

# *International Organisations and Development*

## The European Union: The Integration Process Lesson VI

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# The ground rules of the European Union are set out in a series of treaties

The **Treaty of Paris**, which set up the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) in 1951

The **Treaties of Rome**, which set up the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in 1957

These founding treaties were subsequently amended by  
the **Single European Act** (1986),  
the **Treaty on European Union** (Maastricht, 1992)  
the **Treaty of Amsterdam** (1997)  
the **Treaty of Nice** (2001)  
the **Treaty of Lisbon** (2007)

# THE TREATY OF PARIS (1951)

- Foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)
- Functionalism and spillover at work
- The success of ECSC convinces the six member states to extend integration to other areas of the economy

# THE TREATIES OF ROME (1957)

- Foundation of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
- Creation of a customs union and, subsequently, a single market by 1970
- Cooperation in matters of nuclear energy
- A positive impact of the Common Market on the economies of the member states
- A new mode of decision-making between inter-governmentalism and supranationalism

# THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT (1987)

- Creation of the European Community (EC) by merging the three separate Communities
- Formal recognition of European Council as EC institution
- More powers for the European Parliament
- First mention of foreign policy competence for EC
- Removal of remaining obstacles to the implementation of the Single Market

# THE TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION (1992)

- European Union
- Monetary Union
- Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Cooperation in Home and Justice Affairs
- European Parliament gains co-decision and blocking powers
- The extension of use of Qualified Majority Voting (QMV)

# THE AMSTERDAM TREATY (1997)

- The transfer of some elements of the third pillar (Home & Justice) to the first pillar (Common policies, the most integrated ones)
- Extension of the co-decision procedure to more policy fields
- Empowerment of the EP
- Institutional reform largely postponed

# THE TREATY OF NICE (2000)

- Institutional arrangements for an enlarged EU (mainly concerning the composition of the Commission and QMV in the Council)
- Important issues left unresolved and addressed later by the European Convention



# THE TREATY OF LISBON (2007)

- The legislative power of the European Parliament increases, as the codecision procedure with the Council of the EU is extended to almost all areas of policy. This procedure is renamed *ordinary legislative procedure*
- The treaty has expanded the use of QMV in the Council of Ministers by having it replace unanimity as the standard voting procedure in almost every policy area (outside taxation and foreign policy).
  - In standard procedure, a qualified majority is reached when at least 55% of all member states, who comprise at least 65% of EU citizens, vote in favour of a proposal
- The European Council gains the status of an EU institution, thus being separated from the Council of ministers. The President of the European Council is appointed for a two and a half year term in a QMV of the European Council
- The European Central Bank gained the official status of being an EU institution
- In an effort to ensure greater coordination and consistency in EU foreign policy, the Treaty of Lisbon created a *High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy*.
- In the Lisbon Treaty the distribution of competences in various policy areas between Member States and the Union is explicitly stated

# THE EEC/EU MEMBER STATES

**1957**

In Rome, **France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands** and **Luxembourg** sign the treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)

**1973**

**Denmark, Ireland** and the **United Kingdom** join the European Communities, bringing their membership to nine. Norway stays out, following a referendum in which most people voted against membership

**1981**

**Greece** joins the European Communities, bringing the number of member states to 10

**1986**

**Spain** and **Portugal** join the European Communities, bringing their membership to 12

**1995**

**Austria, Finland** and **Sweden** join the EU, bringing its membership to 15. Norway stays out, following a referendum in which most people voted against membership

**2004**

**Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia** and **Slovenia** join the European Union bringing its membership to 25

**2007**

**Bulgaria** and **Romania** join bringing the EU membership to 27

**2013**

**Croatia** joins the EU, it is the second country of former Yugoslavia to join after Slovenia

**2020**

**United Kingdom** completes Brexit with all other arrangements remaining in place during a transition period while a free trade agreement is negotiated. This brings the EU membership to 27

# EU Candidate countries

Current candidate countries are:

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Turkey
- Ukraine