

European Community



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COMMUNIQUE

"A GREAT FATHER OF EUROPE IS DEAD"

Jenkins Pays Tribute to Jean Monnet

In a tribute to Jean Monnet, a "founding father" of the EC, who died, aged 90, on 16 March at his home outside Paris, EC Commission President Roy Jenkins said:

"It is difficult to imagine Europe without Jean Monnet. His death is a great sadness for the European Community and for all those who over a generation and more have sought to give effect to the European idea. No-one contributed more than Jean Monnet to the founding and construction of the Community. No-one shared his unique combination of imaginative thinking and practical creation. He had moments of frustration and disappointment, but he never lost his faith or hope in Europe, his resourcefulness in finding new routes forward.

"In the last few months the Community has once more been on the move. And Jean Monnet himself was well aware of it. That we should have recovered a sense of momentum is the best tribute we could have paid to the inspiration and impetus which he gave our endeavours for more than thirty years. A great father of Europe is dead. But the Community is very much alive and will remain his greatest memorial".

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