

The history of
European Union:
56 year of its history

The EEC grew

With time the cooperation became more extensive with more member states and with more working areas. In 1973 Denmark, Ireland and Great Britain joined the EEC. In 1981 Greece became a member state bringing the total number to ten. Then in 1986 Spain and Portugal joined. By 1990 - after the reunion of Germany - EEC had 18 million new citizens. From community to union In the 1990's the common areas for policy extended even further. The member states began cooperating on defense, police, control of the borders and asylum, these states also decided to create the Economic and Monetary Union (the EMU). It all happened with the Maastricht treaty in 1992. The name then also changed from the EEC to the EU - the European Union. In 1993 the government leaders of the EU decided to work for a Europe without the old division of East and West and so the enlargement process began. In 1995 Finland, Sweden and Austria became members, and in that same year the Schengen agreement decided that all control of borders between the member states should disappear by 2001. In 1999 the Amsterdam treaty became official. This treaty includes a common policy of occupation, social services and decisions on discrimination.

The Euro

In 1999 the corporation on the EURO began between the member countries - except Denmark and Great Britain. The EURO became the new money of the cooperating E.U. countries on January 1, 2002. The European Union consists of 15 member states. Twelve member states in the European Union have adopted the single currency. Denmark and the UK have opt-out clauses, which imply, that they are not obliged to adopt the euro. Sweden will join the euro area as soon as it has fulfilled all of the conditions. The euro area is composed of: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland