



The European Union (1957-)

The development of the European Union from the common market to a common currency.

19 Sep 1946

Winston Churchill calls for a "kind of United States of Europe" in a speech he gives at the Zurich University.

17 Dec 1946

The European Federalists Union is set into place in Paris.

14 May 1947

Fostered by Winston Churchill, the United Europe Movement is created. It is hostile to supranational organs and in favour of an intergovernmental cooperation.

27 May 1952

European Defense Community forms. The Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands) sign in Paris the European Defence Community (EDC) Treaty.

1954

European Convention on Human Rights goes into effect.

1955

West Europe Union established

25 Mar 1957

Treaty of Rome establishes European Economic Community (the EEC or "Common Market"). It is signed by the Six countries; Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) in Rome.

1 Jan 1958

The Treaties of Rome enter into force and the European Economic Community (EEC or Common Market) starts operation.

1958

Benelux treaty signed by Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg, when they become the founder members of the EEC (European Economic Community).

1960

The Benelux treaty goes into effect.



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9 Aug 1961

Britain applies for membership in the European Economic Community (EEC or "Common Market").

1964

ESRO established, European Space Research Organization

1964

European Parliament accept Mansholt Plan

1972

British Parliament votes to join European Common Market

1973

Britain, Ireland and Denmark become the 7th 8th and 9th members of the EEC.

1 Aug 1975

The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe was adopted in Helsinki by 33 European nations the US and Canada.

1975

European Space Agency (ESA) forms

1975

Israel signs an agreement with European Economic Market

17 Mar 1979

European Monetary System comes into effect and the ECU is created.

1979

European Market accepts Greece as member

1981

Greece is 10th country to join European Economic Community.

1982

Piet Dankert elected chairman of European Parliament



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28 Feb 1986

The Single European Act modifying the Treaty of Rome is signed in Luxembourg and The Hague.

Mar 1987

Soviet President Gorbachev proposes elimination of European short and medium range missiles and later NATO and West Germany support Gorbachev's proposal with some changes

Dec 1987

The US and Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty agreeing to remove these weapons from Europe

1987

The 12 nations of the European Community (EC) found MEDIA and the European Film Distribution Office to offer financial incentives for distributors to handle imported films.

1987

The victory of the Nationalist Party in Malta marks a move toward European integration. Eddie Fenech Adami becomes prime minister.

1989

RIPE (Reseaux IP Europeens) formed (by European service providers) to ensure the necessary administrative and technical coordination to allow the operation of the pan-European IP Network

1989

12 European nations agree to ban chlorofluorocarbon production by 2000

Nov 1990

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe formally ends the Cold War and reduces Warsaw Pact and NATO conventional forces

1990

European court rules the same pension rights should be available for both men and women.

1990

Malta submits its application for full membership of the European Union (EU).



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1 Jan 1992

European Community removes all inner boundaries.

1993

12 member European Economic Community set up vast free trade zone

1995

Austria, Finland and Sweden join the European Union (EU) making a total of 15 countries.

1995

Jacques Santer succeeds Jacques Delors as chairman of European Committee

1999

European Parliament proposes banning the caching of Web pages by ISPs

1 Jan 2002

In Europe, 50 billion new Euro coins and 14 billion new Euro notes began circulating in the 12 participating countries.

9 Mar 2003

The inhabitants of Malta voted to join the EU. The vote was 53.6% for and 46.4% with a turnout of 91% of the 300,000 electorate.

16 Apr 2003

Ten new European Union member states sign the fifth EU enlargement treaty in Athens. The formal EU entry date was set for May 2004; subject to ratification by each member state. The new states were: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

1 May 2004

Ten new European Union member states join the EU, making a total of 25. The new states were: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.