

PRESS RELEASE

Maastricht, 7 February 1992

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The Treaty on European Union and its Final Act, were signed by the Member States of the Community at a ceremony which took place in Maastricht on 7 February 1992.

The signatories were:

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- for the Kingdom of Belgium:
Mr Marc EYSKENS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Philippe MAYSTADT, Minister for Finance
- for the Kingdom of Denmark:
Mr Uffe ELLEMANN-JENSEN, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Anders FOGH RASMUSSEN, Minister for Economic Affairs
- for the Federal Republic of Germany:
Mr Hans-Dietrich GENSCHER, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Theodor WAIGEL, Minister for Finance
- for the Hellenic Republic:
Mr Antoni SAMARAS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Efthymios CHRISTODOULOU, Minister for Economic Affairs
- for the Kingdom of Spain:
Mr Francisco FERNANDEZ ORDOÑEZ, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Carlos SOLCHAGA, Minister for Finance
- for the French Republic:
Mr Roland DUMAS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Pierre BEREGOVOY, Minister for Finance

- for Ireland:
Mr Gerard COLLINS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Bertie AHERN, Minister for Finance
- for the Italian Republic:
Mr Gianni DE MICHELIS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Guido CARLI, Minister for the Treasury
- for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg:
Mr Jacques F. POOS, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jean-Claude JUNCKER, Minister for Finance
- for the Kingdom of the Netherlands:
Mr Hans VAN DEN BROEK, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr W. KOK, Minister for Finance
- for the Portuguese Republic:
Mr João PINHEIRO, Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mr Jorge Brago DE MACEDO, Minister for Finance
- for the United Kingdom:
Mr Douglas HURD, Foreign Secretary
Mr Francis MAUDE, Financial Secretary to the Treasury.

Addresses were delivered at the ceremony by Mr CAVACO SILVA, President of the European Council, Mr LUBBERS, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Mr DELORS, President of the Commission and Mr KLEPSCH, President of the European Parliament (1)

(1) The texts supplied to the Press Office are attached.

ANNEXE

**SPEECH GIVEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
AND PRIME MINISTER OF PORTUGAL AT THE SIGNING OF
THE TREATY OF EUROPEAN UNION**

HAASRICHT, 7 FEBRUARY 1992

Prime Ministers of the Netherlands and of Luxembourg,
Mr. President of the European Parliament,
Mr. President of the European Commission,
Ministers and Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Naastricht today another historic step has been taken
towards the European Union, towards the building.

The Treaty about to be signed constitutes a decisive advance
on the road to European union, the ambitious target of a
process which has no parallel in contemporary history.

Some will say that we did not reach our desired aim, others
that we have gone too far.

I think, however, that the Treaty which is going to be signed
today is a wise balance between ambition and prudence,
idealism and pragmatism, solidarity and subsidiarity. It is a
result adjusted to today's reality but also projected into
the future. It is not a final stage. Rather, it is the
beginning of a new cycle.

I render sincere homage to all those who made this moment
possible. And justice must be made to the part played by the
two Presidencies which preceded ours; most of the success
achieved during the long and arduous negotiations leading to
the text we have before us today was due to their commitment
and capacity to conduct our work.

The city of Maastricht already had a place in the history of Europe. Its name will now become indissolubly linked to the future of the European ideal.

The Treaty now signed is a political contract between the Twelve to increase integration, strengthen solidarity, consolidate internal cohesion and maximise the Community's external position.

It is based on the values, which are dear to us, of democracy, individual liberties and human rights and aims at the continued social and economic progress of our people.

Its complete fulfilment will result from the construction, until the end of this year, of a large, frontierless area, to which we must maintain a clear political commitment. The success of the European union will, to a large extent, be based on the success of the Single Market.

The road to European union gives us all greater responsibilities and requires from all an increased sense of solidarity. The vitality of European construction has been given new leaven by this treaty which must be maximised without hesitations.

The importance of the Community as one of the main economic blocs in the world is an undeniable fact. But in a world undergoing profound changes, that economic dimension must also be translated into the political field. Only then will the Community be able to assume fully its role in the new European and worldwide context.

The crumbling of the communist regimes of East Europe and the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the almost universal recognition of the primacy of democratic values and of the market economy, have profoundly altered the geo-strategic balances on which the world was organized in the last decades. In this scenario the European Community faces growing responsibilities which it cannot, and must not, avoid.

The South, too, looks expectantly at the European Community. We cannot disillusion those who consider us a reference of hope and a paradigm of political and human values. As regards less developed countries it is vital that Europe does not limit itself to being a mere trade partner but seeks also to do its best to promote development of, and improved living conditions for, those less-favoured populations.

The creation of a common foreign and security policy, whose main guidelines must be defined at the Lisbon Summit in June, together with the formulation of a common defence policy, constitute political developments of the European integration which will allow the Community to assume, in a cohesive and explicit manner, the defense of its fundamental interests and to intervene increasingly on the international scene with a single voice and with more affirmation.

On the other hand, the advance of economic and monetary integration constitutes a logical corollary to the efforts of European construction of over three decades and should provide new dynamism to community life.

The enlargement of the areas of intervention of the Community is something which must mobilise Europeans for the construction of the European union. On the one hand the human dimension of European construction is strengthened by the

creation of the concept of citizenship and through actions and initiatives in such diverse fields as education, culture and health. On the other hand, the capacity for common action in such fundamental areas of economic integration as industry and the trans-European networks, is enlarged.

The institutional framework has undergone substantial adaptations. The democratic legitimacy of the decision-making process has been strengthened and attention was given to the efficiency of the system.

The European Parliament's decision-making powers have been increased which will allow it to take a more visible political role as an institution representing the peoples of Europe.

The Court of Auditors becomes an institution. A Committee of the Regions has been set up. The Ombudsman's office has been created. The institutional architecture is consolidated according to the growing demands of the integration process.

The increased vitality of the Community project has, naturally, encouraged other European countries to join it. Requests for accession are, after all, the positive proof that the European Community is undeniably a successful achievement.

The creation of the European Economic Area and the agreements already signed or being negotiated with central and eastern European nations have already shown that the Community is not a reality closed in on itself but is fully aware that it shares a common destiny with the other peoples of Europe.

Careful study of the questions raised by enlargement of the Community is urgent, and as essential for strengthening

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internal cohesion as it is necessary for the candidates wanting to join. Hence the importance of the strategic reflection on these questions that is to take place at the European Council in Lisbon, as was decided here in Maastricht.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is up to us today to ensure that the European Union becomes a true beacon that will lead Europe to a safe harbour and to steer the European vessel towards a more cohesive, juster and more progressive Europe. We must therefore continue working so that new generations of Europeans may see themselves in our example, as we do in relation to the founders of the Community. Without them and without their generous dedication to the European ideal, this moment today would not have been possible.

Speaking notes for the Prime Minister on the occasion of the signing of the Treaty of Maastricht on 7 February 1992

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The Treaty that we are to sign today could never have come about without the exceptional and inspired efforts of Italy and Luxembourg during their tenures of the Presidency. I think it important for us all to express our gratitude and appreciation to both countries. The European Council meetings in Rome and Luxembourg were the vital stages along the route travelled from the time the Treaty was launched in Dublin to its safe landing in Maastricht. I do not think that I will be selling anyone short in paying particular tribute to Messrs Andreotti and de Michelis and Messrs Santer and Pöös and their negotiating teams.

This Treaty could not have been signed in Maastricht today were it not for the particularly generous offer made by the Portuguese Presidency in allowing the ceremony to take place here. Nor would it have been possible to sign it at this stage if the Portuguese Presidency had not succeeded in turning a political agreement into a final treaty text in the few weeks that have elapsed since the Maastricht Summit. We are all aware that, in reality, "toilettaga de texte" requires the President to exercise a great deal of care and skill. I should therefore like to pay tribute to Messrs Cavaco Silva and Pinheiro and their team. It is our wish, and our firm conviction, that the remainder of the Portuguese Presidency - which faces many challenges - will continue in the same successful vein.

The list of all those who have contributed to the successful conclusion of the negotiations is a particularly long one, too long for them to be mentioned here. Our appreciation must in fact be expressed to all those who are present here today. Yet I would like to make an exception by naming the other Community institutions - the Parliament, the Commission, the Court, and, henceforth, the Court of Audit, since it has now acquired this status. Without their contributions the results of the negotiations would without the slightest doubt have looked different, indeed worse. I should also like to mention the support services and the many long hours worked by the Secretary-General of the Council and the members of Council Secretariat.

Last, but certainly not least, I should like to thank, on behalf of us all, the "Gouvernement" of Limburg and the city of Maastricht for their hospitality. If it is true that 'C'est le ton qui fait la musique', it is clear that the cue note sounded so outstandingly by our hosts has made it possible for the European Council to bring its music to the ears of the Community.

The Treaty is of vital importance to our common relations. In recent years the European Community has shown itself to be an indispensable actor on the world stage, so much so that it cannot always fulfil the expectations the world entertains on its behalf. With the setting up of the European Union we have taken an important step towards filling that gap and with the EMU laid the cornerstone of economic and monetary integration. The process of integration is continuing and will eventually

include the new member states now thronging the antechamber. Can we permit ourselves to wait until 1996 before convening the next IGC or will developments compel us to move faster? The future alone can tell. We shall begin with the European Council meeting in Lisbon, where the theme will be 'Widening and Deepening'. We have now passed the point of no return.

This is a historic moment for the 300 million-plus inhabitants of the European Community, a moment marked by satisfaction and hope. Satisfaction at what has been achieved and hope for what the future may bring. Europe is on the move, towards an ever closer union of its peoples, in which decisions will be taken at a level as close as possible to its citizens, just as the Union Treaty stipulates.

INTERVENTION DE M. JACQUES DELORS

LORS DE LA CEREMONIE DE SIGNATURE DU TRAITE

Maastricht, le 7 février 1992.

Monsieur le président en exercice du Conseil,
Messieurs les premiers ministres,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Qui aurait pu penser, il y a encore deux ans, que les douze pays membres se mettraient d'accord sur deux perspectives aussi ambitieuses que celles que représentent l'Union économique et monétaire d'une part, et l'Union politique d'autre part ? Qui aurait pu souhaiter mieux que le parallélisme entre ces deux voies, l'une permettant de perfectionner le chemin fait par le grand marché, l'autre assurant l'inévitable contrepartie politique et démocratique sans laquelle les objectifs de la construction de l'Europe politique ne seraient pas remplis ?

La volonté politique est donc au rendez-vous de Maastricht. Au prix de compromis certes, mais aucun d'entre eux ne me paraît susceptible d'empêcher le dynamisme retrouvé de la Communauté. Aux dépens d'une certaine logique institutionnelle sans doute, mais il faut se rappeler qu'il en fut toujours ainsi. Dans ce pays déjà - c'est d'ailleurs une coïncidence symbolique -, à La Haye en 1948, alors que l'enthousiasme était grand après la guerre, des disputes intervinrent sans fin entre ceux qu'on appelait les unionistes et ceux qu'on appelait les fédéralistes. Le débat, on le voit, n'est pas terminé.

Mais enfin, regardons l'avenir. Avec l'Union économique et monétaire, les douze pays membres peuvent espérer tirer le plus grand profit d'un espace économique organisé avec sa dimension sociale. Avec la politique étrangère et de sécurité commune, c'est sans doute le défi le plus extraordinaire qui est lancé à nos pays : parler d'une seule voix, agir ensemble dans les domaines qu'ils considèrent d'intérêt commun et essentiel. Et, enfin, pour nos institutions, avec leur contenu démocratique, il s'agit de combiner - ce qui n'est pas facile - la capacité de décision au niveau central et la complexité des règles de concertation. Bien sûr, ce problème-là sera encore plus difficile lorsque la Communauté sera élargie.

Je dois dire, sans réveiller de vieilles querelles, que, pour moi, la grille fédérale demeure la seule qui permette d'ordonner le débat clairement sur la répartition des tâches et sur les transferts de souveraineté ou, si l'on préfère, sur les modalités d'exercice du partage de la souveraineté. D'ailleurs, l'approche fédérale et la subsidiarité sont deux données cohérentes et complémentaires.

Je souhaite donc que, dans les mois à venir, avant que ne commence cette nouvelle phase de la construction européenne, on travaille autant, on réfléchisse autant sur le "comment faire" que sur le "que faire". A cette condition - mais à cette condition seulement - nous pourrons, dès 1993, mener cette nouvelle phase de la construction de l'Europe.

En effet, 1992 est une année carrefour : nous terminons une phase dans d'excellentes conditions, fondée sur l'objectif 92, l'Acte Unique et le grand compromis financier de février 1988 ; nous commençons une deuxième phase. Souhaitons, pour nous tous, qu'elle soit aussi dynamique et qu'elle réponde à nos légitimes ambitions.

**Cérémonie de signature
du projet de traité
relatif à l'Union européenne
le 7 février 1992
à Maastricht**

**Discours de M. KLEPSCH,
Président du Parlement européen**

Seul compte le texte du discours effectivement prononcé

Embarco : vendredi 7 février 1992 à 18 heures

Messieurs les Présidents,
Messieurs les Ministres,
Mesdames, Messieurs,

Avec la signature, aujourd'hui, du traité d'Union européenne, Maastricht prend la même place que Rome et Luxembourg dans l'histoire de l'unification de l'Europe.

Le Parlement européen a participé à la mise sur pied de ce traité, cette participation ayant pris dans certains cas des formes nouvelles. La forme de cette coopération interinstitutionnelle indique la bonne direction.

Je voudrais rappeler les réunions communes du Conseil et du Parlement, auxquelles la Commission a participé elle aussi, les rencontres avec les membres du Conseil européen et, enfin, la participation du Président Enrique Baron Crespo, mon prédécesseur.

Tout cela fait aujourd'hui partie de l'acquis communautaire.

Nous avons voulu cela et nous sommes conscients du fait que nous assumons une responsabilité partagée.

Le Parlement européen examinera les résultats atteints de manière approfondie. Au cours de sa période de session d'avril, l'Assemblée plénière formulera son appréciation politique globale, donnant ainsi un signal important pour les travaux des parlements nationaux.

Sans anticiper sur cette évaluation, je constate aujourd'hui qu'une modification notable est intervenue : la Communauté européenne se trouve irrévocablement engagée dans la voie de l'Union européenne. Elle a atteint le seuil de réalisation d'une union sans cesse plus étroite entre les peuples d'Europe.

Le projet de traité qui doit être signé aujourd'hui reprend la dénomination de la déclaration de Stuttgart de 1983 et fixe des éléments essentiels de notre future constitution dans le domaine de l'union économique et monétaire ainsi que de l'union politique.

De l'avis du Parlement européen, ces aspects positifs ne sauraient faire oublier que le traité présente aussi des lacunes, des aspects inacceptables et des zones d'obscurité : nous aurions surtout souhaité un renforcement plus marqué du Parlement européen afin que celui-ci puisse enfin jouer dans le processus de décision des institutions européennes le rôle qui lui revient, sur un pied d'égalité.

Je vois une autre lacune dans ce que l'on appelle les nouveaux "piliers", lesquels se caractérisent par le fait que les nouveaux domaines de politique que sont la politique étrangère et de sécurité et la coopération dans le domaine de la politique intérieure et de la justice, demeurent soumis pour l'essentiel à des mécanismes uniquement intergouvernementaux.

A cause de ces points et d'autres, ce projet de traité ne peut constituer qu'une étape intermédiaire. Il nous donne de l'élan, renforce la dynamique de l'intégration, mais il faut lui donner la bonne orientation, et il faut que d'autres étapes suivent.

Ce projet de traité ne nous apporte pas encore l'Union européenne qui permettrait de relever les défis de l'époque. Il ne crée pas le cadre nécessaire pour réaliser l'élargissement à de nouveaux Etats membres.

Maastricht doit être le point de départ de nouveaux efforts. Le Parlement européen apportera sa contribution à cette démarche.

Il adaptera ses structures et méthodes de travail aux nouvelles procédures.

Il approfondira ses relations avec les parlements nationaux, contribuant ainsi à l'organisation démocratique de la Communauté.

La formation de l'opinion européenne doit s'inscrire dans les traditions parlementaires des Etats membres.

La signature de ce traité ouvre des perspectives nouvelles aux 345 millions de citoyens de la Communauté. Nous ne pouvons décevoir leurs attentes.

