

Brussels,

IP(63)118

PRESS RELEASE

Extract from address by President of EEC Commission,
Professor Walter Hallstein, to European Parliament
in Strasbourg on June 26, 1963

I. The European Economic Community has supplied the appropriate political form for a unique forward development of the European economy and in so doing has immeasurably strengthened this development. This was no mere natural phenomenon but the fruit of deep reflection and an unswerving political will.

American policy answered the challenge which this situation involved with rapid insight, imagination and great political strength of purpose. I know no better words to express the historical meaning of this answer than those President Kennedy used in his Philadelphia speech on American Independence Day, July 4, 1962 and convincingly underlined yesterday in Frankfurt:

"We do not regard a strong and united Europe as a rival, but a partner. To aid its progress has been the basic object of our foreign policy for seventeen years.

We believe that a united Europe will be capable of playing a greater role in the common defence, of responding more generously to the needs of poorer nations, of joining with the United States and others in lowering trade barriers, resolving problems of commodities and currency and developing co-ordinated policies in all economic, political and diplomatic areas.

We see in such a Europe a partner with whom we can deal on a basis of full equality in all the great and burdensome tasks of building and defending a community of free nations."

What does this mean basically?

It means nothing less than a recognition that the United States is prepared to share - and is already sharing - the position of world power which it is the only nation in the free world to possess with a Europe which is increasingly assuming economic and political proportions comparable to its own, is ready to accept the principle of equality in this partnership, and wishes to collaborate with an organized Europe in mastering common problems and world problems. Our answer to this can only be in the affirmative.

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This follows from our constitution, the Treaty of Rome, which, far from conceiving of our Community as an entity depending only on itself and shut off from the rest of the world, and organizing it as such, rather sees the meaning of this Community in a twofold achievement: on the one hand in the building of an edifice - first of an economic and later of a general political nature - with continental dimensions, on the scale of the space age which we are nearing with giant steps, and, on the other hand, in the active and constructive participation of this newly organized Europe in a development of relationships between peoples and individuals in keeping with the ideals which lie at the root of our Community itself - the ideals of peace, freedom, individual responsibility, competition and solidarity, in particular with the under-developed countries.

II. These two aspects of our nature - that we cohere internally and are open to the world and turned towards the world - are inseparable from each other. If any proof of this were still needed it would be furnished by the forthcoming negotiations with the United States. They too render imperative the need which the internal development of the Community already lays upon us, i.e. to strengthen the internal structure of our Community. Those who like the word can call this an urge towards "political union". We know that this union includes two elements. The first is the extension of a process of European political unification beyond economic and social policy into the fields of defence policy and diplomacy. It is no mere chance that in recent months discussions in the Atlantic context on military and defence policy have centred on the question of how Europe's role may be altered in the direction of a better balance of responsibilities between Europeans and Americans. On the contrary this is a new indication that all European unity is nurtured from one and the same political and psychological source, i.e. the need to prepare ourselves through unity of political form for a common destiny, to stand fast and strive together.

The second element of what is known as the political union is a constitutional reform of our Community. When the Third General Report was submitted to this House just three years ago I took the liberty of comparing our constitutional order with one of these gigantic modern edifices such as daring modern architects build, a powerful mass reposing on a hollow steel joint. At that time I indicated the tests of strength which were awaiting us and said:

"The agricultural policy affects the foundations of long-established positions of ownership; the competition policy lays bare the meanest devices for protecting one's own nationals against competition and the cyclical policy the most seductive expression of the false sovereignty of national States in economic matters. Measured by these requirements our institutional structure is the absolute minimum necessary to exist at all."

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Those remarks are even more pertinent today. That these facts are generally recognized is shown by the revival of the discussion about organizational improvements to our Community. By this I mean that the question of a unified Commission for all three Communities has again been brought to the fore and that in this meeting we still have before us the weighty report presented by Herr Furler on behalf of the Political Committee on the strengthening of the competence and powers of the European Parliament.

Whatever all these suggestions and exertions may lead to in the immediate future, one thing is certain: we will need to gird up our strength to the utmost and act in the closest solidarity if we are to stand the test which faces us at this halfway point in the twelve-year build-up of our Community.