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CENTER FOR LEGISLATIVE STUDIES

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European Union Chronology

I Preparatory Steps: Entering the Cold War

1948 Benelux Customs Union

1949 Council of Europe

1952 European Coal and Steel Community: Benelux, West Germany, France, Italy

II From EEC to EU; Working the Cold War

1957 Treaty of Rome: European Economic Community  
The original six: Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg,  
West Germany, France, Italy

1960 EFTA: European Free Trade Association

1973 UK, Denmark, Ireland join: From 6 to 9

1979 Lome Convention: 66 African, Caribbean, Pacific countries

1979 European Monetary System (EMS): on the way to the Euro

1981-1986 Greece, Portugal, Spain join (from 9 to 12)

1986 Single European Act: internal market by 1992

III Widening and deepening: Post-Cold War

1992 Maastricht Treaty: European Central Bank, Euro Zone

1990's Sweden, Finland, Austria join (from 12 to 15);  
Norway not

2004 May. 10 new members: up to 25, and beyond?  
June. European Parliament elections  
Dec. Agree to Turkey membership talks, 10 years

2005 European Constitution signed; not ratified.