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# Introduction to the EEA Agreement

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# EFTA's quest for European Integration

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- 1952 European Coal and Steel Community
- 1957 Treaty of Rome (EEC)
- **1960 European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**
  
- 1967 EC Customs Union
- 1970 Iceland joins EFTA
- 1973 Denmark and the UK leave EFTA for the EC
- **1973 EFTA-EU bilateral free trade agreements**
  
- 1986 Portugal leaves EFTA for the EC
- 1987 EC Single European Act
- **1994 European Economic Area**
- 1995 Austria, Finland and Sweden leave EFTA for the EU
- **1999- Swiss-EU bilateral agreements**
  
- 1995 Schengen Agreement
- **2001- EFTA countries part of Schengen**



# The Challenges of the 1980s

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- Decline in European economic growth in the 1970s
- US and Japanese dominance in the global economy
- Numerous physical, technical and fiscal barriers to trade
- Failure to meet the objectives of the «four freedoms»

## The EC response: How to complete the Internal Market

- Commission White Paper : Completing the Internal Market by the end of 1992
- Strengthening the four freedoms and supporting policies
- Decisions by qualified majority voting
- The Single European Act (1987)



# The Birth of the EEA

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- 1984 - First EFTA-EU Ministerial meeting, Luxembourg Declaration on a dynamic "European Economic Space"
- 1989 - Commission President Delors offers the EFTA countries «a new, more structured partnership»
- 1989 - Fall of the Berlin Wall
- 1992 - EEA negotiations finalized (signature)
- 1992 - Swiss no-vote
- 1992 - 94 The EFTA members Austria, Finland, Norway and Sweden negotiate membership in the EU
- 1994 - Entry into force of the EEA Agreement
- 1995 – Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU



ICELAND  
LIECHTENSTEIN  
NORWAY

EEA  
COUNCIL

COUNCIL  
PRESIDENCY  
+ EEAS

EFTA  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE

EEA  
JOINT  
COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN  
EXTERNAL  
ACTION SERVICE

EFTA  
SURVEILLANCE  
AUTHORITY

# The EEA two-pillar structure

EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

EFTA  
COURT

COURT  
OF JUSTICE

COMMITTEE OF  
MPs OF THE  
EFTA STATES

EEA JOINT  
PARLIAMENTARY  
COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT

EFTA  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE

EEA  
CONSULTATIVE  
COMMITTEE

ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL  
COMMITTEE



## EFTA and the EU 1960



EFTA

EU

## EFTA and the EU 2017



