

TREATY OF LISBON

The **Treaty of Lisbon** is an international agreement that amends the two treaties which comprise the constitutional basis of the EU. The Lisbon Treaty was signed by the EU member states on 13 December 2007, and entered into force on 1 December 2009.

On March 23, the European Parliament approved a limited treaty change in order to allow the establishment of the European Stability Mechanism. MEPs were satisfied with the 'positive signals' given by the Member States on bringing the intergovernmental mechanism closer to the EU framework.

The stated aim of the treaty was "to complete the process started by the Treaty of Amsterdam and by the Treaty of Nice with a view to enhancing the efficiency and democratic legitimacy of the Union and to improving the coherence of its action".

Its main objectives are to make the EU more democratic, meeting the European citizens' expectations for high standards of accountability, openness, transparency and participation; and to make the EU more efficient and able to tackle today's global challenges such as climate change, security and sustainable development.

After some modifications, the Lisbon Treaty was proposed as an amendment of the existing Treaties which implemented many of the reforms included in the European Constitution.

The agreement on the Treaty of Lisbon followed the discussion about a constitution. A "Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe" was adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Brussels European Council on 17 and 18 June 2004 and signed in Rome on 29 October 2004, but it was never ratified.

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