

1986 Enlargement

What do I need to know before I start?

On 1 January 1986, Spain and Portugal acceded to the European Economic Community (EEC), bringing the number of the Community's Member States up to twelve. The accession negotiations for Portugal and Spain were lengthier and more difficult than those for Greece, considering the notable economic interests involved and the relative weight of Spain's economy. Both in the case of Portugal and Spain, several Member States in the Community feared competition in certain Southern European products (France and Italy were especially concerned about competition from Spanish agricultural products considering the Community's already existing production surplus), which contributed to a difficult negotiation. In the case of Portugal, a free trade agreement pertaining to industrial and agricultural products linked the country to the EEC since 1973, although it is only in April 1974 that the authoritarian regime was swept aside following the military uprising and the 'Carnation Revolution' in April 1974. Mario Soares, the then leader of the Portuguese Socialist Party who was to become the new Foreign Affairs Minister and later Prime Minister, promoted the country's future accession to the Community. Portugal joined the Council of Europe in September 1976 and officially submitted its application for accession to the Community in March 1977. On Portugal's accession, the Council requested for the Commission's opinion, which submitted a positive opinion in May 1978 and the accession negotiations began in October 1978. The Treaty of Accession for Portugal was signed in June 1985 and the country became Member State of the Community as of January 1st, 1986, after having withdrawn from the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as one of its founding countries back in 1960. In the case of Spain, it was the end of General Francisco Franco's regime in November 1975 which enabled Spain's gradual democratization and accession to the Community. Spain officially submitted its application for accession to the Community in July 1977 and joined the Council of Europe in November of that year. The Commission submitted a favorable opinion to the Council's request in November 1978 but Spain's accession involved lengthy and difficult negotiations that started in February 1979 and ended in June 1985 with the signing of the Accession Treaty.

Languages: Please be aware that although most documents available in our Archives are in French, English or German, some may be in other EU languages. In order to check the languages used in a fonds, please refer to our holdings page. Additionally, some fonds may contain a few files in a language other than the ones listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to EU's third enlargement, the fonds available at the HAEU are:

1) *EU institutions*

[ECSC High Authority](#)

It can be very useful to consult the fonds of the ECSC High Authority, which includes a section for [External Relations](#), comprising several documents (example [1](#), [2](#)) pertaining to Spain and Portugal's early relations with the Community. The section '[Archives Centrales](#)' and that for the High Authority [Secretariat-General](#) also include relevant files in this context (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the HAEU inventory, the fonds of the Council of Ministers is organized by years and you need to browse each separate year to access specific files. In the Council's fonds, matters related to the Community's third enlargement are assembled in the section 'Relations Extérieures' or 'Relations avec Pays tiers' (example for the year [1962](#) and [1973](#)), which includes various files pertaining to the Community's relations with Spain and Portugal from the 1950s up to their accession to the Community (example for the year [1959](#), [1972](#), [1974](#)). You may also consult the Council's fonds pertaining to the [application process and accession negotiations of new member countries](#), including the [third enlargement](#) in 1986. In addition, it can be useful to look into the proceedings of the meetings of the Council and of COREPER, in which matters pertaining to the third enlargement were also discussed among foreign ministers (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

[Commission](#)

In the Commission's fonds, various files related to the Community's third enlargement are included in the section for the [DG External Relations](#) (example [1](#), [2](#)), as well as a dossier that pertains among others to the [accession negotiations for Spain and Portugal](#). In addition, you might want to look into the sections related to the [Secretariat-General](#) and the [Cabinets](#), which also include relevant files in this context (example [1](#), [2](#)). It is advisable to search the database directly to find these files more easily, filtering the results to limit the search to the Commission's fonds.

[European Parliament](#)

Concerning the early years of the Parliament, the fonds includes the proceedings and reports of the [parliamentary commission for commercial policy and economic cooperation with third countries](#) and of the [parliamentary commission for external economic relations](#). The fonds also includes a special dossier for the parliamentary delegation for [relations with the Spanish Parliament](#) and that for [relations with the Portuguese Parliament](#). In addition, the section comprising the [parliamentary questions](#) includes numerous files (that you may easily find using the database search tool)

pertaining to the Community's relations with both countries before accession (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). As to the Parliament's first legislature, the fonds includes a special section for the parliamentary delegation for [relations with Spain](#) and that for [relations with Portugal](#), as well as a sub-fonds pertaining to [Simone Veil's Presidency](#) which includes numerous files pertaining to the Community's relations with both countries (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). The fonds of the Parliament's second legislature also includes a special section for the interparliamentary delegation for [relations with Spain](#) and that for [relations with Portugal](#). The section comprising the Parliament's resolution proposals also includes several pertaining to Spain and Portugal's accession negotiations to the Community (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). The fonds of the [Parliament's third legislature](#) (1989-1994) is of less relevance in this context considering that the third enlargement took place before.

[European Court of Auditors](#)

You might find it interesting to consult the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991), [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994) pertaining to the Community's third enlargement ([example](#)). To access relevant files more easily, it is advisable to search directly the database and filter the results to limit the search to the ECA's fonds.

[European Court of Justice](#)

According to the nature of the ECJ, these fonds include documents dealing with judicial affairs, namely procedure dossiers and sentences. You might find it interesting to consult some of its dossiers dealing with the Community's third enlargement.

[European Investment Bank](#)

The fonds of the European Investment Bank (EIB) includes files pertaining to the [criteria for accession](#), to the [negotiation process between candidate countries and the EIB](#), as well as to the [consequences](#) of enlargement for the [EIB and its status](#). You also might find it interesting to consult the sub-fonds 'Publications' that includes the EIB [annual reports](#) as well as the section devoted to [EIB projects signed between 1959 and 1971](#) regarding EU member states and associated countries. The fonds also includes some economic studies pertaining to the [Community's associate members](#), including [Spain and Portugal](#).

[Economic and Social Committee](#)

The fonds of the Economic and Social Committee includes several dossiers pertaining to [Portugal and Spain's application for membership](#) and to the Community's pre-accession [relations with Spain and with Portugal](#).

2) *Corporate Bodies*

[European Free Trade Association](#)

Portugal was one of the EFTA's founding members and the EFTA's fonds comprises a special section for [Portugal](#), which includes numerous files pertaining to Portugal's relations within EFTA and with EFTA countries. Although it did not participate to the EFTA as did Portugal, the fonds also includes a special section for [Spain](#), which includes files pertaining to Spain's [relations with EFTA countries](#) (among others through the [EFTA-Spain Joint Committee](#)) with whom it signed a [free trade agreement](#) that came into force in 1980.

[European League for Economic Cooperation \(LECE\)](#)

You may also consult the fonds of the LECE, which comprises several [files](#) pertaining to [Spain](#) and [Portugal](#) in the pre-accession period and during the accession negotiations.

3) *Individuals*

[Émile Noël](#)

It can be very useful to consult the private fonds of Émile Noël as it includes various files related to the Community's [third enlargement](#). His fonds also comprises files pertaining to his [professional travels \(1963-1987\)](#), including his [visit to Lisbon and Madrid](#) with President Jacques Delors for the signing of Spain and Portugal's Accession Treaty. In addition, you may look into his notes on the [European Council](#) and [Commission's meetings](#) (1957-1987), as well as into documents related to the work of the [different DGs](#) of the Commission, during his time as [Secretary-General](#).

[Angel Viñas](#)

You may also consult Viñas' private fonds which includes a series of articles on [Spain and Portugal, on Spanish foreign policy](#) and on the [accession](#) of both countries to the Community.

[Emanuele Gazzo](#)

You may consult Gazzo's private fonds which comprises a [file](#) pertaining to Portugal and Spain's accession to the Community and its consequences, including handwritten notes, press-cuttings, reports and speech transcripts.

[Edoardo Martino](#)

It can also be useful to consult Martino's private fonds which includes some files pertaining to the Community's [early relations with Portugal and Spain](#) and their [accession negotiations](#).

4) Collections

[French Ministry for Foreign Affairs](#)

It can be useful to look into the collection ‘*Ministère des Affaires étrangères français*’, which includes some files pertaining to bilateral relations between the Community and third countries, including [Spain and Portugal](#), and to various [association agreements](#) with non-member countries including Spain.

5) Oral History

In addition, take a look at the [oral history holdings](#), which comprise numerous interviews of European politicians and officials, including important figures and officials involved in the accession negotiations of the Community’s third enlargement. Below, you can find a (non-exhaustive) list of persons interviewed who talked about Spain and Portugal’s accession to the Community.

[Laureano López Rodó](#)

[Barrie Wilson](#)

[Marcelino Oreja Aguirre](#)

[Raimundo Bassols Jacas](#)

[Fernando Olivé González](#)

[Iñigo Cavero Lataillade](#)

[Josep Borell i Fontelles](#)

[Jordi Pujol I Solei](#)

[Lars Kolte](#)

[Santiago Carrillo Solares](#)

[Edmund Wellenstein](#)

[Manuel Marín González](#)

[John Pearson](#)

[Jens Hauge Pedersen](#)

[Carmen Díez De Rivera Icaza](#)

[Helmut von Verschuer](#)

[Alan Pratley](#)

[Angel Viñas](#)

[André Chandernagor](#)

[Claude Cheysson](#)

[José Pedro Pérez Llorca Rodrigo](#)

[Claude Pleinevaux](#)

[Michael Emerson](#)

[Christopher Audland](#)

[Pierre Duchâteau](#)

[Nikolaus Vaulont](#)

[Christopher Tugendhat](#)

[Garrett Fitzgerald](#)

[Guy Legras](#)

[David Hannay](#)