

Early days

1946, Sep: In the aftermath of World War II British Prime Minister **Winston Churchill** calls for the recreation of the European family, providing it with a structure under which it can dwell in peace, in safety and in freedom. **"We must build a kind of United States of Europe"**

1947-48: Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands establish **customs** and **economic union** with common customs tariffs

1949, May: **Treaty of Strasbourg** creates **Council of Europe** – block of 41 states to strengthen democracy, human rights, and the rule of law

First big steps

1951, Apr: **Treaty of Paris** signed by **"The Six"** – West Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg – creating **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)**, brainchild of French Foreign Minister **Robert Schuman**. Four key institutions set up: **High Authority** (later European Commission); **Council of Ministers**; **Court of Justice**; and **Common Assembly** (later European Parliament)

1957, Mar: The Six sign **Treaty of Rome**, establishing **European Economic Community (EEC** – also known as the Common Market) and **European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)**

1960: UK, Ireland and Denmark apply to join Common Market

Promotion of CAP

1962: Basic **Common Agricultural Policy** agreed. France and Germany strike deal allowing German industry access to French markets, while Germany channels subsidies to France's farmers via Brussels. **CAP will later become most contentious and expensive EEC policy area**

1963, Jan: **Le Grand "Non"** – French President **Charles de Gaulle** vetoes British membership on basis that UK would inevitably represent U.S. interests. **Four years later de Gaulle vetoes Britain's second application**

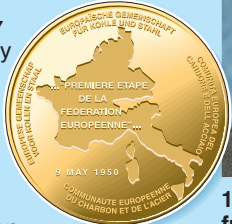
Merger Treaty

1965, Apr: Treaty merging executives of ECSC, EEC and Euratom creates single **Council of Ministers** and **European Commission**

1968, Jul: **Customs union** completed – all duties and quotas are ended. **Trade between The Six** grows from \$7 billion in 1958 to \$60 billion in 1972

Third time lucky

1969, Jul: President **Georges Pompidou** announces France no longer opposes UK membership. **Britain, Ireland and Denmark join Common Market in January 1973**



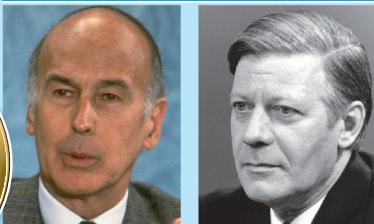
The road to European Union

Ten new member states, mostly from the former Eastern Bloc, will formally join the European Union on May 1, bringing its total membership to 25. Born from a coal and steel trading agreement in 1951, the EU has now grown into the biggest trading alliance in the world – a supra-national entity with almost 455 million citizens

1970: **Werner Report** proposes three-stage plan to create **EMU** – Economic and Monetary Union – within a decade

Monetary stability

1972: **First attempt to harmonise exchange rates.** Currencies, linked through the **"Snake,"** must limit fluctuations against each other to within 1%. British pound, Italian lira and French franc are soon forced out



1978: Only **Deutschmark, Belgian franc, Dutch guilder** and **Danish krone remain in Snake.** French President **Valéry Giscard d'Estaing** (above left) and German Chancellor **Helmut Schmidt** (above right) come up with idea of **European Monetary System.** EMS is launched in 1979 – its **Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM)** allows participating currencies to fluctuate only within fixed margins. The **European Currency Unit (Ecu)** is introduced

1972/94: Norway twice rejects membership of Common Market/EU

1979: First direct elections to European Parliament – EP rejects European Commission budget

1981: Greece formally joins what is now called the **European Community.** Portugal and Spain join in 1986, taking EC membership to 12

1983, Jan: **Common Fisheries Policy** agreed



Iron Lady

1984: After five years of argument over spiralling budget costs British Prime Minister **Margaret Thatcher** demands a budget rebate with the famous words **"I want my money back"**



Euro man

1988: Commission President **Jacques Delors** draws up new EMU blueprint. Plan later adopted in **Maastricht Treaty**, leading to a single currency – the **euro**



Maastricht Treaty

1991: Controversial treaty on European union thrashed out at Maastricht summit. Establishes **European Union** as successor to EC. Crucially, Maastricht establishes timetable for EMU and specifies criteria to determine when countries are ready to join EU

1992, Sep: **Black Wednesday** – Britain pulls sterling out of ERM

Twelve become 15

1995: Sweden, Finland and Austria join, expanding the European Union to 15 member states

1998: **European Central Bank** formed in Frankfurt – responsible for launch of the euro

EU fraud probe

1999, Mar: Entire 20-member **European Commission**, including president **Jacques Santer**, resigns following damning report into alleged fraud and corruption



2002, Jan: Euro banknotes and coins go into circulation in 12 of the 15 EU countries. **Britain, Denmark** and **Sweden** opt out of single currency in 1999

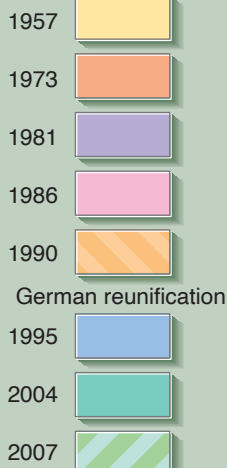


EU constitution

2003, Dec: Summit to agree draft **EU constitution** collapses amid bitter recriminations. **New deadline of June 17, 2004, now set for agreement**



YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP



No accession date set for Turkey

Population (millions)	Votes in Council of European Union (from Nov 2004)	
New member		
Germany	82.4	29
France	61.7	29
UK	59.2	29
Italy	57.0	29
Spain	40.4	27
Poland	38.6	27
Netherlands	16.0	13
Greece	10.6	12
Portugal	10.3	12
Belgium	10.3	12
Czech Rep.	10.2	12
Hungary	10.2	12
Sweden	8.9	10
Austria	8.1	10
Slovakia	5.4	7
Denmark	5.4	7
Finland	5.2	7
Ireland	3.9	7
Lithuania	3.6	7
Latvia	2.4	4
Slovenia	2.0	4
Estonia	1.4	4
Cyprus	0.76	4
Luxembourg	0.45	4
Malta	0.39	3

MAIN EU INSTITUTIONS

European Parliament
Enlarged 2004-2009
Parliament will have 732 MEPs. **Nearly 349 million people in 25 states can vote between June 10-13, 2004, in largest ever EU elections**



Council of the European Union
Secretary-General: **Javier Solana.** EU's main decision-making body represents governments of member states. Presidency rotates every six months



European Commission
President: **Romano Prodi.** Executive body responsible for implementing decisions of Parliament and Council

Court of Justice – European Union's highest court, ensures compliance with EU law

Court of Auditors – Controls sound, lawful management of EU budget