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## Figure 1: Significant events between 1989 – 2007 (EU and NATO accession)

1989	Fall of the Berlin wall; Fall of communism in all the countries of the Warsaw pact (including Romania), except for the Soviet Union.
1990	Reunification of Germany; A special European Council is held in Dublin, Ireland. It agrees on a common approach on German unification and on the Community relations with Central and Eastern European countries; Agreement establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to provide financial support to Central and Eastern Europe.
1991	Dissolution of Soviet Union; Beginning of Yugoslav wars; "Europe Agreements" are signed with Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.
1992	The Treaty on the EU is signed in Maastricht by the foreign and finance ministers of the Member States; The Council adopts a regulation on the extension of the economic aid programme (PHARE) to Slovenia.
1993	Maastricht Treaty creating the EU and the single European currency; Negotiations on the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden begin in Brussels; Europe Agreement on trade-related matters signed with Romania.
1994	Hungary and Poland formally apply to join the EU; An inaugural conference for a Stability Pact for central and eastern Europe is held in Paris, France.
1995	Austria, Finland and Sweden become members of the EU; European Association Agreements are signed with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania; Romania, Estonia, Lithuania and Slovakia apply to join the EU.
1996	The Czech Republic and Slovenia formally apply to join the EU; The EU signs partnership and co-operation agreements with Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
1997	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC), a post-Cold War NATO institution, is created.
1998	The Europe Agreements with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania enter into force.
1999	An European Council is held in Helsinki, Finland. It decides to open accession negotiations with Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Malta and to recognise Turkey as an applicant country.
2002	Visit of President Bush to Romania; Invitation for Romania to join NATO (Prague summit).
2003	The EU and NATO sign a security pact in Athens, Greece.
2004	<b>Romania joins NATO</b> ; The Accession Treaty enters into force and the EU's biggest enlargement ever becomes a reality with 10 new countries - Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic and Slovenia - together representing more than 100 million citizens.
2007	The <b>EU accession of Romania and Bulgaria</b> raises the number of Member States to 27 and the population within the Union to 492.8 million inhabitants.

*Source: Official information from the institutional websites of the EU ([www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)) and Romanian Government ([www.gov.ro](http://www.gov.ro))*