

# The evolution of the European Union

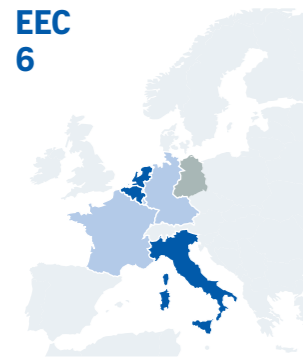
■ The former German Democratic Republic (East Germany)

1950



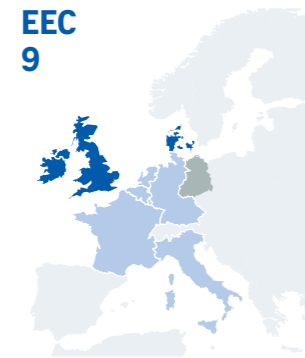
France and Germany announce a plan to pool coal and steel production

1957



The Treaty of Rome. The European Economic Community is born

1973



**Britain** becomes a member in the first wave of enlargement

1981



Greece joins the community

1986



Portugal and Spain come on board. The Single European Act is signed

1995



The Schengen Agreement. Maastricht Treaty on integration signed, 1992

2004



Enlargement to the east. The introduction of the euro, 2002

2007



Treaty of Lisbon streamlines how the EU operates. Rise in euroscepticism

2013



Croatia joins. British PM David Cameron promises a referendum on membership

2016



**Brexit**  
Britain votes to leave the EU

Sources: PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN, AFP STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS