

ONE TREATY AFTER ANOTHER!

After the Second World War, the countries in Europe wanted to stop fighting and work together. Agreements had to be made about this. These agreements are called treaties. Every country signing a treaty has to keep the promises it has made.



1951

THE TREATY OF PARIS

In 1951, the **European Coal and Steel Community** (the ECSC) was founded by Belgium, France, Western Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These countries started cooperating and trading with one another more and more frequently.



1957

THE TREATIES OF ROME

Once they saw how successful the ECSC was, the six countries took it one step further. They signed the Treaty of Rome that founded the **European Economic Community**. The most important part of the EEC is the European Market. This made it easier for goods, people and money to cross the borders of the various countries in the EEC.



1985

THE TREATY OF SCHENGEN

Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands met in Schengen (a village in Luxembourg) to sign a treaty that would result in less border control. So, they stopped checking the passports of people crossing the borders of these countries in 1995. You can drive straight through the borders of Schengen countries without stopping!

INTERESTING TO KNOW

THE ECSC WAS THOUGHT UP BY JEAN MONNET. THIS FRENCH VISIONARY THOUGHT THAT A UNITED EUROPE COULD BE CREATED BY STARTING SMALL. THE COUNTRIES WOULD SEE FOR THEMSELVES THAT COOPERATION IS USEFUL, AND START DOING IT MORE. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WAS MONNET RIGHT AFTER ALL?



1986

THE SINGLE EUROPEAN ACT (IN LUXEMBOURG AND THE HAGUE)

The countries in the European Community have **veto** powers. This means that if they do not agree with something, it won't happen. In 1986, they decided to make this more difficult. Otherwise, nothing would get done at all!

THE EU JUST KEEPS GROWING

Which countries joined the EU (or EEC)? And when?

- 1973 Denmark, Ireland, the United Kingdom
- 1981 Greece
- 1986 Portugal and Spain
- 1995 Finland, Austria and Sweden
- 2004 Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Czechia (officially called the Czech Republic), Cyprus and Malta
- 2007 Romania and Bulgaria
- 2013 Croatia

INTERESTING TO KNOW

BECAUSE SO MANY COUNTRIES IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPE JOINED THE EU IN 2004, THEY CALLED THIS THE BIG BANG ENLARGEMENT. IT WAS AS IF THE EU GREW TO ALMOST TWICE ITS SIZE IN ONE BIG EXPLOSION!



1992

THE TREATY OF MAASTRICHT

Twelve countries came together in Maastricht to establish the **European Union**. It was an important moment in European history! The countries started cooperating with one another more closely than ever before and made plans to introduce the euro.



2007

THE TREATY OF LISBON

Even more agreements were made when the member states met in the capital of Portugal. These agreements would help them manage the EU even better.



INTERESTING TO KNOW

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT FRANCE AND GERMANY WERE ONCE 'HEREDITARY ENEMIES'? TODAY, THEIR COOPERATION IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE EU. WE CALL THEIR SPECIAL PARTNERSHIP THE FRANCO-GERMAN AXIS. YOU COULD CALL THIS PARTNERSHIP THE MOTOR BEHIND THE EUROPEAN UNION!

ECSC

EEC

EURATOM

INTERESTING TO KNOW

THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS THAT WERE FOUNDED TO PROMOTE EUROPEAN COOPERATION ALL HAVE ACRONYMS: ECSC, EEC, EURATOM. THAT CAN GET PRETTY COMPLICATED! SO, THE MEMBER STATES DECIDED TO MERGE SOME OF THEM IN 1965. FROM THAT MOMENT ONWARDS, THESE THREE WERE KNOWN AS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. IN 1992, THIS BECAME THE EUROPEAN UNION.

GO EUROPE GO!

The USA encourages European cooperation. They don't want to participate in another European war. They also hope that European cooperation will help combat poverty in Europe.

