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The Re-launch of European integration

The Single European Act

FlipEU Jean Monnet Module
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Objectives and Concepts

- **Objectives:** to understand how the integration process re-started
- **Concepts:** the single market, SEA, the commission

The 1981 and 86 Enlargements

- Greece was rule by a military junta betwween 1967-74. **Restoring democracy, Greece applied to join the European Community in 1975.** The Commission's opinion was negative: economically Greece was not ready. The Council of Ministers rejected the Commission proposal and paved the way for membership.
- Spain and Portugal also had dictatorial political systems until the mid-1970s (The Caetano regime in Portugal, Franco in Spain). They applied for membership in 1977, after they restored democracy.
- The reasons for this enlargement were mainly political. While the applicants were not ready, the Communities accepted their membership.
- **01-01-1981** Greece joins the EU
- **01-01-1986** Spain and Portugal become members

Pressure to re-launch

- In the 1980s, pressure came from various actors to re-start the integration.
- For example, the Kangaroo Group was established. It was a lobby group in the European Parliament working for the removal of all obstacles to a true single market in the EU. They wanted to facilitate trade that would hop over national boundaries.

The idea was to return to the two primary goals of the Treaty of Rome, which were:

1. Creation of a customs union and a common external tariff and a common commercial policy, which was completed in 1968
2. Creation of a European Single Market, which was incomplete.

The Commission White Paper

A report on the COMPLETING THE INTERNAL MARKET (June 1985) was published by the European Commission, which is called the Cockfield Report

- It was a comprehensive blueprint for bringing together the fragmented national markets to create a genuinely frontier-free single market by the end of 1992.
- It aimed to tackle the three barriers in front of the market. The White Paper listed almost 300 measures to take.

3 Barriers

- **physical barriers:** such as customs and border checks, that were restricting the movement of people.
 - In June 1985, France and Germany joined the Benelux and signed the Schengen Agreement.
- **technical barriers:** different technical barriers that restricted free movement of goods, such as regulations and standards
 - For instance in 1979 Casis de Dijon Case ruled for the mutual recognition of standants. Germany tried to protect its brewers by restricting the movement of French liqueur, by using standards as barriers.
- **fiscal barriers:** indirect taxation was also another barrier, such as excise duties.

The Single European Act

- EU adopts nearly 280 separate items of legislation opening closed national markets to complete the single market.
- In many areas, 12 sets of national regulations (there were only 12 members then) are replaced by one common European rule, with the aim of reducing the complications and costs for any business trying to market a product throughout the Union.
- In other areas, to avoid having to adopt new legislation, the Member States simply agree to give each others' laws and technical standards the same validity as their own (the 'mutual recognition' principle).

Underlying principle of the SEA is **the mutual recognition of national regulations**:

- If a product is lawfully manufactured and marketed in one member states, it can be sold throughout the Community. If a citizen or company meets the requirements for services activities in one state, they should be able to exercise their activities in other parts of the Community.

Readings and Videos

- Read the historical events of this period. https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history/1980-1989_en
- Get to know Delors and how he played a part in the integration process. <http://institutdelors.eu/tous-les-contributeurs/delors-jacques/?lang=en>
- This is the white paper on the completion of the internal market. http://europa.eu/documents/comm/white_papers/pdf/com1985_0310_f_en.pdf
- History: Jacques Delors' Europe - European Parliament Official Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=52xV4mE6KpQ>
- History: European Single Market - European Parliament Official Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbfNv783n9I>
- The EU single market after 20 years: much achieved, much left to do - EPP Group Official Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=53_8gWOQUas