

Conclusions of the Maastricht European Council: extract concerning the Treaty on European Union (9 and 10 December 1991)

Caption: On 9 and 10 December 1991, the Heads of State or Government of the Twelve meet as the European Council in Maastricht in order to seek agreement on the Treaty on European Union.

Source: European Council - Presidency Conclusions (Maastricht, 09.-10.12.1991), SN 271/1/91. Brussels: Council of the European Communities, December 1991.

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Maastricht European Council (9 and 10 December 1991) Conclusions of the Presidency

Mr. Baron Crespo, President of the European Parliament, put to the European Council his Institution's views on the draft Treaties on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union.

The European Council welcomed all the contacts which had been established with the European Parliament during the preparation of these drafts and, in particular, the inter-institutional meetings which had made for a better understanding of the respective opinions.

Treaty on European Union

The Intergovernmental Conferences on Political Union and Economic and Monetary Union, meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government, reached agreement on the Draft Treaty on European Union based on the texts concerning Political Union and on the Draft Treaty text concerning Economic and Monetary Union. The necessary final legal editing and harmonization of the texts will be completed with a view to signature of the Treaty in the beginning of February 1992.

With particular reference to social policy the European Council confirms that this present provisions of the Treaty can be considered an "acquis communautaire".

The European Council notes that eleven Member States desire to continue on the path laid down by the Social Charter in 1989. To this end it has been agreed to annex to the Treaty a Protocol concerning social policy which will commit the Institutions of the Community to take and implement the necessary decisions while adapting the decision-making procedures for application by eleven Member States.

Enlargement

The European Council recalls that the Treaty on European Union which the Heads of State and Government have now agreed, provides that any European State whose systems of Government are founded on the principle of democracy may apply to become members of the Union.

The European Council notes that negotiations on accession to the European Union on the basis of the Treaty now agreed can start as soon as the Community has terminated its negotiations on Own Resources and related issues in 1992.

The European Council notes that a number of European countries have submitted applications or announced their intention of seeking membership of the Union. The European Council invites the Commission to examine those questions including the implications for the Union's future development and with regard to the European Council in Lisbon.

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