establishment of the European Court of Auditors in Luxembourg.
- 13. 3. 1979 The European Monetary System (EMS) enters retroactively into force as of 1. 1. 1979.
- 7.-10.6. 1979 First direct elections for the European Parliament.
- 7. 3. 1980 Signing of an agreement with the “Association of South-East Asian Nations” (ASEAN).
- 1. 1. 1981 Greece becomes the 10th Member of the European Community.
- 23. 2. 1982 The people of Greenland vote in a referendum to leave the EC.
- 14.-17.6.1984 Second direct elections for the European parliament.
- 7. 1. 1985 Jacques Delors becomes President of the EC Commission.

- 1. 1. 1986 Accession of Spain and Portugal to the EU.
- 15. 9. 1986 Beginning of GATT negotiations under the Uruguay Round in Punta del Este (Uruguay).
- 14. 4. 1987 Turkey applies for accession to the EU.
- 15.-18.6.1989 Third direct elections for the European Parliament.
- 9. 11. 1989 The Berliner Wall, a symbol of the Cold War, falls. The division of Europe is overcome.
- 1. 7. 1990 The first stage of the European Economic and Monetary Union enters into force.
- 9./10.12.1991 The twelve heads of state and of government of the EC meet in Maastricht to sign the Treaty on European Union (amendment of the EEC Treaty, introduction of a common foreign and security policy, and cooperation in the areas of justice and domestic policies).
- 16. 12. 1991 First association agreement (Europe agreement) with Poland, Hungary and the former CSFR.
- 20. 5. 1992 Switzerland applies for accession to the EU. (On 6. 12. 1992 the Swiss people vote against accession).
- 27. 5. 1992 The EC Agricultural Council decides on a basic reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (MacSharry Plan), which enters into force with its first stage on 1 1. 7. 1993 in Kraft.
- 1. 1. 1993 The European internal market with the free movement of goods, services, people and capital is completed.
- 1. 11. 1993 The Maastricht Treaty on the creation of the European Union enters into force. The European Community (EC) becomes part of the much more comprehensive European Union.
- 31. 3. 1994 Hungary becomes the first former Comecon country to apply for accession to the EU. Poland follows on 5. 4. 1994.
- 15. 4. 1994 Conclusion of the Uruguay Round in Marrakech. GATT is expanded into the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 1. 1. 1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU, which now comprises 15 members. The people of Norway again vote against accession.
- 26. 3. 1995 Entry into force of the Schengen Agreement with the removal of border controls, initially in Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.
- 13. 12. 1997 Decision of the heads of state and of government of the EU to initiate accession negotiations with 10 CEE countries as well as Malta and Cyprus.

- 1. 1. 1999 Introduction of the Euro for cashless transactions in 11 of the 15 Member States. Greece follows on 1. 1. 2001.
- 1. 5. 1999 The Amsterdam Treaty enters into force: more rights for the European Parliament, more competencies for the EU (including employment policy, common foreign and security policy).
- 23./24.3.2000 Decision of the European Council to develop the Lisbon Strategy: promotion of employment and of the economy, strengthening of social cohesion.
- 26. 2. 2001 Signing of the Nice Treaty, which entered into force on 1. 3. 2003 (in particular, preparation of the EU institutions for the Eastern expansion of the EU, adoption of the European Charter of Fundamental Rights).
- 1. 1. 2002 Introduction of the Euro as the common currency in 12 Member States (Euro zone). Only Denmark, Great Britain and Sweden are outside.
- 13. 12. 2002 Decision of the European Council in Copenhagen on the accession of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Malta and Cyprus to the EU on 1. 5. 2004.
- 26. 6. 2003 Agreement of the EU agriculture ministers on another basic reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.
- 10. 7. 2003 The Convention on the Future of Europe concludes its work with a draft European Constitution.
- 1. 5. 2004 With the largest expansion in its history with 10 new States, the EU now comprises 25 countries.
- 13. 6. 2004 Sixth direct elections and first common European election for the European Parliament.
- 29. 10. 2004 The European Constitution is approved by the European Council, subject to ratification by the Member States.
- 22. 11. 2004 Assumption of office by the new European Commission under its president José Manuel Barroso.
- 29. 5. 2005 The draft constitution is rejected in France by 54.3% and three days later by the Netherlands by 62%.
- 3. 10. 2005 Initiation of accession negotiations with Turkey and Croatia.
- 1. 1. 2007 Bulgaria and Rumania join the EU, which now comprises 27 countries with 492 million people.
- 1. 1. 2007 Slovenia introduces the Euro, becoming the 13th member of the Euro zone.
- 25. 3. 2007 Berlin Declaration on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome.
- 17./18.10.2007 The European Council meets in Lisbon for a new EU reform treaty (instead of a European constitution).

21. 12. 2007 With the opening of borders in nine of the ten new Member States, including Iceland and Norway – 22 countries belong to the Schengen Agreement. Great Britain, Ireland, Rumania, Bulgaria and Cyprus do not belong to Schengen.
1. 1. 2008 Malta and Cyprus introduce the Euro and belong to the 15 Member States of the Euro zone.

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