

# History of EU

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## **1946**

*January 19*

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

*December 17*

The European Federalists Union is set into place in Paris, France.

## **1947**

*May 14*

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

*June 1*

Rene Courtin creates the French Council for a United Europe that will later be absorbed by the European Movement (1953). Fostered by Christian Democrats, the Nouvelles Equipes Internationales, that later known as European Union of Christian Democrats (1965), is created.

*June 3*

The Socialist United States of Europe Movement is created. In 1961 it will be renamed European Left.

*June 5*

The Marshall Plan, set up for the economic revival of Europe, is announced.

*August 27-31*

The European Union Federalists Congress is held in Montreux, Switzerland.

*December 13-14*

Federalist and Unionist organisations meet within the International Coordination of Movements for the Unification of Europe Committee.

## **1948**

*January 1*

The custom convention between Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands enters into force.

*March 17*

The Western Union Treaty (Brussels Treaty) is signed by Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

*April 16*

The Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) is created to coordinate the Marshall Plan.

*May 7-11*

Fostered by the International Coordination of Movements for the Unification of Europe Committee, the Europe Congress meets in The Hague, The Netherlands. It is chaired by Winston Churchill and attended

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by 800 delegates. Participants recommend that a European Deliberative Assembly and a European Special Council, in charge of preparing political and economic integration of European Countries, be created. They also advise the adoption of a Human Rights Charter and, to ensure the respect of such charter, the creation of a Court of Justice.

## **1949**

*January 28*

France, Great Britain and the Benelux countries decide to set into place a Council of Europe and ask Denmark, Ireland, Italy Norway and Switzerland to help them prepare the statute of such Council.

*April 4*

Signature in Washington of the North Atlantic Treaty.

*May 5*

The statute of the Council of Europe is signed in London, United Kingdom.

*August 3*

The statute of the Council of Europe enters into force.

*August 10-8/9*

The first session of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe is held in Strasbourg, France. Federalist members of parliament request the institution of a European political authority.

## **1950**

*May 9*

In a speech inspired by Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, proposes that France and Germany and any other European country wishing to join them pool their Coal and Steel resources ("Schuman Declaration").

*June 3*

Belgium, France, Luxembourg, Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany subscribe to the Schuman declaration.

*August 26-28*

The Council of Europe Assembly approves the Schuman plan.

*September 19*

The European Union of payments is created.

*November 4*

Signature of the Human Rights and Fundamental Rights Conventions in Rome, Italy.

## **1951**

*February 15*

A meeting in view of the creation of the European Community of Defence is held in Paris, France. Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Germany attend the meeting alongside six observer countries (USA, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands).

*April 18*

The Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands) sign the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

*December 10*

Paul-Henri Spaak, leaves the Presidency of the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in protest to the lukewarm attitude of the United Kingdom towards Europe.

## **1952**

*May 27*

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

*July 23*

The ECSC Treaty enters into force. Jean Monnet is appointed President of the High Authority and Paul-Henri Spaak of the Common Assembly.

*July 30*

Luxembourg is chosen as the temporary headquarters for the ECSC.

*August 10*

The ECSC High Authority takes office.

*November 10*

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) decides to grant to the Six a derogation from the most-favoured-nation treatment, to allow them to fulfil their ECSC obligations.

### **1953**

*January 1*

The ECSC levy, the first European tax, comes into force.

*February 10*

The Common Market for coal and iron ore is set into place. The Six remove custom duties and quantitative restrictions on these raw materials.

*March 7*

The procedure regulation of the European Court of Justice is published in the Official Journal of the ECSC. As of today appeals foreseen by the Paris Treaty can be placed to the Court.

*March 9*

Paul-Henri Spaak, President of the ad hoc Assembly created on September 10, 1952, hands to G. Bidault, President of the ECSC Council, a draft treaty instituting a political European Community. Such Community would aim at safeguarding human rights and fundamental rights, at guaranteeing security of Member States against aggression, at ensuring the co-ordination of Member States' external policy and at progressively establishing the Common Market. Five institutions are foreseen in the draft treaty: a European Executive Council, a two-chamber Parliament, a Council of National Ministers, a Court of Justice and a Economic and Social Committee.

*March 15*

The Common Market for scrap iron is set into place.

*August 12*

The ECSC and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) sign a cooperation agreement.

### **1954**

*May 11*

Alcide de Gasperi is elected President of the European Parliamentary Assembly.

*August 20-23*

The six meet in Brussels, Belgium. The French statesman Pierre Mendes France does not succeed in his request to attenuate the supranational character of the European Defence Community (EDC).

*August 30*

The French National Assembly rejects the European Defence Community Treaty.

*October 20*

Following the London Conference, agreements on a modified Brussels Treaty are signed in Paris, and the Western European Union (WEU) comes into being.

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*November 10*

Jean Monnet, President of the ECSC High Authority resigns after the EDC failure.

*December 21*

The European Court of Justice renders its first ruling.

## **1955**

*June 1*

Rene Mayer is elected President of the ECSC High Authority.

*June 1-2*

Meeting in Messina (Italy), the Foreign Ministers of the Six agree to aim at the integration of their countries on the economic front.

*October 23*

According to referendum results, Saarland rejects its autonomous statute and decides to join Germany.

*December 8*

The Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopts as its emblem the blue flag hosting 12 golden stars.

## **1956**

*January 7*

The ECSC High Authority confirms the principle of free circulation, within the Community, of steel products imported from third countries.

*May 6*

Paul-Henri Spaak, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs presents to his ECSC colleagues a report on the draft Community Treaties foreseeing the creation of the EEC and Euratom.

*May 29*

The Spaak Report is approved. Meeting in Venice, the Foreign Ministers decide to open intergovernmental negotiations for the conclusions of two Treaties setting up a European Economic Community and an Atomic Energy Community.

*June 26*

Negotiations for the drafting of the instituting texts for the EEC and Euratom open in Brussels.

## **1957**

*March 25*

The Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) are signed by the Six (Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands) in Rome as of today they will be referred to as the "Treaties of Rome".

*April 17*

The protocols on the privileges and immunities granted to the European Communities and on the statute of the European Court of Justice are signed in Brussels, Belgium.

*October 8*

The ECSC High Authority is requested, by its Council, to prepare a general policy on energy.

*November 27*

Hans Furler is elected President of the Common Assembly of the ECSC.

## **1958**

*January 1*

The Treaties of Rome enter into force. The EEC and EURATOM Communities are set into place in Brussels. The Parliamentary Assembly, set up in Luxembourg, and the Court of Justice are common to all

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three Communities.

*January 7*

Walter Hallstein is elected President of the EEC Commission. Louis Armand is elected President of the Euratom Commission. Paul Finet is elected President of the ECSC High Authority.

*January 26*

The Six decide to create the Committee of Permanent Representatives (COREPER) to prepare the work of the Councils.

*February 10*

Member States set into place a harmonised tariff for coal and steel. Derogation is granted to France and Italy. Both will be allowed, for some products, to request higher rights for a period of two years.

*March 19*

The session setting up the European Parliamentary Assembly is held in Strasbourg, France. Mr. Robert Schuman is elected President of the Assembly. This Assembly is to substitute the ECSC one.

*April 15*

The first Council regulation sets up German, French, Italian and Dutch as the official languages of the Communities.

*April 20*

The first Official Journal of the European Communities is published. It replaces the Official Journal of the ECSC.

*April 22*

The Council names the members of the Economic and Social Committee (ESC).

*May 13*

The deputies of the Parliamentary Assembly sit for the first time according to political groups rather than nationality.

*May 19*

A meeting is held in Brussels, Belgium, to constitute the ESC.

*May 21-27*

The Parliamentary Assembly adopts its internal regulation.

*July 3-11*

A conference held in Stresa (Italy) lays down the basis of a common agricultural policy (CAP).

*July 7*

In Geneva, Switzerland, Walter Hallstein signs a formal liaison and collaboration agreement between the EEC and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

*October 7*

The European Court of Justice that replaces the ECSC Court of Justice, is set up in Luxembourg.

*December 4*

The Governors of the EIB Council adopt the first directives regarding the credit policy of the Bank.

*December 29*

The European Monetary Agreement enters into force.

**1959**

*January 1*

The first steps are taken in the progressive abolition of custom duties and quotas within the EEC.

*January 7*

Robert Schuman is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

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*February 2*

Etienne Hirsch is elected President of the Euratom Commission.

*March 3*

The European Court of Justice adopts its procedure regulations.

*March 20*

The European Investment Bank (EIB) grants its first loans.

*May 5*

The European Council accepts USA's "Dillon proposal" on multi-lateral trade negotiations (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade framework). The Commission, assisted by a special Committee appointed by the Council, will lead these negotiations.

*June 8*

Greece applies for association with the EEC.

*June 22*

The EEC National Fiscal Administrations set up three working groups to review the feasibility of harmonising indirect levy legislation.

*June 25-26*

The first meeting of Member States' experts on dumping is held. They review regulations to be set into place to avoid intra-community dumping.

*July 20-21*

Seven countries of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC), namely Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, decide to establish a European Free Trade Association (EFTA).

*July 31*

Turkey applies for association with the EEC.

*September 10*

Negotiations for the association of Greece to the EEC start.

*September 11*

Piero Malvestiti is elected President of the ECSC High Authority.

*September 27*

Negotiations for the association of Turkey to the EEC start.

*October 13*

Pierre Wigny, the Belgian minister for foreign affairs, launches the idea of uniting in a single institution the High Authority of the ECSC and the two Commissions (EEC and Euratom) established by the Rome Treaty.

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## **1960**

*January 4*

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) convention, regrouping Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom is signed in Stockholm, Sweden.

*May 3*

The Stockholm Convention establishing the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) enters into force.

*May 11*

The Council adopts the regulation relative to the European Social Fund. The aim of the Fund is promoting employment and geographical and professional mobility of workers within the Community.

*September 20*

The European Social Fund regulation enters into force.

*December 13*

The Convention establishing the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (Eurocontrol) is signed in Brussels, Belgium.

*December 14*

The Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) becomes the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

## **1961**

*February 10-11*

A Summit Conference is held in Paris, France on the necessity of establishing a sound political cooperation.

*March 7-10*

Mr Furler is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly.

*June 27*

The Netherlands Government takes the initiative of submitting a draft paper advocating the revision of the treaties of Rome and Paris by the adoption of a convention setting up a single Council for the Communities and a European High Commission (Fusion of the Executives). The European Parliament and the two Commissions are consulted on this draft. The merger of the executives is not proceeded with at this point because of divergences between Member States in the scope of the reform.

*July 18*

A European Summit meeting is held in Bonn, Germany. The Six voice their wish to set up a political union.

*July 31*

Ireland formally applies to join the European Communities.

*August 9*

The United Kingdom formally applies to join the European Communities.

*August 10*

Denmark formally applies to join the European Communities.

*September 1*

The first regulation on free movement of workers comes into force.

*November 20-21*

A colloquy between the institutions of the European Economic Community is held in Strasbourg, France. The subjects discussed are the transition from the first to the second stage of the Common Market and

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the association with overseas countries.

*December 20*

Mr Walter Hallstein is re-elected President of the Commission of the European Economic Community

**1962**

*January 10*

The new European Economic Community Commission, with Mr Hallstein as its President, takes office.

Pierre Chatenet is elected President of the Euratom Commission.

*January 14*

The Council adopts the first regulations on the common agricultural policy (CAP) created for the establishment of a single market for agricultural products and for financial solidarity through a European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).

*February 5-6*

The Council approves the rules of procedure of the European Social Fund (ESF).

*March 27-30*

Mr Gaetano Martino is re-elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly. The Parliamentary Assembly decides to change its name into European Parliament.

*April 4*

The regulations and basic decisions on the CAP are enacted.

*April 30*

Norway formally applies to join the European Communities.

*July 1*

Customs duties on industrial products between member countries are reduced to 50% of their level of 1957.

*July 30*

The regulations creating a common agricultural policy (CAP) enter into force.

*October 13*

The Council adopts the first directive relative to the EEC global foodstuff regulation by defining which colorants can be added to foodstuffs.

*November 1*

The association agreement between Greece and the Community enters into force.

**1963**

*January 14*

General de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, states that France doubts the political will of the United Kingdom to join the Community. A few days later, negotiations with all applicant countries are suspended.

*February 5*

Van Gend en Loos ruling. The European Court of Justice specifies that the Community constitutes a new legal order for the benefit of which Member States have consented to a restriction of their sovereign rights.

*March 25-29*

Mr Gaetano Martino is re-elected President of the European Parliament.

*May 4*

Official opening of GATT Trade negotiations (Kennedy Round).

*July 1*

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In pursuance of the decision to speed up the establishment of a custom union, the sixth intra-community reduction in customs duties and the second alignment on the common external tariff are effected.

July 20

The Yaounde Convention, an Association Agreement valid for five years, is signed between the Community and 17 African States and Madagascar in Yaounde, Cameroon.

September 4

Death of Robert Schuman.

September 23-24

The Council reaches an agreement in principle on the question of the merger of the Executives.

October 8

Mr Dino del Bo is elected President of the ECSC High Authority.

1964

January 10

Mr Hallstein is re-elected President of the EEC Commission.

March 20

Mr Duvieusart is elected President of the European Parliament.

May 4

Official opening of the Kennedy Round of multilateral trade negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The Community takes part in the meeting.

May 23-15/6

The World Conference on Trade and Development is held in Geneva, Switzerland.

June 1

The Yaounde Convention enters into force.

July 1

The European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) is set into place.

July 15

Costa/ENEL ruling. The European Court of Justice holds that Community law overrules national law.

September 18

The Council reaches an agreement as to the composition of the single Commission that will ultimately have nine members.

December 1

The Association Treaty signed by the EEC and Turkey enters into force.

December 15

The Council instructs the Commission to submit proposals on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and to submit proposals on the conditions for implementing the transfer to Community budget of levies on agricultural products.

December 30

The United Nations General Assembly creates the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as an organ of the General Assembly.

1965

March 2

Mr Leemans is elected President of the European Parliament.

April 5-30

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Board, the permanent organ of the

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Conference, holds its first meeting in New York, USA. It adopts its work programme, it sets up its subsidiary agencies and lays down their term of reference.

April 8

The Treaty merging the executives of the three Communities (ECSC, EEC, Euratom) is signed in Brussels. It will enter into force on July 1, 1967.

June 26

France ratifies the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

June 30

Germany ratifies the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

July 1

France breaks off the negotiations on financing the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The French Government recalls its Permanent Representative. For the time being, the French Delegation will not take part in Council's or Permanent Representatives Committee's meetings.

July 22

The Commission submits to the Council a memorandum on the financing of the CAP and on independent revenues for the Community.

July 26-27

The Council accepts the memorandum of the Commission on the financing of the CAP as a sound basis for discussion.

September 20

The Commission addresses a recommendation to the Member States. It asks to avoid creating new obstacles to intra-Community trade when they adopt laws and regulations of a technical nature.

December 1

Dekker ruling. Within the framework of social security of migrant workers, the European Court of Justice clarifies that the term "benefits in kind" does not infer sums paid in addition to pensions intended to cover part of the pensioner's health-insurance contributions.

1966

January 1

The EEC enters the third and last phase of the transition to the Common Market. This implies the replacement of the unanimity vote by the majority system for most of the decisions of the Council.

January 20

The annual joint meeting between the European Institutions is held in Brussels, Belgium. The discussion deals mainly with two institutional problems: cooperation between the Commission and the Council and the Council's majority decisions.

January 28-29

Luxembourg Compromise. France, after operating an "empty chair" policy for seven months, resumes its place in the Council in return for retention of the unanimity vote when major interests are at stake.

March 7

Mr Alain Poher is elected President of the European Parliament.

March 31

The Commission lays before the Council its proposal concerning the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), independent revenue for the Community and wider powers for the European Parliament.

April 5

Belgium ratifies the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

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April 29

Italy ratifies the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

May 11

The Council adopts decisions and resolutions governing the timetable and the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and determines its objectives in other fields of common interest.

June 30

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg ratifies the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

October 25

The Netherlands ratify the Treaty instituting a Council and Commission of the European Communities.

November 28

A joint meeting of the European Institutions is held. The discussion mainly concentrates on the progress of the Community towards economic union and future prospects.

1967

February 9

The EEC Council of Ministers decides to harmonise indirect taxes in the Community, to adopt the principle of the added-value tax system and to approve the first medium-term economic policy programme defining and fixing the aims of the economic policy of the Community for the years ahead.

March 13

Mr Alain Poher is re-elected President of the European Parliament.

May 11

The United Kingdom re-applies to join the Community. It is followed by Ireland and Denmark and, a little later, by Norway. General de Gaulle is still reluctant to accept British accession.

May 29-30

A Summit Conference is held in Rome, Italy, to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the signature of the EEC and Euratom Treaties. Heads of State or Government express their intention of bringing into force the Treaty merging the institutions of the three Communities as of July 1, 1967.

June 30

The Commission signs the final Act of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) multi-lateral negotiations (Kennedy Round).

1967 July 1

The Merger Treaty, fusing the Executives of the European Communities (ECSC, EEC, Euratom), enters into force. From now on the European Communities will have a single Commission and a single Council. However, both continue to act in accordance with the rules governing each of the Communities.

July 3

The Council of the European Communities holds its first session with Germany at its Presidency.

July 6

The new Commission, with Jean Rey as its President, takes office.

September 13

The Commission renders an opinion on the applications for EC membership of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway.

November 28

The Institutions hold their annual joint meeting and discuss on the outlook for development of the Communities following the merger of the institutions.

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1968

January 1

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

March 12

Mr Alain Poher is re-elected President of the European Parliament.

July 1

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

Customs union enters into force. Remaining customs duties in intra-Community trade are abolished 18 months ahead of what was scheduled in the Rome Treaty and the Common Customs Tariff is introduced to replace national customs duties in trade with the rest of the world.

October 23

The European Court of Justice celebrates its 10th anniversary. A large number of representatives of the Community institutions, the Governments and the Senior Courts and Administrative Tribunals of the Member States attend the formal meeting held for the occasion.

November 27

The Council, the Parliament and the Commission hold an exchange of views on the prospects of the Communities. It gives rise to a discussion on the need to render the institutional machinery of the Communities democratic and to strengthen and widen it, to guarantee the future of Euratom and to institute close cooperation in the monetary field.

1969

January 1

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

February 6-7

A Western European Union (WEU) Council meeting takes place in Luxembourg.

July 1

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

July 6

Mr. Jean Rey is re-elected President of the Commission.

July 16

The Commission submits to the Council a memorandum on replacing the financial contributions of the Member States by Communities' own resources and on increasing the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.

July 22-23

The Council resumes the examination of the application for EC membership of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway. It asks the Commission to bring up to date the opinion it rendered on the matter in September 1967.

July 29

Signature of the second Yaounde convention.

August 10

Upon request of the Council, the Commission brings up to date the opinion it rendered on the EC membership application of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway.

August 26-23/9

The ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is held in Geneva, Switzerland. The discussion is mainly centred around UNCTAD's contribution to the second UN

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Development Decade.

October 1

The Commission submits a supplementary opinion on the applications for EC membership of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway.

October 15

The Commission submits to the Council a draft decision to provide the Community with the instruments it needs to promote a regional development policy.

November 12

Stauder ruling. For the first time the European Court of Justice comments on the protection of the individual maintaining that the general principles of Community law, the respect of which the Court is to ensure, include the fundamental rights of the individual.

December 1-2

A Summit meeting is held in The Hague, the Netherlands. The heads of State or Government confirm their willingness to maintain the gradual advance towards a genuine economic and monetary union and the close alignment of social policies this entails, and reaffirm their agreement on the principle of the enlargement of the Community.

December 11

Mr Rey, President of the Commission, expresses before the European Parliament his satisfaction with the decisions taken at the Summit conference concerning the completion and strengthening of the Community.

December 31

The 12-year transitional period forecast by the treaty on the European Economic Communities (EEC) for setting into practice the common market, comes to an end.

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## 1970

*January 1*

Belgium takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*March 4*

The Commission submits to the Council a memorandum on the preparation of a plan for the establishment of economic and monetary union.

*March 6*

The Council assigns a committee of experts presided by Pierre Werner, to put out proposals for achieving economic and monetary union and entrusts a second committee of experts presided by Etienne Davignon, to issue proposals for political cooperation.

*March 10*

Mr Mario Scelba is re-elected president of the European Parliament.

*April 22*

Signature of the Treaty of Luxembourg. The Council decides the gradual introduction of a system of own-resources under which the Community will receive all customs duties on products imported from non-member countries, all levies on agricultural imports and resources deriving from value-added tax. They also decide to extend the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.

*May 13*

A commemorative setting is held to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Schuman declaration.

*June 30*

Negotiations with four prospective Member States (Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom) open in Luxembourg.

*July 1*

Germany takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 2*

The new Commission, with Franco Maria Malfatti as its President takes office.

*October 8*

The Council issues a final report on the Commission memorandum on the establishment of economic and monetary union.

*October 26*

The Council reaches an agreement on the principles and procedures for implementing Community action in the regional policy field.

*October 27*

The Member States approve the Davignon Report on political cooperation. The objective is to get Europe to speak with a single voice on all major international problems.

*November 26*

The Council decides to reform the European Social Fund (ESF) in order to provide the Community with a suitable instrument for ensuring correlation between the social policy and the other common policies.

*December 17*

Internationale Handelsgesellschaft ruling. The European Court of Justice clarifies the idea of fundamental rights in Community law. It declares that protection of those rights, although inspired by the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, must be secured within the framework of the Community's structure and objectives.

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## 1971

*January 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

The second Yaoundé Convention and Arusha Agreements enter into force.

*January 11-13*

The annual meeting of the Parliamentary Conference of the EEC- African States and Madagascar (AASM) Association is held in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

*February 12*

The European Parliament adopts a resolution on the Commission report on the stage reached in implementing Council Directives concerning the achievement of freedom of establishment and freedom to supply services. The resolution stresses that the Member States should implement the directives adopted and that the Commission should supervise their proper application.

*March 22*

The Council adopts the Werner Plan to strengthen coordination of economic policies. The Member States have to take measures to harmonise their budgetary policies and to reduce the margins of fluctuation between their currencies.

*March 31*

European Agreement on Road Transport (AETR) ruling. The European Court of Justice develops principles that draw the line between the powers of the Community and those of the Member States. It makes clear that, as common rules are introduced, only the Community is in a position to take over and fulfil, in respect of the entire field of application of the Community legal order, obligations undertaken vis-à-vis non-member States.

*May 12*

The Council introduces a system of monetary compensatory amounts for trade in agricultural products between Member States in order to maintain the unity of the common agricultural market.

*May 25*

Defrenne ruling. The European Court of Justice rules that a retirement pension which forms part of a system of social security provided for by law does not constitute a benefit paid indirectly by the employer to the worker by reason of the latter's employment.

*June 3*

The Ministers of Justice of the Community meet for the first time in Luxembourg. They sign two protocols that, after ratification by the Member States, will grant new powers to the Court of Justice.

*June 7*

The European Parliament adopts a resolution on competition rules and the position of Community enterprises in the Common market and the world economy. The resolution called on the Commission to submit to the Parliament a special annual review of competition policy developments.

*June 30*

Applicant countries to the European Communities, namely Denmark Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom, outline their respective negotiating positions.

*July 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*September 21-28*

The 15th general conference on atomic energy is held in Vienna, Austria. The Council mandate to the Commission to negotiate an agreement on guarantees with the International Atomic Energy Association

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(IAEA) is announced.

*November 16-26*

27th session of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

**1972**

*January 1*

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 22*

Signature, by Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom, of the Treaties of accession to the European Communities.

*March 14*

Signature, by Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom, of the Treaties of accession to the European Communities.

*March 21*

Franco Maria Malfatti, the President of the Commission, resigns and is replaced by Vice-President Sicco Mansholt. The Council adopts a resolution based on a general conspectus by the Commission of the conditions for achieving the first stage of economic and monetary union.

*April 13-21/5*

The third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is held in Santiago, Chile.

*April 24*

The currency "snake" is set up: the Six agree to limit the margin of fluctuation between their currencies to 2.25%.

*April 24-25*

The Council approves the Association Agreement admitting Mauritius to the Convention between the EC and the Associated African States and Madagascar (AASM).

*May 1*

The European Social Fund (ESF), as reformed by the Council decision of February 1971, becomes operational.

*May 10*

A referendum is held in Ireland on the country joining the European Communities. The vast majority is in favour of accession.

*June 5-6*

The Council decides to extend the scope of the generalised preferences to cover the developing countries which have joined the group of the seventy-seven, together with a number of other countries and territories, with effect from January 1973. It also agrees on the lines to be followed by the Community in the examination of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Accession Treaty.

*July 1*

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*September 12*

The Ministers of Finance of the six and of the four countries that applied for membership meet in Rome, Italy. They agree that in the first stage of economic and monetary union it is necessary to set up a European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

*September 18*

Agreements on preferential trade with Egypt and Lebanon are signed.

*September 19*

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Signature of an agreement on preferential trade with Cyprus.

*September 25*

A referendum is held in Norway on the country joining the European Communities. The majority is unfavourable to accession.

*October 2*

A referendum is held in Denmark on the country joining the European Communities. The majority is in favour of accession.

*October 9*

Following the unfavourable vote of the referendum, the Norwegian Government declares that Norway will not bring the accession ratification Bill before the Parliament. The European Parliament passes a resolution containing definite suggestions and requests for the abolition of checks at intra-Community frontiers.

*October 16*

The United Kingdom ratifies the acts relating to the accession to the European Communities.

*October 19-21*

A Summit meeting is held in Paris, France. Heads of State or Government define new fields of Community action (concerning regional, environmental, social, energy and industrial policies) and reaffirm 1980 as the deadline for the achievement of economic and monetary union.

*November 1-14*

A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meeting is held in Geneva, Switzerland.

**1973**

*January 1*

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the European Communities.

The Community Free Trade Agreement with Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Sweden comes into force.

*January 6*

Mr. Francois Xavier Ortoli takes office as President of the European Commission.

*February 8*

The European Confederation of Trade Unions is set up.

*February 21*

Continental Can ruling. The European Court of Justice agrees that, within the meaning of the EEC Treaty, it constitutes an abuse for undertakings to concentrate and achieve a degree of power that virtually eliminates competition.

*March 13*

Mr Cornelis Berkhouwer is elected President of the European Parliament.

*April 1*

The Community's industrial Free Trade Agreement with Iceland comes into force.

*April 6*

The EEC-Spain Joint Committee holds its third meeting in Madrid, Spain. The Spanish delegation gives an account of its Government's standpoint on the future of relations between Spain and the Community, particularly with a view to the negotiations of a new agreement.

*June 1*

The Association Agreement and the additional protocol between the Community and Cyprus comes into

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force.

*July 1*

Denmark takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Community's industrial Free Trade Agreement with Norway comes into force.

*July 3-7*

The Opening session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is held in Helsinki, Finland.

*September 12-14*

A General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) ministerial meeting is held in Tokyo, Japan. The parties involved agree on the necessity to set up a monetary system that shields the world economy from shocks and imbalances; they also recognise that the new phase in the liberalisation of trade should facilitate the orderly functioning of the monetary system.

*October 5*

Finland signs an industrial Free Trade Agreement with the Communities.

*October 6-27*

Kippour war. Petroleum-producers countries decide to reduce or ban exports towards some occidental countries and the Organisation of Petrol-Producers (OPEP) countries decides to massively increase petroleum prices.

*October 15*

The Council adopts a set of measures for improving its relations with the European Parliament. These envisage increased participation by the Council in the work of the Parliament in the conclusion of trade agreements as well as an improved procedure of consultation with the Parliament.

*November 6*

The nine declare their commitment to a pacific solution of the Middle-East crisis.

*November 20*

The Council discusses in detail the measures proposed by the Commission regarding the reorganisation of the common agricultural policy (CAP) that is to be set into place by end 1977.

*December 14-15*

A summit conference is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The energy crisis leads the Member States to agree on the introduction of a common energy policy. A statement on the European identity, drafted as part of political cooperation arrangements and approved by Foreign Ministers, is released.

**1974**

*January 1*

Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

Agreements between the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and Austria, Portugal, Switzerland and Sweden come into force.

Finland's industrial Free Trade Agreement with the Communities comes into force.

*January 31*

The Commission addresses to the Heads of Government a declaration on the state of the Community. The declaration stresses the need to get Europe moving again bringing national policies closer into line and by working out common policies. The Parliament declares that the unity of Europe can only be realised if the Community institutions are enabled to pursue a policy funded on real European solidarity.

*February 11-12*

The Council formally recognises the right of the Economic and Social committee (ESC) to issue opinions

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## History of EU

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on its own initiative. It also agrees that the Committee publishes its own opinions.

*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 on the Community. He calls for major changes in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), "fairer methods of financing the Community budget" and solutions to monetary problems.

*April 2*

A Joint declaration on the state of the Community is submitted to the Council. The Presidents of the Council and of the Commission recognise that the decision-making process must be improved if any progress is to be made on substantive matters and if the ability of the Community to work is to be guaranteed in the long term. They also make a number of practical proposals.

*May 29-30*

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Council Meeting (ministerial level). Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission, emphasises the need to strengthen international cooperation and to continue working towards the more and more extensive liberalisation of world trade. The OECD Council adopts a declaration stressing the seriousness of the economic difficulties in the member countries, particularly those relating to deficits on international payments.

*June 4*

The Council considers the procedures it should adopt for the examination of problems raised by the United Kingdom and discusses the way the Community institutions work. Some agreement is reached on the improvements to be made in the decision-making progress.

*June 10*

The Council takes two decisions on the granting of assistance from the European Social Fund towards certain specific measures on behalf of handicapped persons and migrant workers.

*June 21*

Reyners ruling. The European Court of Justice rules that whenever a national of a Member State wishes to set up in business in another Member State, the other Member State is obliged to refrain from applying any law, regulation or administrative provision or practice which might discriminate against him as opposed to its own nationals.

*July 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 15*

The European Court of Justice transmits a paper on the European Union to the other Community institutions. It is the first institution to respond to the invitation made by the 1972 Summit Conference held in Paris, France.

*July 25-26*

A EU - African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) States joint ministerial conference is held in Kingston, Jamaica. It emphasises the political resolve of the ACP states and the Community to adopt the convention within the time limits imposed by the expiry of the Yaounde Convention and the Arusha agreement. What is more, political guidelines making further progress on a number of points are agreed upon.

*September 17*

The Council formally approves directives for the negotiation of comprehensive agreements with Spain, Israel, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia and the extension of the existing agreement with Malta to cover cooperation and agriculture.

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*November 14-16*

A World Food Conference is held in Rome, Italy. The Community, conscious of the acute food crisis facing many developing countries, steps up its efforts in the field of food aid and participates in the works of the Conference helping find a medium or long term solution to the food supply problem.

*November 26*

The Council decides to adjust the Treaty provisions relating to the European Court of Justice with a view to improving the Court's procedural machinery to enable it to cope with an increased workload. It is decided that certain requests for preliminary rulings concerning matters of a technical nature, or for which there is already an established body of case law, may be assigned by the Court to its Chamber provided that no Member State objects and no institution asks for the case to be heard by the full Court.

*November 30*

The agreements between the European Coal and Steel Community and Norway and Finland are ratified by all Member States of the Community. These agreements will come into force on January 1, 1975.

*December 3*

The Council reaches an agreement on the content of a draft Treaty on the budgetary powers of the Parliament and the setting up of a Court of Auditors. Binsbergen ruling. The European Court of Justice rules that the Freedom to provide services Community law may be directly invoked by parties before national courts to the extent that the object of the provision is to abolish all discrimination against the person providing services on the basis of his nationality or the fact that he resides in another Member State rather than the one where the services are to be provided.

*December 9-10*

A Summit meeting is held in Paris, France. The Community's Heads of State or Government decide to hold meetings three times a year as the European Council, they give the go-ahead for direct elections to the European Parliament, agree to set up the European Regional Development Fund and resolved to establish economic and monetary union. They also ask Mr Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, to produce a summary report on the European Union by the end of 1975.

*December 19*

Representatives of the Governments of the Member States decide to extend until January 5, 1977 the term of office of the President of the Commission, Mr Francois-Xavier Ortoli.

**1975**

*January 1*

Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 15-16*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Interim Committee Board of Governors meets in Washington DC, USA. It agrees to increase the total of member countries' quota, to abolish the official price of gold and to give the special drawing right the central place in the international monetary system.

*January 22*

The Council agrees to release a second instalment of \$100 million under the Community's undertakings to contribute to a total of \$500 million for the Emergency Operation on behalf of the developing countries most seriously affected by the increase in international prices.

*February 28*

The Community and the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) sign, in Lome, Togo, a Convention, known as Lome I, to replace the Yaounde Conventions.

*March 10-11*

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## History of EU

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The European Council holds its first meeting in Dublin, Ireland. Major decisions are taken enabling the United Kingdom Government to recommend continued membership of the Community. A declaration relating to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is adopted.

*March 11*

Mr. Georges Spénale is elected President of the European Parliament.

*March 18*

The Council sets up the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a Regional Policy Committee. The Council adopts a European unit of account based on a composite basket of the Community currencies. It will be used initially under the Lome Convention and for the European Investment Bank operations. It will later be gradually introduced into other sectors of Community activities.

Mr Harold Wilson, the British Prime Minister, states in the House of Commons that the UK Government would recommend the British people to vote "yes" in the referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the Community.

*March 20*

The Florence European University Institute is officially established by the first meeting of the High Council and the appointment of a Principal.

*March 27*

The British Government publishes a White Paper on the outcome of renegotiations.

*April 9*

In the British House of Commons, 369 members voted in favour of the United Kingdom staying in the Community with 170 voting against it.

*April 14*

The Council adopts a preliminary programme for a consumer protection and information policy.

*April 28*

The Additional Protocol extending the application of the EEC-Greece Association Agreement to the three new Member States and an interim Agreement on the advance implementation of the trade provisions of the Additional Protocol are signed in Brussels.

*May 9*

Ceremonies are held to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the "Schuman Declaration".

*May 11*

A new EEC-Israel Agreement is signed in Brussels. It replaces the 1970 Agreement and contains cooperation clauses in addition to the trade provisions.

*June 5*

The outcome of the British referendum reveals that 67.2% of voters are in favour of the United Kingdom remaining a member of the Community.

*June 12*

Greece formally applies to join the European Communities.

*June 23-27*

The Community participates in the first session of the World Food Council held in Rome, Italy, set up following the World food Conference of 1974.

*June 24-25*

The Council or the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in the Council, adopt a number of regulations enabling the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) States to benefit from the trade provisions of the Lome Convention as of July 1, before the Convention officially enters into force.

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## History of EU

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*July 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 15*

The Community and Mexico sign a trade agreement.

*July 16-17*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. The European Council asks the Foreign Affairs Council for a report on the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. The report is to be issued by the end of the year.

*July 22*

A Treaty giving the European Parliament wider budgetary powers and establishing a Court of Auditors is signed. It will enter into force in June 1977.

*August 1*

The final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is signed in Helsinki, Finland, by 35 States.

*August 30*

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Interim Committee Board of Governors meets in Washington DC, USA. It agrees on new arrangements for gold exchange.

*September 15*

The Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) hold their annual meeting. The Commission participates as an observer and Mr Colombo, President of the Council, makes a statement on behalf of the Community.

*September 16*

Official relations are established between China and the Community.

*October 13-16*

The Community participates in a preparatory meeting for the Conference on International Economic cooperation held in Paris, France. The opening of the conference is fixed for December 16.

*November 15-17*

A Summit is held in Rambouillet, France. The heads of State or Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, the United States and Japan stress the urgent need for economic recovery in the industrialised countries and express their willingness to intensify international cooperation.

*November 18*

A tripartite conference on the economic and social situation, involving the Ministers for economic and social affairs, workers' and employers' representatives from the nine Member States and the Commission, is held in Brussels, Belgium. The Commission is asked to examine the matters discussed in greater detail and to prepare for the next conference.

*November 26*

The Commission brings before the Court of Justice an action against France for infringement of the Treaty by imposing an import tax on Italian wines.

*December 1-2*

A European Council meets in Rome, Italy. It takes decisions on the election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage, on passport union and on a single Community representation for the North-South Dialogue.

*December 15*

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The Community convention on the European Patent for the Common Market (Community patent) is signed.

*December 16*

Sugar industry ruling. The European Court of Justice defines what constitutes a concerted practice and rules on a number of questions important to the development of the Community law on competition.

*December 16-19*

The ministerial Conference on International Economic Cooperation meets in Paris, France. In conclusion, the twenty-seven members (seven industrialised countries and the Community as such plus nineteen developing countries) set up four Commissions on energy, raw materials, development and finance.

**1976**

*January 1*

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 7*

Mr Leo Tindemans, Prime Minister of Belgium, publishes a report on the European Union at the request of the Heads of Government.

*January 7-8*

The interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund meets in Kingston, Jamaica. In connection with the reform of the International Monetary System, agreement is reached on quotas, on the status of gold, on the exchange-rate system and on greater access to the fund's resources.

*January 21*

Italy suspends the official quotation of foreign currencies against the lira.

*February 2-16*

The Commission takes part in a Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, where a draft convention for the protection of the Mediterranean is adopted.

*February 4*

In an attempt to support the lira, the Italian government takes measures to increase deposits with the Central Bank and to reduce the period permitted for conversion of foreign currencies held by exporters.

*February 9*

The Council comes out in favour of Greece's application for Community membership.

*March 1*

Italy resumes official quotation of foreign currencies against the lira.

*March 4*

Two Protocols with Malta are signed. The 1970 Association Agreement is extended to take in agriculture and cooperation.

*March 15*

The Council carries out an examination of the economic situation of the Community on the basis of two papers issued by the Commission, a summary account of the economic policies pursued in 1975 and a Communication on the adjustment of the 1976 economic policies guidelines.

*March 17-18*

The Italian Government adopts measures designed to stem the decline of the lira and improve the public finance situation.

*April 1*

The EEC-ACP Convention, signed in Lome on February 28, 1975, enters into force.

*April 1-2*

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## History of EU

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A European Council meets in Luxembourg. Heads of Government hold an initial exchange of views on the Tindemans report on the European Union of January 7.

*April 6*

At the GATT multilateral trade negotiations, the Tokyo Round, the Commission presents its offer of concessions to developing countries as regards tropical products.

*April 8*

Defrenne ruling. The European Court of Justice holds that the principle of equal pay for women and men is directly applicable.

*April 14*

The Commission formally decides to reject the application from the Irish Government for exemption from applying the principle of equal pay for women and men.

*April 25-27*

The Community signs cooperation agreements with three Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia).

*May 5*

The Commission allows Italy to take measures to protect the lira, authorising it to require a three-month non-interest-bearing cash deposit with the Bank of Italy on the purchase of foreign exchange and the deposit of the lira in foreign accounts.

*May 6-7*

The Administrative board of the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions holds its first meeting in Dublin, Ireland.

*May 11*

In response to the Italian request, the Governors of the Central Banks of the Member States decide to grant Italy a short-term monetary support.

*May 31*

The fourth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) ends. The Conference decides that an integrated programme providing for the study and the negotiation of individual commodity agreements and a common fund to coordinate the financing of buffer stocks is to be adopted, a code of conduct for transfers of technology is to be set into place and the Paris convention on industrial property is to be modified so as to respect the interests of developing countries, guidelines will have to be laid down before the end of 1976 for the case-by-case settlement of the developing countries' debts.

*June 1*

The EEC and Pakistan sign a trade cooperation agreement.

*June 16*

The Parliament discusses and votes the motion of censure against the Commission tabled on May 13 concerning the manner in which the Parliament was consulted on a specific matter. The motion, the first to be put to a vote, was defeated by 109 votes to 18, with 4 abstentions.

*June 24*

A tripartite Conference on the economic and social situation is held in Luxembourg. The Conference is attended by the Commission and the representatives of Governments and both sides of industry in the Member States.

*July 1*

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

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*July 6*

Canada and the EEC sign in Ottawa a framework agreement for economic and commercial cooperation.

*July 12-13*

The European Council meets in Brussels, Belgium. It agrees on the number and distribution of seats in the Parliament that is to be elected by direct universal suffrage in 1979. The Council also designates Mr. Roy Jenkins as President of the Commission.

*July 14*

Kramer ruling. The European Court of Justice defines the respective roles of the Community and of its Member States within the international fisheries framework.

*July 27*

Negotiations for the accession of Greece to the Community open formally.

*September 13*

The Community signs the Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution.

*September 17*

The fifth session of the United Nations Conference of the Law of the Sea ends. The Community delegation requests that the future convention contain a clause to enable the Community as such to accede the convention.

*September 20*

The instruments concerning the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage are signed.

*September 22*

The French Government adopts the Barre Plan for fighting inflation; one of the measures it contains is a VAT reduction.

*October 1*

The Italian Government adopts the Andreotti plan to halt the decline of the lira by means of tax, monetary and social measures.

*November 3*

The Council decides that Member States will extend fishing limits to 200 miles off their North Sea and North Atlantic coasts as from 1 January 1977. These decisions mark the beginnings of the common fisheries policy.

*November 29-30*

A European Council is held in The Hague, Netherlands. The Council examines the economic situation and reaffirms its interest in the problems relating to the North-South Dialogue and publishes a statement on the construction of the European Union.

*December 13*

The representatives of the Governments of the Member states appoint the members of the new Commission for the period from January 6, 1977 to January 5, 1981.

A censure motion is tabled over the Commission's refusal to send to the Parliament's Control Sub-Committee a report issued by the Financial Control on the malt sector. The motion is withdrawn without being put to vote.

**1977**

*January 1*

The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

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The Decision of the Nine to extend limits of their North Sea and Atlantic fishing zone to 200 miles comes into force.

*January 6*

The new Commission, appointed in December 1976 with Mr Jenkins as its President, takes office.

*January 18*

A Cooperation Agreement is signed with three Mashreq countries (Egypt, Jordan and Syria), following the April 1976 Agreements with Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia).

*March 23*

The motion of censure against the Commission tabled in the Parliament on March 10, fails to secure the necessary majority.

*March 25*

The Community celebrates the twentieth anniversary of the signature of the Treaties of Rome.

*March 25-26*

A European Council is held in Rome, Italy.

*March 28*

Portugal formally applies to join the European Communities. Sao Tome and Principe, Cabo Verde and Papua New Guinea sign some agreements with the Community for accession to the Lome Convention.

*April 5*

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission sign a joint declaration on the respect of fundamental rights.

*May 3*

The Community and Lebanon sign a Cooperation Agreement under the overall Mediterranean approach.

*May 7-8*

Downing Street Summit: The Community participates, as such, for the first time in some of the discussions at the economic summit of Western industrialised countries.

*May 17*

The sixth VAT Directive on the establishment of a uniform basis of assessment for value added tax is formally adopted by the Council.

*May 23*

The Sixth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is held in New York, USA.

*May 30-2/6*

The Conference on International Economic Cooperation, after eighteen months of discussion, closes with a ministerial conference. The twenty-seven participants agree on the transfer of resources, the quality and quantity of official development assistance and raw materials. Major efforts continue in the spheres of agriculture, foodstuffs, infrastructure and industrialisation.

*June 1*

The treaty reinforcing the budgetary powers of the Parliament enters into force.

*June 15*

The Commission proposes the creation of a new Community borrowing instrument to finance structural investment.

*June 29-30*

A European Council is held in London, United Kingdom.

*July 1*

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Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Extension of Common Customs Tariff (CTT) to the new Member States, that is: Denmark, Ireland, and United Kingdom.

*July 28*

Spain formally applies to join the European Communities.

*September 19-23*

The Commission attends the World Energy Conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

*September 26*

At the 32nd session of UN general Assembly, Mr Simonet, President of the Council, outlines the Community external policy.

*October 4*

Opening of the Belgrade follow-up to the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

*October 25*

The Court of Auditors of the European Communities, which replaces the Audit Board (EEC and Euratom) and the ECSC Auditor, holds its inaugural meeting in Luxembourg. The Council decides that the Joint European Torus (JET) project in controlled nuclear fusion is to be based in Culham, United Kingdom.

*November 9*

Mr Michael Murphy is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

*December 5-6*

A European Council meets in Brussels, Belgium.

*December 13*

The first meeting of the International fund for Agricultural Development, set up on recommendation of November 1974 World Food Conference, is held in Rome, Italy.

### **1978**

*January 1*

Djibouti deposits the instruments of accession to the Lome Convention with the General Secretariat of the Council.

*February 2*

Djibouti deposits the instruments of accession to the Lome Convention with the General Secretariat of the Council.

*February 6*

The Barcelona Convention on Protection of the Mediterranean, signed in February 1976, comes into force.

*February 13*

Negotiations open between the Community and Yugoslavia for a cooperation agreement to replace the trade agreement expiring on August 30.

*March 6-11*

The Community attended the ministerial meeting of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board held to discuss the indebtedness of developing countries.

*March 9*

Simmenthal ruling. The European Court of Justice consolidates the principle of preminence of Community law.

*March 22-24*

At the end of the EEC-Japan consultations held in Tokyo, Japan on the steps to be taken to overcome the problems raised by the surplus on Japan's balance of trade with the Community, a joint statement is

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issued.

*March 28-19/5*

The Community attends, as an observer, the seventh session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea.

*April 3*

The Community and the People's Republic of China sign a trade agreement, which comes into force on June 1.

*April 7-8*

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. An agreement is reached on the first direct elections to the European Parliament; the Heads of State or Government associate themselves with the Joint Declaration of the Parliament, the Council and the Commission on the respect of fundamental rights.

*May 19*

The Commission adopts a favourable opinion on the membership application of Portugal.

*June 6*

The Council decides in favour of Community membership application of Portugal and opens negotiations.

*June 29-30*

The Community opens negotiations with the USA on problems arising from the application of the Toxic Substances Control Act to Community products.

*July 1*

Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 6-7*

A European Council is held in Bremen, Germany. An agreement is reached on a common strategy to achieve a higher rate of economic growth in order to reduce unemployment and plan setting up a European Monetary System (EMS).

*July 13*

A joint statement is adopted on the status of the "Tokyo round".

*July 16-17*

The Community participates fully for the second time in the Western Economic Summit held in Bonn, Germany.

*July 24*

Negotiations for a new African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP)-EEC Convention to replace the Lome Convention expiring on March 1, 1980 officially opens at a ministerial meeting in Brussels.

*July 25*

The Council adopts the Decision setting 7 - 10 June 1979 as the dates on which the first direct elections to the European Parliament are to be held.

*September 26*

The Council adopts some cooperation agreements with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon and additional financial protocols with Israel, Portugal and Malta.

*September 27*

The Solomon islands deposit instruments of accession to the Lome Convention.

*October 9*

The representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting within the Council signed the Convention on the Accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom to the Convention on

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Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.

*October 24*

The new Convention on multi-lateral cooperation in the North West Atlantic is signed in Ottawa, Canada.

*November 1*

The Cooperation agreements with Maghreb countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) and the Mashreq countries (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon) and additional financial protocols with Israel, Portugal and Malta enter into force.

*November 9*

The Fourth Tripartite Conference attended by the ministers of finance, economic affairs and employment and the representatives of the two sides of industry takes place in Brussels, Belgium. The participants examine the Commission paper putting forward an overall strategy involving, in particular, the stimulation of growth intensified structural readaptation measures, certain work-sharing measures and, for the future, a greater role for the services sector.

*November 29*

The Commission gives a favourable opinion on the application for membership of Spain. Negotiations will open on February 5, 1979.

*December 4-5*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. It establishes the European Monetary System based on a European currency unit (the ECU) and decides to call in a committee of leading personalities to consider adjustments to institutional mechanisms and procedures in the context of enlargement.

*December 19*

The Representatives of the Governments of the Member States renew the terms of office of Mr. Jenkins as President of the Commission for the January 6, 1979 to January 5, 1981 period.

### **1979**

*January 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 17*

Tuvalu joins in the Lome convention becoming the 55th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*February 5*

Spanish accession negotiations formally open in Brussels.

*February 6*

The Council formally adopts the guidelines for the Community regional policy and the amendments to the 1975 Regulation establishing the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

*February 20*

Cassis de Dijon ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that consumers can access foodstuffs from other Member States on the sole condition that the product in question has been legally manufactured and commercialised in a given State and that no major issues regarding health or the environment are opposed to its import.

*February 26*

Dominica joins in the Lome convention becoming the 56th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*March 6-7*

The Commission attends, with an observer status, the first Conference of Ministers responsible for Social

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Security in the Council of Europe member countries.

*March 12-13*

A European Council meets in Paris, France. It settles March 13 as the date on which the European Monetary System (EMS) is to enter into force. It also discusses the economic and social situation, the common agricultural policy and energy.

*March 13*

The European Monetary System enters into force.

*March 16*

Jean Monnet dies.

*March 19-27/4*

The Community attends, with an observer status, the first part of the eighth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

*March 19-8/4*

A United Nations Conference of Plenipotentiaries meets and adopts a Constitution whereby the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) will become a specialised Agency.

*April 4*

The Commission adopts a memorandum on the accession of the European Communities to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

*April 12*

The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) multilateral trade negotiations (Tokyo Round) reach their final phase.

*May 7-3/6*

The Community, with an observer status, attends the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) held in Manila, Philippines.

*May 28*

The acts relating to Greece's accession to the Communities are signed in Athens, Greece.

*June 7-10*

The first elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage are held.

*June 15*

The first session of Spanish accession negotiations at deputy level is held.

*June 21-22*

A European Council meets in Strasbourg, France. The Council reaches an agreement to work out a joint energy strategy and it examines the problems linked to convergence of Member States' economic performances.

*June 28*

The Greek Parliament ratifies the Treaty of Accession. Santa Lucia joins in the Lome convention becoming the 57th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*June 28-29*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Tokyo, Japan.

*July 1*

Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 16-24/8*

The Community attends the second part of the eighth session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea.

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*July 17-20*

First part-session of the directly elected Parliament is held in Strasbourg, France. Ms Simone Veil is elected President by an absolute majority in the second ballot.

*July 25*

Meeting of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Council of Representatives.

*July 31*

The Commission transmits to the Council a Directive on the right of Member States' nationals to reside permanently in the territory of another Member State.

*September 18*

The thirty-fourth session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly opens. The President of the Council presents an outline of the stand taken by the Member States of the Community on the main agenda items. In particular he refers to the attitude of the Community and its Member States to a continuation of the dialogue between developed and developing countries, he stresses the importance of direct elections to the European Parliament and the importance of the European Monetary System (EMS).

*September 19*

The Community and its Member States sign a Council of Europe Convention on Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats.

*October 4*

The Court of Justice issues an advisory Opinion on Community powers in relation to international agreements with particular reference to the stabilisation agreement for natural rubber.

*October 30*

Kiribati joins in the Lome convention becoming the 58th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*October 31*

The second African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP)-EEC Convention is signed in Lome, Togo. (Lome II).

*November 20*

The Council endorses the results of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) multilateral trade negotiations.

*November 26-30*

At their annual meeting, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) Contracting Parties formally approve the "Tokyo Round" results by consensus.

*November 29-30*

A European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. The points discussed include: the convergence of Member States' economic performances and budgetary questions, the procedural arrangements for examining Committee of Wise Men's report on adjustments to institutional mechanisms and procedures and the proposals for regulation of agricultural markets.

*December 13*

The Parliament debates the results of the "Tokyo Round" and a series of Commission proposals on commercial policy.

*December 17*

The Community signs the "Tokyo Round" agreements.

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# History of EU

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## 1980

*January 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*February 27*

St Vincent and the Grenadines joins in the second Lome Convention becoming the 59th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*March 7-8*

Signature of the EEC-ASEAN (Association of south-east Asian Nations) Cooperation Agreement .

*April 2*

A cooperation Agreement signed between Community and Yugoslavia.

*April 27-28*

A European Council is held in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It discusses the problems linked with convergence and British contribution to the Community budget.

*May 9*

Thirtieth anniversary of the Schuman declaration.

*May 30*

The Council reaches a compromise agreement for the contribution of the United Kingdom to the Community budget.

*June 12-13*

A European Council is held in Venice, Italy. Four declarations are made public. One concerns the Middle East, the second the Euro-Arab dialogue, the third Lebanon and the fourth Afghanistan.

*July 1*

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*August 25-15/9*

Eleventh Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, devoted to development.

*September 16*

Opening of the 35th ordinary session of the United Nations General Assembly.

*September 18*

The framework cooperation agreement between the Community and Brazil is signed.

*October 1*

The EEC - Association of south-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) Cooperation Agreement comes into force.

*October 29-30*

Mr Roseingrave is elected President of the Economic and Social Committee.

*November 4*

Zimbabwe joins in the second Lome Convention becoming the 60th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*November 11*

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe opens in Madrid, Spain.

*November 12-13*

In Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Euro-Arab Dialogue is resumed at the political level.

*December 1-2*

A European Council is held in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It decides on the aids to be granted to Italy for reconstruction after the earthquake, on East-West relations, on the Middle East and

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on the aids to be granted to Poland.

### **1981**

*January 1*

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of The Council of the European Communities.

Greece becomes the 10th member of the European Community.

*January 20*

The new Commission, with Mr Thorn as its President, takes office.

*March 12*

The Parliament adopts its new regulation that will improve its internal functioning alongside bettering the taking into account of its advice and amendments.

*March 18*

The republic of Vanuatu joins in the second Lome Convention becoming the 61st African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*March 23-24*

A European Council is held in Maastricht, The Netherlands. It mainly discusses economic and social perspectives.

*March 30*

The Council decides to increase the European Court of Justice's number of judges and number of Advocates-general. 11 Judges and 5 Advocates-general will rule in the Court of Justice.

*April 26*

Presidential elections are held in France.

*May 26*

Legislative elections are held in The Netherlands.

*June 7 and 21*

Legislative elections are held in France.

*June 11*

Legislative elections are held in Ireland.

*June 23*

Signature of an agreement for commercial and economic cooperation between the Community and India.

*June 29-30*

A European Council is held in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It mainly discusses economic and social perspectives and relations between the Community, the USA and Japan.

*July 1*

The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 19-21*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Ottawa, Canada.

*September 1-14*

A United Nations Conference is held in Paris, France, on the least advanced Countries.

*October 18*

Legislative elections are held in Greece. At the same time the Greek people elect their members to the European parliament.

Mr Pierre Lelong is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

*October 22-23*

A North-South Summit is held in Cancun, Mexico. The urgency to reach a consensus on global United

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Nations negotiations is recognised.

*November 7*

France and the Federal Republic of Germany present the Genscher-Colombo Plan, a project of "European Act" to improve institutional mechanisms.

*November 8*

Legislative elections are held in Belgium.

*November 26-27*

A European Council is held in London, United Kingdom. It centres its discussions on the communications made by the Commission.

*December 8*

Legislative elections are held in Denmark.

### **1982**

*January 1*

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 19*

Pieter Dankert is elected President of the European Parliament.

*February 18*

Legislative elections are held in Ireland.

*February 23*

In a consultative referendum, Greenland, which became a member of the European Community as part of Denmark, opts for withdrawal from the Community.

*March 5*

Belize joins in the second Lome Convention becoming the 62nd African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*March 25*

Twenty-fifth anniversary of the signature of the Treaty of Rome.

*March 29-30*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*May 30*

Spain becomes the sixteenth member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

*June 4-6*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Versailles, France.

*June 28-29*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*July 1*

Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 30*

Antigua and Barbados joins in the second Lome Convention becoming the 63rd African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) State in the Convention.

*September 8*

Legislative elections are held in The Netherlands.

*September 15*

Parliament celebrates the 30th anniversary of the first sitting of the European Community of Steel and Coal (ECSC) Assembly.

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*October 1*

The framework agreement on cooperation between the Community and Brazil enters into force.

*October 28*

Legislative elections are held in Spain.

*November 24*

Legislative elections are held in Ireland.

*December 3-4*

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. It sets out some priority objectives in the economic and social fields and confirms its political engagement in favour of the enlargement.

**1983**

*January 1*

Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*February 7*

The Commission sends to the European Council a Green paper on the forthcoming financing of the Community.

*February 10*

The European Court of Justice rejects the request issued by the Luxembourgese government aiming at annulling a Parliament resolution concerning its working place.

*March 6*

Legislative elections are held in the Federal Republic of Germany.

*March 21-22*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. It confirms the priority objectives set out at the Copenhagen European Council of 1982, that is: the priority objectives set out for the economic and social fields and its political engagement in favour of the enlargement.

*April 27-28*

A special session of the European Parliament devoted to unemployment is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*May 28-31*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Williamsburg, USA. It issues a declaration on economic revival and a report defining the subject of future consultations between the finance ministers and the strengthening of monetary cooperation for growth and stability.

*June 3*

First joint meeting of the Ministers for Employment and Social Affairs and Ministers for Education.

*June 17-19*

A European Council is held in Stuttgart, Germany. Heads of State or Government and Foreign Ministers sign a Solemn Declaration on the European Union.

*June 20*

The Court of Auditors sends the Council a report on the overall analysis of Community management systems

*June 26*

Legislative elections are held in Italy.

*June 28*

A ceremony for the opening of the historical archives of the High Authority of the European Community of Coal and Steel (ECCS) to the public is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*July 1*

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Greece takes over, for the first time, the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 25*

The Council adopts a resolution on the framework programmes for Community research, development and demonstration activities and the first framework programme for 1984/87.

*September 14*

The European Deputy Altiero Spinelli presents to the European Parliament a draft treaty establishing the European Union.

*September 19*

The Council and the Education Ministers adopt a resolution on the measures relative to the introduction of new information technologies in the education.

*December 4-6*

A European Council is held in Athens, Greece. It presents some options on the forthcoming financing of the Commission, on the budgetary unbalances, on the adaptation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), on the strengthening of the Structural Funds and on the development of new Community policies.

*December 14*

The Council reaches an overall agreement on common fisheries policy.

*December 17*

An Economic cooperation agreement between the Community and the Andean Pact countries is signed in Cartagena, Colombia.

**1984**

*January 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 10*

Legislative elections are held in Denmark.

*February 14*

The draft Treaty on the establishment of the European Union (Spinelli draft) is passed by the European Parliament by a large majority.

*February 28*

The Council adopts decision on European strategic programme for Research and Development in information technology (Esprit).

*March 12*

The Council signs an agreement on future relations between Greenland and the Community.

*March 19-20*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. Agreements are reached in a number of areas, however, the vast majority can not be finalised given the disagreements on the calculation and the amount of compensation to be granted to the United Kingdom to reduce its contribution to the Community budget.

*April 9*

Inauguration in Culham, United Kingdom, of the Joint European Torus (JET) in the field of research on the peaceful use of atomic energy.

*June 7*

The Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States adopt a resolution on the reduction of border checks on people.

*June 7-9*

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A Western Economic Summit is held in London, United Kingdom. The seven Heads of State or Government and the representatives of the Community issue a declaration on the measures to be taken to consolidate the perceptible economic revival.

*June 14 and 17*

The second universal suffrage direct elections to the European Parliament are held.

*June 17*

Legislative elections are held in Luxembourg.

*June 19*

The Council adopts a Regulation on the reform of Regional Fund.

*June 25-26*

A European Council is held in Fontainebleau, France. The Ten reach an agreement on the amount of compensation to be granted to the United Kingdom to reduce its contribution to the Community budget.

*June 28*

The Commission sends to the European Council a Green paper on the development of the common market for telecommunications services and equipment.

*July 1*

Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 13*

The Franco-German Agreement on gradual abolition of border checks is signed in Saarbrücken, Germany.

*July 24*

Election of Pierre Pflimlin as new President of the Parliament.

*September 26*

A Commercial and economic cooperation agreement is initialled by China and the Community.

*October 9*

A cooperation agreement between the Community and the Yemen Republic is signed in Brussels.

*October 18*

Mr Marcel Mart is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

*November 8*

The Council decides to accelerate the tariff reduction forecast by the multilateral commercial negotiations (Tokyo Round).

*November 14*

For the first time the Parliament refuses to discharge the Commission on the execution of the Communities budget for 1982.

*December 3-4*

A European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. It decides to reinforce the European Monetary System (EMS) and to grant the ECU a more important role.

*December 8*

Third ACP-EEC Convention is signed in Lomé by the 10 Member States of the Community and their 65 partners of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States.

### **1985**

*January 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

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The first European passports are issued in most of the Member States.

*January 7*

The new Commission takes office with Jacques Delors, a Frenchman, as its President.

*February 1*

Greenland leaves the Community but remains associated with it as overseas territory.

*February 13*

Gravier ruling. The European Court of Justice applies the non discrimination based on nationality principle to a French student who, wanting to study comics art in Belgium, must not pay higher enrolment fees than national students.

*March 29-30*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. It accepts the adhesion of Spain and Portugal in the Communities and agrees on the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMP) as proposed by the Commission.

*May 7*

The eleventh Western Economic Summit is held in Bonn, Germany. The Commission presents two declarations, a political one in the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the end of WWII and an economic one on sustainable growth and employment.

*May 22*

The European Court of Justice rules on the action for failure to act submitted by the European Parliament against the European Council on the common transport policy.

*June 2*

Legislative elections are held in Greece.

*June 10*

The Committee of Governors of the Central Banks of the Member States adopts measures designed to strengthen the European Monetary System (EMS).

*June 12*

Signature of the Accession Treaties of Spain and Portugal.

*June 14*

The Commission sends to the European Council a White Paper titled "Completing the Internal Market: White Paper from the Commission to the European Council. The Schengen Agreement on the elimination of border controls is signed by Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in Schengen (Luxembourg).

*June 20*

"A People's Europe" ad hoc Committee transmits its final report to the European Council.

*June 25*

Presidential elections are held in Italy.

*June 28-29*

A European Council is held in Milan, Italy. The Heads of State or Government approve the Commission's White Paper on the internal market and decide to set up an Intergovernmental Conference to consider an institutional reform.

*July 1*

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 20*

The Ministers and Governors of Central Banks of Member States adjust central rates within the European

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Monetary System (EMS).

*July 22*

The Council approves the convening of a Conference of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States to make amendments to the European Economic Community Treaty and to draft a common foreign and security policy treaty.

*July 23*

The Commission sends to the European Council a Green paper on the perspectives for the common agricultural policy.

*September 9*

The first meeting of the Intergovernmental Conference is attended by Foreign Ministers of the Ten and Spain and Portugal.

*October 13*

Legislative elections are held in Belgium.

*November 12*

A cooperation agreement is signed between the European Economic Community and the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration and Panama contracting States.

*November 28*

The Economic and Social Committee adopts an opinion on the completion of the internal market (Commission's "Completing the Internal Market" White Paper).

*December 2-4*

A European Council is held in Luxembourg, grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Ten agree to amend the Treaty of Rome and to revitalise the process of European integration by drawing up a Single European Act.

### **1986**

*January 1*

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Spain and Portugal join the European Communities.

*January 26*

Presidential elections are held in Portugal.

*February 17 and 28*

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

*February 26*

Marshall ruling. The European Court of Justice clarifies the principle of equality of treatment between women and men, including the dismissal policy.

*March 16*

Legislative elections are held in France.

*April 30*

Nouvelles Frontières ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that the rules of the Treaties, including the competition ones, are applicable to the field of air transport.

*May 1*

Third ACP-EEC Convention, signed in Lome, Togo, on 8 December 1984, comes into force.

*May 4-6*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Tokyo, Japan.

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*May 21*

Legislative elections are held in The Netherlands.

*May 29*

The European flag, adopted by Community institutions, runs up for the first time in front of the Berlaymont building to the music of the European anthem.

*June 11*

The Parliament, the Council and the Commission sign a Joint Declaration against Racism and Xenophobia.

*June 22*

Legislative elections are held in Spain.

*June 26-27*

A European Council is held in The Hague, The Netherlands.

*July 1*

The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*September 15-20*

In Punta del Este, Uruguay, the Ministers of ninety-two nations agree to a new round of multilateral trade negotiations (Uruguay Round).

*December 23*

A European Council is held in London, United Kingdom. It looks closely into fight against terrorism, clandestine immigration and drugs trafficking.

**1987**

*January 1*

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 20*

Lord Henry Plumb is elected new President of the Parliament.

*January 25*

Legislative elections are held in the Federal Republic of Germany.

*February 17*

Legislative elections are held in Ireland.

*March 25*

An official celebration is held in Rome, Italy for the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaties of Rome.

*April 14*

The Turkish Government formally applies to join the European Communities.

*May 13*

The Bank of Spain signs an agreement to join the European Monetary System.

*May 26*

Following the results of the referendum on the ratification of the Single European Act held in Ireland, the Irish constitution is amended in order to allow Ireland to ratify the Single Act and to deposit the instruments of ratification.

*June 8-10*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Venice, Italy.

*June 10*

European elections are held in Spain.

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*June 11*

Legislative elections are held in the United Kingdom.

*June 14*

Legislative elections are held in Italy.

*June 29-30*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. It examines the various aspects of the communication on the Single Act.

*July 1*

Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Single European Act enters into force.

*July 19*

European and legislative elections are held in Portugal.

*July 20*

The Council modifies its internal regulations as far as the triggering of the voting procedure is concerned. Besides opening a voting procedure by its own initiative, the President of the Council must open it upon initiative of a Member of the Council or the Commission, provided that the majority of the Members of the Council agree.

*September 8*

Legislative elections are held in Denmark.

*September 12*

The Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs adopt some measures to strengthen the European Monetary System (EMS).

*September 28*

The Council adopts the 1987-1991 research and technological development framework programme.

*November 10*

The Bank of Portugal signs an agreement to join the European Monetary System (EMS).

*December 4-5*

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. It decides to continue the examination, in February 1988, of the different aspects of the plan for giving effect to the Single Act.

*December 13*

Legislative elections are held in Belgium.

**1988**

*January 1*

Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*February 2*

A Ministerial meeting between the Community, its Member States and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States to discuss the internal market is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*February 11-13*

A European Council is held in Brussels. It reaches an agreement on all conclusions relating to "The Single Act: A new frontier for Europe" dossier.

*March 29*

The Commission publishes the results of "Europe 1992 - The overall challenge" a study carried out at its request by a group of independent experts to assess the advantages of the single market.

*April 24 and 8/5*

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## History of EU

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Presidential elections are held in France.

*May 10*

Legislative elections are held in Denmark.

*June 5 and 12*

Legislative elections are held in France.

*June 14*

The Commission presents the European Council with a Green Paper entitled "Copyright and the challenge of technology - Copyright issues requiring immediate action".

*June 15*

A cooperation agreement is signed between the Community and the members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf; a joint political declaration is published.

*June 19-21*

A Western Economic Summit is held in Toronto, Canada.

*June 27-28*

A European Council is held in Hanover, Germany. It stresses out the importance of the social aspects of progress towards the objectives of 1992, it voices over the dangers threatening the environment and appoints a committee to lead to the monetary union; it also agrees to reappoint Jacques Delors as President of the Commission.

*July 1*

Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Interinstitutional Agreement on budgetary discipline and improvement of the budgetary procedure, approved in June, enters into force.

*September 26*

A Trade and economic cooperation agreement between the Community and Hungary is signed in Brussels. The European Council adopts a declaration regarding the American law on trade and competitiveness (the "Trade Act"). It expresses its preoccupations about the protectionist potential of the law.

*October 7*

The Community ratifies the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

*October 12-13*

Opening of negotiations for the renewal of the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) - European Economic Community convention.

*October 24*

The European Council adopts a decision establishing a Court of First Instance of the European Communities.

*December 2-3*

A European Council is held in Rhodes, Greece. It takes stock of progress towards 1992, emphasising the significance of work on environmental protection and the importance of developing Europe's audiovisual capacity.

**1989**

*January 1*

Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*February 2*

Cowan ruling. The European Court of Justice rules on the principle of non-discrimination based on

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nationality. It grants the same compensation benefits to a British tourist who was attacked in the Paris tube, as the one that would have been granted to a national.

*March 13*

Tenth anniversary of the European Monetary System.

*April 5-6*

End of the Uruguay Round mid-term review and adoption of further negotiation frameworks.

*April 12*

The Delors Committee presents the report on the economic and monetary union. The Parliament adopts the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.

*June 15*

General elections are held in Ireland.

*June 15-18*

Universal suffrage direct elections to the European Parliament are held for the third time.

*June 18*

General elections are held in Greece.

General elections are held in Luxembourg.

*June 19*

The Spanish peseta enters the European Monetary System (EMS) exchange-rate mechanism; the composition of the ECU is adjusted following the inclusion of the Spanish peseta and the Portuguese escudo.

*June 26-27*

A European Council is held in Madrid, Spain. It adopts conclusions on economic and monetary union, emphasises the need for balance to be struck between social and economic aspects of a single market and confirms that the environment is a priority issue. Under political cooperation procedures, it also adopts two major declarations on the situation in the Middle East and China.

*July 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 14-16*

The Western Economic Summit is held in Paris, France. It asks the Commission to coordinate the necessary measures to assist economic restructuring in Poland and Hungary.

*July 17*

Austria formally applies to join the European Community.

*September 6*

General elections are held in The Netherlands.

*September 19*

The trade and commercial and economic cooperation agreement between the Community and Poland signed in Warsaw, Poland.

*October 2*

An audiovisual Conference is held in Paris, France. It concludes with a joint declaration, by 26 European countries and the Commission, on setting up the "Audiovisual Eureka" to increase productivity and competitiveness of the European audiovisual sector through closer cooperation.

*October 29*

Legislative elections are held in Spain.

*November 5*

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Legislative elections are held in Greece.

*November 9*

The Berlin Wall collapses. The German Democratic Republic opens its borders.

*December 8-9*

A European Council is held in Strasbourg, France. It decides to convene an Intergovernmental Conference before 1990 to draw up amendment to the Treaty for the final stages of economic and monetary union. Heads of State or Government of 11 Member States adopt the Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.

*December 15*

The new African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) - European Economic Community Convention between the Twelve and the 69 ACP countries is signed in Lome, Togo.

*December 18*

An agreement on trade and commercial and economic cooperation between the Community and the Soviet Union is signed in Brussels, Belgium.

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## 1990

*January 1*

Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*January 9*

Mr Aldo Angioi is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

*February 21*

The Commission meets for the 1000th time.

*March 7*

GB-Inno-BM ruling. The European Court of Justice declares that a national legislation refusing access to any advertisement that is legally available in the country of purchase, is contrary to the "freedom of movement of goods" principle.

*April 2*

The European Community and Argentina sign a framework agreement on commercial and economic cooperation.

*April 28*

A Special European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. It agrees on a common approach on German unification and on the Community relations with Central and Eastern European countries.

*May 7*

The European Council settles the creation of the European Training Foundation and adopts a regulation relative to the creation of the European Environment Agency.

*May 9*

40th anniversary of the Schuman declaration.

*May 22*

The European Court of Justice rules that the European Parliament can be referred to the Court of Justice by other institutions and that other institutions can be referred to the Court of Justice by the European Parliament if they call into question institutional equilibrium. These principles will later be inserted in the Maastricht Treaty.

*May 29*

The Agreement establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to provide financial support to Central and Eastern Europe countries is signed in Paris, France.

*June 6*

The European Commission presents a Green Paper on Urban Environment.

*June 19*

The Schengen Agreement on the elimination of border checks is signed by the Benelux countries, France and Germany.

*June 20*

The EEC and EFTA start formal negotiations for the creation of the European Economic Area (EEA).

*June 25-26*

A European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. It confirms the need to open two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on the aspects of Political Union, and to hold them in parallel.

*July 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The first phase of the

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Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) comes into force. Four Member States (Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland) are granted an exceptional regime given their insufficient progress towards financial integration.

*July 4*

Cyprus formally applies to join the European Communities.

*July 16*

Malta formally applies to join the European Communities.

*October 3*

Germany is unified, and the Lander of the former East Germany become part of the EU.

*October 27-28*

A special European Council is held in Rome, Italy. It finalises the preparation of the two intergovernmental conferences one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on the aspects of Political Union.

*November 19-21*

A meeting is held in Paris, France. Thirty-four Heads of State or Government of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sign a Charter for a new Europe.

*November 27*

Italy signs the Schengen agreement.

*December 2*

Legislative elections are held in the Federal Republic of Germany.

*December 4*

The European Council adopts the transitory measures agreed upon within the framework of German reunification.

*December 12*

Legislative elections are held in Denmark.

*December 14-15*

A European Council is held in Rome, Italy. The two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union, the other on Political Union, are launched.

**1991**

*January 1*

Luxembourg takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*March 18*

Opening of the 7th ministerial Conference between the Community and its Member States and Central American Countries plus the cooperating countries Panama, Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, is held in Managua, Nicaragua. The Conference is centered on political dialogue and economic cooperation (San Jose VII).

*April 8*

The European Council holds an informal meeting in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, to examine problems in the Middle-east deriving from the Gulf crisis. It decides on urgent humanitarian aid to be granted for Kurdish and other refugees.

*April 14*

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is inaugurated in London, United Kingdom.

*June 4*

The Council of Health Ministers adopt the action plan titled "Europe against AIDS".

*June 19*

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## History of EU

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The Opening of the first session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Council is held in Berlin, Germany.

*June 28-29*

An European Council is held in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. It confirms the need to conduct the proceedings of the two Intergovernmental Conferences, centered on Economic and Monetary Union and on the aspects of Political Union, in parallel on the basis of the draft Treaty prepared by the Presidency.

*July 1*

The Netherlands take over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Sweden formally applies to join the European Communities.

*July 15-17*

The seventeenth Occidental Economic Summit is held in London, United Kingdom. Participants agree to hold annual meetings with the Soviet Union and define a support plan for it. They also agree on opening their markets to products and services from Eastern European countries and they commit to successfully end the Uruguay Round negotiations.

*July 22*

The Council provides financial aid for Israel and the Palestinian population of the Occupied Territories.

*July 25*

Stoeckel ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that the dispositions of the French labour legislation forbidding women to work during the night in the industry sector, is contrary to the equality of treatment between women and men with regard to access to employment.

*August 22*

Failed coup in the Soviet Union.

*September 1*

The fourth Lome Convention, on the development of the relations between the Community and the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) States, enters into force.

*September 7*

The opening of the Peace Conference on Yugoslavia is held in The Hague, The Netherlands.

*October 21*

The Council reaches an agreement on the establishment of the European Economic Area (EEA).

*October 30-14/11*

The Middle East Peace Conference opens in Madrid, Spain. The Community is entrusted the leading role in the forthcoming multi-lateral negotiations.

*November 6*

The Commission decides to set up an European Humanitarian Aid Office.

*November 7*

The Council agrees on reducing the Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) States debt.

*November 19*

Francovich ruling. The European Court of Justice affirms that a Member State injuring a private individual by violating Community law must pay compensation.

*November 26*

The Community accedes to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) becoming the first organisation for economic integration to enjoy full membership of a United Nations specialised agency.

*December 9-10*

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## History of EU

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A European Council is held in Maastricht, The Netherlands. It reaches an agreement on the draft Treaty on the European Union.

*December 16*

"Europe Agreements" are signed with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

*December 17*

The European Energy Charter is signed.

*December 21*

The Presidents of the Republics of the Soviet Union, except Georgia, sign in Alma Ata, Kazakhstan, an agreement creating the Independent States Community (ISC).

*December 25*

Mr Gorbachev, President of the Soviet Union, resigns.

### **1992**

*January 1*

Portugal takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*February 3*

The Council adopts positive measures to help Croatia, Slovenia, the Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

*February 7*

The Treaty on the European Union is signed in Maastricht by the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Member States.

*February 19*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the impact of transport on the environment.

*March 18*

Finland formally applies to join the European Communities.

*April 4*

The Escudo enters the exchange-rate mechanism of European Monetary System.

*May 2*

An agreement on the European Economic Area signed in Porto, Portugal.

*May 20*

Switzerland formally applies to join the European Communities.

*June 2*

A referendum is held in Denmark, the people vote against the ratification of the Treaty on the European Union.

*June 3-14*

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) is held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Community takes part in it and signs some international Conventions on Global Climate Change and Biological Diversity.

*June 18*

A referendum is held in Ireland, the people vote in favour of the ratification of the Treaty on the European Union.

*June 26-27*

A European Council is held in Lisbon, Portugal. It underlines importance of respecting timetable for the ratification of the Treaty on the European Union.

*July 1*

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## History of EU

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The United Kingdom takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 2*

Luxembourg ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*July 6-8*

The eighteenth Occidental Economic Summit is held in Munich, Germany. The members of the seven most industrialised countries in the world look into the definition of a new partnership with the rest of Europe and the world, based on the progressive rooting of common values.

*July 31*

Greece ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*August 7*

The Council adopts a regulation on the extension of the economic aid programme (PHARE) to Slovenia.

*August 25*

An International conference on former Yugoslavia opens in London, United Kingdom.

*September 20*

A referendum is held in France, the people vote in favour of the ratification of the Treaty on the European Union.

*October 7*

The Commission grants further emergency aid for the victims of war in former Yugoslavia.

*October 12-13*

A Donor's Conference for aid to Somalia is held in Geneva, Switzerland. The Community participates in view of its future donations.

*October 16*

An extra-ordinary European Council is held in Birmingham, United Kingdom. It adopts a declaration titled "A Community close to its citizens".

*October 26*

Italy ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*November 4*

Belgium ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*November 25*

Norway formally applies to join the European Communities. Spain ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*December 2*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on the future development of the common transport policy.

*December 6*

A referendum is held in Switzerland, the people vote against the ratification of the Agreement establishing an European Economic Area.

*December 11*

Portugal ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*December 11-12*

The European Council is held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom. It offers Denmark special arrangements to enable it to hold a second referendum on the ratification of the Treaty. It endorses the Delors II package and agrees that accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden and Finland will start on January 1st.

*December 15*

The Netherlands ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

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# History of EU

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*December 18*

Germany ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*December 21*

Mr Andre Middelhoek is elected President of the Court of Auditors

*December 23*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper titled "Pluralism and Media Concentration in the Internal Market - An assessment of the need for Community action".

**1993**

*January 1*

Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities

The Single European Market enters into force.

*February 1*

Negotiations on accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden open in Brussels. Europe Agreement on trade-related matters signed with Romania.

*March 8*

Europe Agreement on trade signed with Bulgaria.

*April 5*

Negotiations on accession of Norway open in Luxembourg.

*May 14*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on remedying environmental damage.

*May 18*

In a second referendum, the Danish people vote in favour of the Treaty on European Union.

*June 19-24*

The Community takes part in the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights.

*June 21-22*

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark. The Council instructs the Commission to prepare a White Paper on long-term strategy to promote growth, competitiveness and employment; it confirms that accession of Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway is to be accomplished by 1995 and it assures associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe that they will become full members as soon as they satisfy the requisite political and economic conditions.

*July 1*

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

*July 7-9*

A G7 summit is held in Tokyo, Japan.

*July 19*

The Council adopts a new Tacis Programme for Independent States of the former Soviet Union.

*August 2*

The United Kingdom ratifies the Treaty on the European Union.

*September 29*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on European dimension of education.

*October 8-9*

The Community attends the Vienna Summit organised by the Council of Europe.

*October 20*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on guarantees for consumer goods and after-sales services.

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# History of EU

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*October 25*

An interinstitutional conference is held in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The Council, the Commission and the Parliament adopt a declaration on democracy, transparency and subsidiarity; they approve the Parliament's draft Decision on general conditions of the Ombudsman's duties and text on working methods of Conciliation Committee under co-decision procedure.

*October 29*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. The Council issues a declaration to mark the entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union, it confirms that the second phase of economic and monetary union will come into effect on 1 January 1994 and it identifies several matters for joint action to be undertaken by the Union under common foreign and security policy. A decision is also taken on the location of several Community offices and agencies.

*November 1*

All ratification procedures are completed; the Treaty on the European Union enters into force.

*November 16*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on access of Consumers to justice and the settlement of consumer disputes.

*November 17*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on European Social policy options for the Union.

*December 5*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment entitled: The challenges and ways forward into the 21st century.

*December 6*

The Council and the Commission reach agreement on code of conduct governing public access to official documents.

*December 9*

Boris Yeltsin, Jacques Delors and Jean Luc Dehaene, President of the European Council, sign a declaration on strengthening relations between the Russian Federation and the European Union, particularly in the political field.

*December 10-11*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. It draws up an action plan for the short and medium term, 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 convene a conference to conclude a stability pact for Central and Eastern Europe.

*December 13*

The Council concludes an agreement creating the European Economic Area.

*December 15*

The delegations of the States participating in the Uruguay Round (GATT) negotiations sign an agreement in Geneva opening way for most extensive liberalisation in history of world trade.

**1994**

*January 1*

Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Stage II of economic and monetary union begins and the European Monetary Institute (EMI) is established.

The agreement establishing the European Economic Area (EEA) enters into force.

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## History of EU

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*February 19*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report concerning controls of irregularities and frauds in the agricultural area.

*March 9-10*

The Committee of the Regions, set up by the Treaty on the European Union, holds inaugural session. Jacques Blanc is elected Chairman.

*March 29*

An informal meeting of Foreign Ministers is held in Ioannina. A compromise decision is adopted on rules for qualified-majority decision-making in preparation for the enlargement.

*March 30*

Accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway conclude in Brussels.

*March 31*

Hungary formally applies to join the European Union.

*April 5*

Poland formally applies to join the European Union.

*April 6*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the Union's audiovisual policy.

*April 15*

The final Act of the Uruguay Round (GATT) negotiations is signed in Marrakech, Morocco.

*April 19*

The Council decides on joint action under common foreign and security policy in support of the Middle East peace process.

*April 26*

The Parliament and the Council adopt the fourth framework programme on research, development and demonstration (1994-1998).

*May 25*

The board of Governors of the European Investment Bank establishes the European Investment Fund.

*May 26-27*

An inaugural conference for a Stability Pact for Central and Eastern Europe is held in Paris, France.

*June 9-12*

Direct elections to the European Parliament are held for the fourth time.

*June 12*

A referendum is held in Austria, the majority is in favour of accession to the European Union.

*June 14*

A partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Union and Ukraine is signed in Luxembourg.

*June 24-25*

An European Council is held 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, Sweden, Finland and Norway are signed. A new partnership and co-operation agreement between the European Communities, the Member States and Russia is signed.

*July 1*

Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 8-10*

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## History of EU

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The twentieth Western Economic Summit is held in Naples, Italy.

*July 14*

Faccini Dori ruling. The European Court of Justice affirms that a Member State injuring a private individual by omitting to transpose a directive in its national law must pay compensation provided that certain conditions are satisfied.

*July 15*

An extraordinary meeting of the European Council is held in Brussels: Jacques Santer is chosen to succeed Jacques Delors as President of the Commission.

*July 18*

Free-trade agreements are signed in Brussels with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

*July 19-26*

The new European Parliament holds first part-session in Strasbourg. Mr. Klaus Hansch is elected President. Mr Santer is formally appointed as next President of the European Commission.

*July 27*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on the European Social policy.

*October 10*

A cooperation agreement between the Community and South Africa is signed. A conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) opens in Budapest, Hungary.

*October 16*

A referendum is held in Finland, the majority is in favour of accession to the European Union.

*October 25*

The Commission adopts the first part of the Green Paper on liberalisation of telecommunications infrastructure and cable television networks.

*November 13*

A referendum is held in Sweden, the majority is in favour of accession to the European Union.

*November 15*

The European Monetary Institute Council meets for the first time in Frankfurt.

*November 28*

The Norwegian referendum rejects accession to the European Union.

*November 29*

The Parliament, the Council and the Commission adopt the financial perspective 1995-99 adjusted to take account of enlargement.

*November 30*

The Council adopts a first joint action in the area of cooperation in the fields of Justice and Home affairs.

*December 6*

The Council adopts Leonardo da Vinci Programme in vocational training and first resolution under Social Policy Protocol.

*December 9-10*

The European Council held in Essen, Germany lays down lines of action for strengthening strategy of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment with special reference to measures to combat unemployment and to bring trans-European networks into operation; it agrees on an overall strategy to bring the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe closer to the Community and reiterates its determination to establish an Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It approves the principle of a multi-annual aid programme for Northern Ireland

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## History of EU

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*December 15-16*

The Council adopts a conclusion on the Community strategy for reducing CO2 emissions and on environment and transport. It also adopts a regulation on the substances which deplete the ozone layer and a directive on the incineration of hazardous waste.

*December 17*

The treaty on European Energy Charter is signed in Lisbon.

**1995**

*January 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the European Union.

*January 23*

Following the Parliament's vote of approval on 18 January, the representatives of the Governments of the Member States appoint President and Members of the European Commission for a five-year term.

*January 25*

The Commission adopts the second part of the Green Paper on liberalisation of telecommunications infrastructure and cable television networks.

*February 1*

The Commission adopts the second part of the Green Paper on liberalisation of telecommunications infrastructure and cable television networks.

*February 23*

Bordessa ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that citizens may export banknotes, coins and cheques without previous authorisation.

*February 25-26*

The G7 Ministerial Conference on Information Society is held in Brussels. On that occasion "Europa", the European Union web site, is launched.

*March 8*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report on the cohesion financial instrument.

*March 14*

The Council and the Parliament sign the Socrates Programme in the field of education.

*March 20-21*

The Stability Pact for Central and Eastern Europe is signed and adopted in Paris.

*March 26*

The Schengen Agreement comes into force between Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

*April 4*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the role of the Union in the field of tourism.

*April 9*

Liechtenstein ratifies its accession in the European Economic Area by referendum.

*April 10*

The Council adopts a report on the functioning of the Treaty on the European Union in preparation for the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

*April 21*

The Committee of the Regions adopts an own-initiative opinion on preparations for the 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.

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## History of EU

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*April 28*

Austria signs the Schengen agreement.

*May 1*

Liechtenstein participates in the European Economic Area.

*May 3*

The Commission approves the Info 2000 programme to stimulate the development of a European multimedia content industry in the emerging information society.

*May 3-10*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on preparing the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe for integration into the European Union internal Market.

*May 11*

The Treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons is extended for an unlimited period (joint action under common foreign and security policy).

*May 31*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the practical arrangements for the introduction of the single currency.

*June 12*

European Association Agreements are signed with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

*June 15*

The 21st G7 summit is held in Halifax, Canada.

*June 22*

Romania applies to join the European Union.

*June 27*

Slovakia applies to join the European Union.

*June 26-27*

A European Council is held in Cannes, France. An overall agreement on external financing including financing arrangements for the eight European Development Fund (EDF) for Africa, Caribbean Pacific (ACP) States is reached. The transition to a single currency by 1 January 1999 is confirmed.

*July 1*

Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 12*

The European Parliament appoints Jacob Soderman, a Finn, as Ombudsman of the European Union.

*July 17*

An interim agreement with Russia, an Euro-Mediterranean agreement with Tunisia and a cooperation agreement with Vietnam are signed.

*July 19*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on copyright and related rights in information society and on "utility models" (legal protection of intellectual property).

*July 26*

The Member States sign the Europol Convention for police cooperation.

*September 13*

The fourth world conference on Women opens in Beijing, China.

*September 25*

The Member States adopt a list of non-member countries whose nationals must be in possession of a

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## History of EU

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visa to enter the European Union.

*October 17*

Kalanke ruling. The European Court of Justice considers that a measure guaranteeing automatic priority to women in promotions is beyond the equality of treatment between women and men principle and is thus discriminatory based on gender.

*October 27*

Latvia formally applies to join the European Union.

*November 7*

A new Euratom-US agreement on peaceful use of nuclear energy is signed.

*November 20*

A Cooperation Agreement is signed with Nepal. The Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement is signed with Israel.

*November 27*

Estonia formally applies to join the European Union.

*November 27-28*

The Euro-Mediterranean Conference is held in Barcelona.

*November 29*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on citizens' network (urban transport) and a White Paper on education and training.

*December 12*

Lithuania formally applies to join the European Union.

*December 13*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on energy policy for the European Union.

*December 14*

The Dayton peace agreement for Former Yugoslavia is signed in Paris.

*December 15*

Bosman ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that football federation rules restricting the number of foreign players in football teams and those relative to players' transfers are contrary to Community law.

*December 15-16*

A European Council is held in Madrid, Spain. It sets March 29, 1996 as the starting date for the Intergovernmental Conference and confirms the introduction of the single currency ("euro") for January 1st, 1999.

*December 20-21*

The European Commission and the World Bank organise a meeting in Brussels of donor countries and organisations for the reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### **1996**

*January 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Customs Union between EU and Turkey enters into force.

*January 17*

The Czech Republic formally applies to join the European Union.

*January 18*

Mr Bernhard Friedmann is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

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## History of EU

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*January 31*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on review of Merger Control Regulation.

*February 1*

The interim agreements with Russia and Ukraine enter into force.

*February 26*

An Euro-Mediterranean association agreement is signed with Morocco.

*March 1-2*

A European Union -Asia summit is held in Bangkok, Thailand.

*March 5*

"Brasserie du pecheur" and "Factortame" rulings. The European Court of Justice specifies when a Member State violating Community law can be held responsible for the damages caused to a private individual.

*March 6*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on air traffic control and a Green Paper on legal protection for encrypted services.

*March 27*

The Commission adopts a decision on urgent measures to be taken for protection against BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). It imposes a worldwide export ban on British beef and beef products.

*March 29*

The opening of the Intergovernmental Conference to revise the Maastricht Treaty is held in Turin, Italy. The European Council defines its agenda.

*April 1-2*

A G7 conference on employment is held in Lille, France.

*April 19-20*

A G7+1 meeting on nuclear safety is held in Moscow, Russia

*April 22*

The European Union signs partnership and co-operation agreements with Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

*May 8*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on commercial communications in the single market.

*May 13*

The Council adopts a EU action plan for Russia.

*May 22*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on financial services.

*May 23*

Hedley Lomas ruling. The European Court of Justice affirms that a Member State violating Community law by refusing to issue an export licence to a private individual must pay compensation.

*June 1*

The cooperation agreements with Vietnam and Nepal enter into force.

*June 10*

Slovenia formally applies to join the European Union.

*June 14-15*

A tripartite conference on Growth and Employment involving the Community institutions, the Member States and the social partners is held in Rome, Italy.

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## History of EU

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*June 21*

The cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan and Chile are signed.

*June 21-22*

The European Council is held in Florence, Italy. It spells out the objectives and the agenda of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC), it endorses the framework plan presented by the Commission for eradication of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and it resolves the problem of the Court of Justice's authority to interpret the Europol Convention.

*June 25*

The Council adopts the new TACIS regulation on assistance to New Independent States and Mongolia for 1996-1999.

*June 27-29*

A G7 summit is held in Lyon, France. Three documents are adopted: a declaration on terrorism, an economic communique entitled "Making a success of globalisation for the benefit of all" and a statement from the chair entitled "Towards greater security and stability in a more cooperative world".

*July 1*

Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 24*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper entitled "Living and working in the information society: people first" and a Green Paper on the role, position and liability of the statutory auditor.

*July 25*

The Council adopts a regulation concerning the aids granted for the reconstruction of the republics of former Yugoslavia.

*July 30*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on the strategy to follow for revitalising EU railway .

*September 16-17*

Following the world solar summit held in Harare, Zimbabwe, participants launch a world solar programme for 1996-2005.

*September 27*

The 15 European Union Member States sign a convention on extradition and a protocol on protection of the European Union's financial interests. The Council adopts the corresponding acts.

*October 1*

The Council agrees on a Community action for a total ban on anti-personnel landmines.

*October 2*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper entitled "Education, Training and research: the obstacles to Trans-national mobility".

*October 5*

A Special European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. Heads of State or Government confirm the timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).

*October 13*

Austria holds European Parliament elections for the first time.

*October 14*

The Finnish Mark joins the EMS exchange rate mechanism.

*October 20*

Finland holds European Parliament elections for the first time.

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## History of EU

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*October 28*

A cooperation agreement is signed between the European Union and the Republic of Korea.

*November 4*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the future noise policy.

*November 7-9*

A European Conference on rural development is held in Cork, Ireland.

*November 11*

The Council adopts a common action for sustaining the democratic process in Zaire, Africa.

*November 20*

The Commission adopts three Green Papers on the relations between the European Union and the African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) states, a numbering policy for telecommunication services, a Community strategy for developing renewable energies.

*November 25*

The Italian Lira re-enters the EMS exchange rate mechanism.

*November 27*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper entitled on public procurement in the European Union.

*December 4-5*

At the London Conference centered on implementing peace agreements in Former Yugoslavia, a plan to consolidate peace is adopted.

*December 9-13*

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial conference is held in Singapore and concludes with an agreement on information technology products.

*December 10*

The Euro-Mediterranean interim agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is initialed.

*December 13-14*

A European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. It reaches agreement on the various elements necessary for introduction of the single currency (legal framework, stability pact, new exchange rate mechanism), adopts the Dublin declaration on employment and confirms timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).

*December 16*

A Transatlantic Summit between the European Union and the USA is held in Washington, USA.

*December 19*

Denmark, Finland and Sweden sign the Schengen agreement.

**1997**

*January 1*

The Netherlands take over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*January 22*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on vertical restraints in the EC competition policy.

*February 15*

An agreement is reached on basic telecommunications services within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework.

*February 19*

The Parliament adopts a resolution on results of temporary committee of inquiry into bovine spongiform

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## History of EU

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encephalopathy (BSE).

*February 24*

The European Commission and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) adopt a joint statement establishing regular political dialogue and sign an Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement for five years.

*March 25*

A commemorative ceremony is held in the Capitol, Rome, Italy, for the 40th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome.

*March 26*

The parties involved in the Commercial agreement on information technology products within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework, draw up the definitive list of their commitments.

*April 16*

The Commission adopts the Green Paper titled "Partnership for a new organisation of work".

*April 17*

Equal pension rights for widows and widowers: The European Court of Justice extends the principle of equal treatment of women and men to the granting of survivors' pensions under occupational insurance schemes.

*April 24*

The Africa, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) - UE Council of Ministers adopts a decision approving the protocol governing accession of South Africa to the Lome Convention.

*April 29*

The EU signs co-operation agreements with Cambodia and Laos.

*May 6*

The Commission adopts its 1997-1998 anti-fraud work programme.

*May 12*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report on European Union humanitarian aid between 1992 and 1995.

*May 26*

The Council establishes a convention on the service of judicial and extra-judicial documents in civil or commercial matters. The Council establishes a convention on the fight against corruption involving officials.

*June 2*

The Council adopts a regulation establishing a European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia. The Council adopts a common position defining the strategy of the Union as regards Albania.

*June 4*

The Commission adopts an action plan for the Single Market.

*June 10*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on supplementary pensions in the Single Market.

*June 16-17*

The European Council meets in Amsterdam and reaches a consensus on a draft Treaty. It approves various proposals facilitating the smooth passage to the third phase of the Economic and Monetary Union, adopts a resolution on growth and employment and clears the way for launching the enlargement process.

*June 24*

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## History of EU

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The Commission adopts a Green paper on Community patent and patent system in Europe.

*July 1*

Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 16*

The Commission presents the "Agenda 2000 - for a stronger and wider Europe" and its opinions on the applications of 10 Central European countries.

*July 22*

The Western European Union (WEU) Extra-ordinary Council adopts a declaration, to be annexed to the final Act of the Amsterdam Treaty, on its role and its relations with the EU and the Atlantic Alliance.

*July 23-24*

The third international Donor's Conference for reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina is held in Brussels.

*October 2*

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the European Union sign the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*October 20*

The Commission adopts the final report to the Parliament's temporary committee of inquiry monitoring recommendations on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

*November 11*

Marschall vs Land Nordrhein-Westfalen ruling. The European Court of Justice judges that a national law which guarantees priority for women in promotions in the public sector, in cases where there are male and female candidates who are equally qualified for the post in question, does not conflict with Community law provided that certain conditions are satisfied.

*November 21-22*

An Extraordinary European Council on employment is held in Luxembourg. Guidelines for Member States' employment policies in 1998 are agreed upon.

*November 26*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on renewable energy sources.

*December 1-10*

An international conference on climatic change is held in Kyoto, Japan and concludes with undertaking by industrialised countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*December 3*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on convergence in the communications, media and information technology sectors. An International convention on anti-personnel landmines is signed in Ottawa, Canada.

*December 4*

The Council agrees to ban tobacco advertising.

*December 8*

The European Union and Mexico sign an agreement on economic partnership, political co-ordination and co-operation.

*December 12*

An agreement is reached on financial services within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) framework.

*December 12-13*

The European Council meets in Luxembourg and takes the decisions needed to launch the enlargement process. It also adopts a resolution on economic policy co-ordination.

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# History of EU

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## 1998

*January 1*

The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.  
The Cooperation agreement with the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia enters into force.

*February 1*

The Europe Agreements with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania enter into force.

*March 1*

The Partnership and cooperation agreement with Ukraine and Euro-Mediterranean association agreement with Tunisia enters into force.

*March 12*

A European Conference is held in London hosting the 15 Member States and the countries who formally requested access to the EU.

*March 16*

The Drachma enters the European Monetary System (EMS) exchange rate mechanism.

*March 25*

The Commission adopts the convergence report and recommends that 11 Member States adopt the euro on 1 January 1999.

*March 30*

A Ministerial meeting launches accession process for the 10 Central and Eastern European applicant countries and Cyprus.

*April 2*

Greenpeace ruling. The European Court of Justice specifies under which conditions individuals, or the associations representing them, are qualified to request the annulment of a decision taken by the Commission.

*April 3-4*

The Second Europe-Asia Summit is held in London, United Kingdom.

*April 28*

Kohll vs "Union des Caisses de Maladie" and Decker vs "Caisse de Maladie des Employes Privés" ruling. The European Court of Justice decrees that Community nationals may obtain medical treatment in another Member State and be reimbursed in accordance with the tariffs of the state in which they are insured.

*April 29*

The Kyoto Protocol on climate change is signed in New York, USA.

*April 30*

Peace agreement on Northern Ireland.

*May 1*

The Framework cooperation agreement between the European Community and the members of Cartagena Agreement enters into force.

*May 3*

A special Council decides that 11 Member States satisfy conditions for adoption of the single currency on 1 January 1999. Following this decision, the Council adopts two regulations on technical specifications of euro coins and introduction of the euro, the ministers and Central Bank governors of Member States adopting the euro as their single currency. The Commission and the European Monetary Institute set out conditions for determination of the irrevocable conversion rates for the euro.

## History of EU

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*May 7*

Germany deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*May 12*

Martinez Sala vs Freistaat Bayern ruling. The European Court of Justice rules that nationals of a Member State can rely on their European citizenship for protection against discrimination on grounds of nationality by another Member State.

*May 15*

Sweden deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*May 15-17*

A G8 Summit is held in Birmingham, United Kingdom.

*May 25*

The Council adopts a common position on human rights, democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance in Africa

*May 26*

The Governments of the Member States adopting the single currency appoint by common agreement the president, the vice-president and the other members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.

*June 1*

Establishment of the European Central Bank. An agreement amending the fourth Lome Convention following mid-term review, including new financial protocol and the protocol governing accession of South Africa to the Convention enters into force.

*June 8-10*

A special session of the United Nations' General Assembly on drugs is held in New York.

*June 15*

The United Kingdom deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*June 15-16*

A European Council is held in Cardiff, UK. The Council sets out essential elements of the European Union strategy for further economic reform to promote growth, prosperity, jobs and social inclusion. It identifies concrete ways of bringing the Union closer to the people, establishes guidelines and time frame for further negotiations on Agenda 2000 and launches a longer term debate on the Union's further development

*June 18*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report concerning the implementation by the Commission of EU policy and action as regards water pollution.

*June 24*

Denmark deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*June 25*

The United Nations' Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Environmental Information, Public Participation in decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is signed in Aarhus, Denmark.

*June 30*

Mary Brown ruling. The European Court of Justice declares that firing pregnant women throughout the duration of their pregnancy is contrary to Community law.

*July 1*

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## History of EU

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Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The interim agreement with Mexico on trade and trade-related matters, the partnership and cooperation agreement with Moldova and the cooperation agreement with Yemen come into force.

*July 15*

Finland deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*July 21*

Austria deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*July 22*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on the Community approach to transport infrastructure charging communication on measures to counter counterfeiting of the euro.

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report concerning the Commission departments specifically involved in the fight against fraud, notably the Unit for the Coordination of Fraud Prevention.

*July 24*

Italy deposits the instruments of ratification of the the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*July 30*

Ireland deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*September 4*

Luxembourg deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*October 1*

The Europol Anti-drugs Convention enters into force.

*October 15*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on combating counterfeiting and piracy in the single market.

*October 24-25*

Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government in Portschach, Austria.

*November 4*

The Commission adopts the reports assessing progress of countries applying for accession.

*November 10*

Ministerial-level meetings of accession conferences with Cyprus, Poland, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia.

*November 11-13*

The fourth conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

*November 16*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report on the assessment of Structural Fund interventions for the 1989-93 and 1994-99 periods.

*December 9*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on policy concerning frequencies.

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report concerning the Community financing of certain measures taken as a result of the BSE crisis, together with the Commission's replies.

*December 11-12*

A European Council meeting is held in Vienna, Austria. The Council adopts the employment guidelines for 1999, decides to strengthen the process of convergence of employment policies with a view to a European employment pact, lays down arrangements for external representation of the euro, approves an action plan for the establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice and agrees on a strategy

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## History of EU

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for Union work in 1999.

*December 16*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report concerning the management by the Commission of the implementation of measures to promote equal opportunities for men and women, together with the Commission's replies.

*December 31*

The Netherlands deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam. The Council adopts fixed and irrevocable conversion rates between the national currencies of the 11 participating Member States and the euro.

**1999**

*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.

*January 5*

Spain deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam

*January 12*

Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, calls for Parliament's confidence.

*January 18*

Mr Jan Karlsson is elected President of the Court of Auditors.

*January 19*

The European Court of Justice decrees that expulsion for life from a Member State's territory is contrary to Community Law.

*January 20*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on public sector information in the information society.

*January 27*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on Commerce.

*February 1*

The Agreement between the European Communities and Slovenia enters into force.

*February 17*

Belgium deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*March 11*

The European Commission publishes the codes of conduct for Members of the Commission and the relations between Commissioners and Commission departments.

*March 15*

Collective resignation of the Commission in wake of the report by the Committee of Independent Experts on the allegations regarding fraud, mismanagement and nepotism in the Commission.

*March 16*

The European Court of Justice annuls the registration of the name "feta" as a protected designation of origin.

*March 22*

Portugal deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*March 23*

Greece deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

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## History of EU

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*March 24*

European Council declaration on the appointment of Mr Romano Prodi, new President of the Commission.

*March 24-25*

A special European Council is held in Berlin, Germany. An overall agreement on Agenda 2000 is reached; Mr Prodi is asked to accept the task of being the President of the next European Commission and two statements on Kosovo are adopted. Other declarations adopted deal with the Middle East peace process and enlargement, and the trade and cooperation agreement with South Africa is approved.

*March 30*

France deposits the instruments of ratification of the Treaty of Amsterdam.

*April 15-16*

The Third Euro-Mediterranean Conference is held in Stuttgart, Germany. Libya attends for the first time as special guest of the Presidency. The ministers agree to give fresh impetus to their partnership in each of the three areas (political and security; economic and financial; social, cultural and human) identified at the Barcelona Conference, improving in particular intra-regional and sub-regional cooperation and the participation of non-governmental operators in the activities undertaken.

*April 23*

The Council adopts a common position and a regulation concerning a ban on the supply and sale of petroleum and petroleum products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

*April 26*

The Council approves a joint action providing support for the reception and voluntary repatriation of refugees, displaced persons and asylum seekers, including those who have fled from Kosovo. The Council adopts a decision which enables the European Court of First Instance, in certain circumstances, to give decisions when constituted by a single judge in cases coming under its jurisdiction.

*April 28*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on modernisation of the rules implementing Articles 85 and 86 of the EC Treaty (competition policy).

*May 1*

The Amsterdam Treaty enters into force.

*May 5*

The Parliament approves the nomination of Mr Romano Prodi as President of the Commission.

*May 28*

The President of the European Court of Justice presents the Council of Justice Ministers with a number of proposals and ideas on the future of the jurisdictional system of the European Union.

*June 3-4*

The European Council meeting is held in Cologne, Germany. It adopts the first European Union common strategy, which concerns Russia, and declarations on Kosovo and on the strengthening of European common foreign and security policy, and designates Mr Javier Solana Madariaga High Representative for the CFSP and Secretary-General of the Council. It also adopts the European Employment Pact, sets out the brief of the forthcoming intergovernmental conference and decides to lay down an EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

*June 10*

European Parliament elections are held in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and Denmark.

*June 11*

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European Parliament elections are held in Ireland.

*June 13*

European Parliament elections are held in Austria, Belgium, Spain, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Sweden.

*June 14*

The Council presents its conclusions on the contamination of certain foodstuffs by dioxin.

*June 17*

A EU-Canada summit is held in Bonn, Germany. The two sides sign an agreement on the enforcement of their competition laws and welcome the progress made in implementing the 1996 joint action plan and the trade initiative launched by the two parties in 1998, and in particular the launching of the Canada-Europe business dialogue round table. They also discuss preparations for the next round of multilateral trade negotiations, for which they identified shared objectives.

*June 18*

The European Anti-Fraud Office is set up.

*June 18-20*

The annual G8 summit is held in Koln, Germany. The Heads of State or Government define their priorities for coping with the challenges of the 21st century, particularly globalisation. They include implementing appropriate macroeconomic policies and structural reforms to promote sustainable growth, designing policies for more employment and strengthening social safeguards. Support for economic recovery in Russia; the building of a world trading system that works for everyone, based on the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the launching of a new round of broad-based and ambitious multilateral negotiations and the launching of a debt-reduction initiative for developing countries are also assigned priorities. The participants also adopt a statement on regional issues, welcoming the adoption of the South-Eastern Europe Stability Pact and reaffirming their support for the international civilian presence and international security presence in Kosovo.

*June 20*

The eighth EU-Japan Summit is held in Bonn, Germany. Both Japan and the EU emphasise their wish to enhance their relations, particularly by working on joint projects in the political sphere, cooperating in the preparation of the next round of multilateral trade negotiations and concluding a bilateral mutual recognition agreement.

*June 21*

The EU-US summit takes place in Bonn, Germany. The EU and the US undertake in a joint statement to strengthen their partnership under the New Transatlantic Agenda and, in particular, to work together to prevent and resolve international crises. They stress the importance of gradually establishing a common European security and defence policy. They also agree to set up an early warning system to enable both sides to detect the warning signs of potential conflicts soon enough to defuse the situation, thus avoiding damaging trade disputes. The participants also devote much attention to Kosovo and south-eastern Europe, looking at ways of making optimal use of their cooperation to facilitate the reconstruction of the region. They agree that the Commission would work with the World Bank to coordinate donor activities.

*June 28-29*

The Rio Declaration is adopted at the close of the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. It stresses the importance of developing a strategic partnership between the two regions and sets out 55 priorities for action. The political priorities include cooperation in international forums, combating organised crime, corruption, drugs and

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## History of EU

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terrorism, disaster prevention and sustainable development. In the economic field, priority is assigned to joint action on implementing the results of the Uruguay Round, launching a new round of mutually beneficial multilateral trade negotiations and consolidating the international financial system. The Heads of State or Government also call on the European Investment Bank to step up its activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

*July 1*

Finland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 9*

The Commission adopts decisions on protective measures with regard to dioxin contamination of certain products of animal origin intended for human or animal consumption, and decisions authorising an aid package for farms and businesses affected by the dioxin crisis in Belgium.

*July 19*

In accordance with the conclusions of the Vienna European Council, a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 15 EU Member States, the 10 candidate Central and East European countries, Cyprus, Malta and Switzerland (Turkey declines to attend) takes place in Brussels. The meeting focuses on the fight against transnational organised crime and the situation in the western Balkans.

*July 20*

The new European Parliament elects Ms Fontaine as its President.

*July 23*

The Commission adopts a decision setting 1 August as the date on which dispatch of United Kingdom bovine products under the date-based export scheme may commence.

*July 28*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on liability for defective products.

*July 30*

Economic and Social Committee: First Convention on the "Role and Contribution of organised Civil Society in European Integration".

*August 30*

The European Parliament's Committee of Independent Experts issues a second report.

*August 30-7*

Hearings of the members-designate of the new Commission by the European Parliament.

*September 15*

The European Parliament votes and approves the new Commission.

*September 29-1*

An EU-US International conference on combating child pornography on the Internet is held in Vienna, Austria.

*October 11-14*

The 29th African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP)-EU Joint Assembly is held in Nassau, Bahamas.

*October 15-16*

A special European Council is held in Tampere, Finland. An agreement is reached on a number of guidelines and political priorities, in particular relating to the right of asylum, immigration, access to justice and combating crime. Decisions are taken on the procedures for drafting the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.

*October 18-19*

WEU Assembly Special Session is held in Luxembourg on "Security and Defence, the challenge for

## History of EU

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Europe after Cologne".

*October 19*

The Council of the European Union publishes the First Annual Report on Human Rights.

*October 22*

The EU-Russia summit is held in Helsinki, Finland. The conflict in Chechnya occupies an important place in the discussions.

*October 26*

The European Court of Justice decrees that national decisions concerning the organisation and management of the armed forces must generally observe the principle of equal treatment between women and men.

*October 28*

First judgement delivered by single judge at European Court of first instance.

*November 25*

Philippe Maystadt is appointed President of the European Investment Bank.

*November 26*

The Commission issues a report on Dioxin exposure and health.

*November 30-3*

A World Trade Organisation (WTO) meeting on the Millennium Round is held in Seattle, USA. Supposed to launch a new round of trade talks, it finishes with the participants unable to reach an agreement.

*December 9*

The European Commission decides on a Community Association and Reconstruction Assistance to the Western Balkans (CARA Programme).

*December 10-11*

A European Council is held in Helsinki, Finland. It decides to open accession negotiations with Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Malta and to recognise Turkey as an applicant country. It agrees to call an Intergovernmental Conference to revise the Treaties in February 2000.

*December 16*

A EU-Canada summit is held in Ottawa, Canada. The two adopt joint statements on e-commerce and the information society, on northern cooperation and on small arms. The talks also focus on the results of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference in Seattle and on various trade dossiers, with the parties applauding the success of the bilateral trade initiative.

*December 17*

A EU-USA summit is held in Washington, USA. The two adopt joint statements on south-eastern Europe, Chechnya, the northern dimension of Europe, small arms, and the World Trade Organisation. On the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the two sides undertake to continue preparations for a new, all-embracing round of multilateral trade negotiations and underscore the need to make the World Trade Organisation (WTO)'s work more transparent and the negotiations more appealing for developing countries. The parties also agree to step up cooperation on justice and home affairs and on biotechnology.

*December 21*

A EU-China summit is held in Beijing, China. Discussions center on the reform process in China, human rights issues, economic and trade relations, and, in particular the accession of China to the World Trade Organisation (WTO). During the summit the establishment of a China-EU Chamber of Commerce in Beijing and the continuation of the EU-China business dialogue were also announced.

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# History of EU

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## 2000

*January 1*

Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*January 11*

Kreil ruling. The European Court of Justice declares that the German legislation excluding women from the armed forces, with an exception made for health services and military music bands, is against Community law on gender equality.

*January 12*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on safety of foodstuffs.

*January 15*

15 The opening session of the Ministerial Intergovernmental Conferences for accession negotiations of Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria, is held in Brussels, Belgium.

The EU delegation is led by Mr Gama, Portuguese External Affairs Minister in charge of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers and Mr Verheugen, Commissioner for enlargement.

The candidate countries' delegations are led by the External Affairs ministers, Mr. Borg, Mr. Roman, Mr. Kukan, Mr. Berzins, Mr. Saudargas and Ms Mihailova respectively. Mr Gama reminded candidate countries of the importance of:

- the formal transposal and putting into practice of Community acquis,
- ensuring a good functioning of both the internal market and EU policies, agriculture, justice and home affairs and the environmental ones in particular,
- the alignment with the EU on matters regarding relations with third countries and international organisations.

Mr Gama also confirmed that each application would be evaluated based on its own merits. The candidate countries presented their strategical objectives alongside their political, cultural and socio-economic aspirations into accession.

*January 18*

In view of the reform White Paper the Commission is to issue by March, a consultative document on the action plan that will set into place such a reform is adopted.

*February 2-3*

The Fourth Ministerial Conference on EU - African, Caribbean, Pacific (ACP) negotiations aimed at a partnership for development is held in Brussels, Belgium. The Union and ACP countries agree on the plan of action that is to follow the fourth Lome convention coming to an end by February.

*February 9*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on judiciary assistance in civil matters.

*February 14*

The Intergovernmental Conference on institutional reform opens in Brussels, Belgium.

*March 1*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on its reform.

*March 8*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on greenhouse gas emission trading within the European Union.

*March 23-24*

A special European Council is held in Lisbon, Portugal, to decide on a new Union strategy to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion as part of a knowledge-based economy.

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## History of EU

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*March 27*

The "Justice and Internal Affairs" Council adopts an action plan against organised crime.

*April 3-4*

An Africa-Europe Summit , under the aegis of the Organisation of African Unity and the European Union, is held in Cairo, Egypt.

*April 7*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report on the European Social Fund and European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (Guidance Section) - measures to assist the employment of young persons, together with the Commission's replies.

*April 10*

The Cooperation Council between the European Union and Russia holds a meeting.

*April 18-19*

The ninth meeting between the President of the European Parliament and the Presidents of the Parliaments of the countries applying for European Union membership is held in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

*May 3*

The Commission proposes Greece to become the twelfth member of the euro-zone.

*May 9*

The European Institutions celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "Schuman Declaration".

*June 8*

The Parliament and the Council adopt a decision designating 2001 as the European Year of Languages.

*June 19-20*

The European Council meeting is held in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal. The broad economic policy guidelines for the Member States and the Community for the year 2000 are adopted; Greece's entry into the euro is approved; a common strategy on the Mediterranean region is adopted; an action plan for the northern dimension in external and cross-border policies of the European Union is endorsed and backing is given to the European Union's anti-drugs action plan.

*June 23*

The Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) sign, in Cotonou, Benin, a Convention to replace the Lome ones.

*June 28*

The first European Union-India Summit meeting is held in Lisbon, Portugal.

*July 1*

France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 19*

The 9th EU-Japan Summit is held in Tokyo, Japan. Discussions are centered on the strengthening of overall Japan-EU relations, including economic and trade relations, Japan-EU co-operation in international fora, including the G8 Summit, the United Nations and ASEM, and the international situation, including the Korean Peninsula, the Middle East Peace Process and Kosovo/South-East Europe.

*July 21-23*

A G8 Summit is held in Okinawa, Japan. Participants discuss World Economy, Information and Communications Technology, Development, Debt, Health, Education, Trade, Cultural Diversity, Crime and Drugs, Ageing, Biotechnology and Food Safety, the Human Genome, Environment, Nuclear Safety, Conflict Prevention, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control and Terrorism.

*July 26*

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The European Commission adopts a Green Paper on environmental issues linked to polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

*August 10*

The Court of Auditors publishes the special report on the management by the Commission of support for the development of human rights and democracy in third countries.

*September 8*

The United Nations Millennium Summit is held in New York, USA. The European Commission President Romano Prodi meets Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel, President Seyed Mohammad Khatami of Iran and Chilean President Ricardo Lagos.

*September 8-10*

An Informal ECOFIN Council is held in Versailles, France. EU Economic and Financial Ministers discuss the current level of oil prices and call on OPEC to implement measures to ensure that market supplies are better adapted to the global economic situation.

*September 12*

A Hearing (Monetary dialogue) is held in Brussels between the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs of the European Parliament and Wim Duisenberg, President of the European Central Bank.

*September 15*

A EU - Ukraine Summit is held in Paris, France. Discussion revolve around recent developments in Ukraine and in the European Union, the state of play regarding implementation of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), co-operation in justice and home affairs and the various aspects of the Memorandum of Understanding concerning the closure of Chernobyl.

*September 19*

The Seventh Meeting of the Association Council Between The European Union and Hungary and the Sixth meeting of the Association Council between the European Union and the Czech Republic are held in Brussels.

*September 22*

The European Central Bank, taking joint action with the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan, intervene in support of the Euro.

*September 28*

Denmark holds a referendum on the euro. The majority rejects joining the single European currency.

*October 20-21*

The third Asia-Europe Summit is held in Seoul, Korea. Discussions revolve around developments in the two regions, the fostering of political dialogue, the reinforcement of economic and financial cooperation and the promotion of cooperation in other areas and in taking the ASEM process forward.

*October 25*

A Special Southeast Europe Cooperation Process Summit is held in Skopje, FYROM.

*October 30*

A European Union and Russia Summit is held in Paris, France. The discussions centre on the widening of all co-operation areas between the EU and Russia.

*November 8*

The Commission delivers to the Council the overall report on enlargement, consisting of progress reports assessing the preparation of the candidate countries and an "Accession Partnership" proposal identifying the key issues Turkey must address before starting accession negotiations.

*November 14*

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The Committee of Regions holds, in Brussels, Belgium, a Conference on enlargement, globalisation and new forms of governance.

*November 15-16*

The fourth Euro-Mediterranean Conference is held in Marseilles, France. The Foreign Ministers discuss the EU contribution to the partnership for stability in the Mediterranean region, political and security partnership, economic and commercial matters, social, cultural and human matters and financial cooperation.

*November 23-24*

A European Union/Balkans Summit is held in Zagreb, Croatia.

*November 29*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on a European strategy for the security of energy supply.

*December 1*

The European Commission publishes a Green Paper on a European strategy for the security of energy supply.

*December 7*

In the margins of the Nice European Council, the Presidents of Parliament, the European Council and the Commission formally proclaim the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

*December 7-9*

A European Council is held in Nice, France. The Council confirms that it would like to see the Charter of Fundamental Rights, jointly proclaimed by the Council of the EU, the European Parliament and the Commission, disseminated as widely as possible amongst the Union's citizens. It welcomes the stepping up of accession negotiations with the candidate countries and appreciates the efforts made by such countries to establish the conditions for adoption, implementation and practical application of the *acquis*; it welcomes the progress made in implementing the pre-accession strategy for Turkey. The Council also discusses about the European security and defence policy, it approves the European Social Agenda, it discusses innovation and knowledge in Europe, coordination of economic policies, consumer health and safety, maritime safety, the environment, services of general interest, security of supplies of certain products, freedom, security and justice, culture, outermost regions and external relations. The Intergovernmental Conference comes to an end with a political agreement on the Treaty of Nice.

### **2001**

*January 1*

Sweden takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*January 2*

Greece becomes the 12th member of the euro zone.

*February 8*

The European Commission adopts a Green Paper on Integrated Product Policy (IPP).

*February 13*

The European Commission adopts a White Paper on a future strategy for chemicals.

*February 26*

Following the December 2000 European Council meeting held in Nice, France, a new Treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaties establishing the European Communities, is signed (Treaty of Nice).

*March 20*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the common fisheries policy after 2002.

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*March 23-24*

A European Council is held in Stockholm, Sweden. It lays down guidelines in order to achieve sustained growth, stable macro-economic conditions and employment-rate targets.

*May 17*

A EU-Russia Summit is held in Moscow.

*June 7*

A referendum is held in Ireland, the people vote against the Treaty of Nice.

*June 14*

A EU-US Summit is held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

*June 15-16*

A European Council is held in Gothenburg, Sweden. Agreement is reached on the framework for successful completion of the enlargement negotiations, a strategy for sustainable development is approved, broad economic policy guidelines are endorsed and the key principles for securing the long-term sustainability of pension systems are approved. A EU programme for the prevention of violent conflicts is also approved and advances relating to the Union's northern dimension are also achieved.

*June 21*

A EU-Canada Summit is held in Stockholm, Sweden.

*June 25*

The EU and Egypt sign an Association Agreement.

*July 1*

Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

*July 18*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on the promotion of a European framework for corporate social responsibility.

*July 20-22*

A G7/G8 Summit is held in Genoa, Italy. The participants discuss the following questions: health, international trade, the fight against poverty, development, public debt, environment, food safety, the Balkans and the Middle East.

*July 25*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on European governance.

*September 5*

A European Union and China Summit is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*September 12*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on the European transport policy.

*September 21*

A special European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium, to assess the international situation in the wake of the terrorist attacks on 11 September in New York and Washington, USA, and to set the guidelines for the response of the EU.

*September 28*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on compensation to crime victims.

*October 2*

The Commission adopts a Green Paper on consumer protection in the European Union.

*October 3*

A EU-Russia summit is held in Brussels, Belgium.

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*October 19*

Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government in Ghent, Belgium. Full support is given to the action taken against terrorism within the framework defined by the United Nations, and total solidarity with the United States is reaffirmed.

*October 29*

A stabilisation and cooperation agreement between the European Union and Croatia is signed.

*November 9-13*

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial conference is held in Doha, Qatar.

*November 22*

The Commission adopts a White Paper on Youth.

*November 23*

A EU-India summit is held in New Delhi.

*November 24*

The EU signs a co-operation agreement with Pakistan.

*December 5*

The European Commission adopts its work programme for 2002.

*December 8*

A EU-Japan summit is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*December 11*

The European Commission adopts a Green Paper on the establishment of a European Public Prosecutor for the criminal-law protection of the Community's financial interests.

The European Commission adopts a Green Paper on the Review of Council Regulation 4064/89.

*December 12*

The European Commission adopts the research and technological development activities of the EU 2001 annual report.

*December 14*

The euro-zone countries begin making the euro-kits available. It is now possible for citizens to purchase euro coins in advance of the changeover.

*December 14-15*

A European Council is held in Laeken, Belgium. It adopts a declaration on the future of the Union paving the way for major reform and plans a convention to prepare the ground for the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference. It also takes decisions designed to strengthen Europe's role on the international scene, particularly in the fight against terrorism, and to conclude negotiations by the end of 2002 with the candidate countries ready for accession so that they can take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004. Declarations are adopted on the operational capability of the common European Security and Defence Policy and on the situation in the Middle East.

*December 18*

A EU-Canada summit is held in Ottawa.

### **2002**

*January 1*

Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The euro coins and notes enter into circulation in the twelve participating Member States: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

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# History of EU

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*January 15*

The European Parliament elects Mr Pat Cox as its President.

*February 28*

The euro becomes the sole currency within the twelve participating Member States, as the period of dual circulation comes to an end.

The opening session of the Convention on the Future of Europe is held in Brussels.

*March 15-16*

A European Council is held in Barcelona, Spain. The Council focuses on economic, social and environmental issues, and gives priority to the interconnection of the European economies at the level of financial markets and energy, transport and communications networks, urging the speedy adoption of legislation for the opening of markets to this end. Policies concerning full employment and the development of a competitive knowledge-based economy are reinforced. Reference is also made to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, relations with the United States and countries of the western Balkans, and the situation in Zimbabwe. A declaration on the worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also adopted.

*March 26*

GALILEO, Europe's satellite navigation and positioning system, is launched.

*April 10*

The European Commission publishes a Green Paper on a Community return policy on illegal residents.

*April 19*

The European Commission publishes a Green Paper on alternative dispute resolution in civil and commercial law.

*April 22*

The EU and Algeria sign an Association Agreement in Valencia, Spain.

*April 23*

The European Commission adopts a proposal to combat Cybercrime.

*May 8*

A EU-Canada summit is held in Toledo, Spain.

*May 17-18*

A EU-Latin America and the Caribbean summit is held in Madrid, Spain.

*May 18*

A EU-Mexico summit is held in Madrid, Spain.

*May 29*

A EU-Russia summit is held in Moscow.

*May 31*

The European Union ratifies the Kyoto Protocol.

*June 17*

The EU and Lebanon sign an Association Agreement in Luxembourg.

*June 21-22*

A European Council is held in Seville, Spain.

*July 4*

A EU-Ukraine summit is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*July 8*

A EU-Japan summit is held in Tokyo.

*July 23*

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The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) expires after fifty years in force.

*September 24*

A EU-China summit is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*September 24*

A EU-Republic of Korea summit is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*September 26*

The first European Day of Languages is celebrated, and will continue to be celebrated annually in order to ensure that language issues remain visible throughout Europe.

*October 9*

The European Commission recommends the conclusion of accession negotiations by the end of the 2002 with the following countries: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia. The Commission considers that these countries will be ready for EU membership from the beginning of 2004.

*October 10*

A EU-India summit is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*October 19*

In a second referendum, the Irish people vote in favour of the Treaty of Nice.

*October 24-25*

A European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*November 11*

A EU-Russia summit takes place in Brussels, Belgium.

*November 18*

An EU-Chile Association agreement is signed in Brussels, Belgium.

*December 12-13*

A European Council is held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*December 19*

An EU-Canada summit is held in Ottawa, Canada.

### **2003**

*January 1*

Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The EU celebrates 10 years of the Single Market.

The EU celebrates 10 years of the Single Market.

*January 15*

The first European Union Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina is inaugurated.

*January 26*

The European Year of People with Disabilities is launched in Athens.

*January 27-28*

An EU-ASEAN Ministerial meeting is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*February 17*

An Extraordinary European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium.

*March 8*

A referendum is held in Malta on the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession.

*March 14*

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## History of EU

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EU and NATO sign Security Pact in Athens, Greece.

*March 19*

A vote is held in the European Parliament. The majority adopts a report giving the green light to the accession of Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia in 2004.

*March 20-21*

Third annual Spring European Council is held in Brussels, Belgium. Ministers decide to step up efforts to implement the strategy for competitiveness, employment and social inclusion agreed in Lisbon. Ministers also discuss the situation in Iraq.

*March 23*

A referendum is held in Slovenia on the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession.

*April 9*

The European Parliament gives its assent to the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia, and Slovakia to the European Union.

*April 12*

A referendum is held in Hungary on the country joining the EU. The majority is in favour of accession.

*April 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 the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession.

*May 16-17*

A referendum is held in Slovakia on the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession.

*May 28*

A EU-Canada summit is held in Athens, Greece.

*May 31*

A EU-Russia summit is held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

*June 7-8*

A referendum is held in Poland on the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession.

*June 13-14*

A referendum is held in the Czech Republic on the country joining the European Union. The majority is in favour of accession

*June 20-21*

A European Council is held in Thessaloniki, Greece. The draft EU constitution is welcomed as a good basis for forthcoming negotiations on the future of Europe. EU leaders meet with representatives of the Balkan states and express their intention to include the latter in the European Union provided they promote democratic stability, the rule of law and economic development. Reference is also made to the importance of transatlantic relations for international stability.

*June 25*

A EU-US Summit is held in Washington DC. The European Union and the United States decide to

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## History of EU

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cooperate in their fight against terrorism and arms proliferation. They decide to share information on suspect bank accounts, and to set up joint investigation teams. Reference is also made to the situation in Iran and North Korea, as well as to the "Road Map" for peace in the Middle East.

*July 1*

Italy takes over the Presidency of the European Union.

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