THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY 1992 AND BEYOND

Europe on the move

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THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY 1992 AND BEYOND

To unify Europe is to make peace
Jean Monnet

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What is the European Community? What makes it so unique yet so astonishingly diverse? One face of Europe displays diversity and universality; the other reveals common basic values and a striving for unity. On the one side, we see a disparate family of nations embracing many differing cultures; on the other, a desire to develop a common identity, to make Europe 'European' – but without succumbing to the colourless uniformity of 'Europeanism' or to the temptation of blindly imitating the past.

The history of Europe this century is not just a history of wars – as it has been for the several generations who lived through them as victors or vanquished – nor of division and outside dominance, the last vestiges of which are now being dismantled. For Europe has always been a place of peaceful encounter and mutual exchange between peoples too, and this shared experience lies as much at the root of European integration as the realization that a community is more than the sum of its members. Many of the things we now take for granted in the Community – peace, open borders, relative prosperity – have never been part of the natural order of things before.

An ever-closer Europe

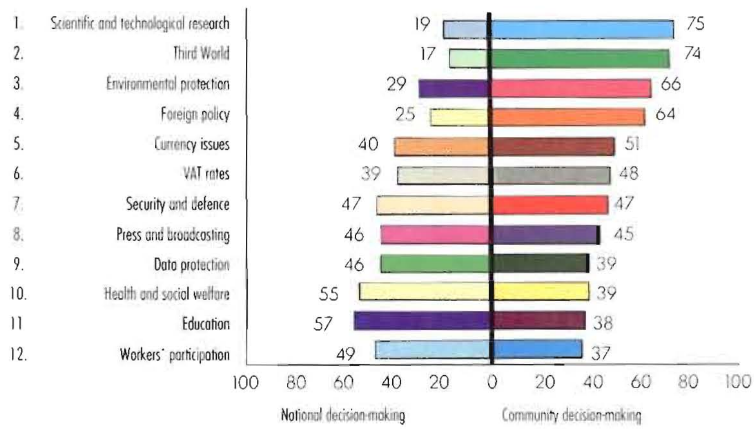
The Community has never seen itself as a closed society. It is not inward-looking, 'Eurocentric', and it is not a fortress. Its guiding principles – democracy, pluralism, respect for the rule of law, and social progress – make their influence felt beyond its own borders. The dynamics of the integration process in Western Europe were undoubtedly a factor in the economic and political changes now under way in Central and Eastern Europe, just as the Federal Republic of Germany's membership of the European Community played a major part in German reunification. The Community's capacity to act is vital for the success of the reforms on which it has embarked. As these reforms progress, cooperation between the EC and the countries now feeling their way towards democracy and a market economy is bound to grow closer.

Nor is it only in Europe that the Community faces high expectations. It also has obligations to the nations bordering the Mediterranean and to the African, Caribbean and Pacific States that are party to the Lomé Convention; in Asia, Latin America, indeed throughout the world, it is much sought-after as a partner. It plays a major part in securing the freedom of world trade, acts to mediate in the North-South conflict, stands up for human rights, and is bringing pressure to bear world-wide for the protection and conservation of the environment.

The Community harbours no innate enmities; hegemony is an alien concept. Its institutions – the European Parliament, the Council, the Commission, the Court of Justice – lay down rules that are binding on Member States and citizens alike. Imperfect as these institutions may be, they nevertheless form a part of the common identity. Imperfect, because although the Members of the European Parliament are democratically elected and directly accountable to their electorates, they do not

National or Community decision-making?

A sample of people from all the EC Member States was asked the question: 'Which of the following areas of policy do you think should be decided by the national government, and which should be decided jointly within the European Community?' Their response was as follows (in %):



Source: EC Commission, Eurobarometer No 33, June 1990.

yet enjoy the law-making rights of a true parliament. Imperfect, because although the Council wields the main decision-making power, it is not subject to any direct democratic controls like a national government. Imperfect too, because although the right of initiative on legislation lies with the Commission, its members are not elected but are appointed by their governments.

In order to reduce the 'democracy gap', the European Parliament has repeatedly claimed the right to initiate legislation and has demanded a greater share in decision-making. Notable instances of this can be seen in its draft Treaty establishing the European Union of February 1984 (the brainchild of Altiero Spinelli), in the consultations on the Single European Act of 1986 (which introduced the most important changes yet made to the founding Treaties), and most recently in its resolution on a draft constitution for the European Union. The Single Act has indeed improved the Community legislative process. And further institutional reforms are in prospect, with the transfer of a substantial measure of sovereignty from the Member States of the Community under economic and monetary union and the development of European political cooperation into a more united foreign and security policy.

Despite the common market's successes, however, not all of the hopes kindled at its founding some 40 years ago have been fulfilled. It is only now that the Member States are gradually coming to recognize the need for solidarity in defending the interests of Europe on the international stage and for a joint effort to promote a more just world order. Increasingly the challenge of completing the single market in 1992 and implementing the Single Act on the basis of the reform decisions of 1988 calls for the active involvement of everyone in the construction of Europe. The Community can no longer rely solely on its economic potential; it has to come up with a political response to the many expectations placed in it. Viewed in this light, the federalist idea is not merely a relic of the past but a serious option for the political organization of the Community in the 1990s.

As the century draws to a close, with Europe once more emerging from its artificial division to become a single whole, the Community is faced with new challenges, both on the world stage and in Europe itself.

As the peoples of Europe move ever closer together, the European Community itself is still on the move too.

The Community in the 1990s

In setting the 1992 deadline for completion of the single (or 'internal') market, the Single Act backed it up with a series of flanking measures intended to ensure economic and social cohesion. This is as important as the single market target itself (the dismantling of all frontiers within the Community hampering the movement of people and trade). Fulfilling the commitments made in the Single Act is not only important for the prosperity and status of the Community, and of its 340 million citizens, but also essential if it is to respond to the many demands being made on it from outside.

Improved capacity to act effectively

The Single Act has improved the Community's decision-making and broadened its field of action; it extended the principle of majority voting in the Council and gave the European Parliament a greater say in the legislative process, and it added new responsibilities in the areas of the internal market, monetary policy, social policy, research and technology, and the environment. It is true, the Commission's original ideas and the European Parliament's demands went still further. Nevertheless this first reform of the Treaties can be regarded as a success: Commission proposals, which often used to lie gathering dust on the Council table for years, are now decided in a matter of months. A remarkable feature here is that the Council often simply notes that there is a majority in favour of a proposal, without taking a formal vote. Even the complicated new cooperation procedure between the Council and Parliament for the adoption of legislation, involving two readings by each, has not slowed things down significantly. Of course, the principle of unanimity continues to apply in sensitive areas, such as the harmonization of taxation, the dismantling of borders, and workers' rights. All in all, however, the readiness and ability to find a consensus has increased.

Confidence in the single market

1992 is not just any ordinary year. The knowledge that people, goods and capital will be able to move freely between the Twelve once the single European market is in place has already given a considerable boost to the economy: industrial productivity and profitability have seen a sustained improvement, and investment and production show double-figure growth rates. For the millions of jobs lost during the first half of the 1980s, millions of new ones have been created since.

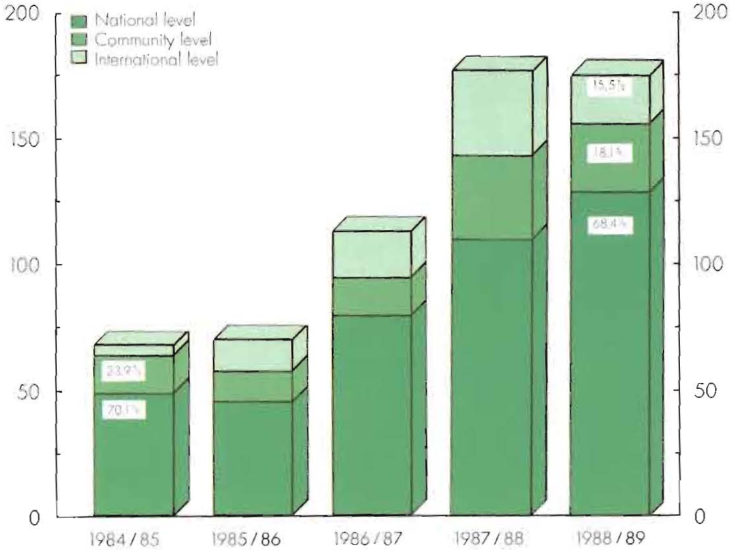
European companies are once again serious competitors both in the EC and on world markets. And when the obstacles of excessive bureaucracy, border formalities, protectionism over public contracts, and market fragmentation due to conflicting technical regulations (in telecommunications, for instance) have been cleared away, they will fare even better. Experts forecast that the single market, if properly followed through, should result in 5% overall growth in the medium term, accompanied by a marked slowdown in the rate of inflation and a further fall in unemployment.

Investment by non-member countries and trade inside the EC have revived noticeably with the prospect of the single market. Business decisions and planning are quite clearly being geared to 1992. The Commission has submitted the entire package of proposals set out in its 1985 internal market programme; and a large proportion has already been adopted by the Council, covering the harmonization of company law and legislation on financial services, the mutual recognition of academic qualifications, and the removal of restrictions relating to public contracts.

Work still remains to be done, however, in those specific areas which directly affect ordinary citizens: value-added tax, excise duties and, above all, the elimination of red tape at frontiers inside the Community. In this respect the Schengen Agreement of 19 June 1990 on the dismantling of

Mergers and takeovers in the service sector in the Community, 1984/85 to 1988/89

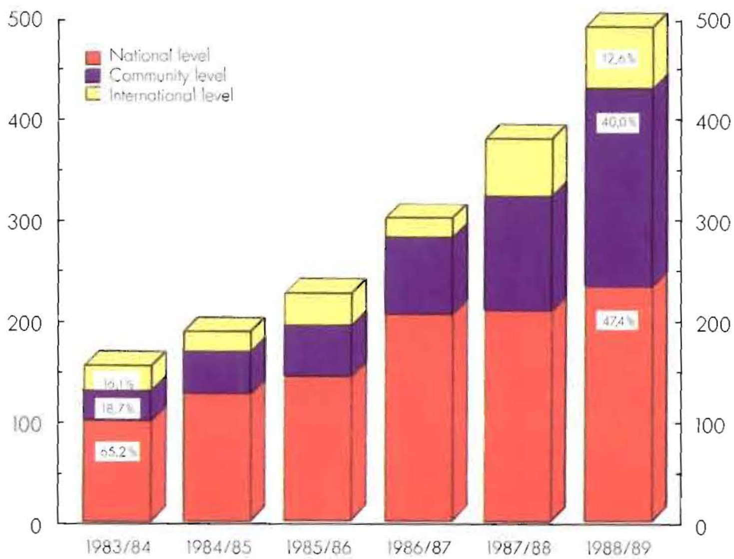
Number of takeovers and mergers



Source: EC-Commission, Employment in Europe 1990.

Mergers and takeovers in the industrial sector in the Community, 1983/84 to 1988/89

Number of takeovers and mergers



Source: EC Commission, Employment in Europe 1990.

Founding Treaties and amending Treaties

Treaty	Signed	Entry into force
European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)	18 April 1951 Paris	23 July 1952 [1]
European Economic Community (EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)	25 March 1957 Rome	1 January 1958 [2]
Establishing a Single Council and a Single Commission of the European Communities (Merger Treaty)	8 April 1965 Brussels	1 July 1967
Accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom	2 January 1972 Brussels	1 January 1973
Accession of Greece	28 May 1979 Athens	1 January 1981
Accession of Spain and Portugal	12 June 1985 Madrid/Lisbon	1 January 1986
Single Act	17 February 1986 Luxembourg 28 February 1986 The Hague	1 July 1987

[1] Article 97 of the ECSC Treaty states: 'This Treaty is concluded for a period of fifty years from its entry into force'.

[2] The Treaties of Rome apply for an unspecified period (Article 240 of the EEC Treaty, and Article 208 of the Euratom Treaty).

border controls between France, the Benelux States and the Federal Republic of Germany foreshadows a single market taking in all 12 Member States.

The Commission is keeping up strong pressure to prevent any slippage by the Member States in incorporating Community legislation into national law by the 1992 deadline. It is also working to ensure that the greater freedom of competition brought about by the single market is not thwarted by government intervention (subsidies for example) or by restrictive agreements and mergers between companies.

The economic situation in the Community at the start of the 1990s is promising and the single market is well set to take off. The conditions for growth and employment have steadily improved, even though unemployment is still unacceptably high and the gap between rich and poor in the Twelve remains wide. It is precisely to resolve these structural problems that the single market programme needs to be implemented swiftly. The vital task is to sustain the impetus and exploit the favourable economic prospects which it holds out in order to bring unemployment down further and help the less highly developed regions to catch up.

(See also further references to the single market in the section on 'The single market and economic and monetary union').

Making industry competitive

The early 1980s brought signs of a decline in competitiveness in the Community. European industry was losing ground to Japan and the USA in crucial sectors for future development in the late twentieth century – such as information technology, telecommunications, the life sciences and

EC-research: framework programme 1990–94

Focal areas	million ECU		Proportion of total budget (%)
I. Enabling technologies			
1. Information and communications technologies		2221	38.9
Information technologies	1352		
Telecommunications	489		
Development of technological systems of general interest	380		
2. Industrial and materials technologies		888	15.6
Industrial and materials technologies	748		
Measurement and testing	140		
II. Management of natural resources			
3. Environment		518	9.1
Environment	414		
Marine science and technology	104		
4. Life sciences and technologies		741	13.0
Biotechnology	164		
Agricultural and agro-industrial research (including fisheries)	333		
Biomedical and health research	133		
Life sciences and technologies for developing countries	111		
5. Energy		814	14.3
Non-nuclear energies	157		
Nuclear fission safety	199		
Controlled thermonuclear fusion	458		
III. Management of intellectual resources		518	
6. Human capital and mobility	518		9.1
Total		**5 700[1]**	**100.0**

[1] Including ECU 57 million for the centralized management of the dissemination and exploitation of research results, and ECU 550 million for the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

Source: EC Commission, EC research funding. A guide for applicants, second edition, 1990.

materials research. It was thus high time for the Community, through the Single Act, to lay the foundations for its own technology policy. The main emphasis is on fundamental (pure) research where substantial efforts are needed in practically every sector, and these needs – tackling the problems of the environment (acid rain, climatic change, depletion of the ozone layer) and health (AIDS and cancer), for example – can only be met at international level.

In its framework programme, the Community has created an instrument enabling it to integrate support for research into a long-term strategy. It offers universities, research institutes and companies (especially smaller firms) the opportunity to cooperate at the European level. But the potential and demand for cooperation currently far outstrip the Community's financial resources – for in spite of its impressive growth rate EC research still accounts for only about 4% of public spending on research by the 12 individual Member States. Here too, the Commission follows the principle of subsidiarity: that is to say, problems are dealt with at EC level only if they cannot be tackled sensibly or effectively at national level.

The single market as an economic and social area

1992 stands for the single market, but it is also an expression of solidarity. For without a common economic and social area the single market would be a very soulless creature. The provisions of the Single Act on the single market and on the flanking policies thus form an indivisible whole, incompatible with the notion of a Europe *à la carte* or a Community ruled simply by the law of the jungle.

Solidarity finds its most tangible expression in economic and social cohesion. Promoting cohesion within the Community is one of the underlying aims of the Delors Plan and the reform decisions taken in 1988, and has priority in the overall allocation of expenditure.

Measures towards this goal are financed through the structural Funds, the European

Economic and social cohesion

The main provisions of Title V of the EEC Treaty introduced by the Single Act

Article 130a spells out the objectives of economic and social cohesion: promoting the overall harmonious development of the Community and reducing disparities between the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured areas.

Article 130b stipulates how the objectives laid down in Article 130a are to be achieved: through coordination by the Member States of their economic policies, through the implementation of the common policies and the internal market, and through the structural Funds (Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund, the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund), the European Investment Bank and the other existing financing instruments.

Article 130c incorporates the European Regional Development Fund into the EEC Treaty and defines its tasks: to redress the principal regional imbalances by participating in the development of the backward areas and in the conversion of declining industrial regions.

Investment Bank and the other financial instruments available. The organization of the Funds and the way in which they operate have been adapted to the new requirements, and by 1993 their financial resources will have been doubled. One of the principal objectives of the structural Funds' operations is to assist the regions that are lagging behind in terms of development.

Rural areas in particular – which account for some 80% of the EC's total area and are home to more than half its total population – stand in need of Community solidarity. The term 'rural area', incidentally, denotes more than simply a geographical area; specifically it implies an entire economic and social structure which, quite apart from its function of providing people there with a living, is also vital in preserving the ecological balance and offering room for recreation. The main objectives here are to preserve the family-run farm, to create permanent and economically viable jobs outside agriculture through diversification and to ensure greater protection of the rural environment.

The social dimension

The concept of the social dimension is not just a Community invention. Social welfare and social security are general rights enjoyed by all and form a part of our social order in Europe. In the context of the single market, the aim is to secure a firm platform of guaranteed social rights. The outlines are clearly drawn in the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers (adopted in December 1989), which embodies the fundamental principles underlying the European model of labour law and, more generally, the place of work in society.

At the request of the European Parliament, the Commission drew up an action programme, which includes among its priorities non-standard forms of employment, arrangements for working hours, worker information and consultation, and the protection of pregnant women and young mothers. All these proposals are designed to improve living and working conditions, as called for by the new Article 118a of the EEC Treaty.

Structural policy objectives[1]

Objective 1	Promoting the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind.
Objective 2	Conversion of declining industrial regions.
Objective 3	Combating long-term unemployment.
Objective 4	Integration of young people into working life.
Objective 5a	Adjustment of production, processing and marketing structures in agriculture and forestry.
Objective 5b	Development of rural areas.

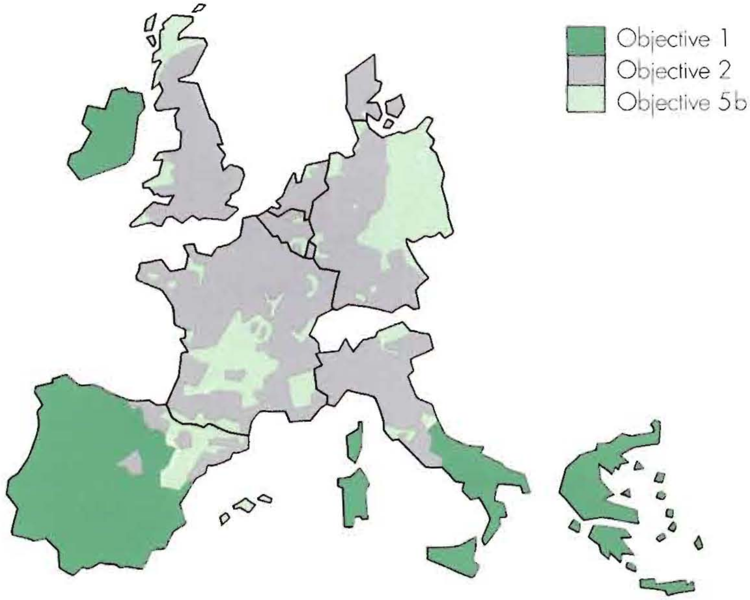
In conjunction with the 1988 reform of the structural Funds, the financial resources for Community structural policy are being increased year by year from about ECU 7 000 million in 1988 to almost ECU 14 000 million by 1993. The extra funds are earmarked principally for regions falling under Objective 1:

Spain	Andalusia, Asturias, Castilla y León, Castilla-La-Mancha, Ceuta y Melilla, Comunidad Valenciana, Extremadura, Galicia, Canary Islands, Murcia.
France	French overseas departments, and Corsica.
Greece	Whole country.
Ireland	Whole country.
Italy	Abruzzi, Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia, Sicily.
Portugal	Whole country.
United Kingdom	Northern Ireland.

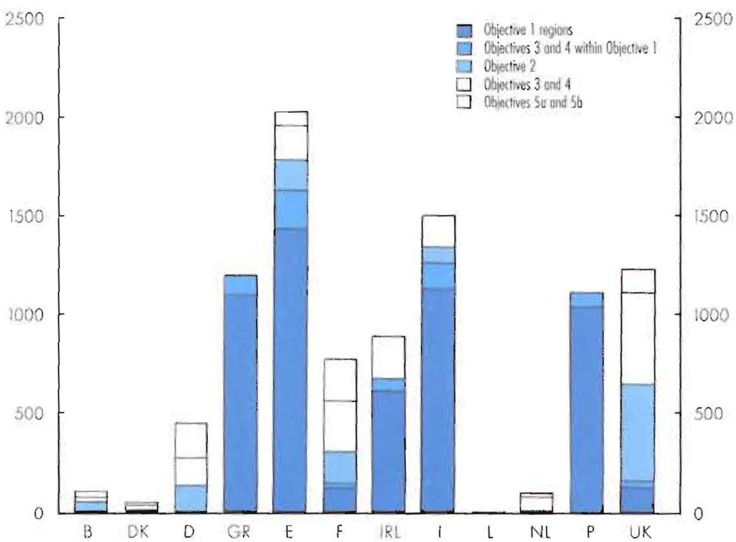
Community operations supplement measures adopted by Member States, or contribute to their implementation. They are carried out in partnership between the Commission, the Member States and local organizations. The Commission submits an annual report to the European Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee on the measures taken to achieve the five objectives.

[1] The objectives of the Community's structural policy are laid down in the framework Regulation adopted by the Council on 24 June 1988 (OJ 185, 15. 7. 1988), which came into effect on 1 January 1989.

Community regions entitled to assistance under Objectives 1, 2 and 5b



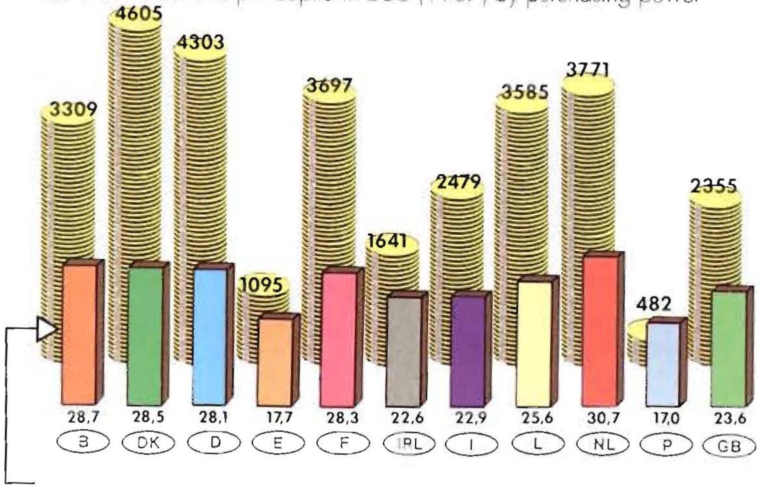
Breakdown of the structural Funds between Member States by objective, 1989-93



Source:
EC Commission, 'Guide to the reform of the Community's structural Funds'. Document, Brussels – Luxembourg 1989.

Social Europe

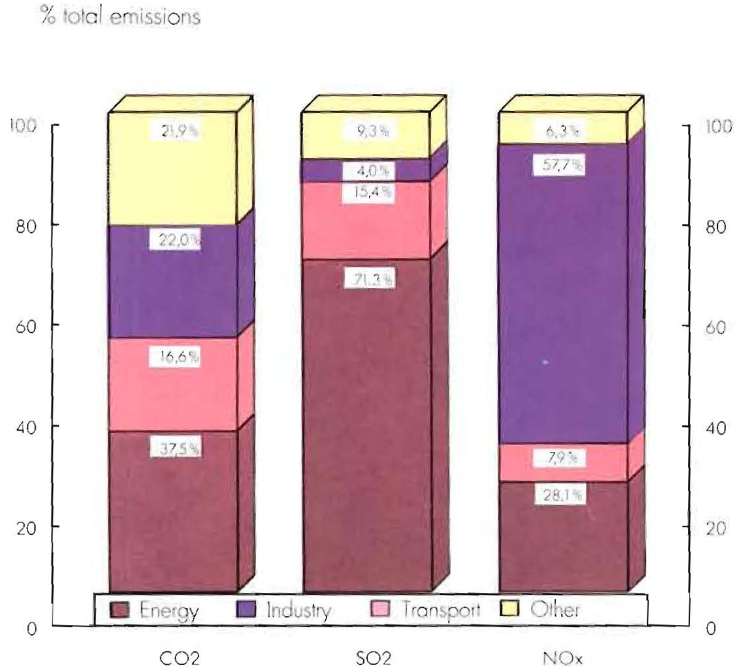
Social welfare benefits per capita in ECU (1987) by purchasing power



Social welfare benefits as a percentage of gross national product (1978/88)

Source: Eurostat, Theme 3 – Population and social conditions. *Rapid Reports*, 1990.

Sources of air pollution in the Community by sector, 1988



Source: EC Commission, DG XII.

Social provisions of the EEC Treaty

Free movement of workers	Art. 7, Arts 48 to 51
Right of establishment	Arts 52 to 58
Approximation of laws	Art. 100a
Safety and health protection	Art. 118a
Dialogue between management and labour at European level	Art. 118b
Equal pay for men and women	Art. 119
Vocational training	Art. 128
Economic and social cohesion	Art. 130a to 130e

Commitment to the environment

All too often the single market programme is judged purely in economic terms. Yet it is quite clear that if the Community is to satisfy the expectations of its citizens, it must also adopt a tougher stance on the environment. Everyone today knows that the destruction of nature is no respecter of national or continental boundaries. Under the Single Act, the EC has taken on the task of preserving and protecting a sound environment and improving its quality, safeguarding human health, and ensuring the prudent and rational use of natural resources. It intervenes where these objectives can be better achieved at Community level than by the Member States acting individually. The basic principle is to try to prevent and remedy environmental damage at source. On 7 May 1990 the decision was taken to set up a European Environment Agency in order to give people in Europe reliable and objective data on the state of the environment and to furnish the Commission with the information it needs to monitor the application of EC environmental legislation. This European Agency might, indeed, one day become an international environment agency.

In its Dublin Declaration (25/26 June 1990), the European Council acknowledged the Community's special responsibility for the environment both to its own citizens and to the wider world. It urged the Community to use its moral, economic and political authority to advance international efforts to solve global environmental problems. In particular it noted that the Antarctic deserved special protection as the last great unspoiled wilderness. Depletion of the ozone layer was also a major cause for concern. The 12 Heads of State or Government reaffirmed that the Community would press for revision of the 1987 Montreal Protocol so as to speed up the complete elimination of substances which deplete the ozone layer, making clear at the same time that it was also committed to providing additional financial and technical resources to assist developing countries in implementing the Protocol.

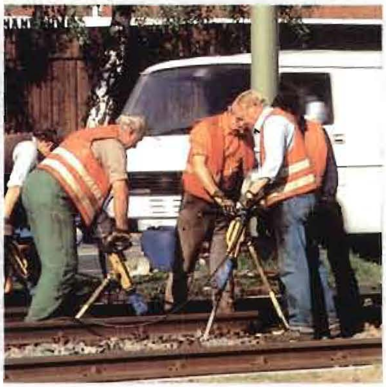
The European leaders called for joint efforts to tackle the continuing destruction of the rain forests, soil erosion, desertification and other environmental problems with the countries concerned, noting that the fourth Lomé Convention between the EC and 69 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries marked a step in this direction. Finally, they highlighted the special challenge posed by the environmental situation in Central and Eastern Europe and welcomed the initial steps agreed by European Environment Ministers in Dublin on 16 June 1990.

Fundamental social rights of workers

(Community Charter of 9 December 1989)

Freedom of movement

Every worker in the European Community has the right to freedom of movement throughout the territory of the Community, subject to restrictions justified on grounds of public order, public safety or public health. The right to freedom of movement enables any worker to engage in any occupation or profession in the Community in accordance with the principles of equal treatment as regards access to employment, working conditions and social protection in the host country.



Employment and remuneration

Every individual is free to choose and engage in an occupation according to the regulations governing each occupation. All employment must be fairly remunerated. Every individual must be able to have access to public placement free of charge.

Improvement of living and working conditions

The completion of the internal market must lead to an improvement in the living and working conditions of workers in the European Community. Where necessary, certain aspects of employment regulations must be developed – such as procedures for collective redundancies and those regarding bankruptcies. Every worker in the European Community has a right to a weekly rest period and to paid annual leave. The conditions of employment of every worker in the European Community must be stipulated in laws, a collective agreement or a contract of employment, according to the arrangements applying in each country.

Social protection

According to the arrangements applying in each country, every worker in the European Community has a right to adequate social protection and should receive an adequate level of social security benefits, whatever his status and whatever the size of the undertaking in which he is employed. Persons who have been unable either to enter or re-enter the labour market and have no means of subsistence must be able to receive sufficient resources and social assistance in keeping with their particular situation.

Freedom of association and collective bargaining

Employers and workers in the European Community have the right of association in order to constitute professional organizations or trade unions of their choice for the defence of their economic and social interests. Employers or employers' organizations and workers' organizations have the right to negotiate and conclude collective agreements under the conditions laid down by national legislation and practice. The right to resort to collective action in the event of a conflict of interests includes the right to strike, subject to the obligations arising under national regulations and collective agreements.

Vocational training

Every worker in the European Community must be able to have access to vocational training and to benefit from further training throughout his working life.

Equal treatment for men and women

Equal treatment for men and women must be assured. Equal opportunities for men and women must be developed.

Information, consultation and participation for workers

Information, consultation and participation for workers must be developed along appropriate lines, taking account of the practices in force in the various Member States. This applies especially in companies or groups of companies having establishments or companies in two or more Member States of the European Community.

Health protection and safety at the workplace

Every worker must enjoy satisfactory health and safety conditions in his working environment. Measures taken in implementation of the internal market must help to ensure this protection.

Elderly persons

According to the arrangements applying in each country, every worker in the European Community must, at the time of retirement, be able to enjoy resources affording him or her a decent standard of living. Anyone who has reached retirement age, but who is not entitled to a pension or does not have other means of subsistence, must be entitled to sufficient resources and to medical and social assistance specifically suited to his needs.

Disabled persons

All disabled persons, whatever the origin and nature of their disablement, must be entitled to additional concrete measures aimed at improving their social and professional integration.

Protection of children and young people

Apart from exceptions limited to certain light work, the minimum age of employment must not be lower than the minimum school-leaving age and in any case not lower than 15 years. Young people who are in gainful employment must receive equitable remuneration in accordance with national practice. The duration of work must be limited, without it being possible to circumvent this limitation through recourse to overtime, and night work is prohibited in the case of workers under 18 years of age, save in the case of certain jobs laid down in national legislation or regulations. Following the end of compulsory education, young people must be entitled to receive initial vocational training of adequate duration; for young workers, such training should take place during working hours.

Source: Eurostat.

Employment by economic sector, 1988

%	B	DK	D	GR	E	F	IRL	I	L	NL	P	UK	EC
Agriculture	3	6	5	26	15	7	15	10	4	5	22	2	8
Industry	28	26	40	27	31	30	28	32	32	27	35	30	32
Services	69	68	55	48	54	63	57	58	64	69	43	68	60

On the threshold of a political community

The 1992 single market has opened up new prospects for the Community, including that of economic and monetary union. In the first place, economic and monetary union is a natural complement to implementation of the Single Act and completion of the internal market, since their full economic and social benefits will only be felt if business, industry and ordinary citizens are able to use a common currency (the principle of 'one market, one currency'). Furthermore, the Community needs new institutional structures to meet the new requirements in terms of democracy and the capacity to act effectively.

Two intergovernmental conferences have been convened to draft the necessary treaties: one on economic and monetary union, and one, in the words of the European Council, on political union. To put them into proper perspective it has to be remembered that the Community is faced with the twofold challenge of achieving the goals set by the Single Act against a background of spectacular change in Europe and growing worldwide responsibilities. The Community has to demonstrate its ability to meet the internal and external challenge without awaiting the outcome of the conferences. For economic and monetary union is directly linked not only to completion of the single market by the end of 1992, but also to cooperation on research and technology, the environment, social policy and, above all, economic and social cohesion.

Quite apart from the impact the ecu would have on the financial markets and international transactions if it became a major international currency, and regardless of what economic and monetary union might mean in terms of more concerted action by

Steps to economic and monetary union

The Delors Committee's three-stage plan

Stage 1 Objective: greater convergence in economic performance through:
(i) increased coordination of economic and monetary policy within the existing institutional framework,
(ii) closer cooperation between central banks.
Preparation and ratification of the Treaty amendments required to be able to move on to the final stages.

Stage 2 Transitional and learning phase.
Establishment of a European central banking system.
The final responsibility for economic and monetary policy decisions still lies with the Member States.

Stage 3 Transition to permanent fixed exchange rates.
Final transfer of monetary and economic powers to the Community.
Replacement of national currencies by a uniform Community currency (with the ecu as the unit of currency).

(See also further references to the single market in the section on 'The single market and economic and montary union').

the Community on the international scene, it is clear that the.effect on performance and growth, on price stability (one of the prime objectives of economic and monetary union) and on employment is going to be beneficial.

The new push towards economic and monetary union began in Hanover in 1988, when the European Council instructed a committee chaired by Jacques Delors, the President of the Commission, to study and propose concrete steps that would lead towards this union. On the basis of the Delors Committee's report, the European Council decided in Madrid a year later to launch the first stage of economic and monetary union on 1 July 1990 and to prepare the necessary Treaty amendments for the second and third stages. In June 1990 the Dublin European Council decided that the Intergovernmental Conference should start work on drafting the amendments in December that year with a view to enabling the results to be ratified by the Member States before the end of 1992.

As regards what shape economic and monetary union should take, the Commission advocates an approach similar to the Delors Committee's. The first stage should serve to promote greater convergence, stronger coordination of monetary policy, and a more significant role for the ecu. Accordingly the Commission has proposed that the Treaties should explicitly designate the ecu as the future European currency. Eventually monetary policy would be managed by a new, independent and democratically accountable Community institution, known as Eurofed. Committed to maintaining price stability, its task would be to support general economic policy laid down at Community level.

The second stage, a period of intensive preparations, would see the setting up of the European central bank system (Eurofed). As a transitional phase, it would only run for a relatively short time. Finally, the start of the third stage and the introduction of the ecu as the common currency in the Community would have to await a political decision by the European Council.

The European Parliament

The European Parliament exercises some power of co-decision, in particular on the internal market, the EC budget, the accession of new Member States and the conclusion of association agreements. Otherwise it fulfils a consultative and supervisory role. It does, however, have the power to pass a vote of no-confidence in the Commission by a 'motion of censure'.

Its 518 Members are elected every five years by direct universal suffrage, with the seats allocated as follows: Belgium 24, Denmark 16, Federal Republic of Germany 81, Greece 24, Spain 60, France 81, Ireland 15, Italy 81, Luxembourg 6, Netherlands 25, Portugal 24, and United Kingdom 81.

The first direct elections were held between 7 and 10 June 1979, following adoption of the Council Decision of 20 September 1976 and the annexed Act concerning the election of the representatives of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage. Before then, Members were delegated to the European Parliament from their national parliaments. For the moment, each Member State still uses its own separate voting arrangements pending a decision by the European Parliament on a uniform procedure.

Parliaments Secretariat is located in Luxembourg, with sessions generally being held in Strasbourg and committee meetings in Brussels.

The European Council

The European Council brings together the Heads of State or Government of the Member States. It came into being at the Paris Summit of 9 and 10 December 1974, when President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France suggested that the Heads of State or Government, who had previously met only at irregular intervals, should meet regularly as the 'European Council' to discuss specific matters affecting the Community and questions of foreign policy. Since then the European Council has laid down guidelines and provided political impetus on major issues such as direct elections to the European Parliament, the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal, the creation of the EMS, reform of the common agricultural policy, financial reform, and economic and monetary union. The Single Act formally acknowledged its role in Article 2:

'The European Council shall bring together the Heads of State or Government of the Member States and the President of the Commission of the European Communities. They shall be assisted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and by a Member of the Commission. The European Council shall meet at least twice a year'.

The Council

The Council (commonly also known as the Council of Ministers) is the Community's decision-maker. It is made up of representatives of the governments of the Member States, generally the ministers for whatever subject area is on the agenda (e.g. foreign, economic, or financial affairs, agriculture etc.). The Presidency passes to each Member State in turn for a period of six

Belgium	5
Denmark	3
Germany	10
Greece	5
Spain	8
France	10
Ireland	3
Italy	10
Luxembourg	2
The Netherlands	5
Portugal	5
United Kingdom	10
Total	76
Qualified majority	54

months. Council meetings take place behind closed doors.

The Council takes decisions by a simple majority of its Members, except where a qualified majority or unanimity is required. The Council can only alter Commission proposals by a unanimous vote. If a qualified majority is called for, the votes are weighted (See table on p. 23).

For qualified-majority decisions that do not require a Commission proposal, the necessary number of votes (54 or more) must be cast by at least 8 of the 12 Members (Article 148 of the EEC Treaty).

The Single Act introduced a cooperation procedure between the Council and the European Parliament (Article 149 of the EEC Treaty) for legislation in matters concerning the prohibition on discrimination, the free movement of workers, the right of establishment, the approximation of laws and regulations in connection with the single market, the safety and health of workers, implementation of the European Regional Development Fund, and the details of research and development programmes.

The Council approves the Community's draft annual budget and presents it to the European Parliament, which can then make amendments to certain parts itself or propose amendments to the Council (Article 203 of the EEC Treaty).

A committee consisting of the Permanent Representatives of the Member States prepares the work of the Council and carries out the tasks assigned to it by the Council. It acts as a link between the Council and the Commission.

The Council and Commission are assisted by the Economic and Social Committee, which acts in an advisory role. The Committee consists of representatives of the various groups making up the economic and social life of the Community, such as manufacturers, farmers, transport operators, workers, traders, craftsmen, the professions and the general public. They are appointed by the Council, acting unanimously, for four years and may not be bound by any instructions. The Committee delivers opinions and must be consulted by the Council or the Commission where specified in the Treaty.

The Commission

The Commission is the Community's executive. It initiates Community policy and acts in the general interest of the Community. As the guardian of the Treaties, it monitors the application of Community law and has direct responsibility for regulating competition. It consists of 17 Members, who are appointed for a period of four years by mutual agreement between the governments of the Member States; the President and Vice-Presidents are appointed from among their number for two years. Appointments can be renewed.

Members of the Commission

President

Jacques Delors

Vice-Presidents

Frans Andriessen
Henning Christophersen
Manuel Marín
Filippo Maria Pandolfi
Martin Bangemann
Sir Leon Brittan

Members

Carlo Ripa di Meana
Antonio Cardoso e Cunha
Abel Matutes
Peter Schmidhuber
Christiane Scrivener
Bruce Millan
Jean Dondelinger
Ray Mac Sharry
Karel Van Miert
Vasso Papandreou

The current Commission's term of office ends on 5 January 1993.

The independence of the Members of the Commission must be beyond doubt and they may neither seek nor take instructions from any government or from any other body in carrying out their duties. Every Member State undertakes to abide by this principle and not to attempt to influence the Members of the Commission in the performance of their tasks.

Each Member has a specific portfolio, i. e. responsibility for a particular sphere of activities. The Commission takes its decisions collectively on the basis of a simple majority vote.

In matters relating to the European Coal and Steel Community, the Commission is assisted by a Consultative Committee representing producers, workers, consumers and dealers in equal numbers, whose members are appointed by the Council in a personal capacity for two years. They may not be bound by any mandate or instructions from the organizations which nominated them.

The Council, the Commission and the Economic and Social Committee have their place of work in Brussels.

The Court of Justice

The Court of Justice is the judicial authority of the Community. It is made up of 13 judges appointed for six years by mutual agreement between the governments of the Member States. They are assisted by six Advocates-General. The Court's task is to ensure uniformity in the interpretation and application of Community law, to review the legality of acts adopted by the Council and the Commission, and to rule on questions of Community law referred to it by national courts. Any Member State may, if it considers that another Member State has failed to comply with an obligation under the Treaties, bring the matter before the Court, as may the Commission. The Court of Justice also rules on complaints by natural and legal persons who wish to challenge decisions affecting them taken by the Community.

To improve the level of legal protection afforded and to enable the Court of Justice to concentrate on its proper task of ensuring uniformity in the interpretation and application of Community law, a Court of

Community legal instruments

(Article 189 of the EEC Treaty)

The Council and the Commission issue regulations, directives and decisions, make recommendations and deliver opinions.

Regulations are directly applicable in every Member State. They are comparable to national laws.

Directives are addressed to Member States. They are binding as to the result to be achieved but leave the choice of form and methods for incorporating them into national legislation to the national authorities.

Decisions are binding on those to whom they are addressed (e.g. a government or a company).

Recommendations and opinions are not binding.

Community legislation is published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. The *Bulletin of the European Communities* gives a monthly review of current developments. The Commission publishes an annual *General Report on the Activities of the European Communities*. All three publications appear in the nine official Community languages: Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.

First Instance was set up (Council Decision of 24/25 October 1988) and began to operate in September 1989. It is responsible for hearing and deciding at first instance certain classes of action brought by natural or legal persons, in particular in the area of competition law.

The Court of Auditors

The Court of Auditors examines the accounts of all Community revenue and expenditure, including revenue and expenditure that do not appear in the budget itself. This includes ECSC borrowing and lending operations, cooperation with associated developing countries, which is financed through contributions from the Member States, and the revenue and expenditure of Community bodies such as the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin and the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin. Its audits are carried out on the basis of the accounting records and, if necessary, may include on-the-spot checks at the premises of the Community institutions and in the Member States. It publishes its findings in annual and special reports.

The 12 Members of the Court of Auditors are appointed for six years by the Council in consultation with the European Parliament. They are totally independent in the performance of their duties.

The European Investment Bank

The European Investment Bank (EIB), which is a separate legal entity, is the banking arm of the Community. Its members are the Member States. Making use of the capital market and its own funds, its task is to provide loans and guarantees to help finance the development of the less developed regions, the modernization or reorganization companies, the creation of new jobs, and projects that are in the interest of several Member States. The EIB also lends funds to countries that are associated with the Community or have cooperation agreements with it and handles loans made in the context of economic aid to Poland and Hungary.

The Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and the European Investment Bank are situated in Luxembourg.

The single market and economic and monetary union

12 March 1985

Jacques Delors, President of the EC Commission, unveils the idea of the 1992 single market programme for the economic revival of Europe to the European Parliament.

14 June 1985

The Commission publishes its White Paper on the completion of the internal market, prepared under the authority of Lord Cockfield.

28 and 29 June 1985

The European Council in Milan approves the Commission's White Paper.

2 and 3 December 1985

The European Council in Luxembourg agrees on reform of the Treaties (Single Act).

15 February 1987

The Commission adopts a programme of action for the implementation of the Single Act entitled 'The Single Act: A new frontier for Europe'.

18 February 1987

President Delors presents the Commission's action programme to the European Parliament. The challenge is one of establishing a common economic and social area, creating the conditions for stronger economic growth, acting decisively and in concert on matters of foreign policy, adapting the common agricultural policy to changing circumstances in the world, and ensuring that the financing of the Community is placed on a sound footing.

1 July 1987

The Single Act enters into force.

18 November 1987

The European Parliament approves the Commission's action programme for implementing the Single Act.

11 to 13 February 1988

The Brussels European Council endorses the Commission's programme of 15 February 1987. The agreement of the Heads of State or Government after scarcely one year's negotiations leaves the way clear for the single market in 1992.

27 and 28 June 1988

The Hanover European Council instructs a committee chaired by Commission President Jacques Delors to make proposals on concrete steps leading towards economic and monetary union.

12 April 1989

The Delors Committee presents its findings in a report on economic and monetary union in the European Community.

14 to 16 June 1989

The Madrid European Council decides that the first stage of economic and monetary union should commence on 1 July 1990.

8 and 9 December 1989

In Strasbourg President François Mitterrand of France, in his capacity as President of the European Council, declares that the necessary majority exists for convening an

Intergovernmental Conference under Article 236 of the EEC Treaty to draft the amendments to the Treaties needed for the final stages of economic and monetary union.
Eleven Heads of State or Government adopt the Community Charter of the Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.

25 and 26 June 1990

The Dublin European Council decides to convene the Intergovernmental Conference on Economic and Monetary Union on 13 December and the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union on 14 December 1990.

1 July 1990

Full liberalization of capital movements comes into effect in eight Member States. Exceptions continue to apply until the end of 1992 in four Member States – Spain, Portugal, Greece and Ireland – which have not progressed as far as the others along the road to financial integration.
Start of the first stage of economic and monetary union.

13 and 14 December 1990

The Intergovernmental Conferences on Economic and Monetary Union and on Political Union open in Rome.

Keywords

Approximation of legislation: This involves bringing into line the provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States which have a direct bearing on the establishment and functioning of the internal market. Measures for approximation (harmonization) in this area are proposed by the Commission and adopted by the Council, acting in cooperation with the European Parliament and after consulting the Economic and Social Committee. Qualified majority voting applies unless stipulated to the contrary (Article 100a of the EEC Treaty).

Budget: Since 1 January 1975 the Community has been fully financed from its own resources. Prior to the gradual introduction of the system of own resources from 1971 onwards, the Community had been financed through contributions by the Member States. The Community's own resources are principally derived from customs duties levied under the Common Customs Tariff, agricultural levies charged on agricultural imports from non-member States, levies charged under the common market organization for sugar, and a percentage of revenue from VAT, which was originally limited to no more than 1%. Under the guidelines laid down by the European Council in Fontainebleau (25 and 26 June 1984), this maximum rate was increased to 1.4% with effect from 1 January 1986 to allow for the accession of Spain and Portugal.

To finance the new tasks facing the Community, particularly its structural policy, the Commission – in its paper of 15 February 1987: 'The Single Act: A new frontier for Europe' – proposed a new system of own resources to ensure adequate funding, together with stricter arrangements for budgetary discipline and new rules for budget management. The proposals were adopted by the Council in its Decision of 24 June 1988 following approval by the European Council (Brussels, 11 to 13 February 1988). A fourth source of revenue was also introduced, based on the gross national product of the Member States. This brings the level of own resources paid by each Member State more closely into line with its ability to pay.

Total revenue for 1990 was estimated at ECU 46 717 million, which is equivalent to 0.97% of the Community's gross national product. At present the Community budget corresponds to 3% of the Member States' public expenditure. This figure could rise to as much as 5% in the wake of the growing challenges facing the Community in Europe and in the Third World.

Cecchini Report: This report, published in 1988 under the title 'Europe 1992 – The overall challenge', sets out the findings of a study by a group of experts chaired by Paolo Cecchini and conducted at the request of the EC Commission into the 'cost of non-Europe' and the potential benefits of the internal market. It triggered a Community-wide debate and met with approval from business, industry and, with some reservations, the trade unions.

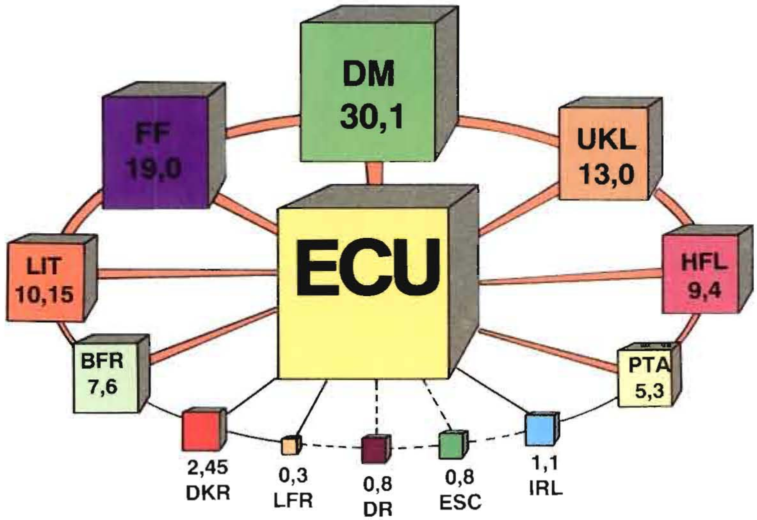
Cohesion: Cohesion is taken to mean strengthening the economic and social cohesion of the Community with a view to promoting its harmonious development as a whole, and in particular to reducing the disparities between the various regions and the backwardness of the least favoured regions. A separate title dealing with economic and social cohesion was written into the EEC Treaty (Article 130a to 130e) by the Single Act.

Ecu: Abbreviation for the European Currency Unit, the currency unit of the European Monetary System, which was introduced on 1 January 1979. The name is also that of an old French coin, the écu, which was minted between 1266 and 1270 when a uniform monetary system was introduced in France. The ecu is made up of a 'basket' comprising differing proportions of each national currency. In 1989 the average value of one ecu was 43.3806 Belgian/Luxembourg francs (BFR), 8.04929 Danish kroner (DKR), 2.07015 German marks (DM), 7.02387

As indicated, the ecu consists of a 'basket' of the currencies of the Member States. Each national currency's share in the ecu is determined in line with its economic strength.

The composition of the ecu

Ecu = European currency unit



French francs (FF), 178.840 Greek drachmas (DR), 0.776818 Irish pounds (IRL), 1 510.47 Italian lire (LIT), 2.33503 Dutch guilders (HFL), 173.413 escudos (ESC), 130.406 pesetas (PTA), and 0.673302 pounds sterling (UKL). The budget of the Community is drawn up in ecus.

European Monetary System (EMS): The European Monetary System, agreed in principle at the Bremen European Council on 6 and 7 July 1978, was established following adoption of a resolution by the European Council in Brussels on 5 November 1978 and put into effect through an agreement between the central banks of the Member States. All the currencies of the Community except the escudo and the drachma participate in the exchange rate mechanism. The European Monetary System operates on the principle of stable, but flexible exchange rates. The EEC Treaty explicitly requires the Member States to cooperate in order to ensure the convergence of economic and monetary policies, and in so doing to take account of the experience gained within the framework of the EMS and in developing the ecu (Article 102a, added by the Single Act).

Financial instruments: These include loans and guarantees granted by the European Investment Bank and Euratom, and those made under the New Community Instrument (NCI); European Coal and Steel Community operations (redeployment aid, loans, interest-rate subsidies and guarantees); Community budget expenditure on structural policy measures; and funds from the research budget. Loans granted under the NCI between 1979 and 1989 (e.g. for the capital investment projects by small and medium-sized firms) totalled ECU 6 345.3 million.

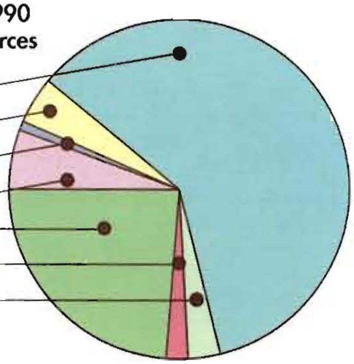
Internal market (single European market): The EEC Treaty defines the internal market as 'an area without internal frontiers, in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty'. Through the Single Act (Article 13, which added the new Article 8a to the EEC Treaty) the governments of the Member States gave expression to their determination to adopt the decisions necessary for the implementation of the single market by 1 January 1993, and in particular the measures listed in the White Paper. However, the date set in the Single Act does not create an automatic legal effect.

Single European Act (Single Act): This is the most significant amendment yet made to the Community Treaties. Following a decision by the Milan European Council (June 1985), the Single Act was drafted by an Intergovernmental Conference meeting in Luxembourg and Brussels from 9 September 1985 to 27 January 1986. It was signed in Luxembourg on 17 February 1986 by representatives of the Governments of Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom, and in The Hague on 28 February 1986 by representatives of the Governments of Denmark (following a referendum on 27 February), Greece and Italy. It then went for ratification to the Member States. But before this could be completed, the Irish Supreme Court, in a ruling on 9 April 1987, declared the Single Act's provisions on European foreign policy cooperation unconstitutional, making it necessary for the Irish constitution to be amended. The amendment was approved by referendum on 26 May 1987. However, Ireland was unable to return its instruments of ratification in time owing to the constitutional dispute, and so the Single Act came into force not on 1 January as planned, but on 1 July 1987.

Structural Funds: 'The structural Funds' is a collective term used to denote the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF), the European Social Fund and

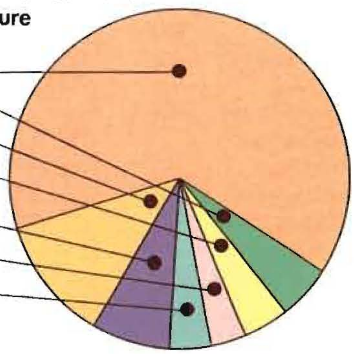
Proportion of the EC's total budget for 1990 accounted for by the different own resources

	%
VAT own resources	60.2
GNP own resources	4.2
Miscellaneous revenue	0.7
Balance from previous year – surplus	5.6
Customs duties	24.4
Agricultural levies	2.2
Sugar and isoglucose levies	2.7



Proportion of the EC's total budget for 1990 accounted for by the various categories of expenditure

	%
Agricultural policy	65.3
Administration (all instiutions)	5.0
Regional policy	11.1
Repayments and reserve	4.0
Social policy	7.8
Development cooperation	3.1
Research/Energy/Industry	3.7



the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The Community operates these three Funds to further its aim of securing economic and social cohesion between the different regions of the Community (Article 130a to 130e of the EEC Treaty).

Subsidiarity: This is the principle that the Community only tackles tasks which it is able to deal with more effectively than the Member States acting alone. The principle of subsidiarity is applied, for example, in research and technological development, environmental and regional policy and in the area of economic and monetary union.

White Paper: The programme and timetable for the completion of the single (or internal) market, published by the Commission on 14 June 1985 as a White Paper and presented to the European Council in Milan (28 and 29 June 1985).

Werner Plan: The Heads of State or Government agreed at their Summit in The Hague on 1 and 2 December 1969 that a multistage plan should be drawn up for the establishment of economic and monetary union. The report presented by the Luxembourg Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Pierre Werner, on 8 October 1970 envisaged that the first stage of economic and monetary union should begin on 1 January 1971, with the final stage being reached by the end of the decade. Further preparations came to a halt, however, because the Member States could not come up with a common answer to the international monetary problems besetting the Community at the time. Nothing more was done until the Council Decision of 21 March 1972, which took up the thread again of the basis of a plan dating from March 1971. A number of stages then followed: in 1972 the 'currency snake' was established, followed in 1973 by the European Monetary Cooperation Fund; in 1974 the Council adopted a Decision aimed at achieving a high degree of economic convergence and a Directive on stability, growth and full employment, although these failed to establish a real basis for the coordination of economic policy. Consequently the plan did not progress beyond the initial phase. Nevertheless, the aim of economic and monetary union was not lost from view. The European Monetary System (EMS) was established in 1979, replacing the currency snake that had emerged from the Werner Plan, and it is still going strong today. By contributing to internal and external monetary stability in the Community, it helped to create the conditions necessary for the adoption of the internal market programme and the Single Act in 1986. Through the exchange rate mechanism, it promotes economic convergence in the Community and is one of the cornerstones of the first stage of economic and monetary union, which began on 1 July 1990.

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European Communities – Commission

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
1992 AND BEYOND

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
1991 – 34 pp – 16.2 x 22.9 cm
ISBN 92-826-2471-4
Catalogue number: CC-60-91-385-EN-C

This booklet describes the current challenges facing the European Community. It is concerned above all with topical issues such as the single European market, economic and monetary union, and the new prospects for the 1990s.
The text also contains a wealth of basic information about the European Community.

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INFO 92

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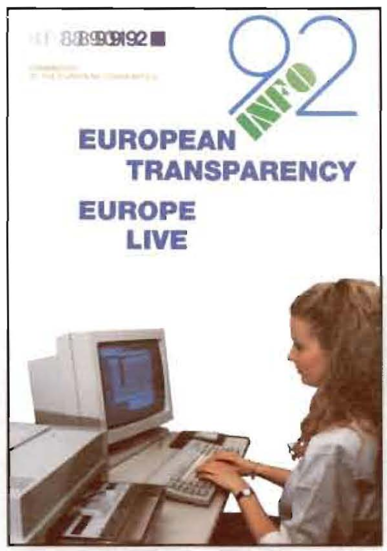

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