

# EVER CLOSER UNION

The Legacy of the Treaties of Rome for Today's Europe

Itinerant exhibition on  
the occasion of the  
60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Treaties of Rome,  
1957-2017



ERIC

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[www.rometreaties.eu](http://www.rometreaties.eu)

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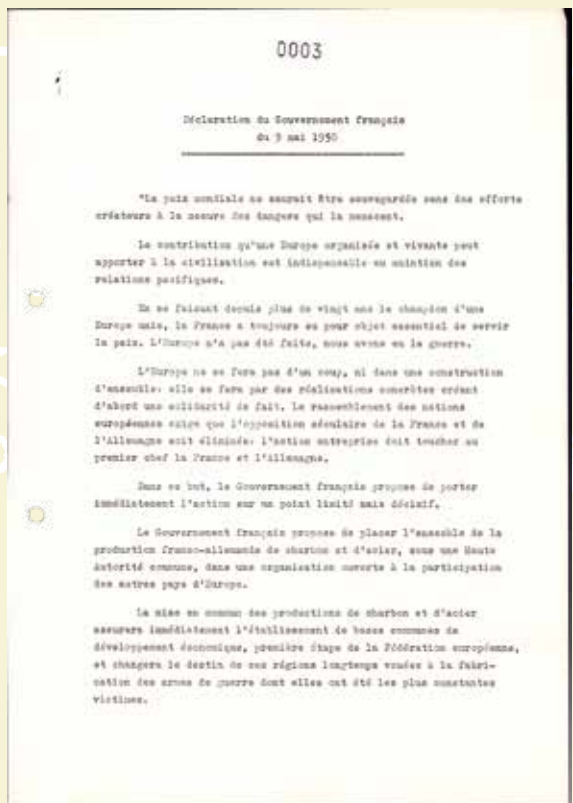
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First edition of "Manifesto di Ventotene", the Manifesto for a free and united Europe was drawn up by Altiero Spinelli and Ernesto Rossi in 1941 (HAEU)



"Schuman Plan", text of the declaration for the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community, presented by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, Robert Schuman, on 9 May 1950 (HAEU)

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# THE HISTORIC ROOTS OF UNITED EUROPE

## Towards the European Economic Community (1941-1957)

After World War II the idea of a **united Europe** was transformed into a more concrete reality. **Jean Monnet's** idea to use economic integration as an instrument for political reconciliation formed the basis of the decision taken by Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Luxembourg to create, in 1950, the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**. The concept behind this project was not purely economic but also political and symbolic. It paved the way for Franco-German reconciliation, assuming a new system of relations between the European states. Calls for a united Europe were also coming from intellectuals and social groups.

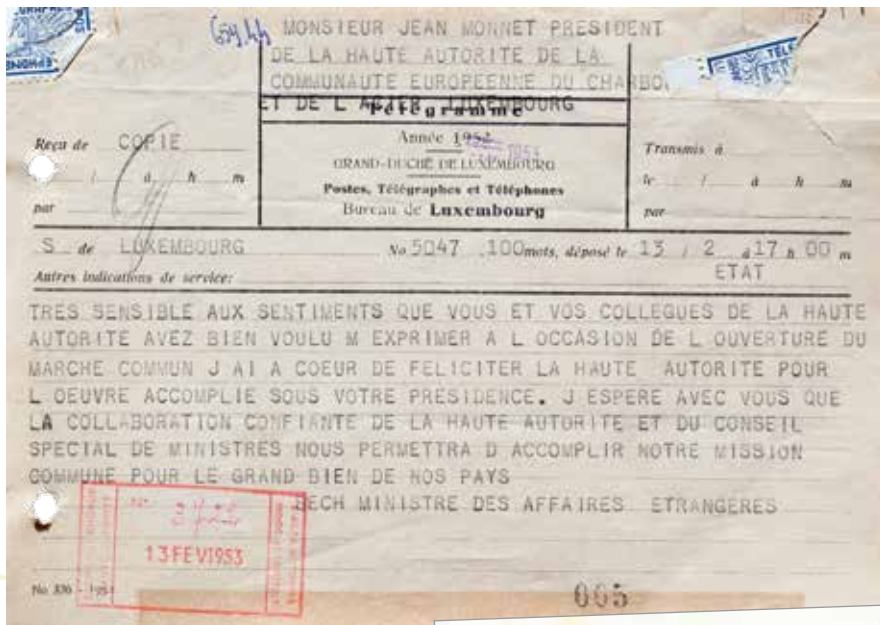
Particularly active were the federalist movements, supporters of an authentic European federation, of which **Altiero Spinelli** was one of the principal inspirational figures.

The first attempt to extend European integration, through the creation of a **European Defence Community (EDC)**, which included **Alcide De Gasperi's** project for a **European Political Community**, caused a moment of crisis but also of opportunity. The failure of the EDC (1954) was followed by a re-launch of the European integration project. The meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the member countries of the ECSC at **Messina** in June 1955, organised by **Paul-Henri Spaak**, led to the initiation of talks culminating in the signing of the Treaties of Rome on 25 March 1957 which created the **European Economic Community (EEC)** and the **European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)**.



Telegram of congratulations by Joseph Bech, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, to Jean Monnet, President of the High Authority of the ECSC, in occasion of entry into force of the European Coal and Steel Community (HAEU)

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THE EURO  
THE INTER

"The Eu  
to decide  
measures  
internation

Postcard commemorating the foundation of the EEC and EURATOM sent from the European Federalist Movement to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gaetano Martino (Archivio Storico Diplomatico Ministero Affari Esteri, Rome - ASMAE)



## From Rome to Maastricht (1958-1992)

On 1 January 1958 the official activities of the EEC and Euratom and their principal institutions - the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly and the Court of Justice - got underway.

The first decade of European integration saw a strong growth of the Community's market and institutions with the launching of the **Common Agricultural Policy** and the completion of the **Customs Union**, in 1968. Simultaneously, within the framework of Euratom, the first cooperation projects were initiated in the field of nuclear research. The EEC confirmed its role in the domain of international trade and, through the Yaoundé Convention (1963), laid the groundwork for the introduction of a Community policy for **development cooperation**.

On the political level the 1960's were characterised by the French veto of Britain's application to join the EEC and by differences of opinion between the intergovernmental vision promoted by Paris and the supranational vocation of the European Commission.

The economic success of the Community and the radical social and political changes of the late 1960's encouraged the leaders of the Six to meet at The Hague in December 1969, to open discussions on **enlargement** and the rolling-out of new policies in the **monetary, social, environmental and regional** spheres. The European Parliament reinforced its democratic legitimacy by means of its first direct election in 1979. The completion of the **Single Market** and the re-launching of the concept of **monetary integration** were the main accomplishments of the EEC during the 1980's. The realisation of the **Single European Act** in 1986 served as the basis for a more integrated Europe, both politically and economically. It opened the way for the creation of the **European Union**, which took place in the post Cold War era, with the entry into force of the **Treaty of Maastricht** on 1 November 1993.

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Document from the joint research centre established by Euratom as envisaged by the Treaty, to encourage collaboration between national scientific research centres particularly in the nuclear sphere (HAEU)

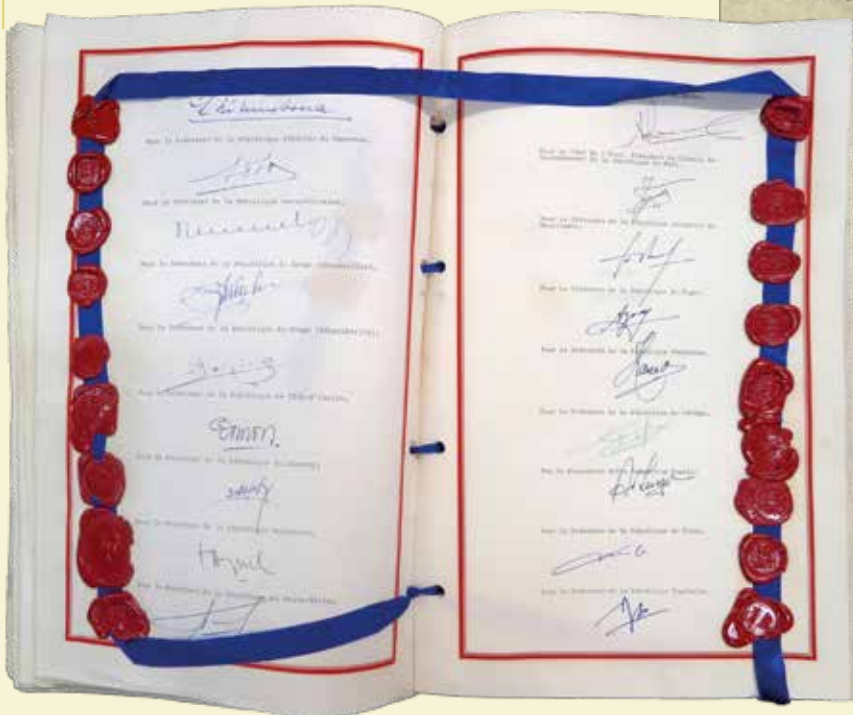
DECLARAZIONE  
RELATIVA



- 3 -

EURO  
INTER

The Yaoundé Convention between the EEC and the Associated African States and Madagascar. It entered into force on 1 June 1964 (Archives of the Council of the European Union)



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before the end of  
passed by the

→  
Information campaign  
organised by the  
European Parliament  
for the first direct  
elections held  
in June 1979 (HAEU)



# Sie erwarten ihre Zukunft von Europa

Leentje,  
Holland



Géraldine,  
Luxemburg



Daniel,  
Belgien



Barbara,  
Deutschland



Cesare,  
Italien



Jeannette,  
Frankreich



Jytte,  
Dänemark



George,  
Großbri-  
tannien



Sean,  
Irland



**Direktwahl des Europäischen  
Parlaments 10. Juni 1979**

**Europa wartet auf Deine Stimme**



## The European Union after Maastricht (1993-2017)

10

The **Single Market** and **Economic and Monetary Union** were the main actions completed by the EU in the decade following the signature of the Maastricht Treaty.

After Maastricht, the European integration process was characterised by successive waves of enlargement that, from 1995 to the present, increased the number of member countries from 12 to 28. This process reinforced the unification of the European continent after the political and ideological divisions of the Cold War and its aftermath.

The evolution of the EU after 1992 required a new set of reforms to the founding treaties, designed to improve the functioning of the institutions and the decisional process.

The Treaty of Maastricht was thereby reformed by the Treaties of **Amsterdam** (1997) and **Nice** (2001), which were subsequently followed by the proposal for a treaty establishing a

**Constitution of Europe** (2004). While this treaty was never ratified as a result of its rejection in referendums held in France and The Netherlands in 2005, it formed the basis of

the **Treaty of Lisbon** (2007). Amongst the principal innovations introduced by this Treaty, which came into effect on the 1 December 2009, were the strengthening of the role of the

European Parliament, a deeper cooperation in the field of foreign relations and common security and extended Community competences on external border controls, immigration, judicial and police cooperation.

measures proposed by the internal market"

→

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, proclaimed by the EU Parliament, Council and Commission during the European Council held in Nice on 7-9 December 2000, was given a legal status by the Treaty of Lisbon in 2007 (Archives of the Council of the European Union)

Grand-Duc de Luxembourg

*[Handwritten signature]*

Koningin der Nederlanden

*[Handwritten signature]*

Republik Österreich

*[Handwritten signature]*

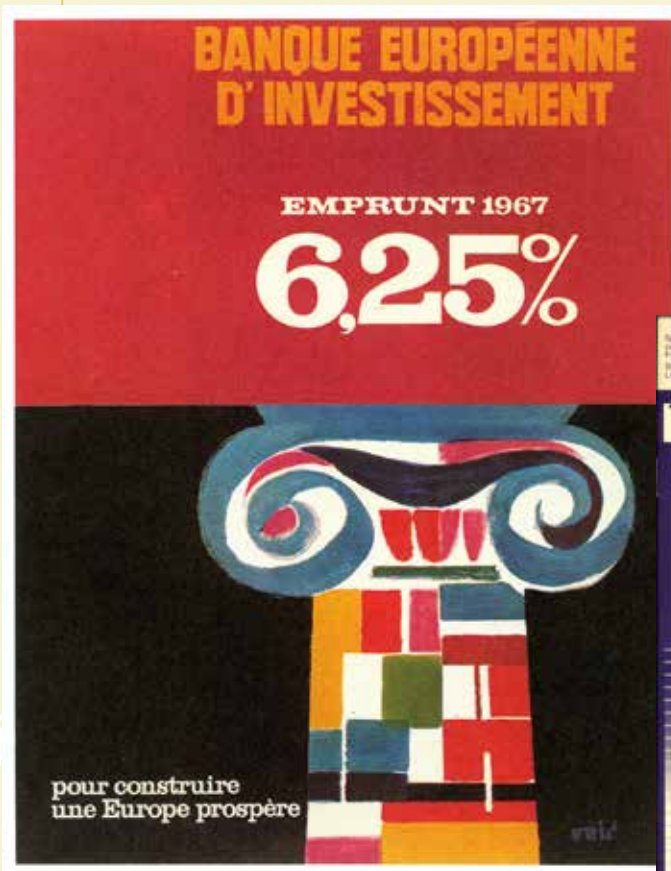
República Portuguesa

*[Handwritten signature]*



TAX





A European Investment Bank marketing poster for a bond issued in French francs in 1967 with the slogan “building a prosperous Europe”. To support the internal market’s balanced development, the European Investment Bank was established to finance projects that would help economies, particularly in poorer regions (European Investment Bank)



On 1 January 2002 the euro became the European single currency, adopted by the member countries of the EU who had previously joined the Economic and Monetary Union (HAEU)

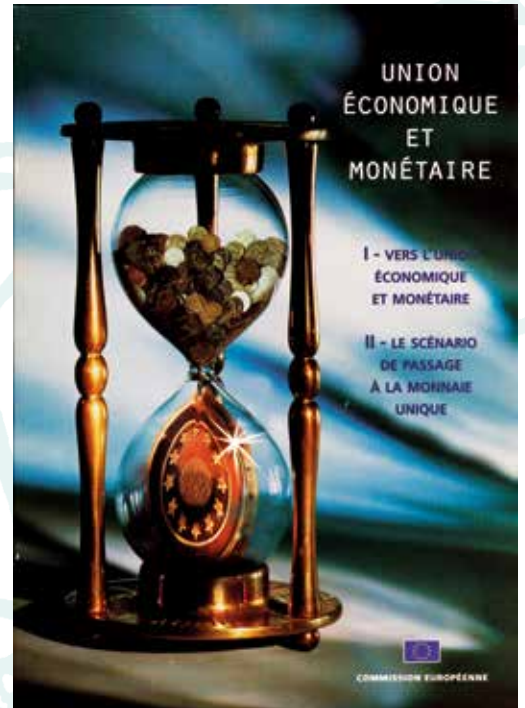
→ Portuguese Prime Minister and President of the European Council, José Sócrates, together with Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister, Luis Amado, during the signing ceremony of the Treaty of Lisbon at the Jeronimos Monastery, in Lisbon, Portugal, 13 December 2007 (ANSA-EPA/Ignacio Rosa)



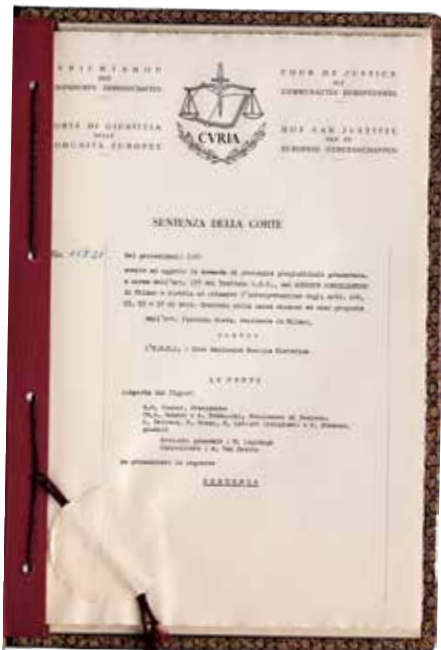




Cover page of Commission “white paper” on the internal market, published for the European Council of Milan (28-29 June 1985) (HAEU)



Information brochure on the Economic and Monetary Union published by the European Commission in 1996, in preparation of the introduction of the single currency (HAEU)



Title page of the European Court of Justice judgement in the case *Costa v. Enel* (1964), that established the direct application of Community law and the supremacy of EEC law over the laws of its Member States (HAEU)

→  
A bond denominated in euro issued by the European Investment Bank in 1997 – two years before the launch of EMU - to help raise confidence in the new currency (European Investment Bank)

# AN EUROPE OF LAW AND ECONOMY

The founding countries of the EEC aimed at an internal market based on the free circulation of **people, services, goods and capital**.

During the first years of integration, national vetoes, domestic controls and non-tariff barriers obstructed the complete realisation of the “**four rights**”. However, from the mid-1980’s the challenges caused by globalisation convinced European leaders of the need to strengthen the internal market. **In June 1985** the European Commission led by Jacques Delors published a “white paper” with precise measures to overturn the fiscal and regulatory obstacles, which were fragmenting the EEC. A year later, the **Single European Act (1986)** established the basis for the development of the internal market. Its further consolidation was assured with the **Schengen Agreement (1985)**, which created conditions for a free circulation area. The plans for an internal market required also monetary integration, already initiated in the 1970’s with the **European Monetary System**. Jacques Delors and the governors of the national central banks elaborated a project for an **Economic and Monetary Union**, based on the **free circulation of capital, a European Central Bank and a single currency**. This project was accomplished with the Euro on 1 January 2002, a new foundation stone of the European Union.





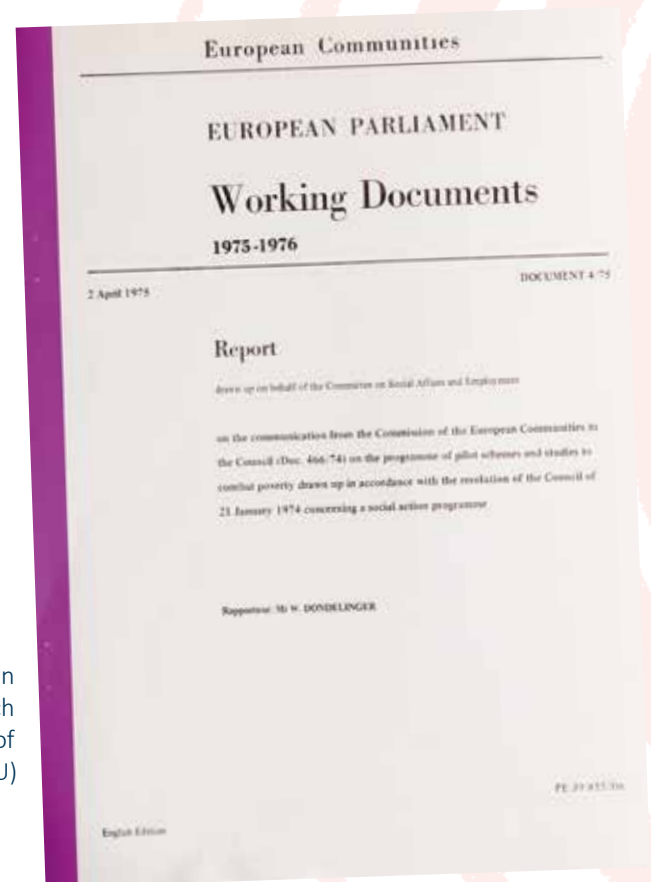




The President of the French Republic, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, and the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Helmut Schmidt, were key players in the proposal for a European Monetary System, aiming to create in Europe "a zone of monetary stability" (EC Audiovisual Services/Jean-Louis Debaize)



Poster for the exhibition “Europe is Female. From the Treaties of Rome to the objectives of 1992, the long road to equality”, 30 January - 28 February 1989, Civic Museum of Contemporary History, Milan (HAEU)



Report by the European Parliament’s Commission for Employment and Social Affairs on pilot research projects against poverty, 2 April 1975, as part of the work of the EP on social inclusion (HAEU)

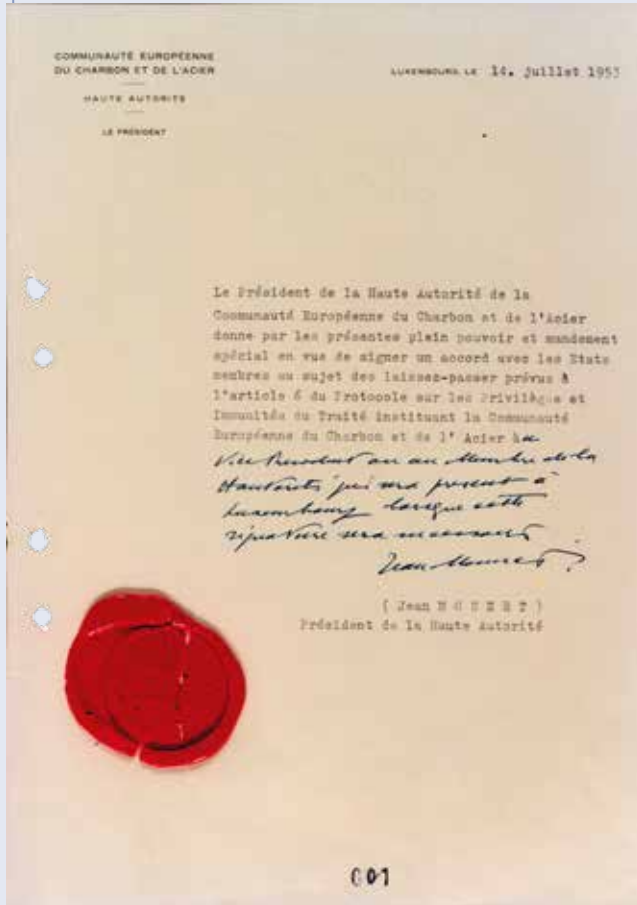


# THE SOCIAL DIMENSION AND EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

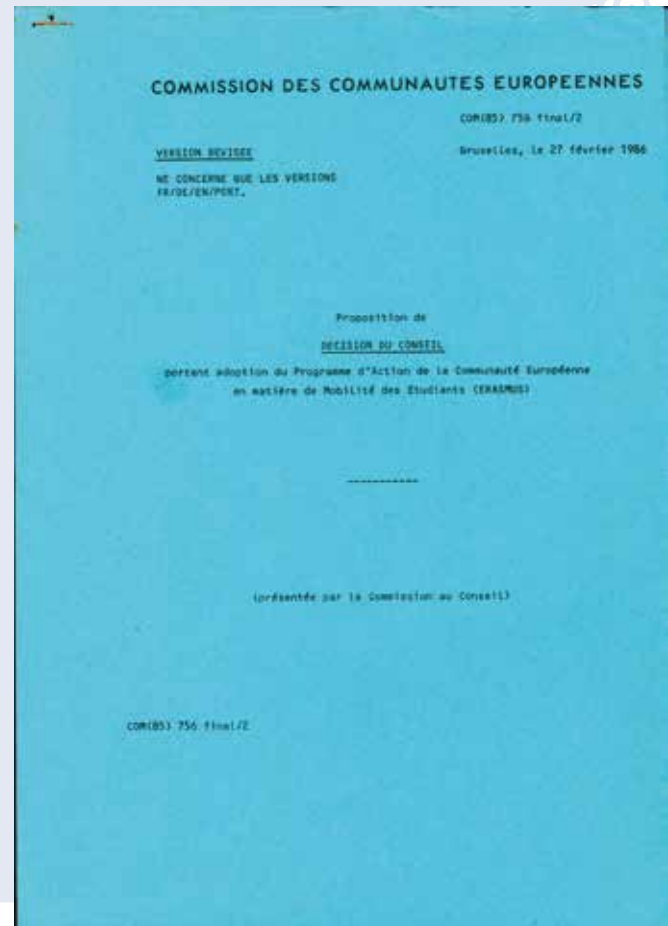
The EC strived towards a **European social policy** from its very inception. References to the social aspects of European economic integration were already present in the treaties which established the ECSC (1952), and the EEC and Euratom (1957). The Treaties of Rome envisaged the creation of an **Economic and Social Committee** and a **European Social Fund**. Nevertheless, it was only from the beginning of the 1970's that the EEC really began to elaborate programmes to deal with the social implications of a market that was integrating rapidly. The health and welfare of workers, their free circulation, professional training, equal pay, and a campaign to end poverty were among the principal issues the Community institutions concentrated on.

The **European Parliament** participated actively in the creation of a European social policy, especially in conjunction with the strengthening of its powers within the European decisional process. The increasing importance of the European Parliament favoured a greater level of democratisation within the EEC. **Direct elections**, held for the first time in June 1979, represented the first step towards a more democratic Europe.

The willingness to create a real **European demos** led the Community institutions to promote programmes directly linked to new generations. The **ERASMUS programme**, launched during the 1980's alongside the **Action Jean Monnet** and **COMETT programmes**, is one of the most successful initiatives of the EEC/EU. Support for training and incentives for European mobility aim even today not only to satisfy the needs associated with the existence of a single market, but also to the diffusion of a European identity.



First example of a European passport from 1953, issued by the President of the High Authority of the ECSC, Jean Monnet, to Community personnel (HAEU)



Proposal for a Council decision on the adoption of the ERASMUS Programme, 1986 (HAEU)

# EUROPE IN THE WORLD

The EEC was from the outset open to **new member states**. Gradually it became a privileged partner of **developing countries** and a leading actor in the field of **international trade**.

From support for the democratic transitions in Greece, Spain and Portugal in the 1970's to the widening of its membership to democratic regimes in Central and Eastern Europe after the end of the Cold War, the enlargements of the EEC/EU contributed to the maintenance of peace on the European continent. For its contribution to peace, reconciliation, democratisation and human rights in Europe, the EU was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2012.

The enlargement process went in parallel with the strengthening of the international dimension of the EEC/EU. Between 1963 and 2000, the agreements concluded at **Yaoundé**, **Lomé** and **Cotonou** made the EU one of the principal global actors in the field of cooperation and development. From the 1960's, using the **Common Commercial Policy** as its basis, the EEC/EU signed commercial agreements directly with third countries and participated in international trade negotiations. In the sphere of foreign policy, since the 1970's Europe has cultivated the ambition to speak "with one voice". After the end of the Cold War, this ambition was enhanced by the failure of European diplomacy to deal with the Yugoslav crisis as it unfolded in the 1990's.

The establishment of the **Common Foreign and Security Policy** (1992) and the **Common Security and Defence Policy** (1999) aimed to enhance the collective security of member states, by strengthening beyond the EU's borders the rule of law and human rights, and helping to prevent international conflicts by sharing strategic interests with international organisations, such as the **United Nations** and the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation** (NATO). The creation of a European diplomatic service (**European Service for External Action**) with the **Treaty of Lisbon** is the outcome of a decade long effort to transform the EU into a unique player in the international arena.



Den Norske Nobelkomite  
har overensstemmende med  
reglene i det av  
**ALFRED NOBEL**  
den 27. november 1895  
opprettede testamente tildelt  
**Den europeiske union (EU)**  
**Nobels Fredspris**  
for 2012  
Oslo, 10. desember 2012

*[Signatures]*  
Lag: Kari J. Skjold, Gunnar Skjold





↑ *previous two pages*: 10 December 2012: The President of the European Council, Herman van Rompuy, the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso, and the President of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz receiving the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the EU (EC Audiovisual Services/Georges Boulougouris)



Celebrations held on 1 May 2004 in Dublin for the biggest enlargement of the EU to include 10 new members, Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia and Hungary (HAEU)



On the 24 June 1994, Austria, Finland, Sweden and Norway signed the EU Accession Treaty. However, Norwegian membership was rejected in a subsequent national referendum. The other three candidates became full members on 1 January 1995 (HAEU)

→ 15 November 1962: The President of the European Commission Walter Hallstein receiving a visit from a Japanese delegation headed by Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda. Since its foundation, the EEC was recognised by third countries as a key actor in international trade (EC Audiovisual Services)









# FUTURE CHALLENGES

The Treaties of Rome handed down a precious legacy of political and economic cooperation between European countries.

Radical geo-political changes occurred in Europe since 1957, and a closer union among the peoples of Europe, set out by the EEC founding Treaty has been developing despite many challenges. The EU is currently facing some complex issues, and the fate of a united Europe depends on the EU responses to these challenges.

The European Neighbourhood Policy is presented with delicate issues in its relations with the Russian Federation and with countries on the southern shores of the Mediterranean.

Political instability in Africa and the Middle East directly affects the EU, as the flux of migrants from these areas is heading for Europe.

In the international arena, the strength of the EU will depend on the capacity of its member states to coordinate their voices within the framework of the Common Foreign and Security Policy. On the internal front, the protracted economic and financial crisis necessitates a continued response from the EU and its member countries to find the right equilibrium between growth and austerity. In this context, the fight against unemployment and the development of an internal market capable of balancing social and economic aspects have become crucial questions for the EU.

In order to promote, in a harmonious way, the foundations of a Union close to the peoples of Europe, it is essential to take in account the political realities and development in member states. To give a better answer to the future challenges, the European Union launched a Global Strategy in 2016 based on a shared vision and common action for a stronger and united Europe.









↑ *previous two pages*: Informal summit of the Heads of State and Government of the 28 member states of the European Union at Valletta (Malta), 3 February 2017. At the conclusion of the meeting, which focus on the strengthening of cooperation in dealing with illegal immigration to the EU, the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, launched an appeal for unity between member states: “United we stand, divided we fall” (EC Audiovisual Services/Etienne Ansot)

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“Porta d’Europa” in Lampedusa Island, by the artist Mimmo Paladino. The work was inspired by the dramatic events faced by thousands of immigrants and asylum seekers who brave adverse conditions to reach Europe in the hope of a better life (ANSA/Tiberio Barchielli)







## Itinerant exhibition on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaties of Rome, 1957-2017

This exhibition marks the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome. The Treaties, signed on 25 March 1957, were a turning point in the process of European integration, giving birth to the European Economic Community and Euratom. The purpose of the exhibition is to trace, through archival documents and images, the history of European integration from the signing of the Treaties of Rome to the challenges facing Europe today.

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In collaboration with:

