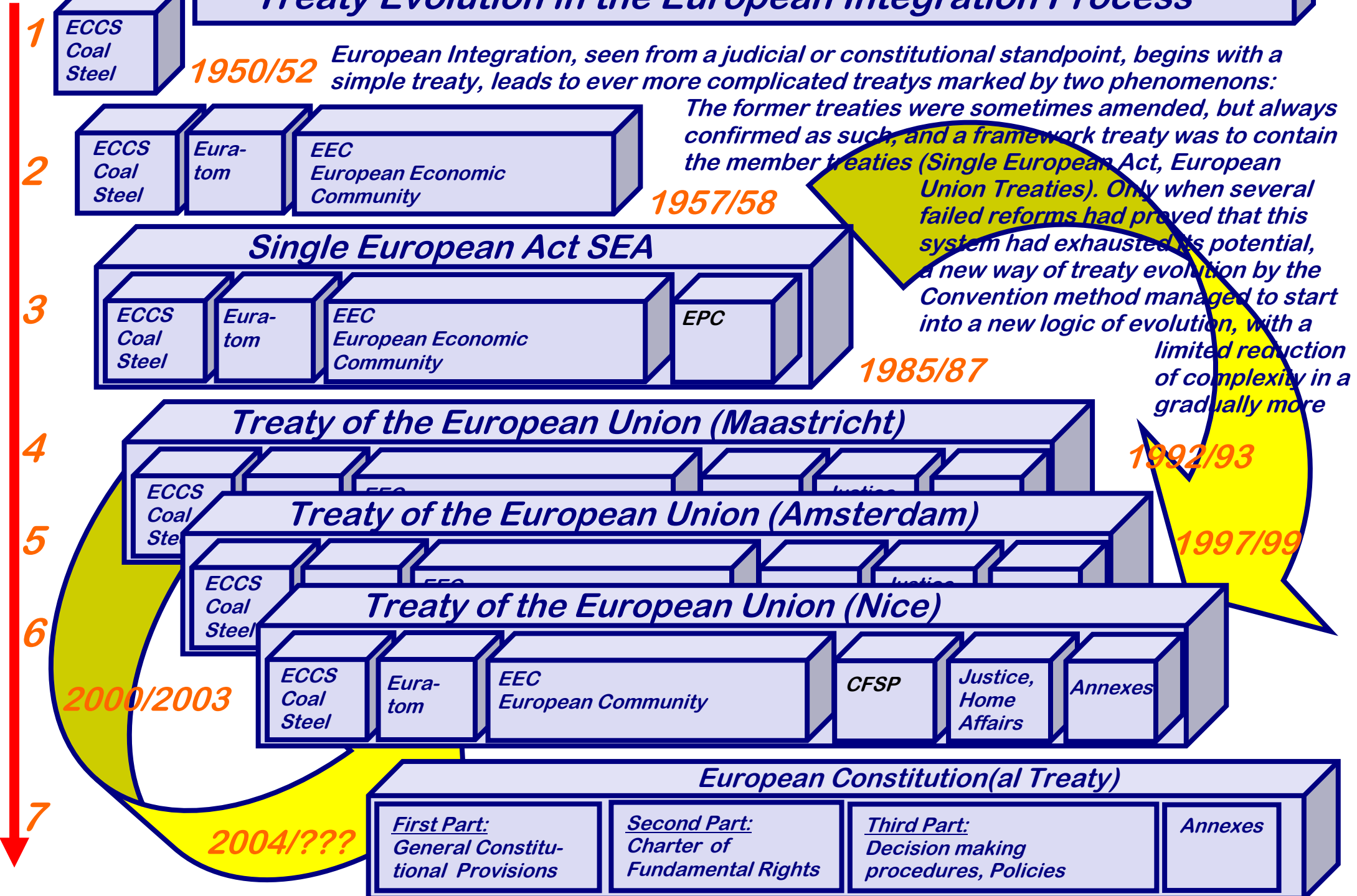
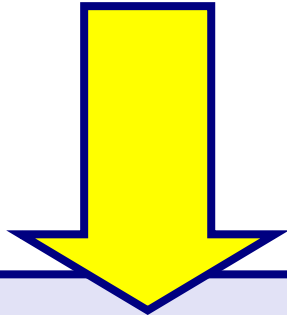


Treaty Evolution in the European Integration Process



1 The project of a European Federation

1948



1950/52

**European
Community
for Coal
and Steel
ECCS**

- *Immediately after the World War, the project of a European Federation emerged and was set on the agenda. Such a federation should guarantee peace in Europe, the existence and evolution of the different varieties of European culture in nations and regions, and independence from the superpowers.*
- *1948, at the Congress of the Hague, all those who pledged for this vision, gathered: Citizens, politicians, officials, associations. The political goal proved to be out of reach: The Nation States insisted on their reborn sovereignty, the United Kingdom encouraged continental integration, but abstained from participating itself.*
- *The alternative to the “Big Bang” was the politics of “small steps”. Instead of a European federal state, a smaller group of six countries agreed on a limited, but efficient “European Community for Coal and Steel” (ECCS).*
- *Coal and Steel were the industries of armement. Their communitarisation made any unilateral preparation of war impossible. In this sense, the choice of these policies for the first step to integration was highly political. Furthermore, the founding fathers (Monnet, Schuman, Adenauer) of the ECCS had the hope that once integration had begun somewhere, other policies would more or less automatically come under pressure for integration as well. Hence, the final aim clearly expressed in the “Schuman Plan” was nevertheless that of a European Federation.*

2 Treaties of the „European Communities“

1950/52

ECCS
Coal
Steel

The ECCS started successfully. Soon, the Coreean War broke out. The next “small step” seemed to impose itself: A “European Defence Community” was launched. The decision about peace or war implies a political union. That is why the treaty on the EDC was embedded in a general European Political Union. So in 1954, already for the second time, the proiect for a European federation was on the agenda.

1950/54

EDC
De-
fence

**European Po-
litical Union
Project**

1954 the EDC failed and with it the Political Union – the French fear of a German rearmement was too important.

A new relaunch aimed at a common agricultural policy (especially important for France) and a common market for industrial products (especially important for Germany). That is the founding deal of the EEC.

The atomic energy was added to he economic community. Europe wanted to demonstrate that it was willing to use the new promising technology not for weapons (as the superpowers, as implied in its own imperialistic history) but for peaceful welfare. However, the diverging energy policies of the member staates never allowed the Euratom Community to come into life.

ECCS
Coal
Steel

**Eura-
tom**

1957/58

EEC
European Economic
Community

3 From three Communities to the “Single European Act”



- The EEC began as successful as the ECSC some years earlier: A Free Trade Area was achieved by the mid of the sixties, a Customs Union came into force by 1968.

1958

The EEC failed however to implement as well the scheduled Common Market. Member states, namely France under de Gaulle, were not ready to give up the political powers and competences required to realize a Common Market.

- Only the competition with the United States and Japan, at the end of the seventies and the beginning of the eighties, obliged the European Nation States to give up their resistance and to go the way to the Common Market.
- The “European Single Act” lays this political will down in a new treaty, fixes a schedule for the way to go (with 1992 as the final date), adds the “European Political Cooperation” (EPC, on foreign affairs) and creates for the first time a common judicial framework for the existing communities.”

1985/
87



4 From the "SEA" to European Union: 1987 – 1991/93

Single European Act SEA

ECCS
Coal
Steel

**Eura-
tom**

EEC
European Economic
Community

EPC
Foreign
Affairs

- This time the preparation of the Common Market is marked by the political will to succeed and induces a proper dynamic leading 1988, when most of the legislative work for "199" is done, to the next ambitious political project: the Monetary Union.

- The challenge of the historical turning point of the year 1989 leads the member states 1991 to introduce a binding schedule for the way to the Monetary Union (as it just had proved successful with the Common Market), to transform the EPC into a real Common Foreign and Security Policy and to cooperate as well in the field of Justice and Home Affairs.
- The new policies and ever more important protocols (e.g. the statute of the European Central Bank) are added to the treaties. They become more and more complicated and merely unreadable. The problem of transparency is from now on crucial for the EU's claim to close the gap between the political system and the citizens.

Treaty of the European Union (Maastricht)

ECCS
Coal
Steel

**Eura-
tom**

EC
European
Community

CFSP
Foreign
Affairs,
Security

**Justice
and
Home
Affairs**

Annexes

4, 5, 6 Treaty Succession without Structural Change 1993 – 2003

Treaty of the European Union (Maastricht)

1991/93



Treaty revisions from Maastricht tried to improve certain provisions, aimed ambitiously at institutional change in order to prepare the EU for enlargement, eliminated painfully certain „left-overs“ of former revisions ...

Treaty of the European Union (Amsterdam)

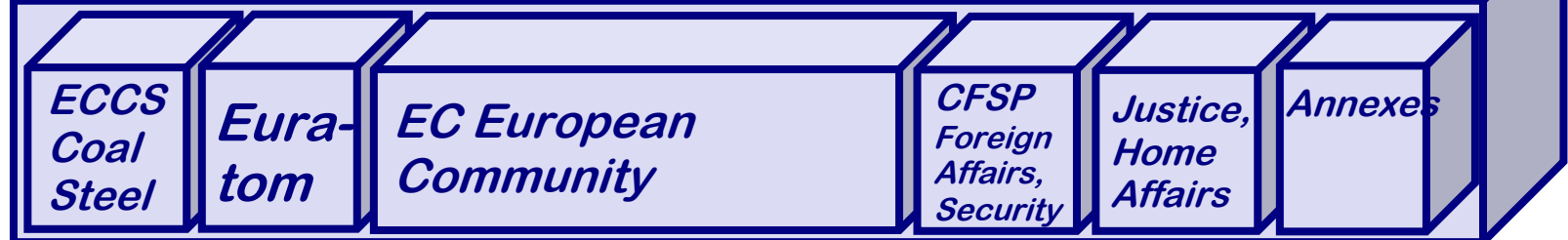
1997/99



... but did no longer reach any important structural change of the treaty framework on the whole: The traditional evolution seems to have come to an end.

2000/2003

Treaty of the European Union (Nice)



7 From the Treaties to a European Constitution 2000 – 2004

Treaty of the European Union (Maastricht, Amsterdam, Nice)



- *The traditional method of treaty reform by means of Intergovernmental Conferences (IGCs) had proved unable to develop the European Union beyond the structure of the EU treaties – it was the method which had to be changed. The heads of state and government, under pressure from the European Parliament, decided to give way to a new reform method, the Convention. This was the new constituent body ambitious enough to interpret its mandate very far and went through to a proposition of a Constitution.*
- *The Constitution replaces the different treaties by one coherent text, reduces the textual quantity of the former treaties to one quarter, reduces the legislative procedures from 16 to 5, introduces a precise list of EU competences, generalizes the co-decision procedure for nearly all legislative functions, strengthens the presidencies of the Commission and the European Council ...*
- *... and nevertheless and even for these reasons is still a complicated text, arrived only at the second trial at the consent of the heads of state and government and still has to make its way through referenda ...*

European Constitution(al Treaty) 2003 - 2005

