

Portugal's accession to the EEC (1 January 1986)

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Less than three years after acceding to the European Communities, Portugal is showing signs of change.

The difference lies not so much in the symbols, such as the abolition of borders, but in the realities of economic and social life.

Activities connected to the sea, fisheries, agriculture, communication routes and so on are examples of the innovation and development offered by the solidarity of the Twelve. Although Portugal did not become a full member until 1 January 1986, Community aid began to be channelled to Portugal several years earlier.

From 1982, when the first negotiating chapters were starting to close, Portugal began to benefit from pre-accession aid, the purpose of which was to boost development and reduce the gap separating the country from its future partners.