

The Maastricht Treaty – Historical Approaches

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Prof. Dr. Jürgen Mittag, Maastricht, 23.10.2015

Overview

- The historical background
- The Maastricht summit
- The Maastricht Treaty
- The ratification process
- Coming into effect
- Perceptions
- Historical approaches and debates



The historical background

Maastricht as a focal point of different trends

- the Single European Act (signed 1986, effective 1987) pathed the way to the Single Common Market with its four freedoms: free movement of goods, people, services and capital
- debates about a (Economy and) Monetary Union have already started
- the fall of the Berlin Wall and the iron curtain confronted European integration with a completely new situation
- concerns about new imbalances within the EC (due to the perception of GDR) fostered debates on political union

The historical background

- Helmut Kohl: linkages between German reunification and European integration: „Deutschlandpolitik und Europapolitik lassen sich in keiner Weise voneinander trennen“ (November 22nd, EP speech of H.K.)
- France: hesitant/reluctant >> to keep control over Germany
- Cooperation Helmut Kohl/Francois Mitterand (Karlspreis 1988)
- Joint letter asked to have IGC on EMU and Political Union as well as to transform die „Gesamtheit der Beziehungen zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten in eine Europäische Union“
- Joint four points program

The IGCs

- Role of the presidencies
 - Luxemburg I/1991 (differentiation between EMU/Political Union)
 - The Netherlands II/1991 (linking EMU and Political Union)
- National Representatives:
 - Horst Köhler, state secretary ministry for finance, in charge of IGC on EMU
 - Jürgen Trumpf, state secretary foreign office, in charge of Political Union
- Many question left open for the final summit in Maastricht



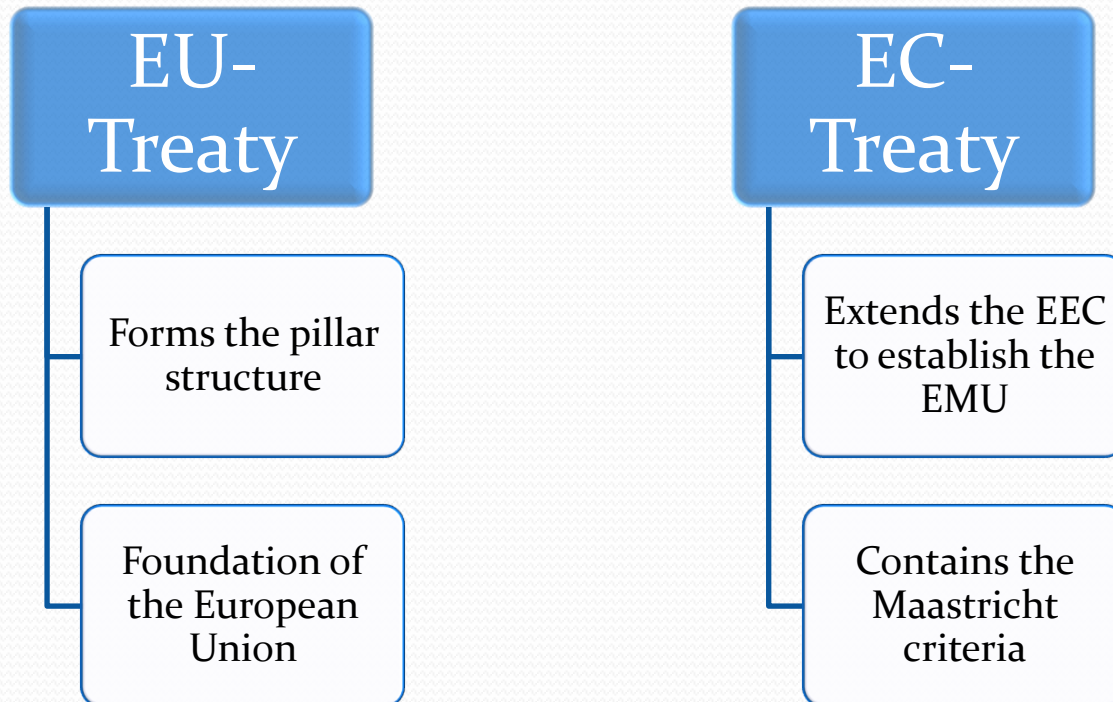
The Summit

- Start: December 9th 1991: Provincie Huis
- 30 hours of negotiations
- Supranational vs. intergovernmental approaches
- Controversial debates on social policies
- First reactions and media coverage: scepticism prevailed
 - Very complex regulations
 - no statements on finalité
 - limited provisions on political union / EPC-CFSP / JHA



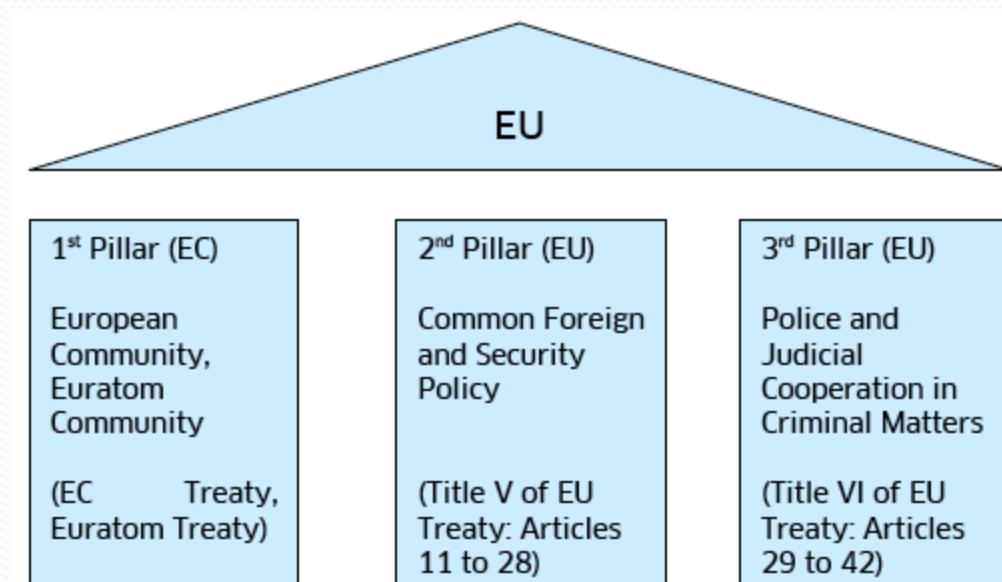
The Maastricht Treaties

Reform of the EC / Invention of the EU



The Maastricht Treaties

The new treaties contributed to the three pillar structure model of the European Union:



Source: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Img/274450/0078524.gif>

The Maastricht Treaties

- Major focus on the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU)
- linked with the the Maastricht criteria and the conditions for a member state to enter the second stage of the EMU in order to have Euro as currency:
 - Inflation rates / Government finance (Annual government deficit, Government debt) / Exchange rate / Long-term interest rates
- Less attention given to Committee of Regions, ombudsman, European citizenship, co-decision procedure, Schengen d'accord

The ratification process

- Higher awareness of people – growing scepticism -> end of the permissive consensus
- Various referenda and parliamentary decisions
- France: referendum quite close
- UK: Major linked decision with motion of confidence

ON THE CANVASS

Sam Taylor

Does Mastrick, Aberdeen, think we should ratify the Maastricht Treaty?

● "I've never given it much thought. I work long hours and I'd rather not have to think about that sort of stuff. That's what we pay the government for, isn't it?"

● "No! It's stupid to suggest that we all abide by the same rules."
Anne Potter, Mastrick
Unemployment worker.

The ratification process

- Denmark: referendum with just 49,3 % in favour
- Special summit in Birmingham in October 1992
- Further negotiations > opt-outs for Denmark
- Second referendum with 56,7 % in favour
- Germany: Constitutional Court addressed > „Staatenverbund“
- Helmut Kohl: April 1992: „United States of Europe“; after ruling of Constitutional Court: „Auf absehbare Zeit ist (...) die Schaffung eines europäischen Bundesstaats keine konsensfähige Zielvorstellung“

Coming into effect

- Special summit in Brussels of heads of State and Government on October 29th 1993
- behind closed doors / no official celebrations, no events in view of a people's Europe

Silent birth of Europerson era

Edward Pilkington

IT LACKED a certain pomp and circumstance compared with other historic breaks with the past, like the start of Robespierre's revolutionary calendar or Year Zero under Pol Pot. But November 1, 1993, may come to be remembered as the dawn of a new era for Europe. Or, then again, it may not.

The European Commission

being: the Citizen Of Europe, or COE.

An inkling of what this brave new world of supnationals might look like could be found yesterday in London's Victoria station, at the terminal of the continental boat-train. You could hardly hear yourself think for foreign languages, while the few Britons among the hordes expressed views that were distinctly Europhile.

Gordon Smith, aged 37,

ried to an English man and has Belgian nationality from a former marriage. She lives in London and commutes to work in Antwerp.

The bulk of the treaty's provisions are so rarefied as to be hardly noticeable to the individual. They include greater collaboration over such matters as education, health, culture, foreign policy and crime.

The most immediate change for the COE next door

Debates

internal vs. external trajectories

political vs. economic forces

deepening vs. widening

German-Franco tandem vs. general interests

National vs. European interests

Debates

Michael J. GEARY, Carine S. GERMOND, Kiran Klaus PATEL

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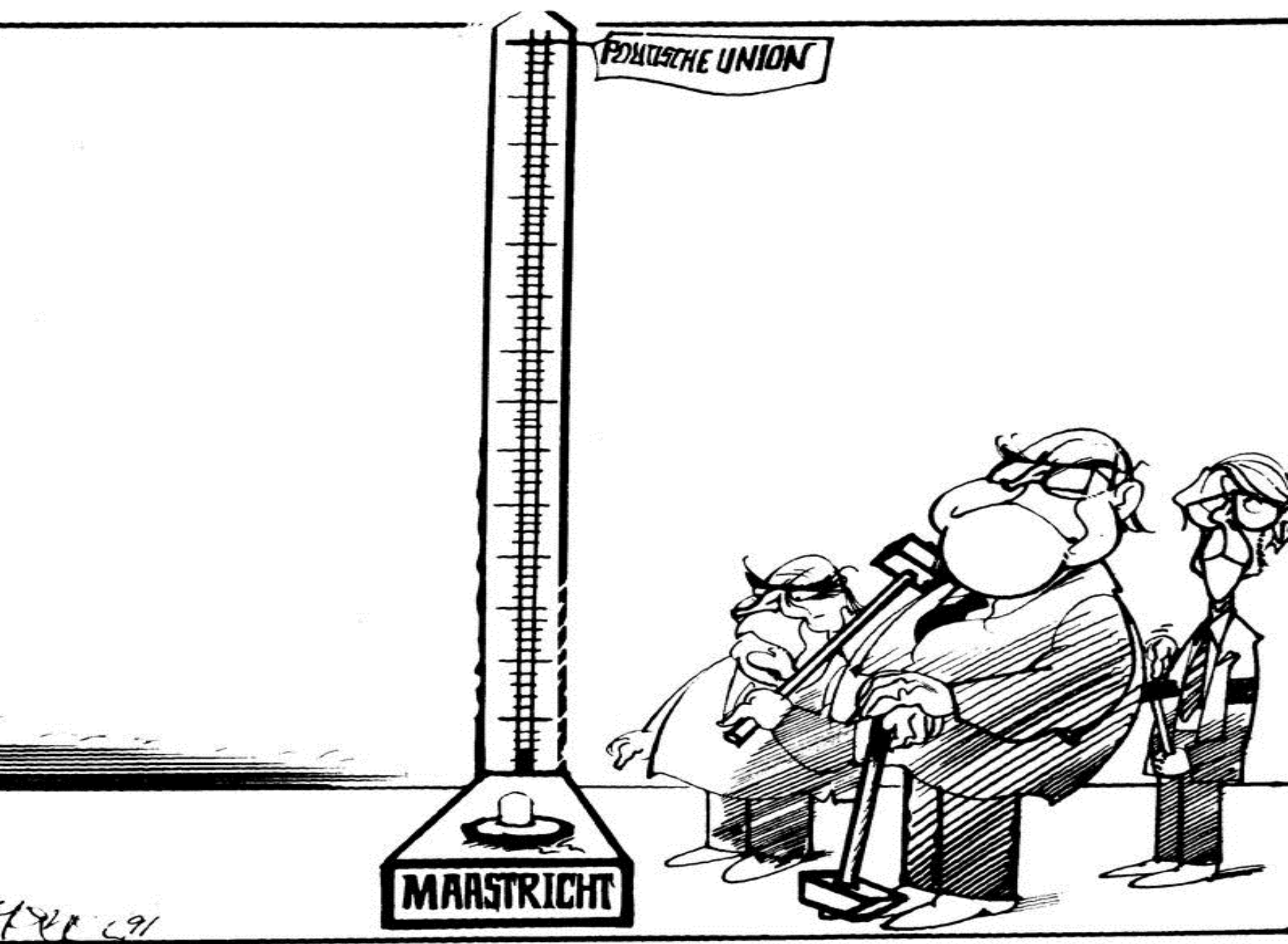
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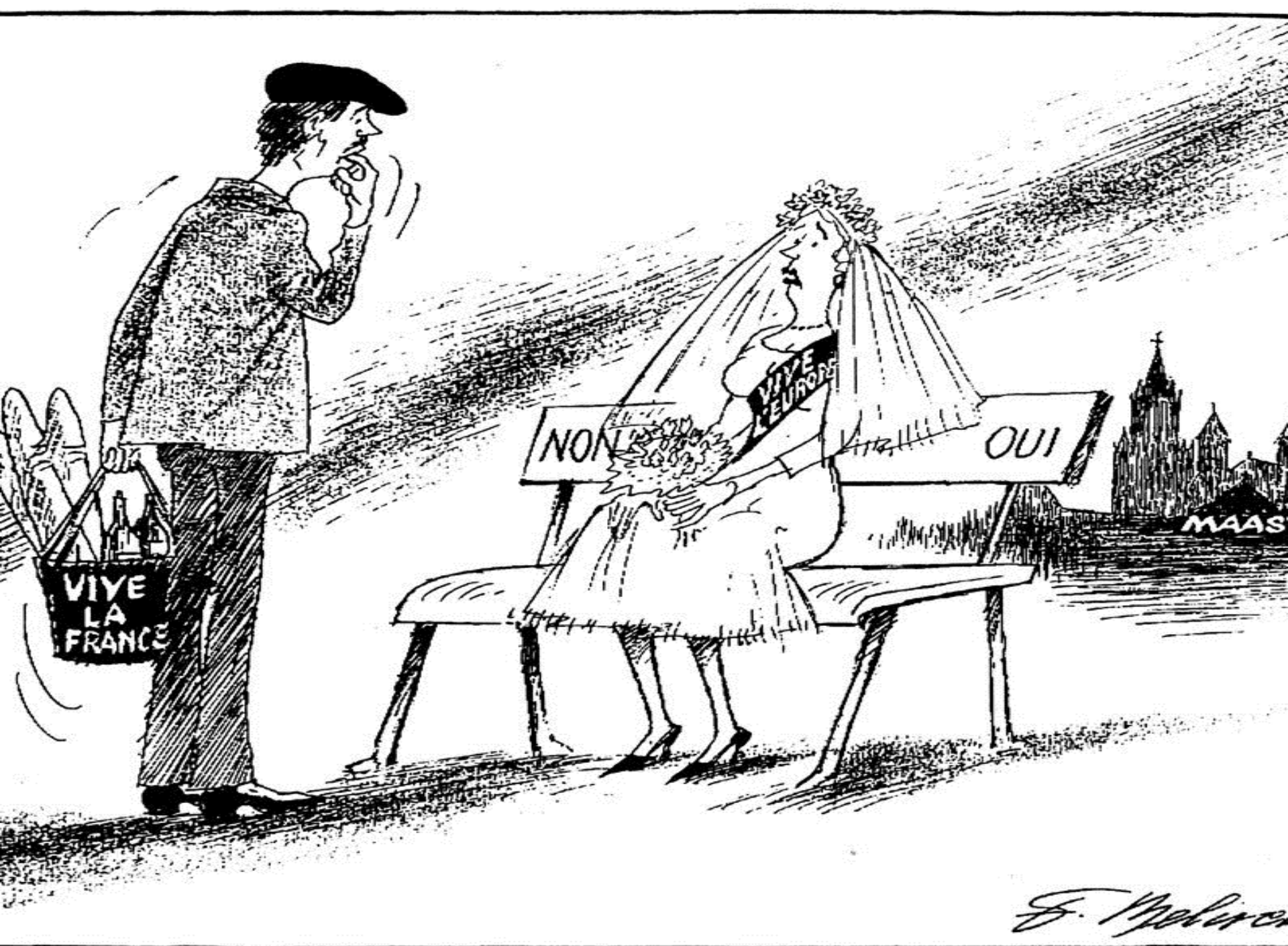
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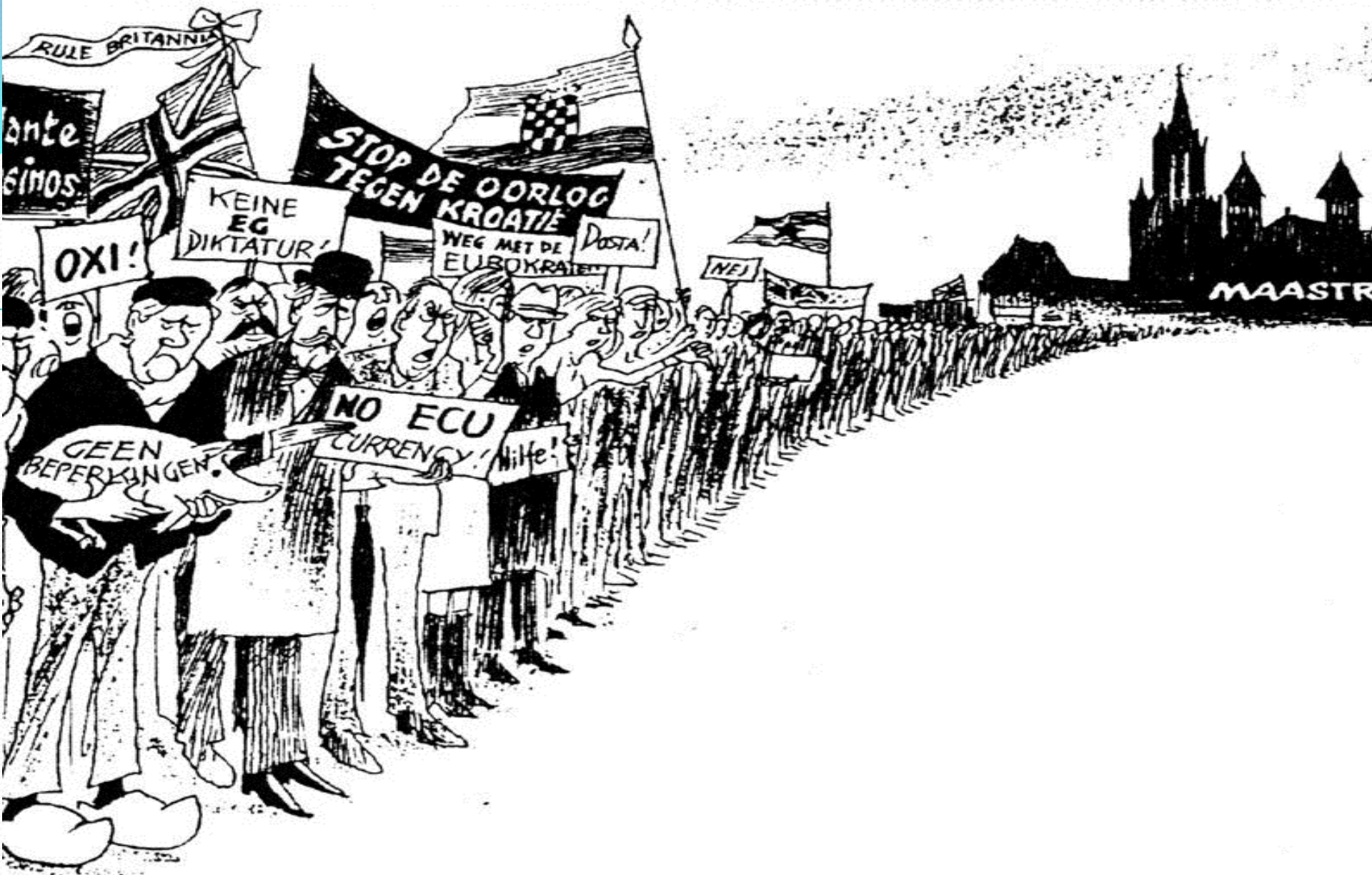
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Maastrichter Freibad







Gavland



Kipper Williams

Maastricht
Restaurant

THERE'S A
GREEK IN
MY SOUP

MAASTRICHT
20
YEARS
TREATY

