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Enlargement towards the East

The CEEC Enlargement

FlipEU Jean Monnet Module
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Objectives and Concepts

- **Objectives:** understanding the changes after the Maastricht Treaty, how the Union prepared for CEEC enlargement
- **Concepts:** the CEEC enlargement, Amsterdam Treaty, Nice Treaty and Constitutional Treaty.

Enlargement

- For Germany, enlargement to the Central and Eastern European Countries was a priority for both security and economic reasons.
- UK also supported enlargement for security reasons as well as economic and political ones.
- France, Italy, Spain had reservations about it.

They did not want to shift the balance of power in the EU

They were concerned about the problems in the Mediterranean and did not want them to become secondary issues

They were concerned about the implications of enlargement, especially on the CAP.

Reforms for Enlargement

The main impediment in front of enlargement was that before it happened reforms needed to take place. The member states needed to agree on:

- The size of the Commission and the EP
- Rotation of the Presidency
- Weighting of votes
- And most importantly abolishing veto power in policy areas, so integration can continue in a bigger Union.
- Budget allocation on agriculture and structural funds

Amsterdam Treaty

- The Treaty was signed in Amsterdam on 2 October 1997; it came into force on 1 May 1999.
- The Treaty of Amsterdam amends and amplifies the content of the Maastricht Treaty in five main areas:
 - freedom, security and justice;
 - citizenship of the Union;
 - external policy;
 - EU Institutions;
 - closer cooperation.

Towards the Nice Treaty

- Yet the Amsterdam Treaty was not enough. There were three Amsterdam 'left-overs' that still needed reform:
 - the extension of qualified majority voting in all three pillars;
 - alteration of the weighting of votes of member states or the institution of a double majority voting system; and
 - a reduction in the number of Commissioners.

Nice Treaty

- A new intergovernmental conference convened in 2000, which gave rise to the Nice Treaty. With the Nice Treaty:
 - Veto was removed from 29 of the 70 articles (taxation, education, health, many aspects of immigration, cohesion funds)
 - Weighing of votes changed.
 - Commission structured changed. The big member states gave up their commissioners. Each member state would have one commissioner.
 - EP's legislative power was extended to new policy areas.

Enlargement from 15 to 28

- The momentum of the enlargement process continued:
 - 10 applicant states became members in 2004.
 - Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta.
- Bulgaria and Romania were not deemed ready, they became members in 2007
- Croatia applied for EU membership in 2003 and was in negotiations from 2005 until 2011. On 9 December 2011 leaders from the EU and Croatia signed the accession treaty. The country became the 28th EU member country on 1 July 2013.

Convention on the Future of Europe

Yet even at the time of signing the Nice Treaty, the member states knew there should be further discussion on the future of Europe and further reform. Adoption of the *Declaration on the Future of the European Union* in 2001 committed the EU to pursue reforms.

Between 1 March 2002 – July 2003, a convention convened. 4 topics were to be considered (Laeken European Council, December 2001):

- a better division and definition of competence in the European Union
- simplification of the Union's instruments (legislation)
- more democracy, transparency and efficiency in the EU
- towards a constitution for European citizens

The Constitutional Treaty

- As a result of this Convention, the Constitution Treaty was agreed upon and signed in October 2004. With this Treaty,
 - a single text would replace all the existing Treaties, with the exception of the Euratom Treaty, and gives the European Union a **single legal personality** under domestic and international law.
- Yet the Treaty was rejected in referendums in France and the Netherlands in 2005.

Readings and Videos

- Read this text on EU enlargement. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=LEGISSUM:e50017>.
- Click on this link and look at Amsterdam Nice Treaties. https://europa.eu/european-union/law/treaties_en.
- History: The Treaty of Nice – European Parliament Official Channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNo_P5CCDsU&index=3&list=PLF03BCBA06D619B7F
- History: The Amsterdam Treaty – European Parliament Official Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPK3w8j1h6c>