

Ceremony to mark the signing of Portugal's Treaty of Accession to the European Communities (Lisbon, 12 June 1985)

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[Journalist 1] The signing will take place, as I said, in alphabetical order of the Member States, as written in the language of each country.

[Journalist 2] So the Belgian delegation is about to sign, headed by the Prime Minister, Wilfried Martens.

[Wilfried Martens] Belgium has always been very much in favour of the entry, the accession of Portugal to the European Economic Community, and, since the start of the talks and preparatory work, we have given the strongest possible support to Portugal's candidacy. Under the Belgian Presidency in 1982, we really did everything we could to make progress on the discussions and negotiations. Again in 1983, at a crucial point in the discussion of Portugal's accession, I met your Prime Minister, Mr Soares, in Brussels and I had a long talk with him about the possibilities and strategies for achieving a positive result. I am therefore very satisfied and also very happy to welcome the Portuguese people into the European Community.

[Journalist 2] That was Wilfried Martens, the Belgian Prime Minister who, here too of course, signed for his country.

[Journalist 1] Mr Martens was just referring to the Belgian Presidency which, in 1983, helped to overcome some problems that were outstanding at the time.

[Journalist 2] Now this is Hans-Dietrich Genscher, of the Federal Republic of Germany.

[Journalist 1] Before Mr Genscher, the Danish delegation, led by Prime Minister Paul Schlüter should have signed.

[] The plenipotentiaries of Greece.

[Journalist 1] Next is Greece, the most recent member of the European Economic Community. The Greek delegation is headed by its Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Ioannis Charalambopoulos. As we said, Greece's accession procedure was originally linked to that of Portugal and Spain, but it managed to separate the procedure and join the European Economic Community sooner. Greece has been a full member since 1 January 1981.

[Journalist 2] The other Greeks signing are the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Theodoros Pangalos, and the Permanent Representative to the EEC, Alexander Zafiriou.

[] The plenipotentiaries of France.

[Journalist 2] France is represented here by its Prime Minister, the young Laurent Fabius — here he is signing —, also Roland Dumas, Minister for External Relations, Catherine Lalumière, State Secretary for European Affairs and Mr De La Barre de Nanteuil, Permanent Representative to the EEC. The four members of the French delegation.

[] The plenipotentiaries of Ireland.

[Journalist 1] The Irish delegation is led by its Prime Minister, Garret Fitzgerald. It's interesting to note that Ireland is perhaps the Community member most similar to Portugal. This is true from the internal point of view, of its economy and also, perhaps, of its procedure for accession to the Community.

[Journalist 2] Eleven years for the Irish, eight for the Portuguese.

[Journalist 1] The Irish process was of course linked to the British one, and there were some obstacles to overcome before it achieved full membership in 1973.

[Journalist 2] The other members of the Irish delegation are Peter Barry, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr O'Rourke, Permanent Representative to the EEC.

[] The plenipotentiaries of Italy.

[Journalist 1] Italy, whose delegation is led by the Prime Minister, Bettino Craxi, played a decisive role in concluding the negotiations. Bettino Craxi, who is to sign for Italy, is also President of the European Council, the Council of Heads of State or Government that meets periodically. On the right is Giulio Andreotti, who has just signed, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

[Journalist 2] Signing now is Pietro Calamia, Permanent Representative to the EEC.

[Journalist 1] Mr Pietro Calamia also played a very important part in this procedure because he acted, in the final stage of the negotiations, as Portugal's main interlocutor. Mr Calamia and Mr Andreotti are regarded as two personalities who helped to solve the last-minute problems.

[Journalist 2] Here are the Luxembourg representatives, Jacques Poos, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Joseph Weyland, Permanent Representative to the EEC.

[Journalist 1] Luxembourg has an interesting relationship with Portugal, as a high proportion of the working population is in fact Portuguese. And this gave rise to some problems over the course of the negotiations.

[Journalist 2] We should also point out that Luxembourg has signed special agreements with the Community about the movement of workers.

[Journalist 1] Here is the Dutch delegation. We are still following alphabetical order, as the Netherlands, in Dutch, begins with an 'n', hence it comes in here. Mr Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch Prime Minister, heads this delegation.

[Journalist 2] Followed by Hans van [den] Broek, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Rutten, Permanent Representative to the EEC.

[Journalist 1] Finally comes the United Kingdom. The head of the delegation is Mrs Thatcher's Foreign Secretary, Mr Geoffrey Howe.

[Journalist 2] Accompanied by Sir Michael Butler, Permanent Representative to the EEC, and Sir Hugh Byatt, British Ambassador in Lisbon.

[Journalist 1] It's worth noting that this Treaty is being signed in the final days of the Italian Presidency since, as we said, Italy played a key role in the conclusion of these negotiations. The Italian Presidency will finish at the end of this month, and so both Mr Bettino Craxi and Mr Giulio Andreotti will cease to preside over the Community bodies.

[] The plenipotentiaries of Spain.

[Journalist 2] Spain which, formally, will of course sign its Accession Treaty in Madrid, has not followed the alphabetical order here, as it is not yet a member.

[Journalist 1] Spain is of course a candidate for accession, and is here welcomed by the first applause of this ceremony. This ceremony, and hence the signature of the Treaty, is a formal act signifying the completion of the negotiations. Accession will become definite later, with the ratification of this Treaty. The Treaty will have to be ratified by the national parliaments of all the countries concerned, and only then will accession be definite. This ceremony explicitly marks the end of the negotiations.

[Journalist 2] As you will have noticed, the Spanish delegation is headed by Felipe González, Fernando Morán, Manuel Marín and Gabriel Alfaro. And now the whole audience is applauding Mário Soares, Rui Machete, Jaime Gama and Ernâni Lopes, as they prepare to sign the Treaty on the Accession of Portugal to the European Communities.

[Journalist 1] Undoubtedly, the importance of this moment will only become clear with time. You could say that today marks the end of eight years of intense work and endeavour for Portugal to join the European Economic Community. It is indeed a very important moment on account of its probable impact on Portugal.

[Journalist 2] This afternoon too, it will be the turn of the Prime Minister, Mário Soares, to sign all the documents regarding Spain's accession, which also today, but later on, will become the 12th Member State of the European Communities.