

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

1945-2005



*Documentation-Publications-Research Service
EPP-ED Group in the European Parliament*

The Documentation - Publications - Research Service presents a new working document: **Historical Chronology of European Integration 1945-2005**.

We have opted for a *Greater Europe* approach, covering today's united Europe. Our aim has been to illustrate the construction of the European Communities as well as the situation of the eastern European Communist bloc in a single document. Beginning with the Cold War, we look at events up to the enlargement of the European Union in 2004. Our main concern has been to strike a balance between various events in order to draw up a political picture of Europe during that period.

This Chronology thus supplements the document 'History of the EPP-ED' which focuses more on our Group and the role of its leaders in the European Institutions (<http://www.epp-ed.org/group/en/OurHistory.asp>).

This Chronology can be found on our website:

<http://www.epp-ed.org>

We are also preparing a paper version which will be available in the near future.

Please contact me with any suggestions.

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1945

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| February | |
| 4-11 | Yalta Conference |

1946

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| March | |
| 5 | Winston Churchill speaks of the Cold War in a speech at Fulton, Missouri on 5 March 1946. |
| September | |
| 19 | In a speech at the University of Zurich, Winston Churchill calls for the building of a 'kind of United States of Europe'. |
| | The first People's Democracies come into being in Bulgaria and Romania . |

1947

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| June | |
| 5 | The Marshall Plan , promoting Europe's economic recovery, is announced. |
| 22-28 | The Cominform is established. |
| | Poland becomes a People's Democracy . |

1948

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| February | |
| 25 | The Prague coup The President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Edvard Beneš, is forced to cede full power to the Communists and their leader, Klement Gottwald, following intense pressure from the Soviets. The country then enters a period of Stalinist power monopoly. |
| March | |
| 17 | Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom sign the Western European Union Treaty (Treaty of Brussels). |
| April | |
| 16 | The Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) is set up to coordinate the Marshall Plan. |

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| May | |
| 5 | The Congress of Europe meets in The Hague, Netherlands, under the auspices of the International Coordination Committee of the Movements for European Unity. Eight hundred delegates attend the meeting, which is chaired by Winston Churchill. Delegates call for the creation of a European Consultative Assembly and a Special European Council to prepare for Europe's political and economic integration. They also advocate the adoption of a Charter of Human Rights and the creation of a Court of Justice to enforce it. |
| June | |
| | Rift between Tito and Stalin Belgrade defies the Soviet hegemony and adopts draconian measures which step up the political monopoly of the Communist party without any real change in its ideology. |

1949

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| January | |
| 25 | The USSR and the People's Democracies set up Comecon . |
| 28 | France, the United Kingdom and the Benelux countries decide to set up a Council of Europe and ask Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Switzerland to help them draw up the statute of this Council. |
| April | |
| 16 | The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) is signed in Washington. |
| May | |
| 5 | The statute of the Council of Europe is signed in London, United Kingdom. |
| 30 | The creation of the German Democratic Republic (GDR) is announced and proclaimed on 7 October. |
| August | |
| 3 | The statute of the Council of Europe enters into force. |

1950

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| May | |
| 9 | In a speech inspired by Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, proposes that France and Germany, and any European country wishing to join them, pool their coal and steel resources (Schuman Declaration). |

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| November | |
| 4 | The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is signed in Rome, Italy. |

1951

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| February | |
| 15 | A meeting is held in Paris, France, with a view to creating the European Defence Community. It is attended by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Germany, and six observer countries (United States, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands). |
| April | |
| 18 | The Six (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) sign the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) . |

1952

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| May | |
| 27 | The Six (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) sign the Treaty on the European Defence Community (EDC) in Paris. |
| July | |
| 25 | The ECSC Treaty enters into force. Jean Monnet is appointed President of the High Authority and Paul-Henri Spaak is appointed President of the Common Assembly. |
| August | |
| 10 | The High Authority takes office. |

1953

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| February | |
| 10 | The Common Market in coal and iron ore comes into being. The Six abolish customs duties and quantitative restrictions on these raw materials. |
| February | |
| 5 | Death of Stalin. |
| 9 | Paul-Henri Spaak, President of the Ad Hoc Assembly set up on 10 September 1952, asks George Bidault, President of the ECSC Council, to examine a plan for a Treaty establishing a European Political Community with a view to protecting human rights and fundamental |

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| | freedoms, guaranteeing the security of Member States against aggression, coordinating their foreign policies and gradually introducing the Common Market. The draft Treaty proposes five institutions for this purpose: a European Executive Council, a Parliament consisting of two chambers, a Council of National Ministers, a Court of Justice and an Economic and Social Council. |
| June | |
| 17 | Uprising in East Berlin 60 000 demonstrators attack the symbols of Communist power in the German Democratic Republic. President Walter Ulbricht calls on the Soviets for help. The uprising is violently crushed by tanks. At least 80 deaths and 25 000 arrests. |
| September | |
| 25 | Poland The Primate of Poland, Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, is detained. His imprisonment ends on 28 August 1956. In September 1953 the imprisonment of the Primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski, six months after the death of Stalin, ushers in a new wave of persecution by the dictatorship. |

1954

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| August | |
| 30 | The French National Assembly rejects the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community. |
| October | |
| 23 | Following the London Conference, protocols amending and supplementing the Treaty of Brussels are signed in London, and the Western European Union (WEU) is created. |

1955

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| May | |
| 14 | The Warsaw Pact is signed. |
| June | |
| 1 | René Mayer (France) is elected President of the High Authority of the ECSC. |
| 1-3 | Messina Conference: the Foreign Ministers of the Six discuss a common market extended to the whole of the economy and to atomic energy. The United Kingdom, invited to take part in the committee of experts chaired by Paul-Henri Spaak, is quick to withdraw from this work. |
| December | |

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| 8 | The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopts the blue flag with a crown of 12 gold stars as an emblem. |
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1956

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| May | |
| 6 | Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister, submits a report on the draft Community Treaties establishing the EEC and Euratom. |
| 29 | Approval of the Spaak report. The Foreign Ministers, meeting in Venice, decide to open intergovernmental negotiations on the conclusion of the two Treaties establishing a European Economic Community and a European Atomic Energy Community. |
| June | |
| 26 | Negotiations to draft the texts establishing the EEC and Euratom are opened in Brussels. |
| October | |
| 13-20 | In Poland , under Soviet control, the people impose a 'national' candidate to lead the Communist party. |
| 23 | Mass demonstrations in Budapest against the Hungarian government led by Ernő Gerő and calling for the return to power of the moderate Communist Imre Nagy. Nagy takes steps towards democracy, forms a coalition government and announces Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact. In response, Soviet troops invade Budapest on 4 November to put an end to the Hungarian uprising. The Hungarian revolution is crushed, over 20 000 people are imprisoned and a flood of over 100 000 people join other political refugees from Central and Eastern Europe heading abroad. |

1957

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| March | |
| 25 | The Six (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) sign the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in Rome; these treaties are then known as the " Treaties of Rome ". |
| November | |
| 27 | Hans Furler (Christian Democrat, Germany) is elected President of the ECSC Common Assembly. |

1958

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| January | |
| 1 | The Treaties of Rome enter into force. The EEC and Euratom Communities are established in Brussels. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Court of Justice are institutions common to the three Communities. |
| 7 | Walter Hallstein (Germany) is elected President of the EEC Commission. Louis Armand (France) is elected President of the Euratom Commission. Paul Finet (Belgium) is elected President of the ECSC High Authority. |
| March | |
| 19 | Constituent session of the European Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg, France. Robert Schuman is elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly which is to replace the ECSC Assembly. |
| May | |
| 13 | Members of the Parliamentary Assembly sit for the first time by political grouping rather than by nationality. |
| July | |
| 3-11 | A conference in Stresa (Italy) lays the foundations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). |

1959

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| January | |
| 7 | Robert Schuman is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly. |
| February | |
| 2 | Etienne Hirsch (France) is elected President of the Euratom Commission. |
| June | |
| 8 | Greece requests an Association Agreement with the EEC. |
| July | |
| 20-21 | Seven countries from the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, decide to create a European Free Trade Association (EFTA). |
| 31 | Turkey requests an Association Agreement with the EEC. |
| September | |
| 11 | Piero Malvestiti (Italy) is elected President of the ECSC High Authority. |

1960

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| January | |
| 4 | The Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) , whose members are Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, is signed in Stockholm, Sweden. |
| March | |
| 26-28 | Hans Furler is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly. |
| December | |
| 14 | The Treaty establishing the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which replaces the OEEC, is signed in Paris. |

1961

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| March | |
| 7-10 | Hans Furler is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly. |
| July | |
| 18 | European summit in Bad-Godesberg (Germany). The Six voice their desire to work towards political union. |
| 31 | Ireland formally applies for accession to the EEC. |
| August | |
| 9 | The United Kingdom formally applies for accession to the EEC. |
| 10 | Denmark formally applies for accession to the EEC. |
| 13-14 | Construction of the Berlin Wall . |

1962

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| January | |
| 10 | The new Commission of the European Economic Community, with Walter Hallstein as President, takes office. Pierre Chatenet (France) is appointed President of the Euratom Commission. |
| February | |
| 9 | Spain formally applies for accession to the EEC. |
| April | |
| 2-4 | The Council adopts the first regulations on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , created to establish a single market in agricultural goods |

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| | and to ensure financial solidarity through a European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF). |
| 30 | Norway formally applies for accession to the EEC. |
| June | |
| | Malta asks for negotiations to be opened for its potential accession to the EEC. |
| July | |
| 1 | The customs duties levied between Member States on industrial products are reduced to 50% of their 1957 level. |
| 30 | The regulations establishing a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) enter into force. |
| November | |
| 1 | The Association Agreement between Greece and the Community enters into force. |
| December | |
| 10 | Cyprus asks for negotiations to be opened for its potential accession to the EEC. |

1963

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| January | |
| 14 | General de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, states that France doubts that the United Kingdom has the political will to become a member of the Community. A few days later, negotiations with all the applicant countries are suspended. |
| 29 | The British application is set aside indefinitely. The Commission publishes a report on 5 March on the stage reached in the negotiations with the United Kingdom when they were discontinued. |
| February | |
| 5 | Van Gend en Loos judgment. The Court of Justice rules that the Community is a new legal order in respect of which the Member States have agreed to limit their sovereign rights. |
| March | |
| 25-29 | Gaetano Martino is elected President of the European Parliament. |
| July | |
| 20 | The Yaoundé Convention, a five-year association agreement between the Community and seventeen African States and Madagascar, is signed in Yaoundé, Cameroon. |
| September | |

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| 23-24 | The Council reaches agreement in principle on the merger of the executives. |
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1964

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| January | |
| 10 | Walter Hallstein is re-appointed President of the EEC Commission. |
| March | |
| 21 | Jean Duvieusart (Christian Democrat, Belgium) is elected President of the European Parliament. |
| June | |
| 1 | The Yaoundé Convention enters into force. |
| July | |
| 7 | The Council adopts a preliminary draft Treaty on the merger of the institutions: this merger will lead to the creation of a single budget to be adopted using the procedure set out in the EEC Treaty. |
| 15 | Costa/Enel judgment. The Court of Justice lays down the principle of the primacy of Community over domestic law. |
| December | |
| 1 | The Association Agreement signed by the EEC and Turkey enters into force. |
| 15 | The Council invites the Commission to submit proposals on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and on the conditions under which agricultural product levies are to be transferred to the Community budget. |

1965

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| April | |
| 8 | The Merger Treaty , fusing the Executives of the three Communities (ECSC, EEC and Euratom), is signed in Brussels. The Treaty enters into force on 1 July 1967. |
| June | |
| 30 | France practices the ' empty chair policy ', and breaks off negotiations on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The French government recalls its Permanent Representative. During this period, the French delegation does not take part in meetings of the Council or of the Committee of Permanent Representatives. |
| September | |
| 24 | Victor Leemans (Christian Democrat, Belgium) is elected President of the European Parliament. |

1966

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| January | |
| 1 | The EEC enters the third and final phase of the transitional period preceding the introduction of the common market. For most Council decisions, the majority voting system is to replace unanimous voting. |
| 28-29 | Luxembourg Compromise. After conducting its 'empty chair' policy for seven months, France takes up its seat on the Council again; in return, it manages to ensure that the unanimous voting procedure continues to be applied when vital interests are at stake. |
| March | |
| 6 | Alain Poher (Christian Democrat, France) is elected President of the European Parliament. |

1967

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| May | |
| 10-11 | The United Kingdom re-applies for accession to the Community. Ireland, Denmark and, shortly after, Norway, follow suit. General de Gaulle continues to be reluctant to accept British accession. |
| July | |
| 1 | The Merger Treaty, fusing the Executives of the European Communities (ECSC, EEC and Euratom), enters into force. The Communities now have a single Commission and a single Council, although these two institutions continue to act in accordance with the rules governing each of the Communities. |
| 6 | The new Commission, with Jean Rey as President, takes office. |
| 21 | Norway asks for negotiations to be opened for accession to the Communities. |
| November | |
| 27 | General de Gaulle vetoes the United Kingdom's accession for the second time. |

1968

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| July | |
| 1 | Customs Union enters into force. Customs duties which continued to be paid for intra-Community trade are abolished 18 months before the date scheduled in the Treaty of Rome and the Common Customs Tariff is introduced as a replacement for national customs duties in trade with the rest of the world. |

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| August | |
| 21 | Invasion of Czechoslovakia The ' <i>Prague Spring</i> ' reforms initiated by Alexander Dubček come up against strong opposition from the Soviet Union. The invasion by Soviet, Polish and Hungarian troops and by a detachment from East Germany (300 000 men) claims to be saving socialism in the country. The people do not offer any armed resistance. The Party leaders, including Dubček, are taken to Moscow and have to accept humiliation and, with one exception, sign the repeal of these reforms. |

1969

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| March | |
| 11 | Mario Scelba (Christian Democrat, Italy) is elected President of the European Parliament. |
| July | |
| 23 | The Council recommences its examination of the applications for accession to the EC from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway. It asks the Commission to update the opinion that it had given on this issue in September 1967. |
| December | |
| 1-2 | Summit meeting in The Hague (Netherlands). The Heads of State or Government confirm their wish to make progress towards genuine economic and monetary union and to work towards the alignment of social policies that this union entails; they reaffirm their agreement in principle to the enlargement of the Community. |
| 31 | The transitional period of twelve years for the introduction of the common market set out in the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) comes to an end. |

1970

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| March | |
| 4 | The Commission presents a communication on the drafting of a plan to create economic and monetary union to the Council. |
| 6 | The Council asks a Committee of Experts chaired by Pierre Werner to draw up proposals for economic and monetary union and asks a second Committee of Experts chaired by Étienne Davignon to draw up a plan for political cooperation. |
| April | |
| 22 | Signature of the Treaty of Luxembourg . The Council decides progressively to introduce a system of own resources under which the |

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| | Community will receive all the customs duties levied on products imported from third countries, all the levies on agricultural imports and revenue from value added tax. It also decides to extend the budgetary powers of the European Parliament. |
| July | |
| 2 | The new Commission, with Franco Maria Malfatti as President, takes office. |
| 21 | Accession negotiations are opened with the United Kingdom. |
| September | |
| 21 | Accession negotiations are opened with Ireland, Denmark, and Norway. |
| October | |
| 27 | The Member States approve the Davignon Report on political cooperation. This is to allow Europe to speak with a single voice on major international issues. |
| December | |
| 14-22 | Bloody December in Poland Dramatic price rises lead to workers' strikes in Gdynia, Gdansk and Szczecin. The police and the army break up meetings and demonstrations. There are deaths and injuries. |

1971

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| February | |
| 9 | The Council adopts the third medium-term economic policy programme. |
| 12 | The European Parliament adopts a resolution on the Commission's report on the state of application of the Council Directives on the achievement of the freedom of establishment and the freedom to provide services. In its resolution, Parliament stresses the importance that is to be attached to Member States' compliance with directives and the supervision of their application by the Commission. |

1972

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| January | |
| 22 | Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom sign the Treaties of Accession to the European Communities. |
| April | |
| 24 | Introduction of the 'currency snake': the Six undertake to limit the margin of fluctuation of exchange rates between their currencies to 2.25%. |
| May | |

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| 10 | Referendum in Ireland. A large majority votes in favour of accession to the European Communities. |
| September | |
| 25 | Referendum in Norway. The majority votes against Norway's accession to the European Communities. |
| October | |
| 2 | Referendum in Denmark. A majority votes in favour of Denmark's accession to the European Communities. |
| 6 | The United Kingdom ratifies the Act of Accession to the European Communities. |
| 19-21 | Conference at the Paris summit (France). The Heads of State or Government set out new fields of Community action (involving the introduction of regional, environmental, social, energy and industrial policies) and reaffirm that economic and monetary union should be achieved at latest by 1980. |

1973

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| January | |
| 1 | Ireland and the United Kingdom accede to the European Communities. The free trade agreements concluded between the Community and Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Sweden enter into force. |
| December | |
| 14-15 | Copenhagen summit (Denmark). The energy crisis leads the Member States to agree to the introduction of a common energy policy. A declaration on European identity, drawn up in the context of the political cooperation approved by the Foreign Ministers, is published. |

1974

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| April | |
| 1 | Following a change of government in the United Kingdom, the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs makes a statement to the Council on the new government's policy towards the Community. He calls for radical changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), 'fairer methods of financing the Community budget' and solutions to monetary problems. |
| July | |
| 24 | Greece: the 'colonels' regime' falls and the association with the EEC is relaunched. |

| December | |
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| 9-10 | Paris Summit (France). The Heads of State or Government of the Community decide to meet three times a year as a European Council; they authorise the introduction of election to the European Parliament by direct suffrage , approve the creation of the European Regional Development Fund and state their resolve to introduce Economic and Monetary Union. They also ask Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, to present an overall report on European Union by the end of 1975. |
| 12 | The European Parliament votes, for the first time, on the general budget of the European Communities. |

1975

| February | |
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| 28 | A Convention , called Lomé I , between the Community and the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, is signed in Lomé, Togo, and replaces the Yaoundé Conventions. |
| March | |
| 18 | The Council creates the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a Regional Policy Committee. The Council adopts a European Unit of Account formed by a basket of Member States' currencies. This unit is initially to be used for the Lomé Convention and for European Investment Bank operations, and then progressively introduced into other sectors of Community activity. In the House of Commons, the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, states that the British government recommends a 'yes' vote in the referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the Community. |
| June | |
| 5 | Results of the British referendum: 67.2% vote for the United Kingdom to remain in the Community. |
| 12 | Greece formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| July | |
| 22 | A Treaty strengthening the budgetary powers of the European Parliament and creating the Court of Auditors is signed. The Treaty enters into force in June 1977. |
| August | |
| 1 | 35 States sign the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki, Finland. |

1976

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| January | |
| 7 | Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, publishes his report on the European Union, as requested by the Heads of Government. |
| February | |
| 9 | The Council decides in favour of Greece's application for accession to the Community. |
| April | |
| 1 | The EEC-ACP Convention, signed in Lomé on 28 February 1975, enters into force. |
| June | |
| 25-30 | Beginnings of opposition in Poland Workers' strikes in Ursus, Radom and Płock are brutally put down. Demonstrators are arrested and sacked from their jobs. On 23 September the Constitution of the Workers' Defence Committee (KOR), a dissident organisation, offers to help those in prison and their families. The beginnings of the underground publishing and dissemination movement in 1976, inspired and assisted by the KOR, marks a turning point, probably at a world level ('professionalisation' of the Polish <i>samizdat</i>). |
| 27 | Negotiations for Greece's accession to the Community are officially opened. |
| September | |
| 20 | The instruments on the election of the European Parliament by universal direct suffrage are signed. |
| November | |
| 3 | The Council decides that the Member States will extend their fishing limits off the coasts bordering the North Sea and the North Atlantic to 200 miles from 1 January 1977. This decision ushers in the Community fisheries policy. |

1977

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| January | |
| 6 | The new Commission, appointed in December 1976, with Roy Jenkins as President, takes office. |
| March | |
| 8 | Emilio Colombo (Christian Democrat, Italy) is appointed President of the European Parliament. |
| 28 | Portugal formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |

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| June | |
| 1 | The Treaty strengthening Parliament's budgetary powers enters into force. |
| July | |
| 28 | Spain formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |

1978

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| April | |
| 3 | The trade agreement between the EEC and the People's Republic of China is signed (and enters into force on 1 June). |
| June | |
| 6 | The Council accepts Portugal's application for accession and opens negotiations. |
| July | |
| 6-7 | The European Council, meeting in Bremen, Germany, adopts a common strategy to promote a substantial increase in economic growth, thereby reducing unemployment, and proposes the creation of a European Monetary System (EMS). |
| November | |
| 29 | The Commission issues a favourable opinion on Spain's application for accession. Negotiations are opened on 5 February 1979. |
| December | |
| 4-5 | The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, decides to create the European Monetary System on the basis of a European Currency Unit (ECU) and to ask 'wise men' to start thinking about the ways in which the operation of the institutions could be changed to cope with enlargement. |

1979

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| January | |
| 1 | France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| February | |
| 5 | Negotiations for Spain's accession are officially opened in Brussels. |
| 20 | Cassis de Dijon judgment. The Court of Justice rules that consumers may have access to foodstuffs from other Member States, on condition that the product in question has been legally produced and marketed in a given State, and its import would raise no major health or environmental problem. |

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| March | |
| 12-13 | The European Council, meeting in Paris, France, sets 13 March as the date for the entry into force of the European Monetary System (EMS). It also examines the economic and social system, the Common Agricultural Policy and energy problems. |
| 13 | The European Monetary System enters into force. |
| May | |
| 28 | The Acts relating to Greece's accession to the Communities are signed in Athens (Greece). |
| June | |
| 7-10 | First election of the European Parliament by universal direct suffrage. |
| | On 16 October 1978 the Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła , is elected Pope. In June 1979 the head of the Catholic church visits Poland for the first time . This marks the beginning of democratic change in Poland. 'Solidarność' is created a year later. |
| July | |
| 1 | Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 17-20 | First sitting in Strasbourg (France) of the Parliament elected by universal direct suffrage. Simone Veil is elected President by an absolute majority in the second round. |
| October | |
| 31 | Lomé II , linking the EEC to 58 ACP countries for five years, is signed. |

1980

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| January | |
| 1 | Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| May | |
| 30 | Mandate of 30 May. The Council reaches a compromise on the United Kingdom's contribution to the Community budget. |
| July | |
| 1 | Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| August | |
| 18 | Death of Tito (Leader of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since 1945). |
| 31 | A wave of strikes takes place, whose focal point and culmination is the |

demonstration at the Gdansk naval shipyard. It is there, on 31 August, after many hours of negotiations with representatives of the RPL government, that the agreement is sealed: '**Solidarność**' is to be set up.

1981

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| January | |
| 1 | The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Greece becomes the tenth member of the European Community. |
| 6 | The new Commission, with Gaston Thorn as President, takes office. |
| November | |
| 19 | France and the Federal Republic of Germany present the Genscher-Colombo Plan, a draft 'European Act' intended to improve institutional mechanisms. |
| December | |
| 13 | Martial law is declared in Poland. After 16 months of freedom unprecedented in post-war history, <i>Solidarność</i> is declared illegal. Thousands of people are arrested and detained. Using force against its own people, the government re-establishes the totalitarian system. |

1982

| | |
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| January | |
| 1 | Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 19 | Pieter Dankert is elected as President of the European Parliament. |
| February | |
| 23 | In a referendum, Greenland, which became a member of the European Community as part of Denmark, opts to withdraw from the Community. |
| July | |
| 1 | Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |

1983

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| January | |
| 1 | Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European |

| | |
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| | Communities. |
| 25 | Birth of 'Blue Europe'. After six years of negotiations, the Fisheries Ministers of the ten Member States sign an agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy. |
| June | |
| 17 | At the European Council in Stuttgart, Germany, the Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers sign a solemn declaration on European Union. |
| July | |
| 1 | Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| September | |
| 14 | The MEP Altiero Spinelli presents a draft Treaty establishing the European Union to the European Parliament. |

1984

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| January | |
| 1 | France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| February | |
| 14 | The European Parliament adopts the draft Treaty establishing the European Union by a large majority (Spinelli Plan). |
| 28 | The Council adopts a decision relating to a strategic European research and development programme in the field of the information technologies (ESPRIT). |
| June | |
| 14-17 | Second elections to the European Parliament by universal direct suffrage. |
| 25-26 | At the European Council in Fontainebleau, France, the Ten reach agreement on the compensation to be awarded to the United Kingdom in order to reduce its contribution to the Community budget. |
| July | |
| 1 | Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 24 | Pierre Pflimlin (Christian Democrat, France) is elected as the new President of the European Parliament. |
| November | |
| 14 | For the first time, Parliament refuses to grant discharge to the Commission for the implementation of the Community budget for the |

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| | 1982 financial year. |
| December | |
| 3-4 | The European Council, meeting in Dublin, Ireland, decides to step up the European Monetary System (EMS) and to give the ECU a more important role. |
| 8 | The third ACP-EEC Convention is signed in Lomé by the ten Member States of the Community and their 65 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) partner countries. |

1985

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| January | |
| 1 | Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The first European passports are issued in most Member States. |
| 7 | The new Commission, with Jacques Delors (France) as President, takes office. |
| February | |
| 1 | Greenland leaves the European Community, but remains associated with it as an overseas territory. |
| March | |
| 12 | The President of the Commission, Jacques Delors, presents the Commission's programme for 1985 to the European Parliament. The Council adopts the 'BRITE' (Basic Research in Industrial Technologies for Europe) research programme for the application and/or development of the new technologies in traditional industrial sectors. |
| 29-30 | The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, approves the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities and adopts the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMP) as proposed by the Commission. |
| June | |
| 12 | Signature of the Acts of Accession of Spain and Portugal. |
| 14 | The Commission presents a white paper on the completion of the internal market to the European Council: the White Paper from the Commission to the European Council. The Schengen Agreement to abolish border checks is signed by Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in Schengen (Luxembourg). |
| 20 | The ad hoc Committee for a People's Europe presents its final report to the European Council. |

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| 28-29 | At the European Council in Milan, Italy, the Heads of State or Government approve the Commission's White Paper on the internal market and decide to launch an Intergovernmental Conference with a view to institutional reform. |
| July | |
| 1 | Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 22 | The Council approves the convening of a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States to make changes to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and to draw up a draft Treaty on the common foreign and security policy. |
| December | |
| 2-3 | At the European Council in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Ten decide to amend the Treaty of Rome and to give fresh impetus to European integration by drawing up a Single European Act. |

1986

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| January | |
| 1 | The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Spain and Portugal accede to the European Communities. |
| February | |
| 17-18 | The Single European Act amending the Treaty of Rome is signed in Luxembourg. |
| May | |
| 29 | The European flag, adopted by the European institutions, is raised for the first time in front of the Berlaymont building to the strains of the European anthem. |
| July | |
| 1 | The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| December | |
| 5-6 | The European Council, meeting in London, United Kingdom, focuses on the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration and drug trafficking. |

1987

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| January | |
| 1 | Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 20 | Lord Plumb is elected as the new President of the European Parliament. |
| April | |
| 14 | The government of the Turkish Republic formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| July | |
| 1 | Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Single European Act enters into force. |
| September | |
| 12 | The Economic and Finance Ministers adopt measures to strengthen the European Monetary System (EMS). |

1988

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| January | |
| 1 | Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| March | |
| 29 | 'The Cost of non-Europe' The Commission publishes the results of a study 'Europe 1992 – The overall challenge', drawn up at its request by a group of independent experts chaired by Paolo Cecchini to assess the benefits of the single market. |
| June | |
| 27-28 | The European Council, meeting in Hanover, Germany, stresses the importance of the social aspects of the progression towards the 1992 objectives, expresses its concerns about the threats to the environment and asks a committee to prepare for monetary union; it also agrees to re-appoint Jacques Delors as President of the Commission. |
| July | |
| 1 | Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The interinstitutional agreement approved in June on budgetary discipline and the improvement of the budgetary procedure enters into |

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| | force. |
| December | |
| 12 | The European Council, meeting in Rhodes, Greece, focuses on the single market of 1992, stressing the importance of work to protect the environment and the need to develop Europe's audiovisual capacity. |

1989

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| April | |
| 17 | The Delors Committee presents its report on Economic and Monetary Union. Parliament adopts the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. |
| May | |
| 2 | The borders between Hungary and Austria are opened , leading to a mass exodus of Germans from the GDR to the Federal Republic; this is a first step towards the destruction of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. |
| June | |
| 15-18 | Third European elections by universal direct suffrage. |
| 26-27 | The European Council, meeting in Madrid, Spain, adopts its conclusions on Economic and Monetary Union, stresses that a balance needs to be struck between the social and economic aspects of the single market, and confirms that the environment is a priority. In the context of political cooperation procedures, it also adopts two important declarations on the situations in the Middle East and in China. |
| July | |
| 1 | France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 17 | Austria formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| November | |
| 9 | The fall of the Berlin Wall (3.60 metres high, 160 kilometres long and 300 lookouts) brings an end to fifty years of separation and hostility between the two parts of Germany, the Federal Republic of Germany, under western influence, and the German Democratic Republic, under Soviet domination. |
| 17 | A student demonstration marks the beginning of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia which will ultimately lead to the fall of the Communist government. The writer and dissident Václav Havel becomes the country's first non-Communist President. |

| December | |
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| 8-9 | The European Council, meeting in Strasbourg, France, decides to call an Intergovernmental Conference by 1990 to prepare an amendment of the Treaty to take account of the final stages of Economic and Monetary Union. The Heads of State or Government of 11 Member States adopt the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers . |
| 25 | In Romania, Nicolas Ceaușescu (in power since 1965) becomes a major opponent of the reforms taking place in the other Communist countries, but he is brutally toppled and, following a trial, he and his wife are executed . |
| 15 | Signature of Lomé IV . |

1990

| January | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| February | |
| 2 | Estonia proclaims its sovereignty . The recognition and proclamation of an independent Republic of Estonia does not take place until August 1991. |
| March | |
| 11 | In a solemn declaration, the Parliament proclaims the independence of the Republic of Lithuania . In January 1991 the Soviet army, working with the Lithuanian Communists, attempts to take back power in Vilnius. During the night, Soviet commandos take over the television tower. Active resistance from the Lithuanian people nevertheless thwarts this attempt to seize power and Lithuania becomes independent again. |
| April | |
| 28 | At a special session of the European Council in Dublin, Ireland, a common approach to German unification and Community relations with Central and Eastern European countries is decided. |
| May | |
| 5 | The Latvian Parliament proclaims Latvia's independence . Latvia's sovereignty is recognised by most States in August 1991. |
| June | |
| 19 | The Schengen Agreement to abolish border checks is signed by Germany, the Benelux countries and France. |
| 25-26 | The European Council, meeting in Dublin, Ireland, confirms the need to launch two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on aspects of Political Union, and to hold them in parallel. |
| July | |

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| 1 | Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The first phase of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) comes into force. Free movement of capital. |
| 3 | Cyprus formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| 16 | Malta formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| October | |
| 3 | Germany is reunified and the 'Länder' of the former East Germany enter the European Union. |
| 27-28 | At a special session of the European Council in Rome, Italy, preparations for the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on aspects of Political Union, are completed. |
| November | |
| 19-21 | Meeting in Paris, France. Thirty-four Heads of State or Government of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sign a <i>Charter for a New Europe</i> . |
| December | |
| 14-15 | The European Council, meeting in Rome, Italy, launches the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on Political Union. |

1991

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| January | |
| 1 | Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| June | |
| 25 | Proclamation of the independence of Slovenia and Croatia. First steps towards the break-up of the Yugoslav Federation. |
| 28-29 | The European Council, meeting in Luxembourg, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, confirms the need to conduct the work on the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on aspects of Political Union in parallel, on the basis of a draft Treaty drawn up by the Presidency. |
| July | |
| 1 | The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Sweden formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |

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| 1 | Dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. |
| October | |
| 21 | The Council reaches agreement on the establishment of the European Economic Area (EEA). |
| December | |
| 9-10 | The European Council meets in Maastricht in the Netherlands. It agrees on the draft Treaty on European Union. |
| 16 | 'Europe Agreements' are signed with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. |
| 21 | The Presidents of the Republics of the Soviet Union, apart from Georgia, sign an agreement creating the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Alma-Ata, in Kazakhstan. |
| 25 | Mikhail Gorbachev steps down as President of the Soviet Union. |

1992

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| January | |
| 1 | Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| February | |
| 3 | The Council adopts positive measures to assist Croatia, Slovenia, the Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. |
| 7 | Signature of the Treaty on European Union in Maastricht by the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Member States. |
| March | |
| 18 | Finland formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| May | |
| 2 | An agreement on the European Economic Area is signed in Oporto in Portugal. |
| 20 | Switzerland formally applies for accession to the European Communities. |
| June | |
| 2 | Referendum in Denmark. The Danish people vote against ratification of the Treaty on European Union (51% against, 49% for). |
| 18 | Referendum in Ireland. The Irish people vote for ratification of the Treaty on European Union (69% for, 31% against). |

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| 26-27 | The European Council, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, stresses the importance of compliance with the timetable for ratification of the Treaty on European Union. |
| July | |
| 1 | The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 2 | Luxembourg ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| 31 | Greece ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| September | |
| 20 | Referendum in France. The French people vote for ratification of the Treaty on European Union (51% for, 49% against). |
| October | |
| 16 | An extraordinary European Council, meeting in Birmingham in the United Kingdom, adopts a declaration entitled 'A Community close to its citizens'. |
| 26 | Italy ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| November | |
| 4 | Belgium ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| 25 | Norway formally applies for accession to the European Communities. Spain ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| December | |
| 6 | Referendum in Switzerland. The Swiss people vote against ratification of the Agreement establishing the European Economic Area. The application for accession to the EC is suspended. |
| 11 | Portugal ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| 11-12 | The European Council, meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, gives Denmark special derogations so that it can hold a second referendum on the ratification of the Treaty. It approves the Delors II package and agrees to open accession negotiations with Austria, Switzerland and Finland from 1 January. |
| 15 | The Netherlands ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| 18 | Germany ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |

1993

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|-----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Single European Market comes into force. |
| 1 | Czechoslovakia is divided into two States: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic. |
| February | |
| 1 | Negotiations on the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden are opened in Brussels. |
| April | |
| 5 | Negotiations on the accession of Norway are opened in Luxembourg. |
| May | |
| 18 | Following a further referendum, the Danish people vote in favour of the Treaty on European Union (57% for, 43% against). |
| June | |
| 21-22 | The European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, in Denmark, instructs the Commission to prepare a white paper on a long-term strategy for growth, competitiveness and employment; it confirms that the accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden is to take place by 1995 at the latest and affirms that the associated Central and Eastern European countries may become full members as soon as they satisfy the requisite economic and political criteria. |
| July | |
| 1 | Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| August | |
| 2 | The United Kingdom ratifies the Treaty on European Union. |
| October | |
| 25 | Meeting in Interinstitutional Conference in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Council, the Commission and Parliament adopt a declaration on democracy, transparency and subsidiarity; they agree to a draft Parliament decision on the general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties and to a text on the working methods of the Conciliation Committee in the context of the codecision procedure. |
| 29 | The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, adopts a declaration marking the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union; it confirms that the second phase of Economic and Monetary Union will come into effect on 1 January 1994 and decides on a number of joint actions to be |

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| | undertaken by the Union under its common foreign and security policy. It also decides on the seat of some Community bodies and agencies. |
| November | |
| 1 | As all the ratification procedures have been completed, the Treaty on European Union enters into force. |
| December | |
| 5 | The Commission adopts a White Paper entitled 'Growth, competitiveness and employment – the challenges and ways forward into the 21 st century'. |
| 11-12 | The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, draws up a short- and medium-term action plan based on the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, and an initial action plan in the field of justice and home affairs. It also decides to call a conference on a Stability Pact for the Central and Eastern European countries. |

1994

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| January | |
| 1 | Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The second phase of Economic and Monetary Union is launched, with the creation of the European Monetary Institute (EMI). The agreement establishing the European Economic Area (EEA) enters into force. |
| March | |
| 30 | Accession negotiations with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden are concluded in Brussels. |
| April | |
| 1 | Hungary formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 5 | Poland formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| May | |
| 26-27 | The Conference launching the Stability Pact for Central and Eastern Europe meets in Paris, France. |
| June | |
| 9-12 | Fourth elections to the European Parliament by universal direct suffrage. |
| 12 | In a referendum, the Austrian people vote in favour of accession to the European Union. |
| 24-25 | The European Council meets in Corfu, Greece. The main item is the follow-up to the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment. The Acts of Accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and |

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| | Sweden are signed as well as a new partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities, the Member States and Russia. |
| July | |
| 1 | Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. |
| 15 | At an extraordinary European Council in Brussels, Jacques Santer is nominated to succeed Jacques Delors as President of the Commission. |
| 19-28 | The new European Parliament holds its first session in Strasbourg. Klaus Hänsch is elected President of the European Parliament. Jacques Santer is formally appointed as the future President of the European Commission. |
| October | |
| 16 | In a referendum, the Finnish people vote in favour of Finland's accession to the European Union. |
| November | |
| 13 | In a referendum, the Swedish people vote in favour of Sweden's accession to the European Union. |
| 28 | In a referendum, the Norwegian people reject Norway's accession to the European Union (52% against, 48% for). |
| 29 | The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission adopt the 1995-1999 financial perspective which takes account of enlargement. |
| December | |
| 9-10 | The European Council, meeting in Essen, Germany, decides what steps to take to further the strategy of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, especially as regards the fight against unemployment and the implementation of the trans-European networks; it also agrees on a global strategy to bring the associated Central and Eastern European countries closer to the European Union and reaffirms its resolve to establish a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It approves, in principle, a multi-annual programme of aid to Northern Ireland. |

1995

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| January | |
| 1 | France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the European Union. |
| 23 | Following a vote of approval in the European Parliament on 18 January, the representatives of the governments of the Member States appoint the |

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| | President and Members of the European Commission for a five-year term. |
| March | |
| 26 | The Schengen Agreement enters into force in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. |
| May | |
| 3-10 | The Commission adopts the White Paper on the preparation of the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe for integration into the internal market of the Union. |
| June | |
| 12 | European Association Agreements are signed with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. |
| 22 | Romania formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 27 | Slovakia formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 26-27 | The European Council, meeting in Cannes, France, reaches overall agreement on external financing, including the financing arrangements for the eighth European Development Fund (EDF) for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It confirms 1 January 1999 as the date of transition to the single currency. |
| July | |
| 1 | Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| October | |
| 13 | Latvia formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| November | |
| 24 | Estonia formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 27-28 | The Euro-Mediterranean Conference is held in Barcelona. |
| December | |
| 8 | Lithuania officially applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 14 | The Dayton Agreement , on peace in the former Yugoslavia, is signed in Paris. |
| 14 | Bulgaria formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| 15-16 | The European Council, meeting in Madrid, Spain, sets 29 March 1996 as the date for the Intergovernmental Conference and confirms that the single currency (the 'euro') is to be introduced on 1 January 1999. |

1996

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|-----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Customs Union between the EU and Turkey comes into force. |
| 17 | The Czech Republic formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| March | |
| 29 | The Intergovernmental Conference on the revision of the Treaty on European Union is opened in Turin, Italy. The European Council decides on its programme. |
| June | |
| 10 | Slovenia formally applies for accession to the European Union. |
| July | |
| 1 | Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| October | |
| 5 | A special European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. The Heads of State or Government confirm the timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). |
| December | |
| 13-14 | The European Council, meeting in Dublin, Ireland, reaches agreement on all the components needed for the introduction of the single currency (legal framework of the euro, Stability Pact, new exchange rate mechanism), adopts the Dublin Declaration on employment and confirms the timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC). |
| 19 | Denmark, Finland and Sweden sign the Schengen Agreement. |

1997

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|----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| June | |
| 16-17 | The European Council, meeting in Amsterdam, reaches a consensus on a draft Treaty. It approves various provisions to ensure a smooth transition to the third phase of Economic and Monetary Union, adopts a resolution on growth and employment and lays the foundations for the launch of the enlargement process. |
| July | |

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| 1 | Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 16 | The Commission presents Agenda 2000 – for a stronger and wider Union. The Commission names the countries likely to be in the first wave of enlargement of the EU: Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Cyprus. This choice is endorsed by the Luxembourg European Council (12-13 December 1997). |
| October | |
| 2 | The Foreign Ministers of the European Union's Member States sign the Treaty of Amsterdam . |
| December | |
| 12-23 | The European Council, meeting in Luxembourg, takes the decisions needed to launch the overall enlargement process and adopts a resolution on economic policy coordination. |

1998

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|----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| March | |
| 25 | The Commission adopts a report on the stage reached with convergence and recommends that 11 Member States adopt the euro on 1 January 1999. |
| 30 | The process for accession to the European Union by the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Cyprus is launched at a Ministerial meeting. |
| May | |
| 3 | An extraordinary Council decides that 11 Member States satisfy the conditions required for the adoption of the single currency on 1 January 1999. Following this decision, the Council adopts two regulations on the technical specifications of euro coins and the introduction of the euro, the Ministers and Governors of the Central Banks of Member States adopting the single currency. The Commission and the European Monetary Institute specify how the irrevocable exchange rates for the euro are to be set. |
| 26 | The governments of the Member States adopting the single currency appoint, by common agreement, the President, Vice-President and the Members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank. |
| June | |
| 1 | Establishment of the European Central Bank. |

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| 15-16 | The European Council, meeting in Cardiff, United Kingdom, sets out the key components of the European Union's strategy for further economic reforms to promote growth, prosperity, employment and social integration, examines practical ways of bringing the Union closer to its citizens, lays down guidelines and a timetable for further negotiations on Agenda 2000 and launches a longer-term debate on the Union's future development. |
| July | |
| 1 | Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| December | |
| 11-12 | The European Council, meeting in Vienna, Austria, adopts the employment guidelines for 1999, decides to step up the convergence of employment policies with a view to a European Employment Pact, decides on arrangements for the external representation of the euro, approves the action plan for the establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice and decides on a strategy for the Union's work in 1999. |

1999

| | |
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| January | |
| 1 | Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The euro is officially launched. Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain adopt the euro as their official currency. |
| March | |
| 12 | Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic join NATO. |
| 16 | Collective resignation of the Commission in the wake of the report by the Committee of Independent Experts on the allegations of fraud, mismanagement and nepotism at the Commission. |
| 24 | Statement by the European Council on the appointment of Romano Prodi as the new President of the Commission. |
| 24-25 | An extraordinary European Council, meeting in Berlin, reaches overall agreement on Agenda 2000 and asks Romano Prodi to accept the office of President of the next European Commission. It adopts two declarations on Kosovo, as well as declarations on the Middle East peace process and enlargement, and approves the trade and cooperation agreement with South Africa. |
| May | |
| 1 | The Treaty of Amsterdam enters into force. |
| 5 | Parliament approves the appointment of Romano Prodi as President of |

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| | the Commission. |
| June | |
| 3-4 | The European Council, meeting in Cologne, Germany, adopts the Union's first common strategy, concerning Russia, as well as declarations on Kosovo and the strengthening of the common foreign and security policy, and appoints Javier Solana Madariaga as High Representative for the CFSP and Secretary-General of the Council. It also adopts the European Employment Pact, sets out the remit of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference and decides to draw up a European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights. |
| 10-13 | Election of the Members of the European Parliament. |
| July | |
| 1 | Finland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 20 | The new Parliament elects Nicole Fontaine as its President. |
| September | |
| 15 | The European Parliament approves the investiture of the new Commission. |
| October | |
| 15-16 | A special European Council, meeting in Tampere, Finland, reaches agreement on a number of guidelines and policy priorities, relating in particular to the right of asylum, immigration, access to justice and the fight against crime and decides how the draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is to be drawn up. |
| December | |
| 10-11 | The European Council, meeting in Helsinki, Finland, decides to open accession negotiations with Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Malta, and to recognise Turkey as a candidate country. It decides to call an Intergovernmental Conference in February 2000 to revise the Treaties. |

2000

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| January | |
| 1 | Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 15 | Accession negotiations with Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria are opened at the inaugural session of the Intergovernmental Ministerial Conferences in Brussels, Belgium. |
| February | |
| 14 | The Intergovernmental Conference on institutional reform opens in Brussels, Belgium. |

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| March | |
| 23-24 | A special European Council meets in Lisbon, Portugal, to draw up a new Union strategy to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion in a knowledge-based economy. |
| June | |
| 19-20 | The European Council, meeting in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal, approves the broad economic policy guidelines for the Member States and the Union for 2000 and adopts a common strategy on the Mediterranean region. It approves Greece's entry into the euro zone and an action plan for the Northern Dimension with the external and cross-border policies of the European Union for 2000-2003. Agreement is also reached on the European Union's action plan on drugs. |
| 23 | A convention between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states is signed in Cotonou, in Benin, in order to replace the Lomé conventions. |
| July | |
| 1 | France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| September | |
| 28 | Denmark holds a referendum on transition to the single currency. The 'no' vote wins. |
| November | |
| 8 | The Commission presents the Council with its overall report on enlargement, consisting of progress reports on the stage reached by the candidate countries and an 'accession partnership' proposal identifying the key problems that Turkey must address before accession negotiations are opened. |
| December | |
| 7-9 | The European Council, meeting in Nice, France, reaffirms that the Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed jointly by the Council of the European Union, Parliament and the Commission, should be disseminated as widely as possible among the Union's citizens. It welcomes the speeding up of accession negotiations with the candidate countries and appreciates the efforts that these countries have made to pave the way for the adoption, implementation and practical application of the <i>acquis</i> ; it welcomes the progress made in implementing the pre-accession strategy with Turkey. The Council also discusses the European security and defence policy, approves the European Social Agenda, discusses innovation and knowledge in Europe, coordination of policies on the economy, health and consumer safety, maritime safety, environment, services of general interest, security of supply of some products, freedom, security and justice, culture, the outermost regions and external relations. The Intergovernmental Conference ends with a political agreement on the Treaty of Nice . |

2001

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| January | |
| 1 | Sweden takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 2 | Greece becomes the 12 th member of the Eurozone. |
| February | |
| 26 | Following the Nice European Council in France, a new Treaty is signed amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Communities (Treaty of Nice). |
| March | |
| 23-24 | The European Council, meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, decides to introduce a European financial services market. |
| June | |
| 8 | A referendum is held in Ireland. The Irish people vote against the Treaty of Nice (54% against, 46% for). |
| 15-16 | The European Council, meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, agrees on the framework for successful completion of the enlargement negotiations, adopts a sustainable development strategy and approves the broad economic policy guidelines, as well as the key principles for securing the long-term viability of pension systems. It also launches a European Union programme for the prevention of violent conflicts and records advances in policies on the Union's northern dimension. |
| July | |
| 1 | Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| December | |
| 22-23 | The European Council, meeting in Laeken, Belgium, adopts a declaration on the future of the Union paving the way for a future major reform of the Union and calls a Convention to prepare for the next Intergovernmental Conference. It also takes decisions to step up Europe's role in the international arena, especially in the fight against terrorism, and to conclude negotiations with those candidate countries ready for accession by the end of 2002 so that they can take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004. It adopts a declaration on the operational capability of the common external security and defence policy and a declaration on the Middle East. |

2002

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| January | |
| 1 | Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| | Euro notes and coins come into circulation in the twelve |

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| | participating Member States: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain. |
| 15 | Pat Cox is elected President of the European Parliament. |
| February | |
| 28 | The inaugural session of the Convention on the Future of Europe is held in Brussels, Belgium. |
| March | |
| 15-16 | The European Council, meeting in Barcelona, Spain, focuses on economic, social and environmental issues; it attaches high priority to the interlinking of the European economies from the point of view of financial markets and energy, transport and communications networks and, to this end, calls for quicker adoption of legislation to open up markets. It strengthens policies targeting full employment and the development of a competitive knowledge-based economy. The European Council also discusses the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, relations with the United States and some countries of the western Balkans and the situation in Zimbabwe. It also adopts a declaration on the worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict. |
| May | |
| 31-4 June | The 15 Member States of the EU and Japan ratify the Kyoto Protocol on climate change. |
| July | |
| 1 | Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 23 | The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) expires fifty years after it first entered into force. |
| October | |
| 19 | In a second referendum, the Irish people vote in favour of the Treaty of Nice (62.89%). |
| December | |
| 12-13 | The European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, reaches agreement on the economic and financial conditions for enlargement. |

2003

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| January | |
| 1 | Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 15 | The first European Union Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina is launched. |

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| February | |
| 1 | The Treaty of Nice enters into force. |
| March | |
| 8 | A referendum is held in Malta on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 19 | A vote is held in the European Parliament. The report giving the green light to the accession of Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, the Czech Republic and Slovenia in 2004 is adopted by a majority. |
| 23 | A referendum is held in Slovenia on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| April | |
| 1 | The Cotonou agreement, signed by the European Union and 77 ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, enters into force. |
| 9 | The European Union gives its assent to the accession to the European Union of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia. |
| 12 | A referendum is held in Hungary on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 16 | The Treaty of Accession between the EU and the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia is signed in Athens, Greece. |
| May | |
| 10-11 | A referendum is held in Lithuania on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 16-17 | A referendum is held in the Slovak Republic on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| June | |
| 7-8 | A referendum is held in Poland on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 13-14 | A referendum is held in the Czech Republic on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 20-21 | The European Council, meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, welcomes the preliminary draft EU constitution as a good starting point for forthcoming negotiations on the future of Europe. EU leaders meet representatives of the Balkan countries and indicate their intention to welcome these countries into the European Union provided that they takes steps to promote democratic stability, the rule of law and economic development. The importance of transatlantic relations for international stability is also discussed. |

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| 26 | Agreement on the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). |
| July | |
| 1 | Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| September | |
| 15 | Sweden holds a referendum on the single currency. The 'no' vote wins (56.1%). |
| 20 | A referendum is held in Latvia on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession. |
| 23 | Jean Claude Trichet is appointed as the new President of the ECB. |
| October | |
| 4 | The Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) is held in Rome in Italy. Its main task is to draw up and adopt the final version of the first European Constitution. Several Member States call for changes to the draft European Constitution proposed by the Convention in July. The IGC is to reach agreement before the next European elections scheduled for June 2004. |
| December | |
| 12-13 | The European Council meets in Brussels, Belgium. No agreement is reached on the draft European Constitution. Spain and Poland oppose the voting system. |

2004

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| January | |
| 1 | Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| May | |
| 1 | The Treaty of Accession enters into force and the largest ever enlargement of the European Union in terms of scope and diversity becomes a reality with 10 new countries – Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia – representing over 100 million citizens in total, joining the European Union. |
| June | |
| 10-13 | European elections |
| 17-18 | The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, decides, among other things, that in line with the Commission's Opinion and the fact that Croatia satisfies the political criteria laid down by the Copenhagen European Council in 1993 and the stabilisation and association process conditionalities established by the Council in 1997, Croatia is a candidate country for accession and the accession process should be launched. |

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| 29 | José Manuel Durão Barroso is nominated as President-designate of the Commission, Javier Solana is appointed Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the CFSP and Pierre de Boissieu is appointed as Deputy Secretary-General. |
| July | |
| 1 | The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 20 | The new European Parliament elects Josep Borrell Fontelles as President. |
| 22 | The European Parliament approves the appointment of José Manuel Barroso as the new President of the European Commission. |
| October | |
| 29 | The Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers sign the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe . |
| November | |
| 18 | The European Parliament approves the new Barroso Commission, with 449 votes in favour, 149 against and 82 abstentions. |

2005

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| January | |
| 1 | Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. |
| 12 | The European Parliament approves the European Constitution. |
| February | |
| 20 | Spain is the first Member State to hold a referendum on the European Constitution. |
| April | |
| 13 | The European Parliament gives its assent to the EU accession of Romania and Bulgaria, scheduled for 2007. |
| May | |
| 29 | French electors vote 'no' to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty. |
| June | |
| 1 | Netherlands Electors vote 'no' to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty in a referendum. (61.7% 'no', turnout: 63%). |
| July | |

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| 1 | The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union |
| 10 | Luxembourg Electors vote 'yes' to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty. (56.52% 'yes' and 43.48% 'no'. Voting is compulsory). |

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