Milestones of the EU

**European Coal and Steel Community**

1951

In Paris, six countries – Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands – signs the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). It comes into force on 23 July 1952, for a period of 50 years.

**Flag of Europe as emblem**

1955

Against the background of blue sky, twelve golden stars form a circle, representing the union of the peoples of Europe. The number of stars is fixed, twelve being the symbol of perfection and unity. On 25 October 1955 the Parliamentary Assembly made the unanimous decision to adopt a circle of gold stars on a blue background as an emblem. On 8 December 1955 the Committee of Ministers adopted this as the European flag.

**Treaty of Rome**

1957

In Rome, the six countries signed the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). Introduction of the 4 freedoms: the freedom of movement of capital, people, goods and service provision. The treaties come into force on 1 January 1958.

**Merger Treaty / Brussels Treaty**

1965

Creation of a single Commission and a single Council to serve the then three European Communities (EEC, Euratom, ECSC)

**First enlargement**

1973

Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom join the European Communities, bringing their membership to nine. Norway rejects membership, following a referendum. 76

**First European Council**

1974

At the Paris Summit, the political leaders of the nine member states decide to meet three times a year as the European Council. They also give the go-ahead for direct elections to the European Parliament, and agree to set up the European Regional Development Fund.

**First EP Elections**

1979

The first direct elections to the 410-seat European Parliament. Voting turnout 61,99%.

**Enlargement - Greece joins**

1981

Greece joins the European Communities, bringing the number of members to 10.

**Ode to Joy**

1985

In 1985, Ode to Joy was adopted by EU heads of State and government as the official anthem of the then European Community – since 1993 the European Union. It is not intended to replace the national anthems of the member states but rather to celebrate the values they all share and their unity in diversity. It expresses the ideals of a united Europe: freedom, peace, and solidarity.

**Schengen**

1985

The Schengen Agreement is signed with the aim of abolishing checks at the borders between member countries of the European Communities.

**Enlargement - 12 members**

1986

Spain and Portugal join the European Communities, bringing their membership to 12.

**The Single European Act**

1986

The first major revision of the 1957 Treaty of Rome. The Act set the European Community an objective of establishing a single market by 31 December 1992, which came in effect on 1 January 1993.

**Erasmus Programme**

1987

The student exchange programme, Erasmus, was launched. In its first year over 3000 students went abroad.

**The Dublin Regulation**

1990

The Dublin agreement is a mechanism in the European Union, which helps identify which country is responsible for processing the asylum application of someone belonging to a non-EU country or a stateless person.

**Treaty of Maastricht**

1991 - 1993

The Maastricht European Council adopts a Treaty on European Union. This lays the foundation for a common foreign and security policy, closer cooperation on justice and home affairs and the creation of economic and monetary union, including a single currency.

**The European Voluntary Service (EVS)**

1996

The official launch of The European Voluntary Service. Since then, over 100,000 individuals have volunteered with the service. EVS is Long Term Volunteering to increase mobility amongst young people in Europe, funded by Erasmus+.

**The Euro**

2002

Euro notes and coins are introduced in the 12 euro-area countries. it was adopted in 1999 by 11 states and in 2001 by Greece.

**Eastern enlargement**

2004 & 2007

2004: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia join the European Union.

2007: Bulgaria and Romania join the European Union.

**The Treaty of Lisbon**

2007

The last revision of the treaties about the functioning of the EU. The Treaty of Lisbon is well-know for the following milestones:

* New powers given to the EP
* The European Council gets a President
* The position of the Higher representative of the EU is presented
* The ECI is created

**Eastern Partnership**

2009

The Eastern Partnership (EaP) is an initiative of the European External Action Service of the European Union (EU) governing its relationship with the post-Soviet states of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, intended to provide an avenue for discussions of trade, economic strategy, travel agreements, and other issues between the EU and its Eastern European neighbours.

**Structured Dialogue**

2010

The first Structured Dialogue took place - a process for discussions between young people and policy makers about different themes, to make sure the opinions of young people are taken into account in defining the EU’s youth policies

**Youth Employment Initiative**

2012

To provide support to young people who are not in employment, training or education, or are long-term unemployed, the EU adopted the Youth Employment Initiative

**Youth Guarantee**

2013

The Youth Guarantee is a commitment by all Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 25 years receive a good quality offer of employment, continued education, apprenticeship or traineeship within a period of four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.

**Brexit Referendum**

2016

The United Kingdom becomes the first country to vote for exiting the European Union. Article 50 of the Treaty (to leave the union) is triggered in 2017.

##### European Solidarity Corps

2016

Offers people under 30 in Europe the chance to support a non-governmental organisation (NGO), local authority or private company active in addressing challenging situations across the European Union. It creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects that benefit communities and people around Europe. Expected to come into force in 2018