



**European
Community**

PRESS RELEASE

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ECSC CELEBRATES 20TH BIRTHDAY

WASHINGTON, September 19 -- "Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single, general plan. It will be built through concrete achievements...." This declaration on May 9, 1950, by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, launched the idea of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) which was born -- 20 years ago.

At commemorative ceremonies today in Luxembourg, European Commission Vice President Carlo Scarascia-Mugnozza said the ECSC architects "should feel proud of having been the first interpreters of the new European spirit."

The Commission Vice President declared, "We can all be proud of having made our Continent an island of peace and well-being in a world of violence, but we realize that our problems cannot be isolated from those of the rest of the world. May the next 20 years see the enlarged Community's consolidation so that it can play its proper role in our century's tumultuous history." For special praise, he singled out Albert Coppe, currently a member of the EC Commission, an original member of the ECSC High Authority, and one of the participants in the twentieth anniversary ceremonies.

The Treaty creating the ECSC was signed in Paris on April 18, 1951, by Belgium, Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, and went into force in 1952. Because of the ECSC's success, six years later the same six nations joined together to form the European Economic Community

(EEC) and European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom). In 1965, the institutions of the three Communities were merged. On January 1, 1973, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark, and Norway are scheduled to become members.

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