The history of European integration (overview)

1946  Winston Churchill speaks at the University of Zürich

1949  foundation of the Council of Europe

1952  start of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)

1958  start of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)

1967  connection of the three European Communities to one acting unit with common institutions

1968  completion of the Customs Union

1978  establishment of a European Monetary System (EMS)

1987  entry into force of the Single European Act (SEA)
- first major reform; in particular agreement to establish a European internal market

1992  establishment of the internal market almost completed

1993  entry into force of the Treaty of Maastricht (EU Treaty)
- second major reform
- emergence of the European Union (EU), which comprises the European Communities
- "EEC" renamed "EC"
- introduction of a Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and a cooperation in the field of justice and home affairs
- binding agreement to introduce a common currency

1999  introduction of the euro (€); entry into force of the Treaty of Amsterdam
- third major reform

2000  proclamation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (as non-binding soft law)

2002  introduction of euro coins and notes; ECSC Treaty expires (missions taken over by EC)

2002/03  preparation of a Draft constitution by the European Convention

2003  entry into force of the Treaty of Nice
- fourth major reform

2004  signing of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe

2004/07  Eastern enlargement of the European Union (10 + 2 new member states)

2005  Failure of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe

2009  entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon
- last major reform
- simplification of the structure of the EU; liquidation of the EC
- Charter of Fundamental Rights becomes binding primary law

Since 2010  Fight against the financial crisis in some euro area member states
- 2012: entry into force of the Treaty establishing the European Stability Mechanism
- 2013: entry into force of the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic and Monetary Union (Fiscal Pact)