

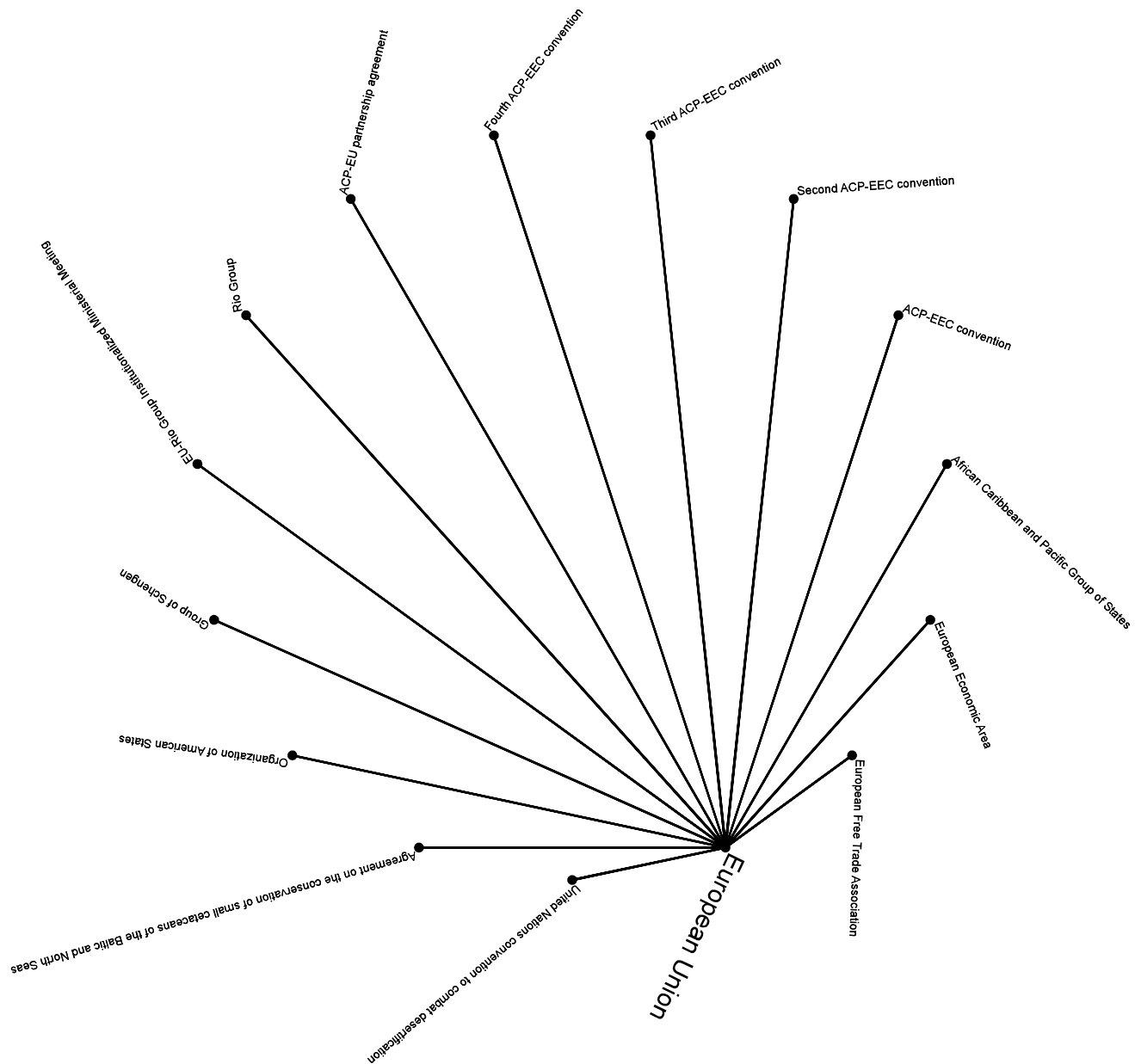
Figure 10.1.2. European Union (EU)

Database: International Organizations

Link type: IGO relations

Network nodes: 15

UIA database: <http://db.uia.org/scripts/sweb.dll/uiaf?DD=OR&CL=2&DR=F2147>



According to Article B of the Maastricht Treaty, the Union should set itself the following objectives: promote economic and social progress which is balanced and sustainable, in particular through the creation of an area without internal frontiers, through the strengthening of economic and social cohesion and through the establishment of economic and monetary union, ultimately including a single currency in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty; assert its identity on the international scene, in particular through the implementation of a common foreign policy and security policy including the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence; strengthen the protection of the rights and interests of the nationals of its member states through the introduction of a citizenship of the Union; develop close cooperation on justice and home affairs; maintain in full the 'acquis communautaire' and build on it with a view to considering to what extent the policies and forms of cooperation introduced by this Treaty may need to be revised with the aim of ensuring the effectiveness of the mechanisms and the institutions of the Community. The objectives of the Union should be achieved as provided in the Treaty and in accordance with the condition of the timetable set out therein while respecting the principle of subsidiarity. Article C indicates that the Union should in particular ensure the consistency of its external activities as a whole in the context of its external relations, security, economic and development policies. The Treaty of Amsterdam, which supersedes the Maastricht Treaty, incorporates a number of changes, in particular representing progress on the rights of individuals and citizens. Its 4 main objectives are to: place employment and citizens' rights at the heart of the Union; remove the last remaining obstacles to freedom of movement and strengthen security; give Europe a stronger voice in world affairs; make EU institutional structure more efficient, with a view to enlarging the Union with the inclusion of new member states.