



**European  
Community**

# PRESS RELEASE

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## THEN AND NOW -- TWENTY YEARS AFTER THE SCHUMAN PLAN DECLARATION

Following the proposal by French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman on May 9, 1950, to pool Europe's coal and steel production, the European Coal and Steel Community was set up in 1952. There followed a period of rapid growth, not only for the common market for coal and steel but also for the two sister common markets set up in 1958: the Atomic Energy Community and the Economic Community.

The Community, whose member states are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, is one of the fastest growing economic areas in the western world. Since 1952, crude steel production has more than doubled, from 42 million metric tons to 98.6 million tons in 1968. Similarly, the six countries' gross national product has grown 356 per cent between 1952 and 1968, compared with GNP growth in the United States of 200 per cent, and per capita GNP has grown by 290 per cent, compared to the United States' 131 per cent.

The Community also remains the world's largest trading unit, importing goods worth \$33.5 billion from the rest of the world in 1968, nearly three times as much as in 1952, and exporting \$35.3 billion to the rest of the world, again more than three times that of 1952.

The United States is one of the Community's main customers. Community imports from the United States have grown 256 per cent between 1953 and 1968. And, although Community exports to the United States have grown by 406 per cent during the same period, the United States in 1968 still retained a balance of trade surplus with the Community of \$600 million.

Attached are key statistics showing the growth of the Six since the first Community was established.

<u>GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>Growth</u>
Community	\$ 83.5 Billion	\$ 381. Billion	356%
United States	288.3	866	200%
<u>PER CAPITA GNP</u>			
Community	\$ 528.00	2055.00	290%
United States	1848.00	4278.00	131%
<u>POPULATION</u>			
Community	159 million	185.8 million	17%
United States	158	199.8	26%
<u>ACTIVE POPULATION</u>			
Community	74 million	73.9 million	0%
United States	66	82.2	25%
<u>CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION</u>			
Community	41.9 million metric tons	98.6 million metric tons	135%
United States	84.5	121.9	44%
<u>TRADE WITH THE WORLD</u>			
Community Imports from World	\$ 11.7 Billion	\$ 33.5 Billion	
U.S. Imports from World	10.7	33.0	
Community Exports to World	10.3 Billion	35.3 Billion	
U.S. Exports to World	15.2	33.9	
<u>PERCENT OF WORLD TRADE</u>			
Community Imports	14.8%	17.1%	
United States Imports	13.5%	16.9%	
Community Exports	14.3%	19.3%	
United States Exports	21.0%	18.6%	
<u>TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>Growth</u>
Community Imports from the U.S.	\$ 1.7 Billion	6.4 Billion	256%
Community Exports to U.S.	1.1	5.8	406%