



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND EUROPEAN STUDIES English line
Class of 2023-2026

HISTORY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION / ISTORIA INTEGRĂRII EUROPENE

Topics for BA examination, June/July and September 2026

1. The Treaty of Lisbon – premises, negotiations, outcomes

Compulsory bibliography:

- The Treaty of Lisbon, European Parliament,
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/ftu/pdf/en/FTU_1.1.5.pdf

AND

- Annex 1 (to this file).

OR

- The Lisbon Treaty in 10 information sheets, Robert Schuman Foundation, pp. 3-23,
<https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/dossiers-pedagogiques/traite-lisbonne/10fiches.pdf>

2. The Europe 2020 Agenda – priorities, implementation

Compulsory bibliography:

- Europe 2020: Europe's growth strategy,
http://epan2.antonistikota.gr/uploads/europe_2020explained.pdf

3. EU Enlargement – waves, importance, future

Compulsory bibliography:

- https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/enlargement-policy/6-27-members_en
- https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/enlargement-policy/conditions-membership_en

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Annex 1

Treaty of Lisbon

Overview

- signed in 2007 in the capital of Portugal, the Reform Treaty, as it is known, marks a significant step in the evolution and restructuring of the European Union
- the Treaty has the role of amending (modifying) both the Treaty of Rome of 1957, which created the European Community, and the Treaty of Maastricht, which came into force in 1993, giving rise to the European Union
- the act comes as a response to the rejection of the Constitutional Treaty, in 2005, by means of the referenda held in France and the Netherlands, by encompassing most of its provisions, albeit under a different format (the Treaty of Lisbon renounces the symbols, the title of Union Minister of Foreign Affairs, the name “European laws” and the inclusion of the text of the Charter of Fundamental Rights into the Treaty itself)
- the Treaty of Lisbon is an institutional one, prepared by an Intergovernmental Conference, whose activity was conducted during the Portuguese Presidency of the European Union (July-December 2007), under the leadership of Prime-minister Jose Socrates
- following the approval of the document by the European Council of Lisbon (the heads of state or government of all member states), the Treaty was formally signed on the 13th of December 2007, at the Jeronimos Monastery, in the capital of Portugal
- the ratification process was fairly complex, marked by the failure of the Irish referendum of 2008, followed by another, this time yielding a positive result, in 2009; other issues referred to constitutionality conflicts in Germany, the UK and the Czech Republic, as well as the evidently Eurosceptical attitude of the Polish President, Lech Kaczynski, and the Czech leader, Vaclav Klaus
- the entry into force of the Reform Treaty, although initially intended for the 1st of January 2009, only came on the 1st of December 2009, because of such problems as the ones mentioned above

General provisions



- the three-pillar structure of the European Union (the Communities, the Common Foreign and Security Policy and Judicial Cooperation in Criminal Matters) is abandoned; instead, the EU's competences are divided into areas of: exclusive competence (the customs union, the monetary policy of the Eurozone, competition, the Common Commercial Policy etc.), shared competence - with member states - (internal market, agriculture, environment, transport, energy, justice etc.) and coordination and support (education, culture, sport, tourism, administrative cooperation etc.)
- the European Union benefits, as a whole, from juridical personality; before the Treaty came into force, only the Communities had been endowed with this feature
- more power is granted to both the European Parliament, by expanding the areas in which decisions are made through the co-decision procedure (henceforth known as the *ordinary legislative procedure*), and national legislatures, which become more actively involved in decision-making at the Community level, or in terms of EU enlargement
- European citizens are given the right to file petitions, on condition that the latter be signed by at least one million of them, coming from a significant number of countries; these petitions will be further discussed by the European Commission, so as to turn them into legislative proposals, if the case may be
- the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union becomes compulsory, not by including its text into the Treaty, but due to an article in the latter, stipulating its obligatory character; the UK and Poland turned to their opt-out privilege so as to prevent the Charter from being applied in those countries, because of social matters and ethical standards
- member states are given the right to secede, i.e. to choose to no longer be part of the European Union, following a complex procedure, which takes approximately two years to complete; the UK resorted to article 50 as part of Brexit
- by simplifying the decision-making process, the Lisbon Treaty facilitates future EU enlargement, which chiefly pertains to candidate countries, namely North Macedonia, Turkey, Albania, Serbia and Montenegro.

Institutional provisions

The Commission



- it gains the official name that it bore *de facto*, namely that of European Commission (beforehand, its official denomination had been the *Commission of the European Communities*)
- the text of the Treaty stipulates that, as of 2014, only two thirds of member states should appoint EU Commissioners at any given time, based on the principle of equal rotation, in order to render the work of the Commission more effective; nevertheless, this principle is not currently applied, given the opposition of several member states (most notably Ireland), and it was replaced by the 26+1 compromise (26 Commissioners + the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy - Vice-president of the Commission, which still made the number of Commissioners inferior to that of member states); there are 27 Commissioners at present
- the position of High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy is created, with the role of coordinating the CFSP and that of Vice-president of the European Commission; the HR is elected by the European Council for a five-year mandate; it is, in fact, a position that merges that of *High Representative for CFSP* and *Commissioner for Foreign Affairs*; the incumbent HR is Josep Borrell, from Spain

The Council

- the Treaty officially separates the European Council from the Council of Ministers (Council of the European Union), which had *de facto* been in place for a long time, in institutional practice
- the Treaty proposes a new definition of the principle of qualified majority voting (QMV) in the Council, as of 2014, with a transitional period until 2017, when the former voting method could be used upon request: the majority of member states + 74% of the total votes allocated to them (according to the principle of digressive proportionality) + 62% representation of the total EU population (triple majority); as of 2014, QMV has been defined as follows: 55% of the total number of member states (each benefitting from one vote) + 65% representation of the total EU population + the absence of a blocking minority composed of 4 member states that are decided to halt the legislative proposal



- the Presidency of the Council of Ministers becomes triple and accounts for an 18-month mandate; this principle is not necessarily different from the one applicable before, when the country holding the Presidency, the incumbent one and the one following would closely collaborate
- the European Council is officially recognised as an institution of the EU; it is composed of the heads of state or government of all member states, who meet at least four times a year, within summits
- the position of President of the European Council is created, whose election takes place within this institution and produces a mandate of two and a half years, renewable once; the position is mostly administrative, but it also deals with external representation and reporting on the activity of the European Council; it is improper to refer to the incumbent as the President of the European Union, albeit their prerogatives are loosely defined, favouring future expansion; the incumbent President is Charles Michel, from Belgium

Parliament

- the co-decision procedure (i.e. taking decisions jointly by Council and Parliament) becomes the ordinary legislative procedure and covers the vast majority of areas in which the EU is competent to act; the other procedures, seldom utilised (cooperation, consultation and assent) now become special legislative procedures, with limited contributions on the part of the European Parliament
- the European Parliament is granted the power to decide on the entire Community Budget, whether we are referring to compulsory expenditure (stemming from treaties) or non-compulsory one
- a recalculation of the number of seats allocated to member states in Parliament is deemed necessary: the maximum number is 750+1 (at present, there are 705 and the President of the EP is Roberta Metsola, from the EPP group); Germany shall have the largest number of MPs, 96, according to the principle of digressive proportionality, while on the other end we have Malta, Cyprus and Luxembourg, with 6 MPs each; Romania has 33 MPs.