

## 'As of yesterday the EEC has a population of 321 million' from the Luxemburger Wort (1 January 1986)

**Caption:** On 1 January 1986, Spain and Portugal officially become Member States of the European Community. On this occasion, the Luxemburger Wort reviews the respective strengths and weaknesses of the 12 Member States of the European Communities.

**Source:** Luxemburger Wort. Für Wahrheit und Recht. Réd. Chef Heiderscheid, André. 02.01.1986, n° 1; 139e année. Luxembourg: Imprimerie Saint-Paul. "Depuis hier la CEE compte 321 millions d'habitants", p. 1.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/as\\_of\\_yesterday\\_the\\_eec\\_has\\_a\\_population\\_of\\_321\\_million\\_from\\_the\\_luxemburger\\_wort\\_1\\_january\\_1986-en-ofce8985-e6ce-4d38-9855-7aa96bfcc4cb.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/as_of_yesterday_the_eec_has_a_population_of_321_million_from_the_luxemburger_wort_1_january_1986-en-ofce8985-e6ce-4d38-9855-7aa96bfcc4cb.html)



**Last updated:** 06/07/2016

## The long road to European unity

### As of yesterday the EEC has a population of 321 million

**With the entry of Spain and Portugal on 1 January, the now twelve-member European Community has an internal market of 321 million inhabitants and thus overtakes the two giants, the United States (234 million) and the USSR (277 million). In theory, the Community has become the world's foremost economic power. Unfortunately, however, its unity is far from complete and much has to be done before reality matches the statistics, before Europe joins the major league and at last occupies the place it really deserves.**

With the accession of Spain and Portugal, the Community now looks as follows:

**France:** Founder member of the EEC. It forcefully defends the common agricultural policy, which guarantees its farmers stable income levels. This policy has, however, led to surpluses of wine, cereals and other foodstuffs. With a population of 54.2 million it ranks fourth in the EEC, and fourth in terms of per capita income. On the other hand it ranks second for economic output.

**Belgium:** Founder member of the EEC. The Community executive is located in Brussels. With 9.9 million inhabitants, it ranks eighth for population, fifth for per capita income and seventh for economic output.

**United Kingdom:** The UK has been part of the Common Market since 1973, in spite of persistent anti-Community sentiment in the country. It remains hostile to the creation of a political entity and refuses to join the European monetary system. The UK occupies third place in terms of population (56.3 million) and economic output and seventh place for per capita income.

**Denmark:** Since joining in 1973, Denmark has become one of the countries most keenly aware of the problem of political integration. It leads the Community for per capita income, and ranks ninth for population (5.1 million) and eighth for economic output.

**Greece:** Sceptical as to the benefits to be gained from European political unity, Greece has tried since joining the Community in 1981 to secure as much economic and social aid as possible. It is eleventh in terms of per capita income and ninth in terms of population (9.8 million) and economic output.

**Italy:** A founder member, Italy is the foremost proponent of political unity. Its population (56.6 million) puts it in second place, its economic output in fourth and its per capita income in eighth.

**Luxembourg:** Founder member. Its influence is limited by its size but it has always striven for political integration. It is ranked last for population (300 000) and economic output but takes third place for per capita income.

**The Netherlands:** A founder member, the Netherlands takes over the rotating presidency of the Community on 1 January. It ranks sixth in terms of population (14.3 million), per capita income and economic output.

**Portugal:** A member of the Economic Community since 1 January, Portugal hopes that joining will offer it a way out of its economic crisis. According to commentators, it should be a resolute supporter of further Community action. It ranks seventh in terms of population (10 million), tenth in terms of economic output and comes in last for per capita income.

**Spain:** Joined on 1 January. It will probably be looking to obtain more in aid and subsidies than it pays out in contributions. It is fifth in terms of population (37.9 million), ninth in terms of per capita income and fifth as regards economic output.

**West Germany:** A founder member, the FRG is against the latest campaign to limit the system of guaranteed prices for EEC farmers. It ranks first for population (61.6 million) and economic output and second for per

capita income.

Ireland: Ireland, which has been part of the EEC since 1973, is the only country in the Community that does not belong to NATO. It is opposed to greater Community powers in the spheres of defence and security. It occupies eleventh place in terms of population (3.5 million), tenth in terms of per capita income and ranks eleventh in terms of economic output.