

THE LISBON TREATY

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Information leaflet for the citizens of the European Union



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CONCEPT AND LAYOUT

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Information leaflet for the citizens of the European Union

Message

by Nicolas Schmit



**Minister Delegate
for Foreign Affairs
and Immigration**

Dear citizens of Luxembourg,

In 2007 we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Rome Treaty.

European integration, launched half a century ago, has been a success on many levels. Europe has found peace, and found it for good. It has enjoyed economic and social development unparalleled in its history. Lastly, democracy and respect for human rights have triumphed and been consolidated on a continent still divided less than 20 years ago.

For Luxembourg, European integration is synonymous with incomparable political and economic progress. Faced with new challenges in a rapidly changing world, Europe needs institutions which are more democratic and transparent, and policies which are more effective and provide more solidarity.

The people of Luxembourg approved the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe by referendum. Once it had proved impossible to have this Treaty ratified by all 27 Member States, the Luxembourg Government undertook to preserve the substance of the Treaty and the progress it represents. This objective was achieved with the Treaty of Lisbon, which contains the main reforms introduced by the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.

Our country needs a strong Europe, active on the international stage and ready to defend the values we hold dear. We want a Union which is more democratic and closer to citizens, which respects the rule of law and the equality of all Member States and their national identities. The Lisbon Treaty is a good treaty for Europe and a good treaty for Luxembourg.

Our country will be ratifying it through parliament. However, the 2005 vote encourages us to pursue the democratic debate on Europe and to undertake to create a Union of greater solidarity which responds to the concerns of its citizens.

Message

by Margot Wallström



Vice-President
of the European
Commission

Dear citizens of Luxembourg,

Europe is an integral part of our lives. Peace, the simple fact of being able to move from one country to another to work, study or live, the functioning of the internal market — these are all such an integral part of our experience that we tend to take them for granted.

Europe was not built in a day, and Luxembourg, as one of the founding countries, is well placed to know that. It has developed step by step, through joint efforts, growing to the point where it now has 27 Member States. It is still based on cooperation, solidarity and the will to solve problems together, which led, in December 2007, to the signing of the new Treaty of Lisbon.

This new Treaty represents real progress for all the citizens of Europe. It makes the Charter of Fundamental Rights binding. It will allow the Union to speak with one voice on the international stage. It will make the EU's working methods more open and effective. It will help us to be more proactive in several areas, such as climate change, civil protection, humanitarian aid and combating crime and terrorism.

Above all, the Treaty gives more influence to citizens. It increases the powers of the European Parliament. It reinforces the role of national

parliaments in the decision-making process. Thanks to a completely new system, known as the 'citizens' initiative', it allows citizens to turn directly to the Commission to ask it to present an initiative in one of the Union's fields of competence.

Europe cannot be built without the participation and agreement of its citizens.

The Lisbon Treaty is an important text with an immediate impact on you all. I hope that reading this brochure will help you to appreciate what it has to say.

The Lisbon Treaty

Introduction

On 10 July 2005, Luxembourg's electors were called to vote by referendum on the constitutional Treaty, by answering the following question: 'Are you in favour of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, signed in Rome on 29 October 2004?'. A majority of 56% answered in the affirmative. A total of 18 Member States ratified the constitutional Treaty.

However, the French and Dutch 'no' votes in their referendums meant that the ratification process failed and the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe did not come into force.

After a two-year reflection period, during which a debate on Europe was launched, a new European Treaty was negotiated between June and October 2007.

The objective of the new Treaty, which amends the Treaties currently in force, is to make the European Union, which now has 27 Member States, more effective, democratic and transparent. It also aims to give the Union the means to conduct policy in areas that are particularly important to citizens: the position of Europe on the international stage, energy, climate change, a more social Europe, security and immigration.

The Lisbon Treaty improves the legal framework so as to allow for more effective implementation of European policies.

The Treaty was signed on 13 December 2007 in Lisbon and thus bears the name of the Portuguese capital.

The Lisbon Treaty includes most of the content of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe approved by the people of Luxembourg in July 2005. It will be ratified by the Luxembourg Chambre des députés (parliament) during the first half of 2008. In order to come into force, it must also be ratified in the other 26 Member States.

This document describes what is contained in the Lisbon Treaty, in particular the objectives of the Union, and the main innovations compared with the current Treaties.

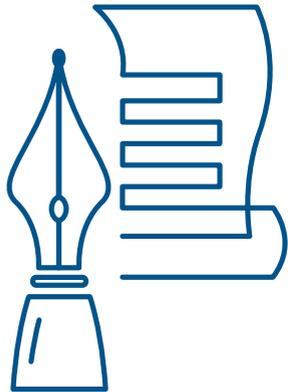
The European Union's objectives in the Lisbon Treaty

The Lisbon Treaty is a new step after more than 50 years of European integration. It lists certain economic, political, social and other objectives that the European Union has set itself during this period and which will guide the Union's action in the 21st century:

- promoting peace, its values and the welfare of its peoples;
- creating an area of freedom, security and justice without internal borders;
- establishing a common market;
- balanced economic growth;
- price stability;
- creating a highly competitive social market economy, with the aim of achieving full employment and social progress;
- establishing an economic and monetary union whose currency is the euro;
- sustainable development;
- a high level of environmental protection and enhancement;
- promoting scientific and technological advance;
- combating social exclusion;
- promoting justice and social protection;
- equality between men and women;
- solidarity between the generations;
- protection of children's rights;
- promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion;
- solidarity between the Member States;
- respect for Europe's rich cultural and linguistic diversity;
- safeguarding and enhancing Europe's cultural heritage;
- protecting European citizens in the rest of the world;
- promoting the values and interests of the Union in the world, by contributing to:
 - peace and security;
 - sustainable development of the Earth;
 - solidarity and mutual respect among peoples;
 - free and fair trade;
 - eradication of poverty;
 - protection of human rights;
 - respect for and enhancement of international law (as defined, in particular, in the United Nations Charter).

I. Effectiveness

The European Union needs more democratic, effective, rational and transparent institutions and working methods to implement its objectives. The Lisbon Treaty reforms the Union's institutional system to allow it to adapt its policies to a world in constant change.



1. SIMPLER DECISION-MAKING

The decision-making procedure has been simplified and made more democratic in order to enhance the European Union's ability to act. Qualified majority voting in the Council of the European Union has been extended to many new areas of policy. The general use of the co-decision procedure with the European Parliament will make decisions even more legitimate.

- **Qualified majority voting**, which is becoming the rule, has been redefined. It will be based on the principle of double majority: in order to be adopted, Council decisions will need the support of 55 % of the Member States, representing 65 % of the European population. At least four Member States will be needed to form a blocking minority. This system will enter into force in November 2014. It will place Luxembourg and other countries with small populations on an equal footing with the more populous countries at the level of the majority of Member States.
- The number of areas in which the Council of the European Union will decide by qualified majority has been extended to around

40 new policy fields, including police and judicial cooperation. The risk of stalemates will thus be decreased.

- The current system for the weighting of votes will continue to apply until 1 November 2014. During a transitional period until 31 March 2017, it will still be possible for a Member State to request that the system of weighting under the current Treaty be applied.
- Lastly, these arrangements will be complemented by a mechanism, similar to the Ioannina compromise, allowing a group of Member States with less than the required blocking minority to suspend decision-making for a limited period.
- In certain cases, decisions will continue to be taken **unanimously**. This is the case for defence and tax matters in particular.
- The Lisbon Treaty also brings the **co-decision procedure** into general use, thus giving the European Parliament, which represents the citizens, the power to legislate jointly on an equal footing with the Council, which represents Member States. By way of this procedure, the decision-making of the European Union will be based on the double legitimacy of citizens and Member States.

2. A SINGLE UNION

The Union will be given a single legal personality. Currently, the European Community and the European Union have different statutes and do not operate using the same decision-making rules. The Lisbon Treaty will end this dual system and enhance the Union's ability to act. This is one of the main simplifications introduced by the new Treaty.

- At the moment, only the European Community has its own legal personality. However, once the Lisbon Treaty comes into force, the European Community as such will cease to exist. It will be succeeded by the European Union which will have its own legal personality.
- This innovation will have a significant impact on the Union's external action. Currently, the Union's ability to act on the international stage varies greatly depending on the policy field in question. The Lisbon Treaty will allow the Union to act more effectively, coherently and credibly in its relations with the rest of the world.

- A Union with a single legal personality will allow it to conclude international agreements and become a member of international organisations in its own right.

3. CLARIFICATION OF COMPETENCES — WHO DOES WHAT?

The definition of the European Union's competences will clarify its relations with the Member States.

The European Union has at its disposal only those competences expressly conferred on it by the Member States (principle of conferral of competences). The Lisbon Treaty clarifies and categorises them as described below.

- **Exclusive competences.** In the following fields in particular, the Union is the only party with the power to act on behalf of all the Member States: the customs union, the establishment of competition rules necessary for the functioning of the internal market, the monetary policy of the euro area, the common commercial policy and the conservation of fishery resources.

- **Shared competences.** Here, the Union intervenes to support the action of the Member States in the following areas in particular: the internal market, social policy, agriculture, consumer protection, the environment, transport, energy, and the area of freedom, security and justice.

- **Competence to take supporting, coordinating or complementary action.** Here, the Member States have a wide freedom of action and have primary responsibility. The Union acts only to coordinate or complement the action undertaken by the Member States. This is the case, for example, in the fields of health, sport, civil protection, industry, tourism, education and culture. It should be noted that the Council takes decisions unanimously in the fields of culture, social services, education and health.

- The Lisbon Treaty maintains a certain degree of flexibility, which is one of the keys of the Union's success. It allows the Union to take action where this is necessary to achieve one of its objectives, even if the Treaties have not specifically provided for powers to that effect. In such cases, the Council has to take decisions unanimously with the approval of the European Parliament.

4. ENHANCED COOPERATION

Enhanced cooperation allows a group of Member States to act together in the context of the Union. It will henceforth play a more important role. The Union will be able to act without all the Member States necessarily participating. This mechanism will allow the interests of the various Member States to be respected.

- The Lisbon Treaty retains the possibility of enhanced cooperation in specific policy fields and facilitates the implementation of this mechanism. This form of cooperation will improve the Union's ability to act by permitting at least nine Member States to move forward without the others, while leaving open the possibility for those others to join in at a later stage.
- In this way, the EU can act without all 27 Member States having to participate. At the same time, it allows Member States to remain outside any enhanced cooperation initiative which they do not wish to join, without stopping other Member States from acting together.

Institutions to govern the Union

The main European Union institutions are, in protocol order, the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank and the European Court of Auditors.

- **The European Parliament**, elected by universal suffrage, represents citizens. On an equal footing with the Council, it adopts the Union's legislation and budget. It elects the President of the Commission, approves the Commissioners and monitors the Commission. After the 2009 European elections, it will have a maximum of 751 Members (today there are 785). As a minimum of six Members per Member State has been set, Luxembourg will keep the same number of MEPs. It has its seat in Strasbourg, where 12 plenary

sessions are held. The committees meet in Brussels, where additional plenary sessions are also held. The Secretariat-General is in Luxembourg.

- **The European Council** brings together the Heads of State or Government of the Member States and the President of the Commission. It defines the broad policy guidelines of the European Union's action. It will be chaired by a President, elected by qualified majority, for a term of two and a half years, renewable once.
- **The Council of the European Union** represents the governments of the Member States. It comprises one minister from each Member State. It meets in Brussels, except in April, June and October, when it sits in Luxembourg. It shares its legislative and budgetary powers with the European Parliament. The Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Union will be chaired by the High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy. In its other compositions, the Council will be chaired by the competent minister of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The Presidency will rotate among the Member States every six months. Under this system, Luxembourg will hold the Presidency for the second half of 2015.
- **The European Commission** is an institution independent of the Member States which represents the general interest of the Union. It has a virtual monopoly as far as initiating legislation is concerned. It enforces the Union's policies, ensures the implementation of the budget, manages Community programmes, represents the Union in international negotiations and monitors the correct application of the Treaties. The Commission is accountable to the European Parliament. It has its headquarters in Brussels, but some of its directorates-general are in Luxembourg.
- **The Court of Justice of the European Union**, based in Luxembourg, includes the Court of Justice, the General Court and specialised courts. It is concerned with the uniform application of Community law. It hears disputes between the Member States, between the Union and the Member States and between the Union and private citizens. It can be asked to rule on the interpretation of Community law at the request of the national jurisdictions. The Court of Justice and the General Court consist of one judge from each Member State.

- **The European Central Bank**, with headquarters in Frankfurt, implements European monetary policy, as defined by the European System of Central Banks, to which the Luxembourg Central Bank belongs.
- **The European Court of Auditors**, based in Luxembourg, checks that all the Union's revenue and expenditure be lawful and regular. It monitors the sound financial management of the EU budget. It has its seat in Luxembourg and has one member per Member State.

The institutions are assisted by:

- **The Committee of the Regions** and the **European Economic and Social Committee**, both in Brussels, which have an advisory role. They will both have 350 members, and Luxembourg will send six representatives to each committee.
- **The European Investment Bank**, in Luxembourg, which funds long-term investment projects to contribute to the balanced development of the European Union and of third countries.

5. INSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The European Council will become a separate institution, headed by a President elected for two and a half years, renewable once. This permanent Presidency of the European Council is intended to lend greater consistency and continuity to the Union's actions and to increase its visibility.

A Commission with a smaller number of Commissioners will be able to deliberate and act more quickly and effectively. The post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy is also created. He or she will be responsible for conducting the Union's common foreign and security policy and common defence policy.

The European Council

- The European Council brings together the Heads of State or Government. It is becoming an institution of the Union without being attributed any additional powers. The European Council will continue to give the Union the political impetus it needs for its development but will not have a legislative function.

- A new post will be created, that of the European Council President. Elected by the European Council for two and a half years — renewable once — the President will be responsible for ensuring the preparation and continuity of work, and for achieving a consensus. He or she will not be allowed to hold any office at national level during their European mandate.
- The creation of the post of elected European Council President will increase the visibility and general consistency of the Union's action. The European Council President will also represent the Union on the world stage in matters relating to the common foreign and security policy (CFSP).

The European Commission

- The European Commission was created to represent, independently, the general interest of the Union. It is the initiator of the Union's legislation. It proposes acts which are then communicated to the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union for a decision.
- Whilst its powers and mode of operation will remain much the same, its composition is to be considerably changed in order to maintain the effectiveness of its operations and its specific role. Until 2014, there will be one Commissioner from each Member State. From 2014 onwards, the number of Commissioners will be reduced. It will then have a number of Commissioners equal to two thirds of the number of Member States, in accordance with a strictly equal rotating system, taking into account the demographic and geographic features of the Member States. The rotation will be applied after the European elections, in other words every five years, the period of the Commission's term of office. Every 10 years, Luxembourg, like all the other Member States, will not appoint one of its nationals to be a Commissioner, for a period of five years.
- The High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy (see below) will be a full member and Vice-President of the Commission from the moment the Lisbon Treaty comes into force.
- The Lisbon Treaty reinforces the democratic legitimacy of the method of appointing the President of the Commission. It states clearly that the European Council must take into account the results of the European elections when it proposes

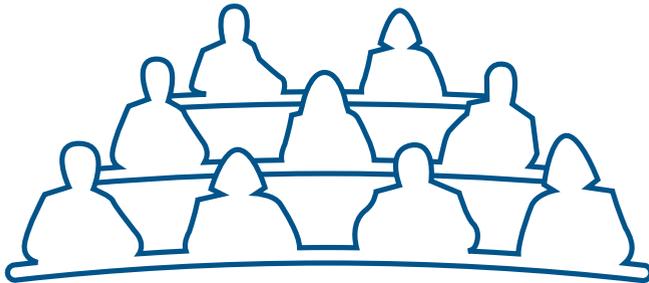
a candidate for the Presidency of the Commission, to be voted on by the European Parliament, which elects the President of the Commission.

High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy

- The creation of the post of High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy is one of the major institutional innovations of the Lisbon Treaty.
 - Responsible for the common foreign and security policy and the common defence policy of the European Union, the High Representative will chair the Council of Foreign Ministers and will be Vice-President of the Commission, responsible for external relations. With just one foreign policy representative, the Union will be able to better defend its interests on the international stage.
 - The High Representative will thus combine the responsibilities currently shared between the High Representative and the European Commissioner for External Relations, which means that the consistency of the Union's external action can be stepped up at the political and economic level.
- The High Representative will be empowered to make proposals and implement foreign policy on behalf of the Council. He or she will also represent the Union on the international stage as far as the common foreign and security policy is concerned, assisted by a new European external action service.
 - The High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy will be appointed by the European Council voting by qualified majority, with the agreement of the Commission President.

II. Democracy

The Lisbon Treaty will renew the democratic fundamentals of the European Union. It will introduce more open institutions and give European citizens the opportunity to make their voices more clearly heard on EU projects. A completely new part of the Treaty is devoted to the democratic principles on which the Union is founded.



1. DEMOCRATIC VALUES

The Lisbon Treaty defines explicitly and clearly the values on which the Union is founded. These values must be respected by all the Member States.

- The Treaty of Lisbon, in its opening articles, lists the values on which the Union is founded: respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail.
- These common values must be respected by all the Member States. Respect for them is a *conditio sine qua non* for any European country wishing to join the Union.
- As in the previous Treaties, sanctions may be imposed on any Member State which persistently commits serious infringements of these values.
- The Union respects the equality of the Member States and their national identities, including local and regional

autonomy. It also establishes the principle of protecting Europe's cultural and linguistic diversity.

- Any Member State may decide to withdraw from the European Union in accordance with its own constitutional requirements. This is an important innovation.

2. STEPPING UP THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament and the national parliaments will see their roles reinforced in the context of European decision-making. This will strengthen democracy in the Union and enhance the legitimacy of its action.

European Parliament

- The Lisbon Treaty confirms, and indeed strengthens, the legislative and budgetary functions of the European Parliament and its role in monitoring the activities of the European Commission.

- The co-decision procedure, by which Parliament decides jointly with the Council, will become the standard legislative procedure. This procedure is extended to new policy fields, such as the area of freedom, security and justice. This innovation will reinforce the legislative power of the European Parliament.
- The European Parliament's powers are also stepped up in the area of the budget (approval of the multiannual financial framework, co-decision arrangement for laying down all obligatory and non-obligatory expenditure) and in the adoption of international agreements.
- The Lisbon Treaty creates a direct link between the results of elections to the European Parliament and the choice by the European Council of the candidate for President of the Commission.

National parliaments

- For the first time in the history of the European Treaties, the national parliaments will be directly involved in the European decision-making process.

- The Lisbon Treaty clearly lays down the rights and obligations of the national parliaments in the context of the European Union, including those relating to information, the monitoring of subsidiarity, the evaluation mechanisms in the area of freedom, security and justice, and the revision of the Treaties.
- The national parliaments will check whether European legislative proposals are in line with the subsidiarity principle. Using an early warning system, any national parliament will be able to send a reasoned opinion to the European institutions within eight weeks of communication of a European legislative proposal, explaining the reasons why it considers that the proposal is not in line with the principle of subsidiarity.
- If this reasoned opinion represents at least a third of the votes attributed to the national parliaments, the drafter of the proposal (usually the Commission) will have to re-examine the text, and will then have to decide whether to retain, amend or withdraw it.
- If the legislative proposal is contested by a simple majority of votes attributed to the national parliaments and the Commission decides to retain it nevertheless, a specific procedure will be launched. The Commission will have to state, in a reasoned opinion, why it considers that the principle of subsidiarity has been respected. This will be brought to the attention of the legislator together with the reasoned opinions of the national parliaments. The legislator (55 % of members of the Council or a majority of the European Parliament) may then decide not to pursue the legislative procedure.
- This system reinforces the democratic legitimacy of the Union's decision-making.

Subsidiarity and proportionality

According to the principle of subsidiarity, the European Union's decisions must be taken as close to citizens as possible. Specifically, the Union does not take action (except in the areas which fall within its exclusive competence) unless this would be more effective than action taken at national, regional or local level.

This principle is complemented by the proportionality principle, which obliges the Union to limit its action to that which is necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Lisbon Treaty.

3. CITIZENS' RIGHTS

The Lisbon Treaty represents a step forward in protecting citizens' rights. It confirms existing ones and introduces new rights, as well as mechanisms to ensure that these rights are respected within the Union.

- The principle of the democratic equality of its citizens is enshrined, which means that all citizens enjoy the same degree of attention from the institutions, bodies and organisations of the Union.
- The principle of participatory democracy complements the principle of representative democracy. This means that dialogue with the representative associations and civil society, churches and philosophical and secular organisations will be regular, open and transparent.
- The Lisbon Treaty establishes the principle of citizens' initiatives. This allows at least one million people — out of the 500 million in the European Union — from a significant number of Member States to petition the Commission to submit to the European Parliament and to the Council a legislative

proposal which they consider to be necessary for the implementation of the objectives of the Treaties.

- In the context of the right of access to information, citizens and national parliaments will be able to see the decisions taken by their government in that the Council will meet in public when it deliberates and votes on any draft legislation.

4. THE CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

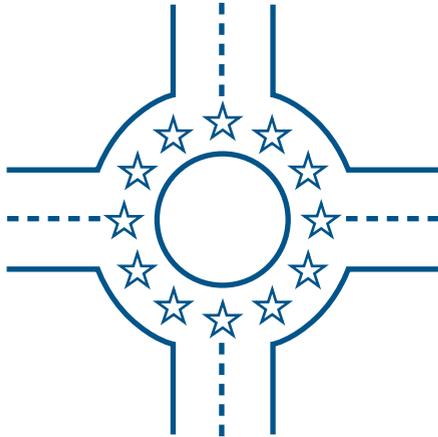
The Treaty of Lisbon recognises the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of 7 December 2000, which has been slightly amended and has the same legal value as the Treaties.

- Even though the Charter of Fundamental Rights is not part of the current European Treaties, the Lisbon Treaty makes it legally binding. It is a highly symbolic document with a list of rights which every person should enjoy. In the context of the Union's law and competences, the Charter provides further guarantees and rights as well as additional freedoms to European citizens.
- The Charter provides for new rights in addition to those enshrined by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR): the protection of personal data, the right to asylum, equality before the law and non-discrimination, equality between men and women, the rights of children and elderly people and important social rights, such as protection against unfair dismissal, access to social security and social assistance. It should be noted that all the Member States have signed up to the ECHR and that its general principles have moulded EU law ever since the start of the European integration process.
- Other rights, already provided for in the ECHR, will see their scope extended: the right to education, the right to a fair trial.
- The Court of Justice of the European Union will enforce compliance with the Charter where it is legally binding. However, a protocol will restrict its application in the United Kingdom and Poland.
- Whilst signifying progress in the defence of the fundamental rights of European citizens, the Charter gives no new powers to the Union.

5. EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (ECHR)

The Lisbon Treaty states that the Union will sign up to the ECHR. It provides the legal basis for this, which is now facilitated by the new single legal personality of the European Union. This will allow the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg to monitor the consistency of the Union's acts with the ECHR. This will help to ensure greater protection of fundamental rights within the Union.

III. Political changes



1. FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE

The aim of the Lisbon Treaty is to establish an area of freedom, security and justice with respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens. It ensures the free movement of citizens whilst guaranteeing a high level of security. It strengthens the means of preventing and combating crime and terrorism.

- The concept of an area of freedom, security and justice is present in the current Treaties. However, the Lisbon Treaty moves this area forward in that virtually all important issues will be subject to qualified majority voting and co-decision between the European Parliament and the Council.
- The Union's undertaking to develop a joint immigration policy is confirmed. A consistent approach to immigration will allow migration flows to be effectively managed, taking into account the economic and demographic development of our continent.

- A common asylum system will be developed, with a standard asylum status and standard procedures for persons from third countries needing international protection.
- Whilst ensuring that persons are allowed to cross its internal borders without checks, the Union will put in place an integrated system for the management of its external borders.

2. THE EU IN THE WORLD

The Union will defend its values and interests throughout the world. The EU is the world's number one commercial power and the largest provider of assistance to the developing world. The Lisbon Treaty will reinforce the principles on which the Union's action is based: democracy, the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity and the principles of equality and solidarity.

- The creation of the position of High Representative of the Union for Foreign and Security Policy will lend greater consistency to the Union's external action and increase its visibility worldwide.

- The High Representative will have access to an external action service. This service, which will work in collaboration with the diplomatic services of the Member States, will make for a more effective implementation of the policies of the Union and its Member States.
- The President of the European Council, at his or her level and in his or her given capacity, will represent the Union at international level on issues associated with the common foreign and security policy.
- One innovative aspect of the Lisbon Treaty is the specific legal basis given to humanitarian assistance and the possibility of creating a European voluntary humanitarian aid corps.
- Sustainable development will become one of the main objectives of the Union in its relations with the rest of the world.

3. DEFENCE POLICY

The Lisbon Treaty stipulates more clearly that the Union's competence in matters of common foreign and security policy

covers all areas of foreign policy and all questions relating to the Union's security, including the gradual framing of a common defence policy that might lead to a common defence.

- In order to allow Europe to fully play its role in the interests of peace, the new Treaty extends the Union's powers in the area of defence to include among its tasks those of humanitarian and evacuation missions, peace-keeping operations and the stabilisation of post-conflict zones.
- The Lisbon Treaty creates the possibility of enhanced cooperation between those Member States with the necessary military capacity and that wish to cooperate more fully in the area of defence. These Member States can establish a permanent structured system of cooperation in the context of the Union.
- The Lisbon Treaty also states that the common security and defence policy will be an integral part of the common foreign and security policy.

- The Member States will make available to the Union the civil and military capability necessary to implement the common security and defence policy.
- Unanimity remains the rule as far as decisions on defence issues are concerned.
- If a Member State is the victim of armed aggression on its territory, the other Member States will have an obligation to provide it with aid and assistance using all the means in their power, in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. This does not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.
- The new Treaty also introduces a solidarity clause when a Member State is the victim of a terrorist attack or a natural or man-made disaster.

4. GLOBAL WARMING — THE ENVIRONMENT

Global warming is one of the main environmental, social and economic challenges facing humanity.

The Lisbon Treaty identifies measures to tackle these problems.

- One of the Union's objectives is to promote sustainable development in Europe, based on a high level of environmental protection and enhancement.
- An innovative aspect of the Treaty is the promotion, at international level, of measures to tackle regional or global environmental problems, in particular climate change.

5. ENERGY

Europe faces a new challenge: how to guarantee secure, competitive and clean sources of energy. The Lisbon Treaty clarifies and complements the rules governing energy policy in the current Treaties.

- The Lisbon Treaty has a new section on energy. In this area, the Union's objective will be to ensure that the energy market

functions well, in particular as regards energy supply, and to ensure energy efficiency and energy savings as well as the development of new and renewable energy sources.

- The Lisbon Treaty also establishes the principle of solidarity in the event of difficulties in energy provision in one or more Member States. In such an event, other Member States should offer assistance, in particular if one or more countries has to deal with a major stoppage in the provision of energy from outside the Union.

6. SOCIAL POLICY

The Lisbon Treaty steps up the Union's social objectives and introduces new social concepts in European law.

- The Lisbon Treaty steps up the Union's social objectives. The Union will have to work towards the social dimension of sustainable development, based on balanced economic growth, price stability and a highly competitive social market economy, with the aim of achieving full employment and social progress.

- The Treaty has a horizontal social clause stipulating that, in all its policies and actions, the Union will take into account the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and health protection.
- The Union must promote the role of the social partners at European level, whilst respecting their autonomy and the diversity of the national systems. The tripartite social summit should contribute to the dialogue on growth and employment.
- The key role of economic services of general interest (e.g. public transport, telecommunications, postal services, gas and electricity supply, etc.) is recognised. The Union's powers in this area are limited. A great deal of room for manoeuvre is granted to the national authorities to supply, operate and organise services so as to respond as effectively as possible to the needs of users.
- The diversity of these services, depending on different geographical, social or cultural situations, is affirmed, and the need to ensure a universal, high-quality service is guaranteed.
- The Union will have to refrain from any action detracting from the competence of the Member States in the provision, operation and organisation of non-commercial services of general interest (health, social services, police and security forces, state schools, etc.).
- The Charter of Fundamental Rights expressly recognises the right to information and consultation within firms, the right to negotiate collective agreements and the right to strike, the right of access to a free job placement service and protection against unfair dismissal, the right to fair and equitable working conditions, and access to social security and social assistance.
- Remuneration, the right of association and the rules for taking strike action and implementing lock-outs remain a matter for the Member States.

7. EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP

The Lisbon Treaty reinforces the principle according to which any person holding the nationality of a Member State is a citizen of the Union. Citizenship of the Union complements and does not replace national citizenship.

The Lisbon Treaty clearly states the rights arising from citizenship of the Union:

- the right to move and reside freely;
- the right to vote and to stand as a candidate in elections to the European Parliament and in municipal elections;
- the right to diplomatic and consular protection;
- the right to submit a petition to the European Parliament and to appeal to the Ombudsman;
- the right to write to the institutions in one of the languages of the Union and to receive a reply in the same language.

Enlargement

Criteria for membership

States wishing to join the European Union must meet a certain number of criteria established in Copenhagen in 1993 by the European Council, to which the Lisbon Treaty refers explicitly:

- **a political criterion:** stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities;
- **an economic criterion:** existence of a functioning market economy and the capacity to cope with competitive pressure and market forces within the Union;
- **a criterion concerning acceptance of the existing Community legislation and practice:** ability to take on the obligations of membership, including adherence to the aims of political, economic and monetary union.

Procedures

The Commission will draw up a detailed report on the political and economic situation of any country wishing to apply for membership. It will also examine the country's ability to adopt the Union's principles and rules, and will recommend to the Council whether or not to start accession negotiations. The candidate country then undertakes with the Union to prepare for accession and to assume the associated obligations within fixed deadlines. The duration of the negotiations may vary between countries.

The candidates

Three countries — Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey — have the status of candidate. Accession negotiations with Croatia and Turkey opened on 3 October 2005. The other countries of the western Balkans which are engaged in the stabilisation and association process have the status of potential candidate countries.

Luxembourg, beneficiary of European funding

Like all the Member States, Luxembourg benefits from the Union's many funds and programmes, for example in the areas of rural and regional development, social policy, youth, education, culture and research.

Some examples:

For the period 2007–13, Luxembourg, in the context of the European programme on 'Regional competitiveness and employment' funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), will benefit from EUR 25.25 million.

Under the European territorial cooperation programme, financed by the ERDF, the Grand Duchy has EUR 14.8 million at its disposal between 2007 and 2013.

Between 2007 and 2013, in the context of the Community objective on regional competitiveness and employment, the European Social Fund (ESF) is supporting employment policies in Luxembourg to the amount of EUR 25.24 million, with an overall budget allocation of EUR 50.5 million. The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), whose national managing authority is the Ministry of Agriculture, will allocate EUR 90 million to Luxembourg for the period 2007–13, to which EUR 300 million will be added from the national budget.

The Leader programme is now incorporated in the EAFRD. It will benefit from EUR 5.2 million for the period 2007–13.

The Treaties on the way to European integration

1952

Treaty of Paris establishing the European Coal and Steel Community

1957

Treaties of Rome establishing the European Economic Community and Euratom

1986

Single European Act

1992

Treaty of Maastricht

1997

Treaty of Amsterdam

2001

Treaty of Nice

2002-04

Drafting of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe

29 October 2004

Signature of the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe in Rome

2005-06

Luxembourg and 17 other Member States ratify the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, but its rejection in France and the Netherlands halts the ratification process.

June 2007

Agreement of the 27 Member States on a mandate for the Intergovernmental Conference to amend the European Treaties

October 2007

Political agreement in Lisbon on the text of a new Treaty

13 December 2007

Signing of the Lisbon Treaty

Luxembourg in the EU institutions

Luxembourg, like the other Member States, is represented by a minister in the Council of the European Union. If a decision is taken by unanimity, Luxembourg has one vote, like all the other Member States.

From 2014 onwards, qualified majority voting will be based on the principle of the double majority. In order to be adopted, Council decisions will need the support of 55 % of the Member States, representing 65 % of the European population. Luxembourg will thus have one vote where a decision requires the backing of at least 55 % of the Member States. Moreover, its population will be taken into account proportionally in the calculation of support from 65 % of the EU's population.

Currently, and until 2014, Luxembourg has 4 votes out of 345 in the context of qualified majority voting. Moreover, if Luxembourg takes the view that a decision runs contrary

to its interests, it can participate in a blocking minority formed by no less than four Member States.

Six Luxembourg MEPs will continue to represent citizens in the European Parliament.

Currently, 1 out of the 27 Members of the European Commission is from Luxembourg. As from 2014, the Commission will comprise a number of Commissioners equal to two thirds of the number of Member States, in accordance with a principle of strictly equal rotation. This means that, every 10 years, Luxembourg, like all the other Member States, will not appoint one of its nationals to be a Commissioner, for a period of five years.

Luxembourg appoints one judge to the Court of Justice of the European Union and one to the General Court and to the European Court of Auditors.

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