

The European Union

Headings	Notes
REASONS FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As the Cold War began, Western European leaders were emerging who wanted to end war and the extremism that caused it, and to ensure that Europe would work together in the future.
EUROPE'S POST-WAR LEADERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These leaders included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Konrad Adenauer – Chancellor and Minister for Foreign Affairs (West Germany) Robert Schuman – Minister for Foreign Affairs (France) Alcide De Gasperi – Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs (Italy)
THE REASONS FOR EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The two World Wars had devastated Europe and killed millions. Many wanted to replace competition between states with cooperation, especially between France and Germany. The leaders believed that only a united Europe would be able to compete with the two Cold War superpowers. The Western countries needed to work together to stop the spread of communism. Europe needed to rebuild after World War II. Increased trade and cooperation amongst states would boost their economies. The US wanted a strong trading partner and ally against communism.
THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> European Integration was a gradual process which began in 1947 when Belgium, Luxemburg and the Netherlands agreed to abolish all customs duties on imports and exports between them. This was known as the Benelux Union (Be + Ne + Lux) and it tripled trade amongst the three nations.
THE BENELUX AGREEMENT	
THE ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION (OEEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The OEEC was set up in 1948 to administer Marshall Plan funds to Europe on behalf of the US. This generated economic growth and raised living standards.
THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1948, the leaders of Western European states met at the Hague Congress. In 1949, ten states set up the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Its aim was to promote common ideals and values, and to further European unity.
Keywords	Summary
Konrad Adenauer	
Robert Schuman	
Alcide De Gasperi	
Benelux Union	
Marshall Plan	
The Hague Congress	
The Council of Europe	

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<p>THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council's most significant actions were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It passed the European Convention Human Rights (ECHR), which guaranteed the basic rights of all citizens in Europe, for example to democracy, free speech, free media, fair trials and protection from torture. It also set up the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) to rule on the Convention. Any citizen could take a case to the European Court of Human Rights if their rights had been violated by their own government.
<p>THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION (NATO)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1949, NATO is a military alliance against the Soviet Union that was formed by the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, and Denmark.
<p>THE EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY (ECSC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ECSC was the most important step towards European unity. By 1950, France feared the re-emergence of West Germany as a powerful state in Europe. In 1950, French foreign minister Robert Schuman put forward the Schuman Plan. Under this, the coal and steel industries for France and Germany would be under a single High Authority. The Schuman Plan led to the Treaty of Paris (1951), which set up the European Coal and Steel Community (1952). This was signed by West Germany, France, Italy, and the Benelux countries. For the first time, these states had agreed to hand over some of their sovereignty (power and independence) to an outside body. Steel production increased and industrial production doubled.
<p>THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY</p> <p>THE TREATY OF ROME</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1957, the Treaty of Rome created the European Economic Community (EEC). Their core aims were to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic activity and trade amongst its members. Raise the standard of living.
Keywords	Summary
European Convention Human Rights	
European Court of Human Rights	
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	
The European Coal and Steel Community	
EEC	

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THE TREATY OF ROME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 'an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe'.
THE STRUCTURE OF THE EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EEC was made up of the following institutions which are still in place today: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commission runs the EEC on a day-to-day basis and implements treaties. It is made up of nominees of the member states, called commissioners. • The Council of Ministers: National ministers meet regularly to discuss common issues and make decisions. • The European Parliament represents the people of Europe. Since 1979, its members have been directly elected. Over time it gained equal powers with the Commission and Council. • The Court of Justice rules on interpretations of treaties and on any disputes between member states.
MAIN POLICIES OF THE EEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following main policies were agreed in the Treaty of Rome: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common market: A free trade area created by eliminating tariffs and custom duties on trade on all goods amongst members. Common external tariffs would exist for goods coming into the free trade area. • Freedom of movement meant no restrictions on the movement of money, people, goods and services amongst member states. • The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) guaranteed the prices paid to farmers for food produced and set high standards for production and food quality. • Investment fund: to improve less-developed areas of the EEC through funding from more prosperous states.
THE DEVELOPMENT OF EUROPEAN UNITY AFTER 1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1: Britain, Ireland and Denmark (1973) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EEC was a tremendous success. Other states also wanted to join and enjoy the benefits. • In 1961, Britain, Ireland and Denmark applied for membership. However, French President, Charles de Gaulle, believed that Britain was too close to the US and vetoed its application.
ENLARGEMENT	
Keywords	Summary
Treaty of Rome	
Commission	
Council of Ministers	
European Parliament	
Court of Justice	
Common Market	
Freedom of movement	
Common Agriculture Policy	
Investment Fund	

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ENLARGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ireland and Denmark had to withdraw their applications. In 1967, they tried again, with the same result. • In 1973, the three states joined, making the EEC, not the European Community (EC), a nine member club. • Phase 2: Greece, Portugal and Spain (1981, 1986) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only democratic states could join the EC. After the dictatorships that ruled Greece, Portugal and Spain collapsed in the 1970s, they applied for EC membership. • In 1981, Greece joined while Portugal and Spain joined in 1986. • Phase 3: Austria, Sweden and Finland (1995) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When communism collapsed in 1989, Austria, Sweden and Finland applied to join. • In 1995, they were admitted to the European Union (EU), created by the Maastricht Treaty of 1992. • Phase 4: Eastern Europe (2004-2013) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the fall of communism in 1989, the EC loaned all of the former communist states in Eastern Europe large sums of money to stabilise their economies and promised membership to all of them. • In 2004, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Slovenia and Cyprus joined the EU. • In 2007, Romania and Bulgaria joined while Croatia joined in 2013. • In 2016, the UK voted to leave the EU. It's departure (also known as 'Brexit') became official in January 2021.
FROM COMMUNITY TO UNION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Treaty of Rome has been revised several times through acts and treaties. • The Single European Act (1986) created the Single Market, which removed all barriers to the movement of people, goods, money and services among member states. • The Maastricht Treaty (1992) was a significant move towards full European unity. It created the European Union (EU), established the rules for a single currency (the euro) and gave more power to the European Parliament.
Keywords	Summary
European Community	
European Union	
Maastricht Treaty	
Brexit	
Single European Act	
The Single Market	
The Euro	

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FROM COMMUNITY TO UNION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) and the Treaty of Nice (2001) reformed EU institutions to cater to so many new members.
SUCSESSES OF THE EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peace has been maintained in Europe. Prosperity in Europe increased significantly and the EU leads the world in areas such as education, healthcare and welfare. Memberships grew from 6 to 28 members (now 27, with the exit of the UK). The EU is the world's largest trading bloc. Social and structural funding of over €1 trillion has been spent to improve the economic conditions in poorer areas, including Ireland in the 1990s. Workers have better protections due to European laws.
PROBLEMS OF THE EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some people feel that there is a lack of democracy in the EU institutions. Some feel that their national identities are being lost within the EU. The EU has so far failed to develop a common foreign policy. Some states feel they are forced to do things against their preference. A large gap still exists between the richest and poorest states.
IRELAND AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland had joined the OEEC in 1948 and the Council of Europe in 1949. In the 1950s, Ireland was following a protectionist economic policy. Seán Lemass changed Irish economic policy to favour exports and trade. In 1961, when Britain and Denmark applied to join the EEC, so did Ireland. In 1967, when Britain reapplied (to no avail), Ireland had as well. Ireland eventually joined the EC in 1973, alongside Britain and Denmark.
JOINING EUROPE	
THE IMPACT ON IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ireland has benefited significantly from EU membership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish trade with the rest of Europe is 150 times what it was in 1973.
Keywords	Summary
Treaty of Amsterdam	
Treaty of Nice	
Largest Trading Bloc	
OEEC	
Council of Europe	
Seán Lemass	
EC	

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THE IMPACT ON IRELAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irish citizens can move, work and live within any of the other member states.• From 1973 to 2015, Ireland received over €74.3 billion from the EU.• From 1973 to 2014, Irish farmers received €54 billion from the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).• The EU helped to foster peace in Northern Ireland during the Troubles.• Irish people have benefitted from EU laws such as equal pay, human rights, workers' rights and consumer safety in food, medicine and other goods.• However, in 2001 (Treaty of Nice) and 2008 (Lisbon Treaty) Ireland rejected European Treaties in referendums. These treaties were subsequently passed but with changes.• Ireland has also resisted moves towards a common European defence policy.• Ireland has opposed European plans to set a common tax rate for businesses.
Keywords Freedom of movement Investment fund The Troubles Treaty of Nice Lisbon Treaty Defence policy Tax rate	Summary

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Keywords	Definition
Accession	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The process by which countries join the EU.
Brexit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the EU; the word is a shortened version of 'British exit'.
Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAP provides financial support for farms and rural development in the EU. It accounts for approximately 40% of the EU budget spending.
Common Fisheries Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CFP provides financial support for the EU fishing fleet and for EU fisheries development.
Common Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU member states trade freely with each other and agree common import duties on goods from non-EU countries.
Enlargement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in the number of member countries in the EU
Equal Pay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers doing the same work would get the same pay.
Freedom of Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The right to move freely within the territory of the EU.
Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rights that belong to all human beings (people), irrespective of race, colour, religion or sex.
International Co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-operation between countries; countries working together to achieve certain aims
International Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The political relations between two or more countries, based on each country's foreign policy.
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system of laws that judges people or the administration of laws in a country
NATO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international military alliance between 30 North American and European countries. The alliance is based on the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
OEEC, 1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established to administer the Marshall Plan for the reconstruction of Europe after World War II.
Reunification of Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German Democratic Republic (East Germany) joined the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), and Berlin became one city again.
Single Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The free movement of goods, services, money and people between EU member states.
Sovereignty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A country's independence and power.
The Cold War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An intense rivalry between countries that may include political and economic action, propaganda and proxy wars but does not involve direct warfare.
The Council of Europe 1949	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An international organization founded in 1949, dedicated to upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.
The Council of Ministers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting of government ministers responsible for a particular area from each member state.
The European Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each member state nominates one commissioner for a five-year term. They make proposals to the Council and the Parliament.
The European Convention on Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A treaty to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in Europe, drafted in 1950 by the Council of Europe.
The European Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A meeting of the heads of government from each member state.
The European Court of Human Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A court in Strasbourg, France, that hears cases of alleged violations of the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights.
The European Court of Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A court that ensures that EU law is applied the same way throughout the member states. It has one judge from each member state.
The European Economic Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An organisation established by the Treaty of Rome in 1957; the precursor to the European Union.
The European Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU citizens elect their representative every five years. Members of the European Parliament are called MEPs.
The European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The EU is an international organisation formed by treaties between member states, involving political, economic and social co-operation.
The Eurozone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EU member states that use the euro as their official currency.
The Single Currency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The euro, the official currency of the European Union's Eurozone, used by 19 of the 27 EU countries.
The Treaty of Rome, 1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The international agreement that led to the founding of the European Economic Community (EEC) on 1 January 1958. It was signed on 25 March 1957 by Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and West Germany.