

Extracts from  
**Treaty**  
on  
**European Union**

**Maastricht, 7 February 1992**

*Note: The text reproduced or annotated  
on the following pages comprises  
articles A-F, G(1)-(10), (32) and (33), and R,  
and Protocol 2.*

HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF THE BELGIANS,  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF DENMARK,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC,  
HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC,  
THE PRESIDENT OF IRELAND,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC,  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GRAND DUKE OF LUXEMBOURG,  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC,  
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT  
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND,

RESOLVED to mark a new stage in the process of European integration  
undertaken with the establishment of the European Communities,

RECALLING the historic importance of the ending of the division of the European  
continent and the need to create firm bases for the construction of the  
future Europe,

CONFIRMING their attachment to the principles of liberty, democracy and  
respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the rule of law,

DESIRING to deepen the solidarity between their peoples while respecting their history, their culture and their traditions,

DESIRING to enhance further the democratic and efficient functioning of the institutions so as to enable them better to carry out, within a single institutional framework, the tasks entrusted to them,

RESOLVED to achieve the strengthening and the convergence of their economies and to establish an economic and monetary union including, in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, a single and stable currency,

DETERMINED to promote economic and social progress for their peoples, within the context of the accomplishment of the internal market and of reinforced cohesion and environmental protection, and to implement policies ensuring that advances in economic integration are accompanied by parallel progress in other fields.

RESOLVED to establish a citizenship common to nationals of their countries,

RESOLVED to implement a common foreign and security policy including the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence, thereby reinforcing the European identity and its independence in order to promote peace, security and progress in Europe and in the world,

REAFFIRMING their objective to facilitate the free movement of persons, while ensuring the safety and security of their peoples, by including provisions on justice and home affairs in this Treaty,

RESOLVED to continue the process of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity,

IN VIEW of further steps to be taken in order to advance European integration,

HAVE DECIDED to establish a European Union and to this end have designated as their plenipotentiaries:

[Here follows a list of the said plenipotentiaries.]

TITLE I  
COMMON PROVISIONS

**Article A**

By this Treaty, the High Contracting Parties establish among themselves a European Union, hereinafter called 'the Union'.

This Treaty marks a new stage in the process of creating an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen.

The Union shall be founded on the European Communities, supplemented by the policies and forms of cooperation established by this treaty. Its task shall be to organize, in a manner demonstrating consistency and solidarity, relations between the Member States and between their peoples.

**Article B**

The Union shall set itself the following objectives:

- to promote economic and social progress which is balanced and sustainable, in particular through the creation of an area without internal frontiers, through the strengthening of economic and social cohesion and through the establishment of economic and monetary union, ultimately including a single currency in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty;
- to assert its identity on the international scene, in particular through the implementation of a common foreign and security policy including the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence;
- to strengthen the protection of the rights and interests of the nationals of its Member States through the introduction of a citizenship of the Union;
- to develop close cooperation on justice and home affairs;
- to maintain in full the *acquis communautaire* and build on it with a view to considering, through the procedure referred to in Article N (2), to what extent the policies and forms of cooperation introduced by this Treaty may need to be revised with the aim of ensuring the effectiveness of the mechanisms and the institutions of the Community.

The objectives of the Union shall be achieved as provided in this Treaty and in accordance with the conditions and the timetable set out therein while respecting the principle of subsidiarity as defined in Article 3b of the Treaty establishing the European Community.

**Article C**

The Union shall be served by a single institutional framework which shall ensure the consistency and the continuity of the activities carried out in order to attain its objectives while respecting and building upon the *acquis communautaire*.

The Union shall in particular ensure the consistency of its external activities as a whole in the context of its external relations, security, economic and development policies. The Council and the Commission shall be responsible for ensuring such consistency. They shall ensure the implementation of these policies, each in accordance with its respective powers.

**Arts. D–F****Article D**

The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the general political guidelines thereof.

The European Council shall bring together the Heads of State or of Government of the Member States and the President of the Commission. They shall be assisted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States and by a Member of the Commission. The European Council shall meet at least twice a year, under the chairmanship of the Head of State or of Government of the Member State which holds the Presidency of the Council.

The European Council shall submit to the European Parliament a report after each of its meetings and a yearly written report on the progress achieved by the Union.

**Article E**

The European Parliament, the Council, the Commission and the Court of Justice shall exercise their powers under the conditions and for the purposes provided for, on the one hand, by the provisions of the Treaties establishing the European Communities and of the subsequent Treaties and Acts modifying and supplementing them and, on the other hand, by the other provisions of this Treaty.

**Article F**

1. The Union shall respect the national identities of its Member States, whose systems of government are founded on the principles of democracy.
2. The Union shall respect fundamental rights, as guaranteed by the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms signed in Rome on 4 November 1950 and as they result from the constitutional traditions common to the Member States, as general principles of Community law.
3. The Union shall provide itself with the means necessary to attain its objectives and carry through its policies.

TITLE II

PROVISIONS AMENDING THE TREATY ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WITH A VIEW TO ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

Article G

The Treaty establishing the European Economic Community shall be amended in accordance with the provisions of this Article, in order to establish a European Community.

A – Throughout the Treaty:

(1) The term ‘European Economic Community’ shall be replaced by the term ‘European Community’.

B – In Part One ‘Principles’:

[Point B or article G, comprising amendments as required by paragraphs (2)–(9) of that article, amends Part One of the Treaty (Treaty of Rome) which established the European Economic Community (now, under paragraph (1) above, to be called the “European Community”).]

[Point C of article G inserts a new Part Two into the Treaty of Rome, dealing with Citizenship of the Union.]

D – Parts Two and Three shall be grouped under the following Title:

“PART THREE  
COMMUNITY POLICIES”

and in this Part:

[Paragraph (10) amends article 49 of the Treaty of Rome.]

[Paragraph (32) amends the title and heading of the former Title II of the former Part Three, which becomes Title VIII of the new Part Three.]

[Paragraph (33) substitutes the first sub-paragraph of article 118a(2) of the Treaty of Rome.]

TITLE VII

FINAL PROVISIONS

Article R

1. This Treaty shall be ratified by the High Contracting Parties in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the government of the Italian Republic.

**EU TREATY**

**TREATY ON EUROPEAN UNION (MAASTRICHT)**

**Art. R; Protocol 2**

2. This Treaty shall enter into force on 1 January 1993, provided that all the instruments of ratification have been deposited, or, failing that, on the first day of the month following the deposit of the instrument of ratification by the last signatory State to take this step.

*(This Treaty entered into force 1.11.93.)*

.....  
IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have signed this Treaty.

Done at Maastricht on the seventh day of February in the year one thousand nine hundred and ninety-two.

.....

**PROTOCOL**

(No. 2)

**CONCERNING ARTICLE 119 OF THE TREATY  
ESTABLISHING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY**

THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES,

HAVE AGREED upon the following provision, which shall be annexed to the Treaty establishing the European Community:

For the purposes of Article 119 of this Treaty, benefits under occupational social security schemes shall not be considered as remuneration if and in so far as they are attributable to periods of employment prior to 17 May 1990, except in the case of workers or those claiming under them who have before that date initiated legal proceedings or introduced an equivalent claim under the applicable national law.

.....