as required to achieve the aims of the organization. Decisions and recommendations of the Council are adopted by agreement of all its members.

The Council is assisted by an Executive Committee which prepares its work and is also called upon to carry out specific tasks where necessary. Apart from its regular meetings, the Committee meets occasionally in special sessions attended by senior governments officials. The greater part of the work of the OECD is prepared and carried out by about 200 specialized bodies (Committees, Working Parties, etc). All members are normally represented on these bodies, except those of a restricted nature. Delegates are usually officials coming either from the capitals of member states or from the Permanent Delegations to the OECD. They are serviced by an International Secretariat headed by the OECD Secretary-General. Funding is by contributions from member states, based on a formula related to their size and economy.

Three other bodies are part of the OECD system: the International Energy Agency (IEA), the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) and the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI).

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Secretary-General: Donald J. Johnston (Canada).
Deputy Secretaries-General: Richard E. Hecklinger (USA), Seiichi Kondo (Japan), Berglind Asgeirsdottir (Iceland), Herwig Schogl (Germany).

Publications. OECD Policy Briefs (10 a year); Environmental Performance Reviews (by country); The Agricultural Outlook (annual); Energy Balances (quarterly); Financial Market Trends (3 a year); Foreign Trade Statistics (monthly); Main Developments in Trade (annual); Main Economic Indicators (monthly); OECD Economic Outlook (2 a year); OECD Economic Surveys (every 18 months, by country); OECD Employment Outlook (annual); Oil, Gas, Coal and Electricity Statistics (quarterly statistics); Quarterly Labour Force Statistics; Education at a Glance, OECD Indicators. For a full list of OECD publications, visit the website: http://www.oecd.org/bookshop/

Further Reading

EUROPEAN UNION (EU)

Origin. The Union is founded on the existing European communities set up by the Treaties of Paris (1951) and Rome (1957), supplemented by revisions, the Single European Act in 1986, the Maastricht Treaty on European Union in 1992, the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997 and the draft Treaty of Nice in 2000.

Members. (25). As at May 2004: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakii, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the UK.

History. On 19 Sept. 1946, in Zürich, Winston Churchill called for a ‘united states of Europe’, but neither he nor his successor pressed for British involvement. Two years later, the Congress of Europe (the meeting in The Hague of nearly 1,000 Europeans from 26 countries calling for a united Europe) resulted in the birth in 1949 of the Council of Europe, a European assembly of nations whose aim (Art. 1 of the Statute) was: ‘to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realizing the ideals and principles which are their common heritage’.

On 18 April 1951, subsequent to a proposal by the French foreign minister Robert Schuman (Schuman Declaration), Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands signed the Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). The treaty provided for the pooling of coal and steel production and was regarded as a first step towards a united Europe. Encouraged by the success of the ECSC, plans were laid down for the establishment of two more communities. The European Economic Community
and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) were subsequently created under separate treaties signed in Rome on 25 March 1957. The treaties provided for the establishment by stages of a common market with a customs union at its core, the approximation of economic policies, and the promotion of growth in the nuclear industries for peaceful purposes.

To this end, Euratom was awarded monopoly powers of acquisition of fissile materials for civil purposes (it is not concerned with the military uses of nuclear power). Subsequently, the various powers of the three communities (ECSC, EAEC, EEC, sometimes referred to collectively as the European Community or EC) were transferred by a treaty signed in Brussels in 1965 to a single Council and single Commission of the European Communities, today the core of the EU. The Commission is advised on matters relating to EAEC by a Scientific and Technical Committee.


Single European Act. The enlarging of the Community resulted in renewed efforts to promote European integration, culminating in the signing in Dec. 1985 of the Single European Act. The SEA represented the first major revision of the Treaties of Rome and provided for greater involvement of the European Parliament in the decision-making process.

Maastricht Treaty on European Union. Further amendments were agreed at the Maastricht Summit of Dec. 1991 in the draft Treaty on European Union whereby moves to a common currency were agreed subject to specific conditions (including an opt-out clause for the UK) and the social dimension was recognized in a protocol (not applicable to the UK) allowing member states to use EC institutions for this purpose. Ratification by member states of the Maastricht Treaty proved unexpectedly controversial. In June 1992 the Danish electorate in a referendum voted against it, then reversed the decision in a second referendum in May 1993. Ratification was finally completed during 1993, with the UK ratifying on 2 Aug., and the European Union (EU) officially came into being on 1 Nov. that year.

Recent and Future Enlargement. On 16 July 1997 Jacques Santer presented Agenda 2000, the European Commission’s detailed strategy for consolidating the Union through enlargement as far eastwards as Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova. It recommended the early start of accession negotiations with Hungary, Poland, Estonia, the Czech Republic and Slovenia under the provision of Article O of the Maastricht Treaty whereby ‘any European State may apply to become a member of the Union’ (subject to the Copenhagen Criteria set by the European Council at its summit in 1993).

In 2002 it was announced that ten countries would be ready to join in 2004, namely: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta. Following a series of referenda held in 2003 they all became members on 1 May 2004. A target date of 2007 is proposed for Bulgaria and Romania to join. Turkey is also hoping to join, but a decision on whether to start talks on a bid for membership will not take place until Dec. 2004. The Prince of Liechtenstein has made it known that he wishes his government to apply.

Objectives. The ultimate goal of the EU is ‘an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe, in which decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen’. Priorities include the implementation of the Treaty of Amsterdam (new rights for