

## Development of the EU

Most people have a view about the EU, which has long been sold as a means of free trade between nations of Europe and means of preventing conflict between those nations and the wider world; following the two horrendous world wars initiated by European nations.

However, the EU has, from its inception, been much more than a series of trade agreements, principally between Germany and France and subsequently expanded to what we see today; and NO, the EU has not prevented any wars since 1945.

To put the EU in context it is instructive to look at comments made by various individuals involved in its development; beginning with one of the founders, Jean Monnet:-

***"The fusion (of economic functions) would compel nations to fuse their sovereignty into that of a single European State." Jean Monnet, founder of the European Movement, April 3, 1952.***

**Note** that Churchill did not advocate a single state for Europe but, something like a "United States of Europe" (Zurich, 1946) - Basically he envisaged something similar to the United States of America; but the EU is not structured like the USA; it is built on the Soviet Model.

The EU will not be a United States of Europe, but a single state with all the former nations as subservient provinces controlled by a central power.

Whereas the United States of America came together voluntarily to form a greater nation, the EU is structured more like the Soviet Union which was brought together by force; except that the EU has become a political union by stealth and deception.

Initially the development of the EU proceeded slowly, intermittently and mostly involved trade agreements, treaty revisions with relatively small, but significant political integration and the assimilation of new members; that is up until the Single European Act (1986) and the Maastricht Treaty (1992) when the emphasis shifted more towards political integration and expansion. We begin with developments since the 1949.

**On the 4th of April, 1949 the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** was set up to deter Soviet expansionism, prevent militarisation of nations within Europe and to provide security, which would allow European economic and political progress towards the rebuilding of Europe in the aftermath of WW II.

The Treaty of Paris (1951) set-up Coal and Steel cooperation agreements between Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands and West Germany; in order to ensure that, in future, none of these countries could re-arm their military in secret.

The European Economic Community (EEC) was established with the Treaty of Rome (1957) in order to increase economic integration between the states already working within the Treaty of Paris (1951) framework, and a Merger Treaty (1965) brought into existence the first joint institutions.

In 1952 Greece and Turkey joined NATO

On the 23rd of October, 1954 West Germany was invited to join NATO and "subsequently" re-armed; although some units weren't actually disarmed after the war.

**On the 9th of May, 1955 West Germany joined NATO**

**On the 14th May, 1955 the Soviet Union established the Warsaw Pact in response to West Germany joining NATO**

In 1959 a European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was established between Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK; the UK left the organisation in 1973 to join the EC.

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of farm subsidies began operating in 1962; a policy which the French insisted upon as the price for entering the Common Market and agreeing to free trade in industrial goods.

In 1961 the Berlin Wall was constructed

**In 1966 France left NATO and set-up its own independent nuclear deterrent, France re-joined NATO in 2009**

In 1967 The European Community (EC) was established, merging the earlier Coal and Steel, Atomic and EEC organisations.

In 1972 Norway held a referendum on joining and the Norwegians vote against.

In 1973 Denmark and Ireland joined the EC, along with Britain; courtesy of Edward Heath.

In 1975 Britain had a referendum on membership of the EC and the result was a 67% vote to stay in the EC

In 1976 the 12 mile limit around the coastal areas of the EU, including the UK, was extended to 200 miles, in line with the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), thereby allowing common European access to all fishing grounds within those limits.

In 1979 the first direct elections to the European Parliament were held and in 1981 Greece became the 10th member of the EC.

The Shengen Agreement was signed in 1985, and the "Shengen Area" came into force in 1995, resulting in the relaxation of customs and passport controls between member states. Britain and Ireland opted out of the agreement.

The Single European Act (1986) laid the foundation for the single market and formalised political cooperation between the 12 member states; Spain and Portugal joined the EU. Free movement of goods, persons, services and capital established within the internal market.

**On the 9th of November, 1989 the Berlin wall fell and on the 3rd of October, 1990 Germany was reunified.**

### **First Major Power Grab Attempt**

The Maastricht Treaty (1992) formally established the European Union and laid the foundations for the Eurozone, and the preparation for Monetary and Political Union. In 1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden joined the EU, bringing the total to 15 member states. Denmark initially voted against ratifying the Maastricht Treaty, but, in a second referendum vote to accept the treaty.

In 1991 John Major obtained an opt-out for Britain from the single currency.

**At this point it is interesting to reflect on comments made related to the treaty and the single currency:-**

*“It is an illusion to think that [EU] states can hold on to their autonomy. A European currency will lead to member nations transferring their sovereignty over financial and wage policy as well as monetary affairs.” (Hans Tietmeyer, head of the Bundesbank, 1991)*

*“The single currency is the greatest abandonment of sovereignty since the foundation of the European Community; the decision is of an essentially political nature” (Felipe Gonzalez, a Spanish former PM, 1998)*

*“The [EU] Council of Ministers will have far more power over the budgets of member states than the federal government in the United States has over the budget of Texas.” (Jean-Claude Trichet, head of the European Central Bank at the time)*

**If anyone ever needed convincing about how seriously politicians look after our interests, this should wake them up:-**

*“Now we’ve signed it – we had better read it” (Douglas Hurd, former Foreign Secretary on the Maastricht Treaty)*

## **Back to the development of the EU**

The Amsterdam Treaty (1997) reformed EU institutions and consolidated the EU and EEC treaties, defined EU citizenship and individual rights and addressed Common and Foreign Security Policy.

The European Central Bank (ECB) was established in 1998.

In 1999 the entire European Commission, including the leader, Jacques Santer, resigned amid allegations of fraud, mismanagement and nepotism.

In 2000 The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union was proclaimed; meanwhile Denmark voted against joining the single currency.

The Treaty of Nice (2001) produced further reforms to allow more efficient administration and facilitate further enlargement towards Eastern Europe.

In 2004 Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia join the EU, bringing the total number of member states to 25.

**Treaty of Rome (2004) signed by the Heads of State and Government, together with EU Foreign Ministers establishing a Constitution for Europe.**

**In 2005 the ratification of the Treaty of Rome (EU Constitution) was rejected in referendums by the Dutch and French voters.**

In 2007 Bulgaria and Romania join the EU, bringing the total members to 27 nation states.

The Lisbon Treaty (2007) establishing a Constitution for Europe by deception was signed by all 27 member states.

In 2013 Croatia joined the EU

**The Lisbon Treaty (2007) was an outrageous power grab to make the EU into a European Empire with supremacy over all member states and to be more able to push its weight around on the world stage, as a separate entity to any individual member state; without any mandate to consider the best interests of any member state. We have seen from the Minsk meeting between Mrs Merkel, Mr Hollande and Mr Putin over the Ukraine fighting recently, that the EU is really just the two original nations, who have previously been some of the biggest troublemakers in Europe, Germany and France, who are really in charge.**

**Having had the Constitution for Europe Rejected by the Dutch and French the EU the Heads of State and Government plus the EU Foreign Ministers revamped it and presented it as a reform treaty, so that they could claim that it would not need to be ratified; since it was not a constitutional document - except that it was exactly that - A Constitution for The European Union in disguise.**

The comments made by some of those involved at the time are very revealing:

***"Public opinion will be led to adopt, without knowing it, the proposals that we dare not present to them directly ... All the earlier proposals will be in the new text, but will be hidden and disguised in some way." - Former French President V.Giscard D'Estaing, Le Monde, 14 June 2007.***

***"The substance of the constitution is preserved. That is a fact." Angela Merkel German Chancellor, speech to the European Parliament, 27th June 2007***

***"The good thing about not calling it a Constitution is that no one can ask for a referendum on it." Giuliano Amato former Italian Prime Minister and Vice Chairman of the Convention which drew up the Constitution, speech to the London School of Economics 20th February 2007***

***"Sometimes I like to compare the EU as a creation to the organisation of empire. We have the dimension of empire." José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, EU observer, 10 July 2007***

***"In terms of content, the proposals remain largely unchanged, they are simply presented in a different way....The reason is that the new text could not look too much like the constitutional treaty." Valéry Giscard d'Estaing former French President and Chairman of the Convention which drew up the EU Constitution, addressing the Constitutional Affairs Committee in the European Parliament, 17th July 2007***

***"As for the changes now proposed to be made to the constitutional treaty, most are presentational changes that have no practical effect. They have simply been designed to enable certain heads of government to sell to their people the idea of ratification by parliamentary action rather than by referendum." — Dr Garret FitzGerald, former Irish Taoiseach, 123***

Not forgetting Gordon Brown's contribution

***"If we needed a referendum we would have one. But I think most people recognise that there is not a fundamental change taking place as a result of this amended treaty." Gordon Brown The UK Prime Minister, interviewed by the BBC, 24th September 2007***

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