

Internal/Common Market

What do I need to know before I start?

The internal market of the European Union is a single market, the trading area in the EU in which most trade barriers are removed. The European Commission describes it as ‘one territory without any internal borders or any regulatory obstacles to the free movement of goods and services’. The single market is built upon the ‘four freedoms’ of the EU, which allow for the free movement of goods, capital, services and labour: the basis of all economic activity. By removing technical, legal and bureaucratic barriers, the EU allows citizens to trade and do business freely.

The common market was an aim of the Treaties of Rome, in force as of 1958, intending to eliminate trade barriers between Member States and to increase economic prosperity and union among Europeans (Articles 4(2)(a), 26, 27, 114 and 115 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU).

This common market was achieved through the 1968 customs union, the abolition of quotas, the free movement of citizens and workers, and a degree of tax harmonisation with the general introduction of Value-Added Tax (VAT) in 1970. However, the freedom of trade in goods and services and the freedom of establishment were still limited by public authorities.

The Single European Act of 1986 included the objective of establishing the internal market in the European Economic Community (EEC) Treaty, defining it as ‘an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured’. The Single European Act entered into force on 1 July 1987, setting a precise deadline of 31 December 1992 for the completion of the internal market.

In 1993 the Single Market became a reality for 12 EU countries: Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The Single Market Act was put forward in two parts, in 2011 and 2012. The Commission proposed new horizontal measures in its communications ‘Towards a Single Market Act’ (COM(2010)0608) and ‘Better governance for the Single Market’ (COM(2012)0259). In October 2012, the Commission presented the Single Market Act II (COM(2012)0573) to further develop the single market, listing 12 key actions to be adopted by the EU institutions, focusing on business mobility, digital economy and consumer confidence. On 28 October 2015, the Commission published a communication entitled ‘Upgrading the Single Market: more opportunities for people and business’ (COM(2015)0550), which focused on ensuring practical benefits for people in their daily lives and creating additional opportunities for consumers, professionals and businesses.

Actually, one of the most challenging issues in developing the internal market is the implementation of its digital component. In May 2015, the Commission adopted a Digital Single Market Strategy (COM(2015)0192), which set an intense legislative programme for building a European digital economy.

The Commission’s Single Market policies are currently managed by DG GROW (Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs).

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 those listed in the description.

What can I find at the HAEU?

Related specifically to the establishment of the Internal/Common Market, relevant fonds available at the HAEU include:

1) *EU Institutions:*

[European Commission](#)

In the Commission's holdings, you will find a specific section for the [DGIII Internal Market](#), whose competences includes movements of goods, liberalisation of services and the right of establishment, problems relating to certain industries and to small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, you might want to look into the series of the [Secretariat-General](#), including the documents produced by the Registry of the General Secretariat of the Commission ([COM](#)). For early internal common market matters, it might be interesting to look also into the [Common market and relations with industrial organizations and workers' unions](#) series pertaining to the work of the ECSC High Authority in this context.

[Council of Ministers](#)

In the Council of Ministers' holdings, internal market matters are discussed in various sub-series. Since the Council of Ministers fonds are organised by year, you need to browse the fonds of each separate year to access the specific sections pertaining to internal market. For the special Council of Ministers of the ECSC, there is no specific sub-series, but you can find relevant files on the evolution of the common market, for example on the establishment of the common steel market (see [example](#)), on the implementation of the common coal market (see [example](#)), on the Common Market Committee of the Common Assembly (see examples [1](#), [2](#)), on the common scrap market (see [example](#)), and on the common energy market (see [example](#)). For the Council of Ministers of the EEC and Euratom, specific series pertain to the internal market; for example, for the year 1958, you will find a sub-series on [Customs Union](#), on [Economy and Finances](#) (concerning the abolition of economic borders and the common monetary policy), a sub-series on [Commercial Policy](#) (regarding the common commercial policy on tariffs and quotas, trade and commercial agreements), and a sub-series on [Agriculture](#) (that illustrates the first initiatives of the Council of the Communities relating to the establishment of the common agricultural policy (CAP)). Interesting documents can be found also in the [Treaties](#) sub-series ([example](#)). Same sub-series can be consulted for each year (example for [1959](#)). For the Council of the European Communities you may have a look into specific sub-series, such as 'Politique économique et monétaire', 'Transports', 'Politique Agricole' (examples for the year 1967: [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). You may find special section of the Council's sessions relating to Internal Market (example [1219th session, 1988](#)).

[European Parliament](#)

Concerning the ECSC Common Assembly, you might look into the documents of the [Parliamentary Commission for the internal market](#). Concerning the early years of the European Parliament, relevant

files are to be found in the series pertaining to the Parliamentary [Commission for the internal market of the Community](#) and [Commission for the internal market](#). Concerning the Parliament's legislatures, you can find specific sub-series that include the proceedings (for the [first](#), [second](#), and [third](#) legislature) and reports (for the [first](#), [second](#), [third](#), and [fourth](#) legislature) of the Parliamentary Commission on economic and monetary affairs. For the third legislature in particular, it is relevant to consult the work of the ad hoc [Parliamentary Commission "From the Single European Act to post-Maastricht"](#). It might be interesting to look into the parliamentary questions pertaining to the realisation of the common market (examples for the [1st](#), [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#) legislatures), as well as the resolution proposals (example for the [2nd](#), [3rd](#), [4th](#) legislatures).

[European Court of Auditors \(ECA\)](#)

In the ECA fonds, you might look at the ECA's [annual reports](#) (1977-1997), [special reports](#) (1978-1991) and [opinions](#) (1977-1997) as well as [internal documents](#), including [information documents](#) (1977-1994) and [working documents](#) (1977-1994). Various files linked to the study of the internal market are not available to public consultation due to the 30-year rule governing access ([example](#)).

[European Economic and Social Committee](#)

In the Economic and Social Committee fonds, you might consult the sub-series 'Avis', that includes documents related to the Internal Market (examples [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)). Similar to the Council of Ministers, the inventory of the Committee is organised by year, so you need to browse the series of each separate year to access the specific sections pertaining to 'Avis'.

[European Court of Justice](#)

The fonds of the European Court of Justice includes documents dealing with judicial affairs, divided in procedure dossiers and sentences. You might find it interesting to consult some of its dossiers dealing issues related to the internal market, such as the affairs [2/57](#), [8/57](#) and [97/63](#).

[European Investment Bank](#)

You might find interesting information on the Internal Market in the series "[Création de la BEI](#)", which contains documents from the Intergovernmental Conference for the Common Market and Euratom including dossiers from the Common Market Group, the Committee of Heads of Delegation and the ad hoc Group for the Investment Fund. You might concentrate on the sub-series '[Propositions préliminaires - Fonds d'investissement](#)' and '[Travaux du Groupe ad hoc pour le Fonds d'investissement](#)'. You may consult also the series of the BEI sessions, including minutes of the Administrative Council meetings (example [1](#), [2](#)).

[European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions](#)

In the EF fonds you might have a look at some meetings of the Administrative Board which discuss also matters related to the Internal Market (example [33rd meeting](#), [34th meeting](#)).

2) *Corporate Bodies*

[European Consumer Organisation](#) (BEUC)

You might find it interesting to consult the BEUC fonds which contains documents related to various aspects of the internal market, such as consumer problems in the single market ([example](#)), the

establishment of a common market (for [bananas](#), [books](#), [medicines](#)), consumer disputes in the single market ([example](#)).

[European Movement](#) (ME)

You may consult documents elaborated by the International Commission for the Application of the Common Market created by the ME [Action Committee](#) ([example](#)) and the series of the ME [Congresses](#) (example [1](#), [2](#)).

[European Free Trade Association](#)

The European Free Trade Association (EFTA) was established in 1960 as an economic union between non-EU countries. After the creation of a Single Market, EFTA controlled the relations between non-EU countries and the EU Common Market, which remained distinguished. You might find it interesting to consult the EFTA funds to understand the relations and differences in the economic agreements with EU and non EU countries (example [records of meetings](#), [working papers](#), [working documents](#), [Customs Committee](#) documents, [Economic and Social Committee](#) documents). You may also find it interesting to consult files concerning the response by Nordic countries and the UK to the establishment of the common market: examples [1](#), [2](#), [3](#) for the British role of the common market, example [4](#) concerning the Federation of Swedish industries on ‘Completing the Internal Market’, example [5](#) for the position of some Nordic countries on the establishment of the common market .

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

It might be interesting to consult the funds of LECE, whose working committees cover the various fields of economic activity and cooperation in Europe, in some cases related to the internal market. You may look into the [Monetary Commission](#) series and into the [Social Commission](#) series ([example](#)), but also into the [Central Council meetings](#) series (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and into the “Colloques” ([example](#)).

[Organisation for European Economic Cooperation](#)

In the OEEC funds you may consult the series [Free Trade Area](#) that could be interesting for the history of development of common market in liberalisation of trade and harmonisation of financial aspects. You may also have a look into the series ‘[Inter-governmental Committee on the Establishment of a European Free Trade Area](#)’, concerning the documents of the Committee created in 1957 by the OEEC to enter into negotiations with a view to creating such a free trade area.

[Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe](#) (ALDE)

In the ALDE funds you may consult the series of the [Legal and Internal Market Committee](#) (JURI). You may also have a look to the minutes of meetings (example [1](#)) and to reports of other Committees where matters related to Internal Market are discussed, such as the [Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy](#) (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), the [Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, Media and Sport](#) (example [1](#)), the [Economic and Monetary Commission](#) (example [1](#)).

[Group of the European Socialist Party in the European Parliament](#) (GPSE)

In the GPS funds you may consult the [official documents](#) of the Group, including conference and working documents on the common market (example [1](#), [2](#)). You might also have a look at the ‘[Courrier socialiste européen](#)’.

[European University Institute](#)

The European University Institute (EUI) is an international centre for doctorate and post-doctorate studies and research, founded in 1972 in Florence by the six original members of the European Communities. In the EUI fonds you may consult studies and papers related to the activities and research of the EUI departments (Economics, History and Civilization, Law, Political and Social Sciences). You may find interesting files on the Internal Market: the European integration and the common market (example [1](#)), the social dimension of the Internal Market (example [2](#)), the regulatory reform and the completion of the internal market (example [3](#)).

3) *Individuals*

[Roberto Santaniello](#)

Santaniello was appointed administrator at DG III (Industry and Internal Market) for Industrial Cooperation and for Information Policy. His fonds includes several files concerning the development of an European internal market (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)), the [Single Market act](#) and the [Digital Single Market](#).

[David White](#)

White worked as Head of the Public Procurement Policy Unit, preparing and implementing a programme to achieve a single market in public procurement in the European Community. In this regard, you may consult the series of [Chrono - Head of Unit for Public Procurement Policy in DG III, Internal Market and Industrial Affairs](#).

[Emile Noël](#)

It is interesting to consult Noël's fonds, that includes files related to his activities as secretary general of the Commission. In particular you may look into the following series: [Interim Common Market / Euratom Committee](#), which contains documents on the establishment and development of a common market, [Commissioning of the EEC](#), [Intergovernmental conference on the Single European Act](#), [Single European Act](#), [Community policies](#). You may look into the Noël's [speeches](#) and seminars (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) and into the meetings of the [European Council](#) (example), where you may find files related to the internal market.

[François Lamoureux](#)

Lamoureux contributed to the drafting of the White Paper on the Internal Market and to the drafting of the Single Act. In his fonds you can find dossiers concerning the single market (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)). You may also find it interesting to consult the [Chronos](#) (example [1](#), [2](#)) and the series related to his activities in the [Directorate General Industry](#). Various files linked to the study of the internal market are not available to public consultation due to the 30-year rule governing access.

[Edoardo Martino](#)

It can be useful to look at the Martino private fonds, as he worked as a member of the Internal Market Committee. In particular, you may consult the series of the [Political activity in the European Parliament](#) and the series of the [Enlargement of the European Community](#), which contains documents concerning the adhesion of various countries to the common market.

[François-Xavier Ortoli](#)

Ortoli was Director General of the Common Market to the Commission of the European Communities for the period 1958-1961. It is interesting to consult his fonds, in particular the series relating to his activity for the common market ([Cabinet Buron](#), [DREE](#), [DG Marché intérieur](#)).

[Pierre Uri](#)

It is interesting to look at Uri's fonds, as he was director of the General Economy division in 1952 and played an essential role in the common market project and in the negotiations for the future Treaties of Rome. You may consult the following series: [Senior official at the ECSC](#), [Budgetary and fiscal matters](#), [Transport, energy, Free trade area](#), [Independent European expert, international expert](#).

[Uwe Kitzinger and Noël Salter](#)

You may look into Kitzinger's private fonds, which includes series on [Europe, Britain and the Common Market](#), the [Common Market](#), the [Journal of Common Market Studies](#). In the Salter's fonds you may consult a series on [Britain and the Common Market](#). In the [Kitzinger-Salter documentation](#) you can find interesting files on the common market (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

[Peter Sutherland](#)

Sutherland Commission Papers include files related to the development of the internal market in various field, such as Telecommunications ([example](#)), files related to the White Paper of the Internal Market (example [1](#), [2](#)) and to the Single Act ([example](#)).

[Tommaso Padoa Schioppa](#)

It might be interesting to consult Padoa Schioppa's fonds which includes files on the development of the Internal Market (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#)).

[Jacques Delors](#)

Delors' fonds includes several files on the Internal Market, mainly articles and conference addresses (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

4) *Collections*

[Jean Monnet Duchêne Sources](#)

The collection of material of François Duchêne includes a series on the [Common Market and Euratom](#) which is relevant to study of the development of a common market area. It also contains [archival material](#) and articles related to the common market (example [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)).

[Richard Griffiths' Collection](#)

The Richard Griffith fonds includes a series on the [Common Market Group](#) and a series on the [Interim Committee for the Common Market and Euratom](#).

[General Secretariat of the French Interministerial Committee for Questions on European Economic Cooperation \(SGCICEE\)](#)

The SGCICEE fonds includes the following series related to the common market: [Intergovernmental Conference for the Common Market and Euratom](#), [Interim Committee for the Common Market and](#)

[Euratom](#), plus you can find more files on the common market development in the [General Notes 1960-1976](#) and in “[Work carried out in France on the Common Market and Euratom](#)”.

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 active in the development of internal market. Below, you can find a (non-exhaustive) list of persons interviewed who addressed the topic of EU internal market.

[Cockfield, Arthur](#)

[Mochler, Rolf](#)

[Braun, John](#)

[Sutherland, Peter](#)

[Dukes, Alan](#)

[Clarotti, Paolo](#)

[Petite, Michel](#)

[Russo Massimo](#)

[Giacomello, Giacomo](#)

[Brackeniers, Eduard](#)

[Narjes, Karl-Heinz](#)

[Schaeffer, Maurice](#)

[O'Sullivan, David](#)

[Moltke, Heinrich Von](#)

[Henriksen, Ole Bus](#)

[Hannay, David](#)

[Ungerer, Herbert](#)

[Brunner, Manfred](#)

[Guibal, Jean-Claude](#)

[Vignon, Jerome](#)

[Tent, Hendrik](#)

[Bladbjerg, Bjarne](#)

[Hauge Pedersen, Jens](#)

[Uri, Pierre](#)

[Emerson, Michael](#)

[Burke, Richard](#)

[Delors, Jacques](#)