

Portugal and the European integration process: a common project

Caption: Presentation of the Special File on Portugal and the European integration process produced in 2007 for the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union in connection with the partnership established in 2006 between the CVCE, the Jacques Delors European Information Centre (CIEJD) and the Institute for Contemporary History (IHC) of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences (FCSH) at the New University of Lisbon (UNL).

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http://www.cvce.eu/obj/portugal_and_the_european_integration_process_a_common_project-en-fced0111-ea60-4b8e-9396-ba99005313ab.html



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1. Networking to build a common project

The research corpus on ‘Portugal and the European integration process’ falls within the terms of the agreement signed on 21 June 2006 between the Centre Virtuel de la Connaissance sur l’Europe (CVCE), the Jacques Delors European Information Centre (CIEJD) and the Institute of Contemporary History (IHC) of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences (FCSH) at the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, and the special agreement signed in September 2007.

The aim of the protocol is to promote cooperation between the parties with a view to developing historical research, analysing historical heritage, organising academic and cultural activities, producing historical studies and disseminating information among the research community and the general public on the history of European integration and cooperation and on Portugal’s participation in that process in the light of the surrounding historical context.

The overall objective of this cooperation is to pool knowledge, experience and resources, structuring them clearly and effectively. In particular, this involves:

- gathering, processing, presenting and disseminating information on the history of European integration in general and on Portugal’s participation in that process;
- providing specialised services under the aegis of the signatory institutions, for mutual benefit;
- organising activities and promoting scholarly research on the history of European integration and cooperation and on Portugal’s participation in that process in the light of the historical framework and its effects within the broader context of the history of Portugal and Europe;
- establishing exchanges of information and of scientific and technical documentation;
- facilitating contacts at international and Community level with organisations involved in activities relevant to the objectives pursued.

The corpus on ‘Portugal and the European integration process’ is the first result of the cooperation established.

The material included in this research corpus, which reflects the timeliness and relevance of the initiative, has been prepared and organised on the basis of strong, committed teamwork which has combined the results of the historical research conducted by the IHC and CVCE teams.

In performing its duty to produce and disseminate information on the history of European integration, the CVCE site is one of the most exemplary and rigorous platforms dedicated to the research, gathering, selection, processing and dissemination of information on European integration, using cutting-edge information and communication technologies in the service of European citizens and the global community.

The cooperation between the CVCE, the CIEJD and the IHC in preparing the research corpus on Portugal therefore provides an opportunity to pursue an academic and social interest at both European and national level.

In terms of historical research at the IHC, the initiative falls within the broader framework of research into the history of Europe, European integration and Portugal’s participation in that process (see *História da Europa e da Construção Europeia. O Lugar de Portugal* at www.ihc.fcsb.unl.pt — ‘History of Europe and European Integration. Portugal’s Place’), which includes other projects and initiatives varying in type and scale.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Diplomatic Institute is another partner in this initiative. The IHC-

FCSH has cooperated closely with this institution for many years and recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding annexed to the Protocol concluded between the two organisations. This seeks to define the specific areas of cooperation between the Institute's Diplomatic Historical Archive and the IHC with a view to completing the 'Portugal and Europe' project. The Archive holds a stock of documents which are crucial to the study of the history of European integration and of Portugal's role in that process. As an archive, the institution is empowered to help publicise and disseminate its primary sources and descriptive tools. This cooperation has been ensured by Isabel Fevereiro, Director of the Diplomatic Historical Archive, who has provided the support required to bring this project to fruition with dedication and enthusiasm, notably in the area of identifying, consulting and making available primary sources.

The project has also received assistance from other organisations that have made a substantial contribution to the development, expansion and enhancement of the work of gathering, selecting, processing and disseminating information on the history of European integration and cooperation and on Portugal's participation in that process.

Special reference must be made here to the Historical Archives of the Council of the European Union, the Historical Archives of the Council of Europe, the Lisbon Archives Service (AFL) of the Portuguese Centre of Photography (CPF), the Lusa press agency, the Cinemateca of the Arquivo Nacional das Imagens em Movimento (National Archives of the Moving Image — ANIM) and the TV station RTP which, besides providing support in identifying and consulting their records, have also allowed them to be reproduced and disseminated in the documents associated with this project, for which we express our sincere thanks, particularly to Luís Rodrigues Martins and Carlos Bernardo (Lusa), Piedade Braga Santos (Vice-Chairman, ANIM), Sara Moreira and Luís Gameiro (ANIM), Pedro Brauman (RTP) and Fernando Costa and Paulo Leme (AFL-CPF).

The historical sources compiled and presented in the corpus on 'Portugal and the European integration process' are extremely varied. The background material is supplemented by a broad selection of press articles and a collection of images and audiovisual material from the archives of the EU institutions (Commission, Parliament, Council), other European organisations (Council of Europe, OSCE, WEU), Lusa and Keystone press agencies, the Lisbon Photographic Archives and the RTP.

Particularly valuable is the first-hand testimony of a range of key decision-makers in the history that we are seeking to explore. These eminent figures have agreed to share their memories and provide their personal accounts, and we owe them a debt of thanks: José da Silva Lopes, José Medeiros Ferreira and António Vitorino.

Finally, the work done by all the IHC and CVCE researchers who have taken part in compiling, organising and processing the corpus on 'Portugal and the European integration process' must be emphasised. Special reference must be made to the skill, professionalism, commitment and cooperation of Paula Meireles (IHC), to the unparalleled dedication of Miriam Mateus (CVCE), to the generous assistance of Ana Paula Pires (IHC) and Inês Queiroz (IHC), and to the members of the research team that compiled some of the information presented (Ana Filipa Horta, Belandina Nicolau, David Pereira, José Pereira and Jorge Cavaco, Patrícia Marcos and Ricardo Noronha).

The Jacques Delors European Information Centre has also had a key role to play in publicising the corpus through its information network targeted at a wide range of different audiences, thereby playing an active part in circulating information. It was likewise the task of the CIEJD to make preparations for the presentation of the research corpus in Lisbon in May 2008.

2. Portugal, Europe and European integration

In recent times, especially since early 2006, several intense and particularly significant moments have coincided in commemorating and celebrating the past and mapping out the future of European integration. Portugal has played a full and active part in this process and has helped to shape the common destiny of the European Union.

The year 2006 saw the commemoration of a number of historical milestones, including the celebration of 20 years of membership of the EEC/EU, 30 years of membership of the Council of Europe, 30 years since the Additional Protocols to the 1972 Agreement were signed (forming the preliminary stage of the accession process to some extent) and 30 years since the round of negotiations in European capitals (between September 1976 and February 1977), following which the First Constitutional Government submitted a formal application for Portugal's accession to the European Economic Community.

This distant and 'forgotten' recollection of a 'concealed' past sheds fresh light on the 60 years that have elapsed since the speech given by US Secretary of State George Marshall at Harvard University in which he announced his Government's intention to support the economic recovery of all the European countries impoverished by the Second World War. This was one of the first steps towards European economic cooperation and opened the door to Portugal's participation in the European process. Despite scepticism and resistance, it brought with it an increasing internationalisation of the Portuguese economy and marked the beginning of a journey that has continued to this day.

Some of this intense history of over half a century of Portuguese participation in the process of European unification is well known, particularly the more visible and recent aspects, but most remains both to be known and, above all, to be told. Although we are aware of the importance of learning about, understanding, reinforcing and disseminating information about this background which concerns ourselves and Europe, it is also important to realise that the *memory* of who we are is a building block of that past and of that common existence and experience, one which is embodied in institutions of cooperation and in the journey towards European integration. We must also understand the reason for that journey and its route, and we must, in particular, record it for posterity, for a future of respect and citizenship within the Community, built on a foundation of culture and science that underpins Portugal's presence and our economic and social development in the European and the global arena.

The essence of this project is, therefore, the study of the history of Europe and of European integration and of the part that Portugal has played in that process. This knowledge — which should form the basis of our culture of responsible and aware citizenship, as both Portuguese nationals and Europeans — must, therefore, be comprehensively disseminated and consolidated in various ways.

A broad multidisciplinary approach to the subject has been taken. The sources and older or more recent historical accounts that have been compiled and presented here come in a variety of forms. They have been collected, selected and organised using research methods and applying an essentially historical approach that gives specific expression to a programme which is more than the sum of the parts published in this corpus.

The information presented here reflects a comprehensive approach to the study, understanding and interpretation of the subject, focusing on a variety of topics addressing the multiple dimensions of European issues, whether formal or informal, cultural, institutional, artistic or scientific, etc. The background that has historically constituted, shaped and structured European civilisation and that has functioned as a tool for Europeanisation has also been covered. Throughout history, this has represented the grounds and reasons underpinning the concept of Europe and the proposals for European cooperation and unification, forming a common thread in the history of European

integration and in Portugal's participation in that process up to present-day Community Europe. Efforts have been made throughout the whole process to forge paths and to bridge the gap between ideals and reality, to establish closer relations and to identify links between specific features existing within a common past and common legacies that form the principal characteristic of European integration: a close coalition between diversity and uniformity.

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