

## The Single European Act (SEA)

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On 17 and 28 February 1986, in Luxembourg and The Hague respectively, the Foreign Ministers of the Twelve signed the Single European Act (SEA). This treaty, the result of lengthy negotiations as part of an intergovernmental conference, combines in a single text the provisions relating, in particular, to the reform of the Community institutions, to the extension of the powers and responsibilities of the Community and to cooperation in the sphere of European foreign policy. The SEA was, moreover, an essential stage in the completion of the single market as it enabled attainment of the 1992 Objective to be speeded up and supported. The SEA came into force on 1 July 1987.