



**European
Community**

PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY INFORMATION SERVICE

2100 M Street Northwest, Suite 707, Washington D.C. 20037 • Telephone: (202) 296-5131

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

QUOTES BY STATESMEN ON EUROPEAN UNITY

In addition to Robert Schuman, there have been a number of statesmen who have participated in creating the European Community and who have supported the drive for European integration. Following are brief quotations from some of the chief architects and supporters of European unity after World War II.

"There can be no revival of Europe without a spiritually great France and a spiritually great Germany. The structure of the United States of Europe, if well and truly built, will be such as to make the material strength of a single state less important."

Winston Churchill, 1946

"There has been a growing conviction that it is in the deepest interests of the United States that Europe should again become a living, workable and independent economic and political organization.... New patterns of intra-European trade and exchange must be found and new directions in the use of Europe's resources. These are made necessary not alone by the drastic consequences of two wars, but also by the tides of change that run longer and deeper."

Paul G. Hoffman, 1948

"If Europe does not organize itself, if it remains splintered up in several states, ...if it does not seek new economic forms, it will fall into decadence...."

Paul-Henri Spaak, 1948

"A lasting peace between France and Germany can only be attained through the establishment of a community of economic interests between the two countries."

Konrad Adenauer, 1950

"Mr. Schuman's proposal is an act of constructive statesmanship. We welcome it. ...This proposal provides a basis for establishing an entirely new relationship between France and Germany and opens a new outlook for Europe."

Harry S. Truman, 1950

"The Community should be conceived on the supranational principle, a principle entirely different from the international principle."

Robert Schuman, 1953

"My experience in Europe convinced me that the uniting of Europe is a necessity for the peace and prosperity of Europeans and of the world. ...This Community seems to me to be the most hopeful and constructive development so far toward the economic and political integration of Europe."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1954

"We do not regard a strong and united Europe as a rival but as a partner. ...We believe that a united Europe will be capable of playing a greater role in the common defense, 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 currency and commodities, and developing coordinated policies in all other economic, diplomatic, and political areas."

John F. Kennedy, 1962

"In America, as I believe in Europe, the hope has been that a Europe strengthened by the habit and practice of acting jointly upon its problems, seen as common problems, would raise its vision still further to conceive itself as part of a still larger whole."

Dean Acheson, 1963

"I pledge America's best efforts: to achieve new thrust for the [Atlantic] Alliance, to support movement toward Western European unity, and to bring about a far-reaching improvement in relations between East and West. Our object is to end the bitter legacy of World War II."

Lyndon B. Johnson, 1966

"The Common Market is a process, not a product. Europe is on the way to achieving economic unity, but we must have no doubt that in due course it will move towards unity in foreign policy and defense. What is gradually emerging is a great new entity -- the United States of Europe."

Jean Monnet, 1967

"The idea of unity has come to be a living reality in the European Economic Community. The enlargement of the Community will now, after many years of stagnation, advance. The concept of a united Europe is not only intended to put an end once and for all to the era of intra-European strife, it is also to enable Western Europe to stand on her own feet. Only in this way can we become partners and end the necessity of still receiving partial support from outside.

"European unity is and remains the hub of a forward-looking policy designed to safeguard peace. ...Today I can give a clear answer to the often asked question whether this process toward unity advances: yes, it does, we do progress."

Willy Brandt, 1970

"We favor a definition by Western Europe of a distinct identity, for the sake of its own continued vitality and independence of spirit. Our support for the strengthening and broadening of the European Community has not diminished. We recognize that our interests will necessarily be affected by Europe's evolution, and we may have to make sacrifices in the common interest. We consider that the possible economic price of a truly unified Europe is outweighed by the gain in political vitality of the West as a whole."

Richard M. Nixon, 1970

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