

The accession of Spain and Portugal and transitional measures

Source: CVCE. European Navigator. Etienne Deschamps.

Copyright: (c) CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/the_accession_of_spain_and_portugal_and_transitional_measures-en-b9274bfb-c379-40eb-a190-24cd55b41cff.html



Last updated: 08/07/2016

The accession of Spain and Portugal and transitional measures

In 1985, the outstanding points at issue between Spain, Portugal and the Ten were resolved. Lisbon agreed to limit textiles exports to the European Community and undertook to abandon the right to completely free movement of workers until the end of the seven-year transitional period. Spain had to reduce the export of certain iron and steel products but was authorised to continue subsidising the companies adversely affected by this measure. France succeeded in having wine production limited and surplus production bought from the producers at low prices and distilled. As a general rule, the transitional period was set at seven years for industrial and agricultural products, but some products, considered more sensitive, were subject to a ten-year period before they could move completely freely throughout the Community. Some fruit and vegetables were also subject to quotas, and Community structural programmes allowed Spain and Portugal to bring their agriculture into line with the standards of the Ten.

However, the fisheries question continued to be the most difficult one to resolve, given the size of the Spanish fishing fleet and the problems the Ten were having in defining a common fisheries policy. A final resolution of maritime issues was not achieved until March 1985. With the accession of Spain and Portugal, the Community extended its fishing limits to 200 miles in 1986 but access for the huge Spanish fleet continued to be severely restricted. During the transitional period, only 300 of Spain's 17 000 vessels were authorised to fish in certain zones within Community waters. The Community also financed programmes to reduce the capacity of the Spanish fishing fleet.

With the Single European Act (17–28 February 1986), Greece, Spain and Portugal (together with Ireland) would receive considerable resources from the 'structural funds', designed to help them adapt their structures to cope with competition in the single internal market and to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the enlarged Community.