

The European Union: History, composition and bodies

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- 2. **COMPOSITION**
 - I) Organization, member states, applicants countries and official languages
 - II) Institutions, bodies and agencies

1. HISTORY

The European Community throughout its history

I) The birth of the Community (1945-1956)

Background: World War II consequences
First step: Paris treaty: European Coal & Steel Community (ECSC)

Consequences of the World War II...

<p>Economic & social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications networks damaged → no transportation • Purchasing power → black market • Shortage of coal → strikes & demonstrations • Inflation & currency devaluation • Finance reconstruction programmes → debts • Unemployment 	<p>Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 million victims (1/2 civils) • Racial, religious and political persecutions and deportations • The Germans → a feeling of guilt • No hope of recovering • Confusion on political, economic & cultural issues 	<p>Political</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New groupings • Older groups → emerged • Governmental crises • The Cold War → Europe blocks • <i>The Iron Curtain</i>
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25 October 1948

The Hague Congress (Brussels)

European Movement emergence

As...

- Europe dependent of USA and URSS After World War II
- Europe wanted to be independent → own production
- France vs. Germany because of coalfields
- The problem = the solution:
 - French + German coalfields and steel production

European Coal and Steel Community: the beginning of the Community

9 May 1950

Robert Schuman declaration

In taking upon herself the role of champion of a united Europe for more than 20 years, France has always had as her essential aim the service of peace.

A united Europe was not achieved and we had war. Europe will not happen overnight, or as part of some grand design; it will come about in practical steps, building on a sense of common purpose.

ECSC

Paris treaty: ECSC

18 April 1951 (signed) // 1952 (in force)

And also...

Creation of the main institutions

- The High Authority (now the European Commission)
- The Common Assembly (now the European Parliament)
- The Special Council of Ministers (now the European Union Council)

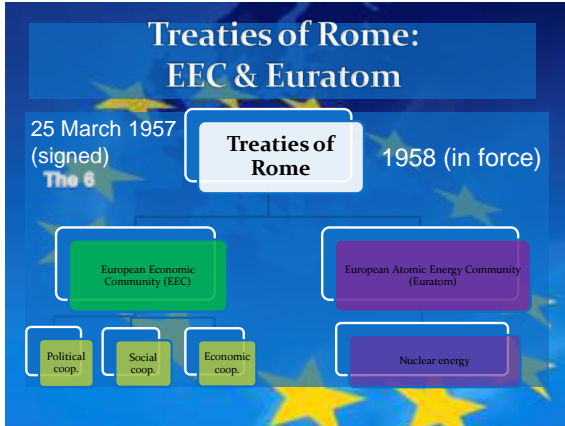
The 6

ECSC

- France
- Luxembourg
- Belgium
- The Netherlands
- West Germany
- Italy

II) A step further: Treaties of Rome (1957- 1972)

- Economic European Community (EEC)
- European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

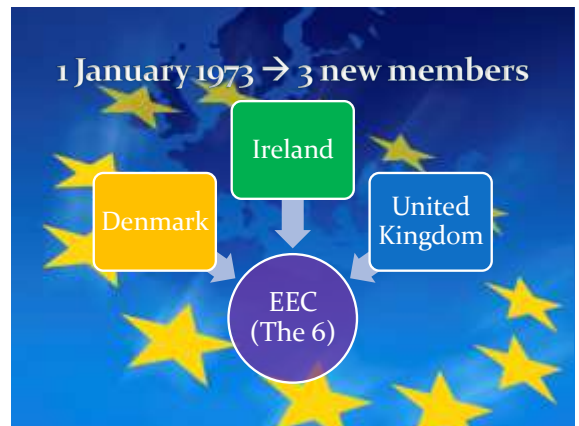


- ### EEC activities (I)
- 30 July 1962 → Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) → share food products
 - 20 July 1963 → International agreement on helping former African colonies

- ### EEC activities (II)
- 1 July 1968 → No more custom duties on goods imported from each other
 - 8 April 1965 → Brussels treaty
- The judicial, legislative and administrative bodies of the 3 European communities merge** (ECSC, EEC, Euratom)
- ↓
- The 3 European Communities (ECSC, ECC, Euratom)
- a single Council
 - a single Commission

III) Period of growing & activities (1973 – 1991)

6 new members
 Single European Act
 First Elections
 Erasmus, reunification of Germany (East+West)
 Etc



As a result...

•Denmark
•Ireland
•UK

1973

The 9

EEC activities (I)

- 10 December 1974 → European Regional Development Fund → send money from rich to poor regions → improve roads, services, etc.
- 7-10 June 1979 → First elections for members of the European Parliament → members organized in pan-European political groups

Meanwhile, in Spain...

28 July 1977 → Spain applied to join the EEC

1 January 1981 → 1 new member

Greece

The 10

In 1986

Single European Act

European construction	Common trade	European Political Cooperation (EPC) European Council
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1 January 1986 → 2 new members

Spain
Portugal

The 12

EEC activities

- 15 June 1987 → Erasmus programme
- October 1990 → Unification of Germany (East + West) after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989
 - East Germany → joined EEC

IV) Moving from EC to EU: Maastricht treaty (1992 – 1996)

Maastricht treaty

- 7 February 1992 (signed)
- 1 January 1993 (in force)

• EC → EU

OBJECTIVES

- European citizenship
- Freedom of travelling between member states
- Right to vote in the European elections
- Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)
- Plan for a common currency → euro

EU activities

- 1 January 1993 → **Single market** → 4 freedoms
 - goods
 - services
 - people
 - money

1 January 1995 → 3 new members

Austria
Finland
Sweden

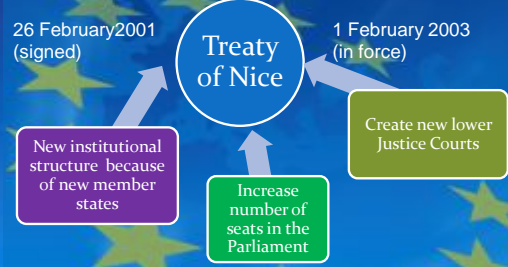
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V) Consolidation of the European Union (1997 – today)

Treaty of Amsterdam

Treaty of Amsterdam		
2 October 1997 (signed)		
1 May 1999 (in force)		
Freedom principle	More Democracy	Common foreign and security policy
Human rights	Increased powers	
Immigration	The reform of the institutions	

The treaty of Nice



EU activities



- 1 January 2002 → EURO in force
- 29 October 2004 → The 25 EU countries sign a treaty → establish → **European Constitution**
- 26 March 1995 → **Schengen Agreement** → entered in force in 7 member states
 - Travellers → no need for passport

1 May 2004 → 8 new members

- Estonia
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Slovenia
- Slovakia
- Czech Republic



The 25

1 January 2007 → 2 new members

- Bulgaria
- Romania



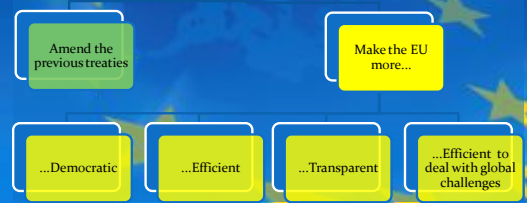
The 27

The treaty of Lisbon

13 December 2007 (signed)

The treaty of Lisbon

1 December 2009 (in force)



23 Official languages

Bulgarian (BG)	French (FR)	Polish (PL)
Czech (CS)	Irish (GA)	Portuguese (PT)
Danish (DA)	Italian (IT)	Romanian (RO)
German (DE)	Latvian (LV)	Slovak (SK)
Estonian (ET)	Lithuanian (LT)	Slovene (SL)
Greek (EL)	Hungarian (HU)	Finnish (FI)
English (EN)	Maltese (MT)	Swedish (SV)
Spanish (ES)	Dutch (NL)	

INSTITUTIONS

Political institutions
Non - political institutions

INSTITUTIONS



POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament
European Council
European Commission
Council of the European Union



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European Parliament (I)

- Set up in 1950
- Important role in the EU
- Only directly-elected body of the EU
- Elections → 5 years
- EP's President: Jerzy Buzek (2009)
- 736 members from all 27 countries



European Parliament (II)

- Members of the European Parliament → 7 Europe-wide political groups
- Different views on Europe's integration are represented
- President: Jerzy Buzek



European Parliament (III)

POLITICAL GROUP	No. of seats
Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats)	265
Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialist and Democrats in the EP	184
Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe	84
Group of the Greens / European Free Alliance	55
European Conservatives and Reformists Group	55
Confederal Group of the European United Left - Nordic Green Left	35
Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group	32
Non-attached	26
TOTAL	736

European Parliament (IV)

Number of seats per country (2009-2014)

Austria 17	Germany 99	Netherlands 25
Belgium 22	Greece 22	Poland 50
Bulgaria 17	Hungary 22	Portugal 22
Cyprus 6	Ireland 12	Romania 33
Czech Republic 22	Italy 72	Slovakia 13
Denmark 13	Latvia 8	Slovenia 7
Estonia 6	Lithuania 12	Spain 50
Finland 13	Luxembourg 6	Sweden 18
France 72	Malta 5	United Kingdom 72

TOTAL : 736

European Parliament (V)

The Parliament is based in:

- Brussels (Belgium)
- Luxembourg
- Strasbourg (France)

European Parliament (V)

What does Parliament do?

- Passing European Laws
- Democratic supervision
- The power of the purse

European Parliament (VI)

THE PARLIAMENT'S WORK ORGANIZATION

- Preparation for the plenary session
- The plenary session itself



THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

European Council (I)

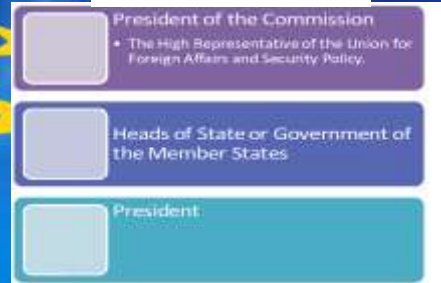
- Created in 1974
- Single European Act (1986) → institutionalized it
- Acquired a formal status in 1992 → Treaty of Maastricht
- 1 December 2009 (Treaty of Lisbon)

European Council (II)

- Functions
 - Define the general political directions and priorities
 - Provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development
- It does not exercise legislative functions

European Council (III)

MEMBERS



European Council (IV)

How often does it meet?

- Meets twice every six months.

How does it take its decisions?

- By consensus
- By unanimity or by qualified majority (what the Treaty provides for)

European Council (V)

ITS PRESIDENT





THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

European Commission (I)

- Set up in 1950's
- -Institution independent of national governments
- -Represents interests of EU
- -Drafts proposals for new European legislation

European Commission (II)

What is the Commission?

Team of 27 men and women	It refers to the institution itself
Commissioners	New Commission : every 5 years
José Manuel Barroso (Portugal)	



European Commission (III)

Procedure to elect a Commission



European Commission (IV)

The Commission is based in:

- Brussels
- Luxembourg
- All EU countries and many capital cities

European Commission (V)

What does the Commission do?



European Commission (VI)

Commission's work organization

- Commission President to decide which commissioner will be responsible for which policy area
- Meets once a week (Brussels)
- Organized in departments, known as 'Directorates-General' (DGs) and 'services'



THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Council of the European Union (I)

What is the Council of the EU?



Council of the European Union (II)



Council of the European Union (III)

6 key responsibilities

- Pass European laws (with the European Parliament)
- Co-ordinate the broad economic policies of the member states
- Conclude international agreements between the EU and other countries or international organizations
- Approve the EU's budget (with the European Parliament)
- Develop the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) (based on guidelines set by the European Council)
- Co-ordinate co-operation between the national courts and police forces in criminal matters

Council of the European Union (IV)

Council's work organization

- Each EU member state has a permanent team
- The Council Presidency Permanent Representatives Committee (COREPER)
- Council decisions have to be unanimous
- Qualified majority voting
- The bigger the country's population / the less populous countries
- The General Secretariat: Javier Solana

NON-POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

- Court of Justice
- European Courts of Auditors
- European Central Bank (ECB)



Court of Justice

Court of Justice (I)

- Set up under the ECSC Treaty in 1952
- Based in Luxembourg
- Vassilios Skouris



Court of Justice (II)

- Composed by one judge per member state
- Grand Chamber (Grand Sala): 13 judges
- Assisted by 8 advocates-general
- Term of 6 years
- The Court of First Instance
- The European Union Civil Service Tribunal
- President chosen by their fellow judges

Court of Justice (III)

- Actions for failure to fulfil an obligation
- References for a preliminary ruling
- Actions for annulment
- Actions for failure to act
- Actions for damages

Court of Justice (IV)

- Cases are submitted to the registry and a specific judge and advocate-general are assigned to each case.
- Procedure → 2 steps:
 - Written statements and report.
 - Public hearing.



European Courts of Auditors (I)

- Set up in 1975
- Based in Luxembourg

- One member from each EU country
- Vitor Manuel da Silva Caldeira

European Courts of Auditors (II)

What does the Court do?

- Check that the EU budget is correctly implemented
- Its work helps guarantee that the EU system operates efficiently and openly
- EU financial legislation and EU action to fight fraud

European Courts of Auditors (III)

How is the Court's work organized?

- 800 staff: including auditors, translators and administrators
- "Audit group" (grupos de auditoria)
- -Tours of inspection
- -OLAF, the European Anti-Fraud Office



The European Central Bank (I)

- Set up in 1998: Treaty on European Union
- Works with the European System of Central Banks (ESCB)
- President Jean-Claude Trichet (November 2003)

The European Central Bank (II)

What does the Bank do?

- Maintain price stability in the euro area:

Control the money supply
Monitoring price trends

The European Central Bank (III)

The Bank's work organization

The Executive Board

The Governing Council

The General Council

BODIES

Financial bodies
Advisory bodies
Interinstitutional bodies

BODIES

<u>FINANCIAL</u>	<u>ADVISORY</u>	<u>INTERINSTITUTIONAL</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Investment Bank • The European Investment Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Economic and Social Committee • Committee of the Regions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European External Action Service • Publications Office of the European Union • European Personnel Selection Office • Eurostat

FINANCIAL BODIES

European Investment Bank
The European Investment Fund



European Investment Bank

European Investment Bank (I)

- Established in 1958 → Treaty of Rome
- The headquarters → Kirchberg & Luxembourg
- Long-term lending institution
- Economically weak regions



European Investment Bank (II)

- Lending strategy within the EU
- Lending strategy outside the EU
 - Pre-Accession
 - European Neighbourhood
 - Development Economic Cooperation



European Investment Bank (III)



The European Investment Fund

The European Investment Fund

- Set up in 1994 → Help small businesses.

EIF is not a lending institution

- Active in the EU member states and in:

Croatia

Turkey

Iceland

Liechtenstein

Norway



ADVISORY BODIES

- European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
- Committee of the Regions



European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (I)

- Founded in 1957 → Treaty of Rome
- A bridge between the Union and its citizens
- Representing interest groups → 'organized civil society'.



European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (II)

- 344 members from each EU country reflecting the size of its population.
- The members are nominated by the EU governments but they work in complete political independence.



European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) (III)

- 3 main roles:
 1. To advise the Council, Commission and European Parliament.
 2. To encourage civil society to become more involved in EU policymaking.
 3. To bolster the role of civil society in non-EU countries.



Committee of the Regions

Committee of the Regions (I)

- Set up in 1994 → Treaty on European Union.
- Decisions are taken on matters which concern local and regional government.
- Put forward the local and regional points of view on EU legislation.



Committee of the Regions (II)

- 344 members from each EU country reflecting the size of its population.
- President → chosen among its members.
Luc Van den Brande (Belgium).



INTERINSTITUTIONAL BODIES

- European External Action Service
- Publications Office of the European Union
- European Personnel Selection Office
- Eurostat



European External Action Service



European External Action Service (I)

- It's being established → Treaty of Lisbon on 1 December 2009.
- It will be the foreign ministry and diplomatic corps for the EU.
- High Representative → Catherine Ashton



European External Action Service (II)

- EU embassies → Commission's representations abroad.
- The EEAS will manage:
 - General foreign relations
 - Security
 - Defense policies
- Will control the Situation Centre.



European External Action Service (III)

- 1 January 2010:

European Commission delegations

European Union delegations

Embassy-type missions

High Representative → Executive Secretary-General

European External Action Service (IV)

- Staff from:
 - The Commission and Council.
 - The member state's diplomatic services.
- The EEAS will be based in Brussels



Publications Office of the European Union

Publications Office of the European Union

- Produce and distribute official and general publications for European Union bodies and institutions.
 - Daily EU Official Journal.



Epso European Personnel Selection Office

European Personnel Selection Office (I)

- Began work in January 2003 in the context of the enlargement of the Union
- Select staff to work for the EU Institutions
- Current Director: Mr. David Bearfield.



European Personnel Selection Office (II)

Selection of staff : system of open competitions → civil servants.

Three-stage process:

- Admission tests
- Written exam
- Oral examination



Provides the European Union with statistical information at European level



European administrative school

- Set up → 10 February 2005
- Provide training and development opportunities to different groups of staff in the EU institutions at various crucial stages of their career development.



- Common foreign and security policy
- Police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters
- Community agencies
- Executive agencies
- Euratom agencies and bodies
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology

