The Development of the EU

This infographic looks at the development of the European Union since its inception. More information can be found in the Impact of EU membership in Scotland SPICe briefing.

Since its founding in 1957 the European Union has expanded from 6 countries to 28.

1957: Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands
1973: Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom
1981: Greece
1986: Spain and Portugal
1995: Austria, Finland and Sweden
2004: Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia
2007: Bulgaria and Romania
2013: Croatia

The Treaty of Nice was used by member states to prepare the European Union for future enlargements.

The Treaty of Amsterdam was a rationalising treaty that amended pre-existing constitutive European Treaties.

The Treaty of Maastricht on European Union took the European Union beyond its original economic objectives, towards a greater level of political union.

The Treaty of Aachen established the European Atomic Energy Community.

The Treaty of Rome established the European Atomic Energy Community and the European Economic Community.

The Single European Act (SEA) provided fresh impetus for an internal European market which had been difficult to achieve in part because of the decision making procedures in place at the time.

The Treaty of Paris established the European Coal and Steel Community.