



THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

# European integration: What future prospects?

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# Overview

- Two decades of change within the EU
- Digesting an EU of 25
- Projects in progress
  - Enlargement
  - Building Europe's economic governance and competitiveness
  - Foreign, security and defence policy
  - The Constitutional Treaty
- What future for the EU?



# A decade of change within the EU

- Completing the blueprint
  - EMU and the euro
  - Foreign and Security Policy
  - Justice and Home Affairs
  - Connecting with the citizen
  - Enlargement
- A developing *Acquis Communautaire*



# Digesting an EU of 25

- From 15 to 25
  - Copenhagen criteria
  - Accession negotiations by chapter
  - The transposition of the *Acquis*
- More little, less big
  - Population
  - Economy
- Institutional architecture remains the same
- New sources of influence in the decision making process



# Projects in progress

- Enlargement
- Building Europe's economic governance and competitiveness
- Foreign, security and defence policy
- The Constitutional Treaty

# Enlargement

- Never off the agenda?
- Enlargement
  - Change in the geopolitics of Europe
  - An end to the cold war limits of enlargement
- Dealing with the consequences of enlargement

# Building Europe's economic governance and competitiveness

- Stability and Growth Pact
- Lisbon Agenda
- Role of the Euro



# Foreign, security and defence policy

- Sustaining a Foreign Economic Policy
- A developing Common Foreign and Security Policy
  - A greater range of instruments
  - Security Strategy
  - New states, new interests
- A developing capacity for military action
  - Operational experience
  - Headline Goal
  - Battle groups
- Common defence equipment procurement





# The Constitutional Treaty

- Convention, IGC and the Constitutional Treaty
- What would the Treaty do?
  - Simplification and streamlining
  - Changes to decision making
  - New positions (European Council President and Foreign Minister)
  - Enhance EU policies
  - Connect with the citizen
- The ratification of the Constitutional Treaty
- Scenarios after the French and Dutch votes



# What future for the EU?

- Larger
- More complicated decision-making processes
- Less competitive?
- More globally active