

1. Reasons for the integration of Portugal in the Common Market

(What I am going to say is a very subjective view with a kind of impressionist touch.)

Before the regime changed the discussion was mostly concentrated on three dichotomies:

- either Europe or the Atlantic (Portugal was also a founding member and very attached to it),
- either Europe or the colonies and places where there was a memory of Portugal's role in the XV/XVI centuries,
- for the few who were in the wavelength of the late 60's, Europe was the equivalent to his patterns of consumption and thus to be rejected while for others the time was ripe for an industrialisation boom (e.g. Sines(?), oil carriers).

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The perception of what was going on in Portugal was also seen through two different perspectives:

- one concentrated its efforts on the question of civic and political freedom, the main questions being then
 - . the political persecution of those who had different ideas and the ever present State police
 - . the existing only of one party

At the same time, J. Callaghan and Helmut Schmidt were actively helping the Socialist Party and convincing the Conservative Party and the CDU to support the right wing parties in Portugal. It became a strategic option.

The links to "Europe" were becoming stronger. So, in the first Constitutional Government the programme contained the decision to ask for adherence to Europe, without saying it was a Common Market. The request was made in 77. In 86, Portugal signed its formal integration in the European Community.

These years were lost in terms of preparation, due partly to the internal turmoil.

Pragmatic reasons for integration



Besides the "strategic" reason, there were other important elements. The 4 elements that constitute the free circulation in Europe had become most important for Portugal:

- a) the experience of clandestine emigration during the war and the continuation of such movement of people led to with the free circulation for its workers;
- b) the loss of the goods coming from Africa were going to increase the trade with Europe, .x. free circulation for goods;

- c) the need for reinforcement of foreign investment pointed out towards the free circulation of capital.

The transition years

There was during the first years a sense that the integration was positive: money starting coming in and several important undertakings were on the way with the help of the EEC.

But the lack of preparation didn't allow for a maximum advantage from the integration.

The Structural Funds were fully used:

- the infra-structures (mainly roads and highways) are now over-abundant, the railways were reduced - pollution increased and those who had no car were left in the interior without connections.

The Regional funds were in some cases well used, depending on the criteria of the mayor, such a function having a long tradition in Portugal.

In the first years, many works were undertaken without the necessary study of the environmental impact, which is a condition of the .???. funds.



Moreover, none of the projects had consequences for the people, but we don't have yet in the EU, an analysis of the social impact of the projects.

In fact, in my country, projects are made for a man, full of vitality, successful and fit, naturally from the middle class.

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This leads me to the organization and functioning of the institutions of the EU.

At this level, there are the same (if not bigger) shortcomings of the UNO. In some way, this does not help the Member States to improve and to be accurate in their dealings with the European institutions.

To some extent, the level of payments by the European institutions has caused a decrease in the volunteer service.

Portugal as a full member

When we look back, there are two fields in which the difficulties are serious: agriculture and fisheries.

1. Most of all, because of the fact that it is a scandal to leave the land uncultivated and to reduce the quota for fish when



30% of the people are still considered poor, (not necessarily starving!).

2. Because the rural tissue is disappearing. You go and see old villages empty, the human desertification of many beautiful areas. Young people don't stay.

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