

<p>The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was founded</p>	<p>The Treaties of Rome were signed</p>	<p>The fusion agreement is signed. The European Community is established</p>	<p>The merger agreement was signed. The European Community was founded</p>
<p>The first enlargement took place</p>	<p>The European Funds for Regional Development were founded</p>	<p>The first enlargement to the South took place</p>	<p>The second enlargement to the South took place</p>
<p>The Single European Act (SEA) enters into force</p>	<p>The Structural Funds were combined under the objective of European cohesion policy</p>	<p>The European Single Market is completed</p>	<p>The Treaty of Maastricht Enters into Force. The European Union was founded</p>
<p>The cohesion funds were established</p>	<p>Foundation of the European Committee of the Regions</p>	<p>The principle of subsidiarity was established</p>	<p>The enlargement to the North was completed</p>

<p>As part of the European Commission, a Directorate-General (DG) is comparable to a ministry at national level. The task of DGs is to develop, implement and manage EU strategies, legislation and funding programs.</p>	<p>The merger agreement of 08.04.1965 comes into force: ECSC, EEC and EURATOM are merged to form the European Community (EC). Since then, there has been a joint Council of Ministers and a joint Commission for all three "Communities".</p>	<p>The six founding states signed the treaties for the establishment of the European Economic and Atomic Energy Community (EEC, EURATOM) in Rome. The Treaties of Rome are the origin of regional policy and economic integration.</p>	<p>The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) entered into force. Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands agreed to place all coal and steel production under the control of an independent "High Authority".</p>
<p>Spain and Portugal joined the Community. The European Community was now made up of twelve members.</p>	<p>As tenth member Greece joined the European Community.</p>	<p>In the course of enlargement and economic integration, it was important for all regions to share equally in the success of integration. The establishment of the Regional Development Fund is emblematic of a Europe that is growing together.</p>	<p>Great Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the European Community.</p>
<p>The Maastricht Treaty comes into force and establishes a "European Union". The most important reform is the creation of an economic and monetary union with the introduction of the Euro. European citizenship with EU-wide residence rights and the right to vote in local and European elections is introduced as well.</p>	<p>The common market without internal borders is realized. The free movement of goods, services, capital and persons within the Community is achieved. The "four freedoms" are intended to strengthen competition between the EC member states and promote prosperity.</p>	<p>Following the accession of Greece, Spain and Portugal, European regional policy is being restructured. The focus is now on the poorest regions of Europe and the expansion to multi-year programs.</p>	<p>The Single European Act (SEA), a comprehensive reform program, comes into force: the completion of the internal market is agreed. The European Parliament is given a right of co-decision in certain areas.</p>
<p>Finland, Sweden and Austria join the European Union. With exception of Switzerland, Iceland and Norway as well as some small states, all Western European countries are now part of the EU.</p>	<p>Principle according to which a higher state or social unit may only intervene and take over functions if the forces of the subordinate unit are not sufficient to perform the function. (Duden Economy 2016)</p>	<p>The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) enables regions within the EU to network with each other. The CoR has the task of reporting on the impact of EU laws within the regions and drafting statements.</p>	<p>The creation of the Cohesion Fund forms the basis for the adjustment of living standards within the EU. It exclusively promotes and supports less developed regions within the EU.</p>

The Schengen Agreement comes into force	Economic and monetary union is launched	The Lisbon-Strategy	Euro cash is introduced
The first enlargement to the East	The second enlargement to the East	Global financial and economic crisis	the Lisbon Treaty comes into force
European Stability Mechanism	The third enlargement to the East	Brexit-Referendum	Military cooperation (PESCO)
Litigation against member states	Great Britain leaves the European Union	COVID-19 pandemic affects Europe and the EU.	Russia starts its war of aggression against Ukarine

<p>The introduction of euro banknotes and coins marks the final stage towards a monetary union. The euro becomes the official currency in twelve EU countries.</p>	<p>The "Lisbon Strategy" shifted the EU's priorities to growth, employment and innovation. The priorities of EU regional policy were adjusted accordingly.</p>	<p>Belgium, Germany, Finland, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Spain adopt the euro as their official currency. The European Central Bank (ECB) takes up its work: The primary objective is to ensure price stability in Europe.</p>	<p>There will be no more checks on people at the borders between the Benelux countries, Germany, France, Spain and Portugal. External border controls will be standardized and reinforced, and police cooperation will be expanded.</p>
<p>The new Reform Treaty is intended to make the EU more efficient, more democratic and more responsive to its citizens. To this end, the rights of the European Parliament will be strengthened and the voting rules in the Union will be changed. From 2014, EU laws require a dual majority (of 55% of member states and 65% of the population).</p>	<p>The bankruptcy of the US investment bank "Lehman Brothers" destabilizes the global financial system. The bursting of the "speculative bubble" on the US real estate market leads to a global financial and economic crisis. The EU member states provide emergency loans to rescue "systemically important" banks.</p>	<p>Bulgaria and Romania join the European Union. The EU now comprises 27 states with around 500 million citizens.</p>	<p>The five Central European states of Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Hungary, the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and the Mediterranean islands of Malta and Cyprus join the European Union. With the enlargement to the East, the division of Europe into East and West is finally overcome.</p>
<p>25 EU member states decide on "Permanent Structured Cooperation" (PESCO) in the area of defense. The aim is to work more closely together militarily, jointly implement armaments projects and respond better to crises.</p>	<p>The British people are called upon to decide whether to remain in or leave the EU. The vote ends with 51.9% in favor of leaving ("Brexit"), which is possible under Article 50 of the EU Treaty. On 29.03.2017, the country applies for withdrawal from the EU. A two-year period begins, after which membership ends.</p>	<p>Croatia joins the European Union on 01.07.2013. The EU now comprises 28 member states.</p>	<p>After various financial aid programs were put together in 2010, the euro countries agreed on a permanent European Stability Mechanism (ESM). It provides euro countries in financial difficulties with loans at favorable interest rates if they meet corresponding austerity requirements.</p>
<p>The invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops began on February 24, 2022. Russia's war of aggression has continued ever since. The NATO and EU states adopted extensive sanctions against Russia. Ukraine receives humanitarian aid supplies. Many countries, including Germany, are also supplying weapons for the country's defense.</p>	<p>The coronavirus pandemic affects the EU severely. Since the outbreak, countries have been working together to find solutions. The EU adopts the "Next Generation EU" economic recovery plan to combat the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic with a budget of 750 billion euros. For the first time, the EU is able to issue joint European debt.</p>	<p>After extensive negotiations, including deadline extensions, the UK leaves the EU on January 31, 2020. The EU now consists of 27 member states.</p>	<p>The EU Commission initiates rule of law proceedings against Poland. The judicial reforms carried out there are incompatible with the independence of the judiciary and the principle of separation of powers. Because it considers the principles of the rule of law in Hungary to be at risk, the EU Parliament initiates rule of law proceedings on 12.09.2018.</p>