**Timeline of the European Union**

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| **1945** | World War II ends  |
| **1949** | **Council of Europe** is founded |
| **1950/51** | * ‘**The Schuman Declaration**’: French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman present a plan for cooperation between European states
* **Treaty of Paris**: European Coal and Steel Community with six countries: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)
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| **1957** | * **European Economic Community (EEC)**: a Common Market is created (goods, money, trade etc. could move freely)
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| **1958** | **European Court of Justice** is established in Luxembourg |
| **1962** | **Common Agriculture Policy**: a common agricultural market is instituted  |
| **1968** | **Customs Union**: no import taxes |
| **1973** | Denkmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the EEC |
| **1979** | First election of the **European Parliament**  |
| **1981** | Greece joins the EEC |
| **1986** | * Portugal and Spain join the EEC
* the **European flag** is introduced
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| **1992** | **Maastricht Treaty**: * the **European Union (EU)** is created
* the Euro is introduced
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| **1993** | **Copenhagen Criteria**: European Council agrees on specific membership criteria |
| **1995** | * **Schengen Agreement:** no more border controls
* Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU
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| **1997** | **Amsterdam Treaty**: forms the way for the addition of new EU members |
| **1999** | **Eurozone**: economic and currency union is officially established  |
| **2002** | Euro notes and coins officially replace the national currencies  |
| **2004** | **First Eastern Expansion**: Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Cyprus and Malta join the EU |
| **2007** | **Second Eastern Expansion:** Bulgaria and Romania join the EU |
| **2009** | **Treaty of Lisbon:** tries to make the EU more efficient and more democratic  |
| **2010** | **Rescue Funds:** EU finance ministers decide on emergency spending for indebted countries to protect the stability of the Euro |
| **2013** | **Third Eastern Expansion:** Croatia joins the EU |