



**Istanbul
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LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

European Institute

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The initial years of integration

The EEC

Objectives and Concepts

- **Objectives:** to understand how the EEC was established and how it became the driving force of the communities.
- **Concepts:** EEC, Euratom, customs union, free trade area, common market

The European Communities

- European Atomic Energy Community (Rome Treaty signed, March 1957; in operation, January 1958) – Euratom
- European Economic Community (Rome Treaty signed, March 1957; in operation, January 1958) – the EEC

Messina Conference (June 1955)

- Jean Monnet formed the Action Committee for the US of Europe, whose main proposals were:
 - Proposed the creation of a European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom)
 - Included a proposal to create a general common market
- Thus, debates started on whether they should continue integration with sectoral integration or general integration.
- In June 1956, negotiations on EEC and Euratom began.

France

- France was skeptical towards general integration, because they believed they could not compete with the German industry.
- In the end, France agreed to integrate because of both international and domestic reasons.
- Domestic reasons:
 - A change of government in France occurred and a socialist leader Guy Mollet was the President. The Relationship between Mollet and Monnet was similar to Schuman and Monnet.
 - French industry needed to be more competitive.

International Developments

- A series of international developments in 1956 gave impetus to the negotiations for further integration
 - The War in Algeria
 - The invasion of Hungary by the USSR
 - The Suez crisis
- These events were important especially because they pushed France for further integration. France realised that during the Cold War period, it was impossible to survive without co-operation.

Treaties of Rome

- Two treaties were signed on March 1957 in Rome:

‘The Community shall have as its task, by establishing a **common market** and progressively approximating the economic policies of Member States, to promote throughout the Community a harmonious development of economic activities, a continuous and balanced expansion, an increase in stability, an accelerated raising of the standard of living and closer relations between the States belonging to it.’

Definitions

- A Free Trade Area: free movement of goods.
- A Customs Union: free movement of goods and a common external tariff.
- A Common Market: four freedoms – free movement of goods, capital, services and people.

With the EEC, the founding members aimed to achieve a common market based on the principle of four freedoms.

The Euratom

- France supported Euratom because,
 - It would create subsidy for the expensive process of developing nuclear energy,
 - It would deprive Germany of a national capability,
 - It would guarantee French access to uranium, Belgian Congo
- Yet as a result of mild winters in 1958 and 1959, Euratom lost momentum very quickly and less emphasis was put on nuclear energy. Oil gained the upper hand.

Readings and Videos

- Click on this link to read about the treaty establishing EEC. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=URISERV:xy0023>
- Analyse the first years of European Economic Community from this timeline. https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history/1960-1969_en
- The 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome - EPP Group Official Channel
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzT2toJm3tw&list=PL3792EAE37D0C1472&index=12>
- Treaty of Rome: 60 year anniversary - European Parliament Official Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xo6ltcTPaXc>