

The following section is to provide Canadian exporters with an outline of the political, social and economic structure of the European Community (EC) in order to increase the awareness of the functional authority of the EEC Commission in relation to its member countries.

THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

The Framework

The twelve member countries are Belgium, Denmark, France, West Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the UK. Owing to its historical development, the Community is divided into three parts: The European Coal and Steel Community, the European Economic Community and Euratom. Since the merger of the three separate executive bodies on July 1, 1967, they have shared the same institutional framework.

The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) was set up under the Treaty of Paris of 1952 to pool the six nations' coal, steel and iron resources.

The European Economic Community (EEC) was set up by the Treaty of Rome in March 1957. Its main purpose was to achieve a common market in goods and services, but this was always seen as having political as well as economic consequences.

The European Atomic Energy Community, often referred to as Euratom, was set up at the same time under the Treaty of Rome to help provide the Community with an atomic industry to develop the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Single European Act was agreed in December 1985, signed in February 1986 and came into effect in July 1987. It amends the treaties, increasing the role of qualified majority voting and the European Parliament including sections on the environment, research and social affairs.

The UK, Ireland and Denmark became members on January 1, 1973. **Greece** signed the treaty of accession on May 28, 1979, and became the tenth member on January 1, 1981. **Portugal and Spain** applied for membership in 1977, but negotiations were not completed until March 1985. The two countries signed their treaties of accession on June 12, 1985, and became members on January 1, 1986. Turkey applied for membership in April 1987 and Austria in July 1989.