

LAW & DATA

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WHAT IS

the EUROPEAN UNION?



DIFFERENCES

COUNCIL OF EUROPE - CoE -

Continental level

46 Member States

Institutions
(European Court of Human Rights)

Strasbourg (France)

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION - EFTA -

Regional trade organisation

Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein,
Switzerland

Free trade area → participation in
the European Single Market (not in
the customs Union)

Participation in the Schengen
Area

Geneva (Switzerland)
Bruxelles + Luxembourg

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA - EEA -

EU MS + EFTA MS
(no Switzerland)

Defined by an international
agreement (1994) within which
the EU single market basic rules
apply

Geographic area

DIFFERENCES | Members

- EFTA -

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway
Switzerland

- EEA -

Austria
Belgium
Bulgaria
Croatia
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Ireland

Italy
Latvia
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Romania
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden

- SCHENGEN -

Austria
Belgium
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Estonia
Finland
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Iceland
Italy
Latvia

Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Malta
Netherlands
Norway
Poland
Portugal
Slovakia
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

NO Bulgaria, Cyprus, Ireland, Romania



EUROPEAN UNION

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- 1952 Treaty Establishing European Coal and Steel Community
- 1957 **Treaties of Rome**
 - Treaty establishing the European (Economic) Community (1958)
 - Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (1958)
- 1965 Treaty establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission (1967)
- 1986 **Single European Act** (1987)
- 1992 Treaty on the European Union [**Maastricht Treaty**] (1993)
- 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam (1999)
- 2001 Treaty of Nice (2003)
- 2009 **Treaty of Lisbon** amending the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community
 - Treaty on the European Union [TEU]**
 - Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union [TFEU]**
- 2009 **EU Charter of fundamental rights**

EUROPEAN UNION

- «The Community constitutes a **NEW LEGAL ORDER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW** for the benefit of which the states have limited their sovereign rights»
ECJ, case 6/64, *Costa v. ENEL* [1964]
- «its own legal system which, on the entry into force of the Treaty, became an **integral part of the legal systems of the Member States** and which their courts are bound to apply (...)»
ECJ, case 26/62, *Van Gend en Loos* [1963]
- REGIONAL LEVEL
- 27 MEMBERS STATES

EUROPEAN UNION

27 MEMBER STATES

| 1 January 1958 Treaty of Rome | 1 January 1973 | 1 January 1981 | 1 January 1986 | 1 January 1995 | 1 May 2004 | 1 January 2007 | 1 July 2013 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Italy The Netherlands Belgium Luxembourg France Germany | Denmark Ireland {United Kingdom} | Greece | Spain Portugal | Austria Finland Sweden | Czech Republic Estonia Cyprus Latvia Lithuania Hungary Malta Poland Slovenia Slovakia | Bulgaria Romania | Croatia |

APPLICATION FOR EU MEMBERSHIP

ART. 2 TEU

«any European state which **respects the common values of the Member States** and undertake to promote them may apply to become a member of the Union. These **values** include **human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights**, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities»

ART. 49 TEU

«Any European State which respects the **values referred to in Article 2** and is committed to promoting them may apply to become a member of the Union. The European Parliament and national Parliaments shall be notified of this application. The applicant State **shall address its application to the Council**, which shall act unanimously after consulting the Commission and after receiving the consent of the European Parliament, which shall act by a majority of its component members. The conditions of eligibility agreed upon by the European Council shall be taken into account.

The conditions of admission and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, which such admission entails, shall be the **subject of an agreement between the Member States and the applicant State**. This agreement shall be submitted for **ratification** by all the contracting States in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements»



COPENAGHEN CRITERIA FOR EU ACCESSION

- **Political**

stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, **human rights** and respect for and protection of minorities

- **Economic**

a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competition and market forces

- **Administrative and institutional** capacity

to effectively implement the **acquis communautaire*** and ability to take on the obligations of EU membership