

CHRONOLOGY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION 1945-2006



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

The Documentation - Publications - Research Service has drawn up a *revised edition* of the **Chronology of European Integration 1945-2006**.

We have kept the logic of a Greater Europe with the illustration of the construction of the European Communities (*in red*), and the situation of the communist bloc of Eastern Europe (in grey) in one single document.

However, the new feature of this **revised edition** is that it presents **our Group's huge commitment to serving Europe and at the same time mentions the milestones from its creation to the present day** (*in blue*). We have particularly highlighted the electoral terms and the "EPP Presidencies" of the European Parliament.

We have also included your comments and suggestions which have greatly enhanced and personalised our document.

You will find this Chronology on our website:

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

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any suggestions you may have.

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1945

February	
4-11	Yalta Conference
May	
8	End of the Second World War in Europe
July	
17	Potsdam Conference

1946

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

1947

June	
5	The Marshall Plan , promoting Europe's economic recovery, is announced.
22-28	The Cominform is established.
	Poland becomes a People's Democracy .
	Following the Second World War, cooperation between political parties at a European level was renewed. An initiative by the Swiss Christian Democrats led to the establishment of the " Nouvelles Equipes Internationales " (NEI). Its constituent congress took place in Chaudfontaine (Belgium) in 1947. The NEI pledged to cooperate actively in the reshaping of Europe at social and economic state level for peaceful coexistence and respect for human rights, liberty and social progress.

1948

February	
25	The Prague coup The President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Edvard Beneš, is forced to cede full power to the Communists and their leader, Klement Gottwald, following intense pressure from the Soviets. The country then enters a period of Stalinist power monopoly.
March	
17	Belgium, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom sign the Western European Union Treaty (Treaty of Brussels).
April	
16	The Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) is set up to coordinate the Marshall Plan.
May	
5	The Congress of Europe meets in The Hague, Netherlands, under the auspices of the International Coordination Committee of the Movements for European Unity. Eight hundred delegates attend the meeting, which is chaired by Winston Churchill. Delegates call for the creation of a European Consultative Assembly and a Special European Council to prepare for Europe's political and economic integration. They also advocate the adoption of a Charter of Human Rights and the creation of a Court of Justice to enforce it.
June	
24 June 1948 - 11 May 1949	Berlin Blockade The Berlin food-drop was one of the first major crises of the Cold War when the Soviet Union blocked Western railroad and street access to West Berlin. The crisis abated after the Soviet Union did not act to stop American, British and French airlifts of food and other provisions to the Western-held sectors of Berlin following the Soviet blockade. The Berlin food-drop was one of the biggest food-drops in history, transferring supplies to 2.2 million inhabitants.
	Rift between Tito and Stalin Belgrade defies the Soviet hegemony and adopts draconian measures which step up the political monopoly of the Communist party without any real change in its ideology.

1949

January	
25	The USSR and the People's Democracies set up Comecon .
28	France, the United Kingdom and the Benelux countries decide to set up a Council of Europe and ask Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Switzerland to help them draw up the statute of this Council.
April	
16	The North Atlantic Treaty (NATO) is signed in Washington.
May	
5	The statute of the Council of Europe is signed in London, United Kingdom.
23	Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) The Federal Republic was proclaimed as a successor to the previous government with Bonn as its provisional capital, and included the post-World War II UK, US, and French occupation zones.
30	German Democratic Republic (GDR) The USSR responded to the creation of the Federal Republic of Germany by establishing the German Democratic Republic (GDR) in its zone.
August	
3	The statute of the Council of Europe enters into force.

1950

May	
9	In a speech inspired by Jean Monnet , the French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposes that France and Germany and any other European country wishing to join them pool their coal and steel resources (' Schuman Declaration ').
November	
4	The Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is signed in Rome, Italy.

1951

February	
15	A meeting is held in Paris, France, with a view to creating the European Defence Community. It is attended by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and Germany, and six observer countries (United States, Canada, Denmark, Norway, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands).

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

1952

May	
27	The Six (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) sign the European Defence Community (EDC) Treaty in Paris. At the request of Alcide De Gasperi (Christian Democrat, Italy) an article is inserted into the Treaty (Article 38) stating that discussions on political union would be conducted by the EDC Assembly; he wished in this way to link military integration with political integration.
July	
25	The ECSC Treaty enters into force. Jean Monnet (Christian Democrat, France) is appointed President of the High Authority and Paul-Henri Spaak (Socialist, Belgium) is appointed President of the Common Assembly.
August	
10	The High Authority takes office.
September	
10	ECSC Parliamentary Assembly with 78 members holds its first meeting.
11	(Unofficial) formation of the Christian Democrat Group in the Common Assembly . Its Chairman is Emmanuel Sassen (Christian Democrat, Netherlands) .

1953

February	
10	The Common Market in coal and iron ore comes into being. The Six abolish customs duties and quantitative restrictions on these raw materials.
5	Death of Stalin.
9	Paul-Henri Spaak, President of the Ad Hoc Assembly set up on 10 September 1952, asks George Bidault, President of the ECSC Council, to examine a plan for a Treaty establishing a European Political Community with a view to protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, guaranteeing the security of Member States against aggression, coordinating their foreign policies and gradually introducing the Common Market. The draft Treaty proposes five institutions for this purpose: a European Executive Council, a Parliament consisting of two chambers, a Council of

	National Ministers, a Court of Justice and an Economic and Social Council.
June	
17	Uprising in East Berlin 60 000 demonstrators attack the symbols of Communist power in the German Democratic Republic. President Walter Ulbricht calls on the Soviets for help. The uprising is violently crushed by tanks. At least 80 deaths and 25 000 arrests. These events lead to massive emigration from the GDR to West Berlin, especially the young and well-educated. The Communist power reacted by constructing the Berlin Wall in 1961.
23	Submission of the declaration creating the Christian Democrat Group in the Common Assembly. It is then officially recognised and has 38 members out of a total of 78 Assembly members.

1954

May	
11	Election of Alcide De Gasperi (Christian Democrat, Italy) to the Presidency of the Common Assembly , the first President to come from the Christian Democrat Group.
August	
30	The French National Assembly rejects the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community.
October	
23	Following the London Conference, protocols amending and supplementing the Treaty of Brussels are signed in London, and the Western European Union (WEU) is created.
November	
29	Election of Giuseppe Pella (Christian Democrat, Italy) to the Presidency of the Common Assembly.

1955

May	
	The membership of the Federal Republic of Germany to NATO is a response to the failure of the European Defence Community and triggers the establishment of the Warsaw Pact.
14	The Warsaw Pact is signed.
June	
1	René Mayer (France) is elected President of the High Authority of the ECSC.

1-3	Messina Conference: the decision is taken to revive the European integration process. The Foreign Ministers of the Six envisage a common market covering the whole economy and nuclear energy too. The United Kingdom, invited to take part in the committee of experts chaired by Paul-Henri Spaak, is quick to withdraw from the discussions.
December	
8	The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe adopts the blue flag with a crown of 12 gold stars as an emblem.

1956

May	
6	Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister, submits a report on the draft Community Treaties establishing the EEC and Euratom.
29	Approval of the Spaak report. The Foreign Ministers, meeting in Venice, decide to open intergovernmental negotiations on the conclusion of the two Treaties establishing a European Economic Community and a European Atomic Energy Community.
October	
	Events in Poland in 1956 lead to a 'crushed revolution'. Following 67 deaths in the Poznań riots on 28 June, the Polish authorities take token measures to restore calm. A campaign begins in the country to put Wladyslaw Gomulka, a victim of the purges of 1948 to 1951, back at the head of the POUP (Communist Party). His appointment on 20 October is a symbolic patriotic success.
23	Mass demonstrations in Budapest against the Hungarian government led by Ernő Gerő and calling for the return to power of the moderate Communist Imre Nagy. Nagy takes steps towards democracy, forms a coalition government and announces Hungary's withdrawal from the Warsaw Pact. In response, Soviet troops invade Budapest on 4 November to put an end to the Hungarian uprising. The Hungarian revolution is crushed, over 20 000 people are imprisoned and a flood of over 100 000 people join other political refugees from Central and Eastern Europe heading abroad.
November	
27	Hans Furler (Christian Democrat, Germany) is elected President of the ECSC Common Assembly.

1957

March	
25	The Six (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands) sign the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in Rome; these treaties are then known as the ‘ Treaties of Rome ’.

1958

January	
1	The Treaties of Rome enter into force. The EEC and Euratom Communities are established in Brussels. The Parliamentary Assembly and the Court of Justice are institutions common to the three Communities. The Assembly is enlarged to 142 members.
5	Walter Hallstein (Christian Democrat, Germany) is elected President of the EEC Commission.
7	Louis Armand (France) is elected President of the Euratom Commission. Paul Finet (Belgium) is elected President of the ECSC High Authority.
February	
24	Election of Pierre Wigny (Christian Democrat, Belgium) as Chairman of the Christian Democrat Group in the Common Assembly.
March	
19	Constituent session of the European Parliamentary Assembly in Strasbourg, France. Robert Schuman is elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly which is to replace the ECSC Assembly.
May	
13	Members of the Parliamentary Assembly sit for the first time by political grouping rather than by nationality.
July	
3-11	A conference in Stresa (Italy) lays the foundations for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).
October	
6	Election of Alain Poher (Christian Democrat, France) as Chairman of the Christian Democrat Group in the Common Assembly.

1959

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

1960

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

1961

July	
18	European summit in Bad-Godesberg (Germany). The Six voice their desire to work towards political union.
31	Ireland formally applies for accession to the EEC.
August	
9	The United Kingdom formally applies for accession to the EEC.

10	Denmark formally applies for accession to the EEC.
13-14	Construction of the Berlin Wall .
October	
19	Presentation of the first Fouchet Plan , envisaging a 'union of states'. This plan, presented by France, had a clear intergovernmental agenda: principally it envisaged bodies for defining a common foreign policy, prepared by a political committee reporting to the foreign ministers, to be adopted unanimously by the Council of Ministers.

1962

January	
10	The new Commission of the European Economic Community, with Walter Hallstein as President, takes office. Pierre Chatenet (France) is appointed President of the Euratom Commission.
18	Presentation of the second Fouchet Plan to the committee discussing political union. This second French plan is a step back in relation to the first: political union would cover not only foreign policy but also economic policy, though the need to comply with the Treaty of Rome is not stated; there was now no separate body responsible for preparing foreign policy.
February	
9	Spain formally applies for accession to the EEC.
March	
30	Mr Gaetano Martino (Liberal, Italy) is elected President of the Parliamentary Assembly.
30	The Parliamentary Assembly decides to call itself the European Parliament.
April	
2-4	The Council adopts the first regulations on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) , created to establish a single market in agricultural goods and to ensure financial solidarity through a European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF).
30	Norway formally applies for accession to the EEC.
June	
	Malta asks for negotiations to be opened for its potential accession to the EEC.
July	
1	The customs duties levied between Member States on industrial products are reduced to 50% of their 1957 level.

30	The regulations establishing a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) enter into force.
November	
1	The Association Agreement between Greece and the Community enters into force.
December	
10	Cyprus asks for negotiations to be opened for its potential accession to the EEC.

1963

January	
14	General de Gaulle, President of the French Republic, states that France doubts that the United Kingdom has the political will to become a member of the Community. A few days later, negotiations with all the applicant countries are suspended.
29	The British application is set aside indefinitely. The Commission publishes a report on 5 March on the stage reached in the negotiations with the United Kingdom when they were discontinued.
February	
5	Van Gend en Loos judgment. The Court of Justice rules that the Community is a new legal order in respect of which the Member States have agreed to limit their sovereign rights.
March	
25-29	Gaetano Martino is re-elected President of the European Parliament.
July	
20	The Yaoundé Convention, a five-year association agreement between the Community and seventeen African States and Madagascar, is signed in Yaoundé, Cameroon.
September	
23-24	The Council reaches agreement in principle on the merger of the executives.

1964

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

1965

April	
8	The Merger Treaty , fusing the Executives of the three Communities (ECSC, EEC and Euratom), is signed in Brussels. The Treaty enters into force on 1 July 1967.
May	
3	The " Nouvelles Equipes Internationales " change their name to the European Union of Christian Democrats (EUCD) . Mariano Rumor (DC, Italy) is elected President.
June	
30	France practices the ' empty chair policy ', and breaks off negotiations on the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The French government recalls its Permanent Representative. During this period, the French delegation does not take part in meetings of the Council or of the Committee of Permanent Representatives.
September	

24	Victor Leemans (Christian Democrat, Belgium) is elected President of the European Parliament.
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1966

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

1967

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

1968

March-April	
	Suppression of student protests in Poland . Anti-Semitic campaign and purges. The remaining thirty thousand Jews leave the country for good.
July	
1	Customs Union enters into force. Customs duties which continued to be paid for intra-Community trade are abolished 18 months before the date scheduled in the Treaty of Rome and the Common Customs Tariff is introduced as a replacement for national customs duties in trade with the rest of the world.
August	
21	Invasion of Czechoslovakia The ' <i>Prague Spring</i> ' reforms initiated by Alexander Dubček come up against strong opposition from the Soviet Union. The invasion by Soviet, Polish and Hungarian troops and by a detachment from East Germany (300 000 strong) claims to be saving socialism in the country. The people do not offer any armed resistance. The Party leaders, including Dubček, are taken to Moscow and have to accept humiliation and, with one exception, sign the repeal of these reforms.

1969

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

1970

March	
4	The Commission presents to the Council a communication on the drafting of a plan to create economic and monetary union.
6	The Council asks a Committee of Experts chaired by Pierre Werner to draw up proposals for economic and monetary union and asks a second Committee of Experts chaired by Étienne Davignon to draw up a plan for political cooperation.
April	
22	Signature of the Treaty of Luxembourg . The Council decides progressively to introduce a system of own resources under which the Community will receive all the customs duties levied on products imported from third countries, all the levies on agricultural imports and revenue from value added tax. It also decides to extend the budgetary powers of the European Parliament.
July	
2	The new Commission, with Franco Maria Malfatti as President, takes office.
21	Accession negotiations are opened with the United Kingdom.
September	
21	Accession negotiations are opened with Ireland, Denmark, and Norway.
October	
8	Publication of the Werner Report on economic and monetary union. Federalist in inspiration, the plan envisages the introduction of economic and monetary union in three stages, based on a transfer of responsibilities to the Community institutions, and progress towards monetary union by 1980.
27	The Member States approve the Davignon Report on political cooperation. This is to allow Europe to speak with a single voice on major international issues.
December	
14-22	Bloody December in Poland Dramatic price rises lead to workers' strikes in Gdynia, Gdansk and Szczecin. The police and the army break up meetings and demonstrations. There are deaths and injuries.

1971

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

1972

January	
22	Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom sign the Treaties of Accession to the European Communities.
April	
24	Introduction of the 'currency snake': the Six undertake to limit the margin of fluctuation of exchange rates between their currencies to 2.25%.
May	
10	Referendum in Ireland. A large majority votes in favour of accession to the European Communities.
September	
25	Referendum in Norway. The majority votes against Norway's accession to the European Communities.
October	
2	Referendum in Denmark. A majority votes in favour of Denmark's accession to the European Communities.
6	The United Kingdom ratifies the Act of Accession to the European Communities.
19-22	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 achieving economic and monetary union. The issue of European Union is also raised. In the final communiqué of the Summit, the Community institutions are asked to look into transforming the whole complex of relations between Member States into a European Union.

1973

January	
1	Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom accede to the European Communities. The free trade agreements concluded between the Community and Austria, Switzerland, Portugal and Sweden enter into force.
16	First meeting of enlarged Parliament of 198 members following accession of the UK, Ireland and Denmark.
March	
13	Cornelis Berkhouwer (Liberal, Netherlands) is elected President of the European Parliament.
December	
14-15	Copenhagen summit (Denmark). The energy crisis leads the Member States to agree to the introduction of a common energy policy. A declaration on European identity, drawn up in the context of the political cooperation approved by the Foreign Ministers, is published.

1974

April	
1	Following a change of government in the United Kingdom, the British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs makes a statement to the Council on the new government's policy towards the Community. He calls for radical changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), 'fairer methods of financing the Community budget' and solutions to monetary problems.
July	
24	Greece: the 'colonels' regime' falls and the association with the EEC is re-launched.
December	
9-10	Paris Summit (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 state their resolve to introduce economic and monetary union. They also ask Leo Tindemans (Christian Democrat, Belgium) to prepare a report on European Union (looking at federal and confederal solutions).
12	The European Parliament votes, for the first time, on the general budget of the European Communities.

1975

February	
28	A Convention , called Lomé I , between the Community and the 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States, is signed in Lomé, Togo, and replaces the Yaoundé Conventions.
March	
11	Georges Spenale (Socialist, France) is elected President of the European Parliament.
18	The Council creates the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and a Regional Policy Committee. The Council adopts a European Unit of Account formed by a basket of Member States' currencies. This unit is initially to be used for the Lomé Convention and for European Investment Bank operations, and then progressively introduced into other sectors of Community activity. In the House of Commons, the British Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, states that the British government recommends a 'yes' vote in the referendum on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the Community.
June	
5	Results of the British referendum: 67.2% vote for the United Kingdom to remain in the Community.
12	Greece formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
July	
10	The European Parliament adopts the Bertrand Report (Christian Democrat, Belgium) on European Union. Mr Bertrand succeeded in imposing within the European Parliament the core of Christian Democrat thought on the future development of Community institutions, namely the Parliament's budgetary powers, the delimitation of national and Community powers and the general politicisation of the European institutions.
22	A Treaty strengthening the budgetary powers of the European Parliament and creating the Court of Auditors is signed. The Treaty enters into force in June 1977.
August	
1	35 States sign the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in Helsinki, Finland.
September	
9	Alfred Bertrand (Christian Democrat, Belgium) is elected Chairman of the Christian Democrat Group.

1976

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

1977

January	
6	The new Commission, appointed in December 1976, with Roy Jenkins as President, takes office.
March	
8	Emilio Colombo (Christian Democrat, Italy) is appointed President of the European Parliament.
28	Portugal formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
June	
1	The Treaty strengthening Parliament's budgetary powers enters into force.
July	
28	Spain formally applies for accession to the European Communities.

1978

March	
6-7	First Congress of the European People's Party in Brussels: Adoption of Political Programme: "Striving together for a Europe of free citizens" . Extract from the programme: "We the European People's Party ... desire the unity of Europe. It was Christian-Democratic statesmen such as Robert Schuman, Alcide De Gasperi and Konrad Adenauer, who laid the foundations for what has been achieved so far. We are continuing their successful work. We are firmly resolved to bring this historic work in their spirit to fruition. Our goal is a federation of Europe, as proposed by Robert Schuman on 9 May 1950."
14	The Christian Democrat Group changes its name to the Christian Democrat Group (Group of the European People's Party).
April	
3	The trade agreement between the EEC and the People's Republic of China is signed (and enters into force on 1 June).
	Establishment of the European Democrat Union (EDU) which brings together European parties on the right, of a Christian Democrat, Conservative or Liberal persuasion.
June	
6	The Council accepts Portugal's application for accession and opens negotiations.
July	

6-7	The European Council, meeting in Bremen, Germany, adopts a common strategy to promote a substantial increase in economic growth, thereby reducing unemployment, and proposes the creation of a European Monetary System (EMS) . It is worth stressing here that the crucial impetus for the EMS rested on the personal determination of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.
November	
29	The Commission issues a favourable opinion on Spain's application for accession. Negotiations are opened on 5 February 1979.
December	
4-5	The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, decides to create the European Monetary System on the basis of a European Currency Unit (ECU) and to ask 'wise men' to start thinking about the ways in which the operation of the institutions could be changed to cope with enlargement.

1979

January	
1	France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
February	
5	Negotiations for Spain's accession are officially opened in Brussels.
20	Cassis de Dijon ruling. In this case, the Court of Justice establishes a principle that will enhance the Community system, according to which any product lawfully manufactured and marketed in one Member State must be allowed on to the market of all the other Member States. As a result, any provision aimed at preventing the import of products from other Member States should be deemed illegal. This Court ruling can be seen as a historic event, which contributed to the 'revival' of progress with the Common Market.
22-23	II EPP Congress in Brussels: Adoption of Election Manifesto for the 1 st direct elections to the European Parliament and appeal to all European citizens to take a constructive part in the European elections.
March	
12-13	The European Council, meeting in Paris, France, sets 13 March as the date for the entry into force of the European Monetary System (EMS). It also examines the economic and social system, the Common Agricultural Policy and energy problems.
13	The European Monetary System enters into force.

May	
28	The Acts relating to Greece's accession to the Communities are signed in Athens (Greece).
June	
7-10	EPP Group/European elections The parties belonging to the EPP win 32.8 million votes out of a total of 111 million. This is a remarkable success, particularly because the EPP is not represented in the United Kingdom or Denmark. The EPP Group has 107 MEPs out of a total of 410.
	On 16 October 1978 the Archbishop of Krakow, Cardinal Karol Wojtyła is elected Pope. In June 1979 the head of the Catholic church visits Poland for the first time . This marks the beginning of democratic change in Poland. 'Solidarność' is created a year later.
July	
1	Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
July	
17	The Group changes its name to the 'Group of the European People's Party' (Christian Democrat Group).
17-20	First sitting in Strasbourg (France) of the Parliament elected by universal direct suffrage of 410 members. Simone Veil (France) is elected President by an absolute majority in the second round.
October	
31	Lomé II , linking the EEC to 58 ACP countries for five years, is signed.
December	
13	Parliament rejects budget for the first time.

1980

January	
1	Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
May	
30	Mandate of 30 May. The Council reaches a compromise on the United Kingdom's contribution to the Community budget.
July	
1	Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.

August	
18	Death of Tito (Leader of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia since 1945).
31	A wave of strikes takes place, whose focal point and culmination is the demonstration at the Gdansk naval shipyard. It is there, on 31 August, after many hours of negotiations with representatives of the RPL government, that the agreement is sealed: 'Solidarność' is to be set up.
September	
1-2	III EPP Congress in Cologne. General theme: 'The Christian-Democrats in the Eighties – Safeguarding peace and achieving freedom in Europe' . 'We are called upon to give shape to the European ideal. It is up to our generation to overcome recession, give inspiration to the young, defend human rights and preserve living standards. We must work to arouse hope and confidence in these troubled times and to unleash creative forces which will operate positively in the interest of all'. (Extract from Leo TINDEMANS's address as Chairman).

1981

January	
1	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Greece becomes the tenth member of the European Community.
6	The new Commission, with Gaston Thorn as President, takes office.
June	
1	Membership increases to 434 after Greek accession.
September	
9	Election of Egon Klepsch (EPP, Germany) as Chairman of the EPP Group.
November	
7	Genscher-Colombo plan for a 'European Act' to improve institutional mechanisms in relation to the European Parliament.
19	France and the Federal Republic of Germany present the Genscher-Colombo Plan, a draft 'European Act' intended to improve institutional mechanisms.
December	
13	Martial law is declared in Poland. After 16 months of freedom unprecedented in post-war history, <i>Solidarność</i> is declared illegal. Thousands of people are arrested and detained. Using force against its own people, the government re-establishes the totalitarian system.

23	The Greek "Nea Demokratia" delegation joins the EPP; it becomes a full member of the EPP in 1983.
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1982

January	
1	Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
19	Pieter Dankert (Socialist, Netherlands) is elected as President of the European Parliament.
February	
23	In a referendum, Greenland, which became a member of the European Community as part of Denmark, opts to withdraw from the Community.
July	
1	Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
December	
6-8	IV EPP Congress in Paris: ‘Establishing peace – preserving freedom – uniting Europe’ . Adoption of various resolutions on economic and social policy, development policy, policy to secure peace, and on the institutional strategy of the EPP. Leo TINDEMANS is re-elected EPP Chairman.

1983

January	
1	Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
25	Birth of ‘Blue Europe’. After six years of negotiations, the Fisheries Ministers of the ten Member States sign an agreement on the Common Fisheries Policy.
June	
17	At the European Council in Stuttgart, Germany, the Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers sign a solemn declaration on European Union.
July	
1	Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
September	

14	The MEP Altiero Spinelli presents a draft Treaty establishing the European Union to the European Parliament.
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1984

January	
1	France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
20	Election of Paolo Barbi (Christian Democrat, Italy) as leader of the EPP Group.
February	
14	The European Parliament adopts the draft Treaty establishing the European Union by a large majority (Spinelli Plan).
28	The Council adopts a decision relating to a strategic European research and development programme in the field of information technologies (ESPRIT).
April	
28	V EPP Congress in Rome: Adoption of an action plan for the EPP Group for the 1984-1989 parliamentary term, ‘Uniting Europe for peace, freedom and justice’ . The final declarations in the action plan demonstrate a new confidence resulting from experience of unity and joint action: ‘The EPP is a party that is constantly fighting, determinedly and unanimously, for the creation of the United States of Europe.’
June	
14-17	EPP Group/European elections The EPP Group wins 110 seats out of a total of 484. The results of these elections are disappointing for the EPP as, rather than reducing the gap between the EPP and the Socialists, they increase it. Following the first elections in 1979, the EPP had 107 MEPs while the Socialist Group had 113, but now the figures are 110 compared with 130.
25-26	At the European Council in Fontainebleau, France, the Ten reach agreement on the compensation to be awarded to the United Kingdom in order to reduce its contribution to the Community budget.
July	
1	Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
July	
24	Election of Pierre Pflimlin (EPP, France) as the new President of the European Parliament.
November	

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

1985

January	
1	Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The first European passports are issued in most Member States.
7	The new Commission, with Jacques Delors (France) as President, takes office.
February	
1	Greenland leaves the European Community, but remains associated with it as an overseas territory.
March	
12	The President of the Commission, Jacques Delors, presents the Commission's programme for 1985 to the European Parliament. The Council adopts the 'BRITE' (Basic Research in Industrial Technologies for Europe) research programme for the application and/or development of the new technologies in traditional industrial sectors.
29-30	The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, approves the accession of Spain and Portugal to the European Communities and adopts the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes (IMP) as proposed by the Commission.
June	
12	Signature of the Acts of Accession of Spain and Portugal.
14	The Commission sends the European Council a White Paper entitled 'Completing the Internal Market'. The programme envisages the abolition of geographical, technical and fiscal borders within seven years. The Schengen Agreement on the elimination of border controls is signed by Germany, Belgium, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands in Schengen (Luxembourg).

20	The ad hoc Committee for a People's Europe presents its final report to the European Council.
28-29	At the European Council in Milan, Italy, the Heads of State or Government approve the Commission's White Paper on the internal market and decide by a majority of Council members 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.
22	The Council approves the convening of a conference of representatives of the governments of the Member States to make changes to the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and to draw up a draft Treaty on the common foreign and security policy.
December	
2-3	At the European Council in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Ten decide to amend the Treaty of Rome and to give fresh impetus to European integration by drawing up a Single European Act.

1986

January	
1	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Spain and Portugal accede to the European Communities. Parliament Membership increases to 518 after Spanish and Portuguese accession.
	The Portuguese CDS, the Spanish Unión de Centro Democrático (UCD), the Catalan Unió Democràtica de Catalunya (UDC) and the Basque Partido Nacionalista Vasco (PNV) join the EPP Group. The size of the EPP Group increased by 9 MEPs to 118.
February	
17-28	The Single European Act amending the Treaty of Rome is signed in Luxembourg. Nine Member States sign the document on 17 February. Italy, Denmark and Greece do not sign until 28 February, once the outcome of the Danish referendum – in favour of approving the Single European Act – is known.
April	
10-12	VI EPP Congress in The Hague: 'EPP's 10th anniversary – striving for a people's Europe' . The Congress focuses on two main themes: economic development and environmental problems.

May	
29	The European flag, adopted by the European institutions, is raised for the first time in front of the Berlaymont building to the strains of the European anthem.
July	
1	The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
December	
5-6	The European Council, meeting in London, United Kingdom, focuses on the fight against terrorism, illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

1987

January	
1	Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
20	Lord Plumb (Conservative, UK) is elected as the new President of the European Parliament.
February	
15	In a communication entitled <i>The Single Act: A New Frontier for Europe</i> , the Commission sets out the conditions for attaining the objectives of the SEA, including proposals to complete agricultural reform and double the "structural funds" to promote cohesion in the EC (Delors I budgetary package).
April	
14	The government of the Turkish Republic formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
July	
1	Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Single European Act enters into force. SEA allocates new powers to the European Parliament and gives treaty status to the title European Parliament.
September	
12	The Economic and Finance Ministers adopt measures to strengthen the European Monetary System (EMS).

1988

January	
1	Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
March	
29	'The Cost of non-Europe' The Commission publishes the results of a study 'Europe 1992 – The overall challenge', drawn up at its request by a group of independent experts, chaired by Paolo Cecchini, to assess the benefits of the single market.
June	
27-28	The European Council, meeting in Hanover, Germany, stresses the importance of the social aspects of the progression towards the 1992 objectives, expresses its concerns about the threats to the environment and asks a committee to prepare for monetary union; it also agrees to re-appoint Jacques Delors as President of the Commission.
July	
1	Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The interinstitutional agreement approved in June on budgetary discipline and the improvement of the budgetary procedure enters into force.
November	
7-9	VII EPP Congress in Luxembourg: ' The EPP – a reliable and effective party for the people '. Adoption of an Action Programme for the third parliamentary term of the EP, 1989-1994: 'On the People's Side'. Along with the logo adopted when the party was founded (the green E with a circle of stars), a new logo is presented to the Congress (the blue heart with a circle of twelve stars inside), to illustrate the Congress slogan 'EPP – the heart of Europe'. The EPP Group in the European Parliament has kept this logo.
December	
12	The European Council in Rhodes, Greece, focuses on the single market for 1992, stressing the importance of work to protect the environment and the need to develop Europe's audiovisual capacity. The Council states officially that protection of the environment is 'of vital significance to the Community and to the rest of the world' and urges 'the Community and the Member States to take every initiative and all essential steps, including at international level'.

1989

January	
1	Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
April	
5	The Polish Round Table discussions conclude with the decision to legalise once more the existence of Solidarity and to organise semi-free elections to Parliament.
17	The Delors Committee presents its report on Economic and Monetary Union. Parliament adopts the Declaration of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms.
May	
2	The borders between Hungary and Austria are opened , leading to a mass exodus of Germans from the GDR to the Federal Republic; this is a first step towards the destruction of the Berlin Wall in November 1989.
June	
18	The second round of legislative elections in Poland gives the opposition led by Solidarity a total of 35% of seats in the lower chamber and 99% in the new upper chamber.
15-18	Third European elections by universal direct suffrage.
15-18	Third direct elections to the European Parliament. EPP Group/European Elections The EPP wins 121 seats. This is a relatively low result, given that for the first time parties from Spain and Portugal are taking part in the elections under the banner of the EPP. The Socialist lead increases further, as they win 180 seats compared to the EPP's 121.
26-27	The European Council, meeting in Madrid, Spain, adopts conclusions on economic and monetary union. Three conditions would have to be fulfilled for economic and monetary union to be introduced: full and irreversible convertibility of currencies, the complete liberalisation of capital movements and the removal of margins of fluctuation, with fixed exchange rates.
July	
1	France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
17	Re-election of Egon Klepsch (EPP, Germany) as Chairman of the EPP Group.

25	Enrique Barón Crespo (Socialist, Spain) is elected as the new President of the European Parliament.
	In increasing numbers, East Germans take refuge in Austria via Hungary or seek asylum in the embassies of West Germany in East Berlin, Budapest and Prague.
November	
4	Large-scale demonstration in East Berlin (more than one million people). Thousands of East Germans continue to flee their country via Czechoslovakia.
7-8	VIIth EPP Congress in Luxembourg: "The EPP - a reliable and effective party for the people". Adoption of an Action Programme for the third parliamentary term of the EP, 1989-1994: " On the People's Side ".
9	The fall of the Berlin Wall (3.60 metres high, 160 kilometres long and 300 lookouts) brings an end to forty years of separation and hostility between the two parts of Germany: the Federal Republic of Germany, under western influence, and the German Democratic Republic, under Soviet domination.
17	A student demonstration marks the beginning of the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia which will ultimately lead to the fall of the Communist government. The writer and dissident Václav Havel becomes the country's first non-Communist President.
28	Chancellor Helmut Kohl presents a three-stage plan for the potential reunification of Germany to the Bundestag.
December	
8-9	The European Council, meeting in Strasbourg, France, decides to call an Intergovernmental Conference by 1990 to prepare an amendment of the Treaty to take account of the final stages of Economic and Monetary Union. The Heads of State or Government of 11 Member States adopt the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers .
25	In Romania, Nicolas Ceaușescu (in power since 1965) becomes a major opponent of the reforms taking place in the other Communist countries, but he is brutally toppled and, following a trial, he and his wife are executed .
15	Signature of Lomé IV .

1990

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

27-28	At a special session of the European Council in Rome, Italy, preparations for the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on aspects of Political Union, are completed.
November	
15-16	VIII EPP Congress in Dublin: ‘A federal and democratic Constitution for the European Union’ . Declaration on the Constitution of the European Union. This is the first congress attended by delegates from the Central and Eastern European countries.
19-21	Meeting in Paris, France. Thirty-four Heads of State or Government of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sign a <i>Charter for a New Europe</i> .
December	
14-15	The European Council, meeting in Rome, Italy, launches the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on Economic and Monetary Union and the other on Political Union.

1991

January	
1	Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
June	
25	Proclamation of the independence of Slovenia and Croatia. First steps towards the break-up of the Yugoslav Federation.
28-29	The European Council, meeting in Luxembourg, in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, confirms the need to conduct the work on the two Intergovernmental Conferences, one on economic and monetary union and the other on aspects of political union in parallel, on the basis of a draft Treaty drawn up by the Presidency. For the first time, the Community makes a direct commitment to deal with the Yugoslav crisis. The decision is made to send a ministerial mission to Yugoslavia and to use the procedures laid down by the CSCE for conciliation attempts.
July	
1	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. Sweden formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
1	Dissolution of the Warsaw Pact.
October	
21	The Council reaches agreement on the establishment of the European Economic Area (EEA).

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

1992

January	
1	Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
14	Election of Egon Klepsch (EPP, Germany) as President of the European Parliament. Election of Leo Tindemans (EPP, Belgium) to replace him as Chairman of the Group.
February	
3	The Council adopts positive measures to assist Croatia, Slovenia, the Yugoslav Republics of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Montenegro and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.
7	Signature of the Treaty on European Union in Maastricht by the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Member States.
March	
18	Finland formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
May	
1	Official entry of the British and Danish Conservatives into the EPP Group in the European Parliament.
2	A few weeks after the signature of the Treaty on European Union in Maastricht, the seven countries of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) – Austria, Finland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden – sign an agreement with the European Community and its Member States in Oporto, Portugal, to set up a European Economic Area (EEA) . The purpose of the EEA is to create an integrated, dynamic and unified economic area based on common rules and equivalent conditions of competition, in order to integrate the economies of the countries belonging to it.

20	Switzerland formally applies for accession to the European Communities.
June	
2	Referendum in Denmark. The Danish people vote against ratification of the Treaty on European Union (51% against, 49% for).
18	Referendum in Ireland. The Irish people vote for ratification of the Treaty on European Union (69% for, 31% against).
26-27	The European Council, meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, stresses the importance of respecting the timetable for ratification of the Treaty on European Union, so it can enter into force on 1 January 1993.
July	
1	The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
2	Luxembourg ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
31	Greece ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
September	
20	Referendum in France. The French people vote for ratification of the Treaty on European Union (51% for, 49% against).
October	
16	An extraordinary European Council, meeting in Birmingham in the United Kingdom, adopts a declaration entitled 'A Community close to its citizens'.
26	Italy ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
November	
4	Belgium ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
11-13	IX EPP Congress in Athens. Adoption of a new EPP Basic Programme. The Congress also discusses current issues surrounding the development of the Community and European policy, and especially the problems in the various countries regarding the ratification process for the Maastricht Treaty.
25	Norway formally applies for accession to the European Communities. Spain ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
December	
6	Referendum in Switzerland. The Swiss people vote against ratification of the Agreement establishing the European Economic Area. The application for accession to the EC is suspended.
11	Portugal ratifies the Treaty on European Union.

11-12	The European Council, meeting in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 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 1 January. The final decision on where the institutions are based should also be mentioned. The Commission and the Council are to remain in Brussels and the European Parliament will hold 12 sessions a year in Strasbourg. Luxembourg will remain the home of all the current financial institutions, the Court of Justice and the Parliament Secretariat.
15	The Netherlands ratifies the Treaty on European Union.
18	Germany ratifies the Treaty on European Union.

1993

January	
1	Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities. The Single European Market comes into force.
1	Czechoslovakia is divided into two States: the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.
February	
1	Negotiations on the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden are opened in Brussels.
April	
5	Negotiations on the accession of Norway are opened in Luxembourg.
May	
18	Following a further referendum, the Danish people vote in favour of the Treaty on European Union (57% for, 43% against). In London, three days later, the House of Commons approve the draft Treaty by 292 votes to 112 at the end of a very long debate.
June	
21-22	The European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, in Denmark, instructs the Commission to prepare a white paper on a long-term strategy for growth, competitiveness and employment; it confirms that the accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden is to take place by 1995 at the latest and affirms that the associated Central and Eastern European countries may become full members as soon as they satisfy the requisite economic and political criteria.
July	
1	Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
August	
2	The United Kingdom ratifies the Treaty on European Union.

October	
25	Meeting in Interinstitutional Conference in Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Council, the Commission and Parliament adopt a declaration on democracy, transparency and subsidiarity; they agree to a draft Parliament decision on the general conditions governing the performance of the Ombudsman's duties and to a text on the working methods of the Conciliation Committee in the context of the codecision procedure.
29	The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, adopts a declaration marking the entry into force of the Treaty on European Union; it confirms that the second phase of Economic and Monetary Union will come into effect on 1 January 1994 and decides on a number of joint actions to be undertaken by the Union under its common foreign and security policy. It also decides on the seat of some Community bodies and agencies.
November	
1	As all the ratification procedures have been completed, the Treaty on European Union enters into force. The Maastricht Treaty on European Union allocates further powers to the European Parliament.
December	
5	The Commission adopts a White Paper entitled 'Growth, competitiveness and employment – the challenges and ways forward into the 21 st century'.
8-9	Xth EPP Congress in Brussels. Adoption of the Action Plan for the EPP Group in the 1994-1999 parliamentary term: " Europe 2000 - Unity in Diversity ".
11-12	The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, draws up a short- and medium-term action plan based on the Commission's White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, and an initial action plan in the field of justice and home affairs. It also decides to call a conference on a Stability Pact for the Central and Eastern European countries.

1994

January	
1	Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The second phase of Economic and Monetary Union is launched, with the creation of the European Monetary Institute (EMI). The agreement establishing the European Economic Area (EEA) enters into force.
March	
30	Accession negotiations with Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden are concluded in Brussels.
April	
1	Hungary formally applies for accession to the European Union.

5	Poland formally applies for accession to the European Union.
May	
26-27	The Conference launching the Stability Pact for Central and Eastern Europe meets in Paris, France.
June	
9-12	European Parliament elections. Following the 1994 European elections, the Group has 157 MEPs (compared with 198 socialists and 43 liberals). This figure includes delegations from parties that are EPP members as well as British Conservative MEPs who are allied with our Group but are not members of the Party.
12	In a referendum, the Austrian people vote in favour of accession to the European Union.
24-25	The European Council meets in Corfu, Greece. The main item is the follow-up to the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment. The Acts of Accession of Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden are signed as well as a new partnership and cooperation agreement between the European Communities, the Member States and Russia.
July	
1	Germany takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Communities.
5	Mr Wilfried Martens (EPP/Belgium) is elected Chairman of the EPP Group. This is the first time – not only in the EPP – that the same person has led both a European party and a parliamentary group.
15	At an extraordinary meeting of the European Council in Brussels, Jacques Santer, Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, is nominated to succeed Jacques Delors as President of the Commission.
19-28	The new European Parliament holds its first session in Strasbourg. Klaus Hänsch (PES, Germany) is elected President of the European Parliament. Jacques Santer is formally appointed as the future President of the European Commission.
General adjustment to number of seats per member state following German unification brings Parliament to 567 seats.	
October	
16	In a referendum, the Finnish people vote in favour of Finland's accession to the European Union.
November	
13	In a referendum, the Swedish people vote in favour of Sweden's accession to the European Union.

28	In a referendum, the Norwegian people reject Norway's accession to the European Union (52% against, 48% for).
29	The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission adopt the 1995-1999 financial perspective which takes account of enlargement.
December	
9-10	The European Council, meeting in Essen, Germany, decides what steps to take to further the strategy of the White Paper on growth, competitiveness and employment, especially as regards the fight against unemployment and the implementation of the trans-European networks; it also agrees on a global strategy to bring the associated Central and Eastern European countries closer to the European Union and reaffirms its resolve to establish a Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It approves, in principle, a multi-annual programme of aid to Northern Ireland.

1995

January	
1	France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the European Union. Following this enlargement Parliament membership increases to 626 seats.
23	Following a vote of approval in the European Parliament on 18 January, the representatives of the governments of the Member States appoint the President – Jacques Santer (EEP, Luxembourg) – and Members of the European Commission for a five-year term.
March	
26	The Schengen Agreement enters into force in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.
May	
3-10	The Commission adopts the White Paper on the preparation of the associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe for integration into the internal market of the Union.
June	
12	European Association Agreements are signed with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
22	Romania formally applies for accession to the European Union.
26-27	The European Council, meeting in Cannes, France, reaches overall agreement on external financing, including the financing arrangements for the eighth European Development Fund (EDF) for the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. It confirms 1 January 1999 as the date of transition to the single currency.

27	Slovakia formally applies for accession to the European Union.
July	
1	Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
October	
13	Latvia formally applies for accession to the European Union.
November	
6-7	XI EPP Congress in Madrid: ' EPP – Force of the Union '. Adoption of the basic document: 'Capacity to act – democracy and transparency; the European Union on the way to a United Europe (proposals and objectives for the Intergovernmental Conference in 1996)'. The Congress is attended for the first time by parties from Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway. Foundation of the European Senior Citizens' Union (ESCU).
24	Estonia formally applies for accession to the European Union.
27-28	The Euro-Mediterranean Conference is held in Barcelona to establish a partnership in three major sectors: security policy, economy and finance, and culture.
December	
8	Lithuania officially applies for accession to the European Union.
14	The Dayton Agreement , on peace in the former Yugoslavia, is signed in Paris.
14	Bulgaria formally applies for accession to the European Union.
15-16	The European Council, meeting in Madrid, Spain, sets 29 March 1996 as the date for the Intergovernmental Conference and confirms that the single currency (the 'euro') is to be introduced on 1 January 1999.

1996

January	
1	Italy takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Customs Union between the EU and Turkey comes into force.
17	The Czech Republic formally applies for accession to the European Union.
March	
29	The Intergovernmental Conference on the revision of the Treaty on European Union is opened in Turin, Italy. The European Council decides on its programme.
June	

10	Slovenia formally applies for accession to the European Union.
July	
1	Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
October	
5	A special European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. The Heads of State or Government confirm the timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).
December	
13-14	The European Council, meeting in Dublin, Ireland, reaches agreement on all the components needed for the introduction of the single currency (legal framework of the euro, Stability Pact, new exchange rate mechanism), adopts the Dublin Declaration on employment and confirms the timetable for the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC).
19	Denmark, Finland and Sweden sign the Schengen Agreement.

1997

January	
1	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
14	Election of José María Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado (EPP, Spain) as President of the European Parliament.
June	
16-17	The European Council, meeting in Amsterdam, reaches a consensus on a draft Treaty. It approves various provisions to ensure a smooth transition to the third phase of Economic and Monetary Union, adopts a resolution on growth and employment and lays the foundations for the launch of the enlargement process.
July	
1	Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
16	The Commission presents Agenda 2000 – for a stronger and wider Union. The Commission names the countries likely to be in the first wave of enlargement of the EU: Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia and Cyprus. This choice is endorsed by the Luxembourg European Council (12-13 December 1997).
October	
2	The Foreign Ministers of the European Union's Member States sign the Treaty of Amsterdam .
November	
9-11	XII EPP Congress in Toulouse: 'We all belong to one world' . Adoption of a strategy paper on employment and a resolution on the enlarge-

ment of the European Union. Due to an amendment of the EPP statutes, integration of the EUCD parties into the EPP is definitively possible. Parties who are close to the EPP can now be admitted as associated members without the requirement that negotiations for accession to the EU should be taking place with their countries. It is sufficient for the countries to have applied for accession.

December

12-23 The European Council, meeting in Luxembourg, takes the decisions needed to launch the overall enlargement process and adopts a resolution on economic policy coordination. It also takes important decisions to combat unemployment in Europe.

1998

January

1 The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

February

4-6 XIIIth EPP Congress in Brussels: **Adoption of the Action Programme** for the fifth EP legislature "**On the Way to the 21st Century**".

March

25 The Commission adopts a report on the stage reached with convergence and recommends that 11 Member States adopt the euro on 1 January 1999.

30 The process for accession to the European Union by the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia and Cyprus is launched at a Ministerial meeting.

April

15-16 The EPP-ED Group launches the **Dialogue with the Orthodox Church**. This initiative then becomes an annual meeting.

May

3 An extraordinary Council decides that 11 Member States satisfy the conditions required for the adoption of the single currency on 1 January 1999. Following this decision, the Council adopts two regulations on the technical specifications of euro coins and the introduction of the euro, the Ministers and Governors of the Central Banks of Member States adopting the single currency. The Commission and the European Monetary Institute specify how the irrevocable exchange rates for the euro are to be set.

26 The governments of the Member States adopting the single currency appoint, by common agreement, the President, Vice-President and the Members of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank.

June	
1	Establishment of the European Central Bank. Wim Duisenberg takes office as the first president of the new European Central Bank (ECB) in Frankfurt.
9	Forza Italia joins the EPP-ED Group. In Italy, the EPP is once again represented by a large people's party that is capable of winning a majority, which was the case until the collapse of Democrazia Cristiana in the early 1990s.
15-16	The European Council, meeting in Cardiff, United Kingdom, sets out the key components of the European Union's strategy for further economic reforms to promote growth, prosperity, employment and social integration, examines practical ways of bringing the Union closer to its citizens, lays down guidelines and a timetable for further negotiations on Agenda 2000 and launches a longer-term debate on the Union's future development.
July	
1	Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
December	
11-12	The European Council, meeting in Vienna, Austria, adopts the employment guidelines for 1999, decides to step up the convergence of employment policies with a view to a European Employment Pact, decides on arrangements for the external representation of the euro, approves the action plan for the establishment of an area of freedom, security and justice and decides on a strategy for the Union's work in 1999.

1999

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.
February	
4-6	XIII EPP Congress in Brussels: Adoption of the Action Programme for the fifth EP legislature ' On the Way to the 21st Century '.
March	
12	Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic join NATO.
16	Collective resignation of the Commission in the wake of the report by the Committee of Independent Experts on the allegations of fraud, mismanagement and nepotism at the Commission.
24	Statement by the European Council on the appointment of Romano Prodi

	as the new President of the Commission.
24-25	An extraordinary European Council, meeting in Berlin, reaches overall agreement on Agenda 2000 and asks Romano Prodi to accept the office of President of the next European Commission. It adopts two declarations on Kosovo, as well as declarations on the Middle East peace process and enlargement, and approves the trade and cooperation agreement with South Africa. During the European Council, the bombing of Serbia by NATO begins.
May	
1	The Treaty of Amsterdam enters into force. Parliament and Council now become effectively a bicameral legislature for most EU legislation.
5	Parliament approves the appointment of Romano Prodi as President of the Commission.
June	
3-4	The European Council, meeting in Cologne, Germany, adopts the Union's first common strategy, concerning Russia, as well as declarations on Kosovo and the strengthening of the common foreign and security policy, and appoints Javier Solana Madariaga as High Representative for the CFSP and Secretary-General of the Council. It also adopts the European Employment Pact, sets out the remit of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference and decides to draw up a European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights.
10-13	EPP-ED Group/European Parliament elections The EPP wins the European elections: for the first time since direct elections to Parliament began in 1979, our Group is the largest. This is the result of a combination of several remarkable electoral victories, including those of the CDU/CSU and the British Conservatives. Following the vote our Group has 232 MEPs compared with 157 at the previous elections. The socialists win 180 seats. At its inaugural meeting, the Group changes its name to the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats.
July	
1	Finland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
13	Election of Hans-Gert Poettering (EPP, Germany) as Chairman of the EPP Group.
20	Election of Nicole Fontaine (EPP-ED, France) as President of the European Parliament.
September	
15	The European Parliament approves the investiture of the new Commis-

	sion.
October	
15-16	A special European Council, meeting in Tampere, Finland, reaches agreement on a number of guidelines and policy priorities, relating in particular to the right of asylum, immigration, access to justice and the fight against crime and decides how the draft Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union is to be drawn up.
December	
10-11	The European Council, meeting in Helsinki, Finland, decides to open accession negotiations with Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Malta, and to recognise Turkey as a candidate country. It decides to call an Intergovernmental Conference in February 2000 to revise the Treaties.

2000

January	
1	Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
15	Accession negotiations with Malta, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania and Bulgaria are opened at the inaugural session of the Intergovernmental Ministerial Conferences in Brussels, Belgium.
February	
14	The Intergovernmental Conference on institutional reform opens in Brussels, Belgium.
March	
23-24	A special European Council meets in Lisbon, Portugal, to draw up a new Union strategy to strengthen employment, economic reform and social cohesion in a knowledge-based economy and the goal of becoming the most competitive economy of the world in 2020.
June	
19-20	The European Council, meeting in Santa Maria da Feira, Portugal, approves the broad economic policy guidelines for the Member States and the Union for 2000 and adopts a common strategy on the Mediterranean region. It approves Greece's entry into the euro zone and an action plan for the Northern Dimension with the external and cross-border policies of the European Union for 2000-2003. Agreement is also reached on the European Union's action plan on drugs.
23	A convention between the Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) states is signed in Cotonou, in Benin, in order to replace the Lomé conventions.
July	
1	France takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

September	
28	Denmark holds a referendum on transition to the single currency. The 'no' vote wins. In a turnout of over 90 per cent, Danes opt to keep the <i>krone</i> by a majority of 53 to 47 percent.
November	
8	The Commission presents the Council with its overall report on enlargement, consisting of progress reports on the stage reached by the candidate countries and an 'accession partnership' proposal identifying the key problems that Turkey must address before accession negotiations are opened.
December	
7-9	The European Council, meeting in Nice, France, reaffirms that the Charter of Fundamental Rights, proclaimed jointly by the Council of the European Union, Parliament and the Commission, should be disseminated as widely as possible among the Union's citizens. It welcomes the speeding up of accession negotiations with the candidate countries and appreciates the efforts that these countries have made to pave the way for the adoption, implementation and practical application of the <i>acquis</i> ; it welcomes the progress made in implementing the pre-accession strategy with Turkey. The Council also discusses the European security and defence policy, approves the European Social Agenda, discusses innovation and knowledge in Europe, coordination of policies on the economy, health and consumer safety, maritime safety, environment, services of general interest, security of supply of some products, freedom, security and justice, culture, the outermost regions and external relations. The Intergovernmental Conference ends with a political agreement on the Treaty of Nice .

2001

January	
1	Sweden takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
2	Greece becomes the 12 th member of the Eurozone.
11-13	XIV EPP Congress in Berlin, chairman Wilfried Martens: adoption of the declaration on ' A Union of values '.
February	
26	The Treaty of Nice enters into force. The Treaty of Nice adjusts allocation of seats for the further enlarged Parliament and further marginally increases its power.
28	Inaugural meeting of the Convention on the Future of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. The EPP has a strong influence owing in particular to the fact that 7 of the 13 members of the Convention Praesidium belong to our political family.

March	
23-24	The European Council, meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, decides to introduce a European financial services market.
June	
8	A referendum is held in Ireland. The Irish people vote against the Treaty of Nice (54% against, 46% for).
15-16	The European Council, meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden, agrees on the framework for successful completion of the enlargement negotiations, adopts a sustainable development strategy and approves the broad economic policy guidelines, as well as the key principles for securing the long-term viability of pension systems. It also launches a European Union programme for the prevention of violent conflicts and records advances in policies on the Union's northern dimension.
July	
1	Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
October	
16-18	EPP Congress in Estoril, Portugal. Adoption of the document on ' A Constitution for a Strong Europe '. The document's 53 points make suggestions and specific demands concerning the text of the Constitution.
November	
14	Re-election of Hans-Gert Poettering as Chairman of the EPP-ED Group.
December	
22-23	The European Council, meeting in Laeken, Belgium, adopts a declaration on the future of the Union paving the way for a future major reform of the Union and calls a Convention to prepare for the next Intergovernmental Conference. It also takes decisions to step up Europe's role in the international arena, especially in the fight against terrorism, and to conclude negotiations with those candidate countries ready for accession by the end of 2002 so that they can take part in the European Parliament elections in 2004. It adopts a declaration on the operational capability of the common external security and defence policy and a declaration on the Middle East.

2002

January	
1	Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Euro notes and coins come into circulation in the twelve participating Member States: Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.
15	Pat Cox (Ireland) is elected President of the European Parliament.

28	Inaugural meeting of the Convention on the Future of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. The EPP has a strong influence owing in particular to the fact that 7 of the 13 members of the Convention Praesidium belong to our political family.
March	
15-16	The European Council, meeting in Barcelona, Spain, focuses on economic, social and environmental issues; it attaches high priority to the interlinking of the European economies from the point of view of financial markets and energy, transport and communications networks and, to this end, calls for quicker adoption of legislation to open up markets. It strengthens policies targeting full employment and the development of a competitive knowledge-based economy. The European Council also discusses the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, relations with the United States and some countries of the western Balkans and the situation in Zimbabwe. It also adopts a declaration on the worsening Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
July	
1	Denmark takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
23	The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) expires fifty years after it first entered into force.
October	
16-18	EPP Congress in Estoril, Portugal. Adoption of the document on ' A Constitution for a Strong Europe '. The document's 53 points make suggestions and specific demands concerning the text of the Constitution.
19	In a second referendum, the Irish people vote in favour of the Treaty of Nice (62.89%).
December	
12-13	The European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, reaches agreement on the economic and financial conditions for enlargement.

2003

January	
1	Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
15	The first European Union Police Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina is launched.
February	
1	The Treaty of Nice enters into force.
March	
8	A referendum is held in Malta on accession to the European Union. Most of the population votes in favour of accession.

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

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

2004

January	
1	Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
February	
4-5	XVI EPP Congress in Brussels: 'The EPP: Your Majority in Europe' . The main objective is to achieve unanimity and to prepare for the European elections in the same year.
May	
1	The Treaty of Accession enters into force and the largest ever enlargement of the European Union in terms of scope and diversity becomes a reality with 10 new countries – Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia – representing over 75 million citizens in total, joining the European Union. Parliament membership rises to 732.
June	
10-13	EPP-ED Group/European elections The Group wins the elections and with 278 MEPs becomes the largest group in the European Parliament. It is also the only Group in the EP with MEPs from all 25 Member States. The EPP-ED MEPs come from 44 different national and regional parties, the majority of which are members of the EPP. The main exceptions are the British Conservatives and the Czech Civic Democratic Party, whose MEPs form the ED part of the Group.

17-18	The European Council, meeting in Brussels, Belgium, decides, among other matters, that in line with the Commission's Opinion and the fact that Croatia satisfies the political criteria laid down by the Copenhagen European Council in 1993 and the conditional stabilisation and association process established by the Council in 1997, Croatia is a candidate country for accession and the accession process should be started. EU leaders agreed during their summit in Brussels on the European Constitution, drafted the previous year by the Convention on the Future of Europe, presided by Mr Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.
29	Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso named as a possibility for appointment as President of the Commission. The choice of Barroso is not only a victory for the EPP, but also a reflection of our electoral victory in June in the Presidency of the Commission. Mr Javier Solana is also appointed Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the CFSP, and Pierre de Boissieu is nominated Deputy Secretary-General.
July	
1	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
14	Re-election of Hans-Gert Poettering as Chairman of the EPP-ED Group.
20	The new European Parliament elects Josep Borrell Fontelles (PES, Spain) as President.
22	The European Parliament approves the appointment of José Manuel Barroso as the new President of the European Commission.
October	
29	The Heads of State or Government and the Foreign Ministers sign the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe .
November	
18	The European Parliament approves the new Barroso Commission, with 449 votes in favour, 149 against and 82 abstentions.

2005

January	
1	Luxembourg takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
12	The European Parliament approves the European Constitution.
February	
20	Spain is the first Member State to hold a referendum on the European Constitution (76.73% in favour).

April	
13	The European Parliament gives its assent to the EU accession of Romania and Bulgaria, scheduled for 2007.
May	
29	French electors vote 'no' (54.67% against) to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty.
June	
1	The Netherlands Electors vote 'no' to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty in a referendum. (61.7% 'no', turnout: 63%).
July	
1	The United Kingdom takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union
10	Luxembourg Electors vote 'yes' to the ratification of the European Constitutional Treaty. (56.52% 'yes' and 43.48% 'no'. Voting is compulsory).
October	
3	European Union accession negotiations open with Turkey and Croatia .
November	
27-28	The first Euro-Mediterranean Summit is held in Barcelona to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. In particular it succeeds in adopting a code of conduct for combating terrorism.
December	
15-16	The European Council meeting in Brussels reaches agreement on the 2007-2013 financial perspective for a total of 862 363 billion euros (1.047% of the EU's GNI). The agreement also provides for the gradual removal of the British rebate for all expenditure associated with enlargement (with the exception of CAP spending) by 2013 at the latest.

2006

February	
1	Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
March	
30-31	XVII EPP Congress in Rome: 'Our Aim, Your Europe' . This coincides with the 30 th Anniversary of the founding of the EPP.
May	
9	Estonia ratifies the draft European Constitution. An almost unanimous vote: 73 votes in favour and only one against out of a total of 101 MEPs. Two years after its accession, Estonia becomes the 15 th Member State to adopt the European Constitution.
May	
29	The 25 member states of the European Union reach agreement on the " Services Directive " which limits restrictions on cross-border services. Services constitute about 70% of the Union's GDP, so the opening up of the services market provides an important impetus for competition and economic growth. It is considered to be a major step forward for Europe's internal market.

Personal notes

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