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Europe is in the midst of a big step toward economic unity. This year marks the creation of the European Community's single market, and at least five countries are expected soon to join the 12 current members. The implications for science of this trend toward a more tightly knit Europe are explored in a special news report section (pages 457 to 477) and in a series of Perspectives from leading figures in European science (pages 478 to 488). [Illustration: Bill Firestone]