

EUROPEAN COAL & STEEL COMMUNITY
HIGH AUTHORITY
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The High Authority's reply to written question number 50,
posed by M. Michel Debré, member of Common Assembly

The High Authority of the E.C.S.C. has noted the account given in "Agence Europe" on July 18, 1957, of the statement made by Herr Heinrich Deist, member of the Common Assembly, to the Annual General Meeting of the Hans-Böckler Company in Düsseldorf concerning the trend towards concentration in the German economy. The High Authority also possesses the text of this statement. Applications for authorization made to the High Authority have enabled it to note that certain concentrations of this nature are in effect planned.

The High Authority does not consider itself entitled to give information related to authorization applications which are in course of examination. With regard to simple intentions of concentration announced in speeches or to the press, but which have not been the subject of a demand for authorization, it considers that their problematic nature makes it impossible for it to form at this moment a view of the situation which would pre-judge its definite conclusions.

The High Authority is, however, ready to state that a re-constitution of the Vereinigte Stahlwerke, which was deconcentrated by the allies, could not be authorized if a demand for authorization were submitted. On the other hand, it should not therefore be concluded from this statement that authorization would be granted for concentrations of lesser magnitude in the field of steel production: this would notably not be the case if these concentrations enabled a group to acquire a dominating position on the market for a more specialised product.