

The EEC has co-operation agreements with Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia which provide free access to the EEC market for industrial goods, and preferential treatment for agricultural products.

In 1971, the EEC established a system of generalized preferences for developing countries permitting duty-free entry of manufactured and semi-finished products and some processed farm goods. Primary products are excluded. Duty-free treatment may be withdrawn if certain historical ceilings are exceeded.

Under the terms of the Lomé Convention, the Community grants duty-free and quota-free entry to all manufactured goods and almost all agricultural products from 60 countries in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific areas (ACP), which were formerly dependent territories of member countries of the Community.

What is Europe 1992?

"Europe 1992" or the Single Market Program, aims to sweep away the remaining internal restrictions on the movement of goods, capital, services and workers to make the EC a truly unified common market. The ambitious undertaking began with a 1985 White Paper that outlines close to 300 pieces of legislation that would need to be passed to completely liberalize trade. These included measures to reduce (1) physical barriers (border customs and immigration controls), (2) technical barriers (technical standards, health and safety requirements, lack of mobility for workers and professionals, etc.), and (3) fiscal barriers, such as different rates of value-added tax in different member states.

As an example of how removing barriers is resulting in increased efficiency, in 1988 a "Single Administrative Document" was introduced to replace the up to 70 forms previously required by truck drivers crossing internal EC borders.

A report by the EC predicts that, provided the entire Single Market Program is implemented, the benefits could mean a 5 per cent increase in gross domestic product (GDP) and two to five million new jobs.

Europe 1992 is an extremely comprehensive program that touches upon almost all aspects of day-to-day EC commercial life. Some areas where the Single Market Program will have an impact are described below.