



# europaean union

# NEWS

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## POST-MAASTRICHT: EC NOW NAMED EUROPEAN UNION

The entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty on European Union on November 1, 1993 has introduced some changes in terminology regarding the European Community and some of its institutions.

For your guidance:

The European Union is now the umbrella term referring to a three "pillar" construction encompassing the European Community (EC) and the two new pillars - Common Foreign and Security Policy (including defense) and Justice and Home Affairs (notably cooperation between police and other authorities on crime, terrorism, and immigration issues).

The European Community: the EC continues to exist as a legal entity within the broader framework of the Union. As before, it encompasses all policies derived from the founding Treaties, such as the single market. However, the European Union will always be the easiest term to use, in view of the difficulties of delineating what is strictly EC or Union business.

The Council of Ministers of the European Union: this decision-making body took the decision November 5 to change its name from the Council of Ministers of the European Communities to the EU Council of Ministers.

The European Council: which convenes heads of state or government of the member states for a twice-yearly summit, retains its name.

The European Commission: on November 17 the EC Commission decided to use European Commission in all but legal and formal contexts (where it is still called the Commission of the European Communities). Beginning January 1995, Commission terms will be five years instead of four.

The European Parliament: the directly-elected Parliament, which has gained co-decision powers under the Maastricht Treaty, retains its name. It will hold EU-wide elections in June 1994 for 567 seats (as opposed to the present 518). This increase reflects the changes due to the unification of Germany.

The European Court of Justice: the Court, which comprises 13 judges who adjudicate disputes regarding application of the Treaties, retains its name.

The Court of Auditors: the Court of Auditors, which monitors budget spending, retains its name.

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