

## 'The Six have signed the Treaties establishing Euratom and the Common Market' from Le Soir (26 March 1957)

**Caption:** On 26 March 1957, the Belgian daily newspaper Le Soir describes the proceedings at and the atmosphere of the ceremony, held in Rome the day before, to mark the signing of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom), and emphasises, in particular, the tribute paid to the Belgian Foreign Minister, Paul-Henri Spaak.

**Source:** Le Soir. 26.03.1957, n° 85; 71e année. Bruxelles: S.A. Rossel. "Les "Six" ont signé les traités de l'Euratom et du Marché commun", auteur:Rebuffat, Charles , p. 1; 3.

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## To the peal of the Capitol's bells

### The Six have signed the Treaties establishing Euratom and the Common Market

**Mr Spaak said ‘This time, the men of the West have neither lacked courage nor acted too late.’**

At exactly 6.50 p.m. this Monday, in the Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii in the Capitol in Rome, Mr Paul-Henri Spaak was the first to sign the treaties which established an economic community and an atomic energy community among the six countries of Little Europe. While Mr Kalmes and Mr Guazruli, senior officials in the European Coal and Steel Community, were handing over to him the documents bound in blue morocco, the bells in the bell tower of the illustrious Town Hall began to ring out with all their might to announce to the world that ‘the birth certificate’ of the United States of Europe, as the Italian commentators put it, was being completed. Outside, at the foot of the statue of Marcus Aurelius, a hundred diehard onlookers, who had not been put off by a torrential rain, added their cheers to the peals of the bells.

The birth certificate, to continue with the metaphor, was signed by the following witnesses in addition to Mr Spaak: for Belgium, Baron Snoy et d’Oppuers, Secretary-General at the Ministry of Economic Affairs; for France by Mr Christian Pineau, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Maurice Faure, Junior Minister in that Ministry; for Italy by Mr Segni, President of the Council, and Mr Gaetano Martino, Minister for Foreign Affairs; for Germany by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Mr Walter Hallstein, Junior Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; for Luxembourg by Mr Joseph Bech, Prime Minister, and Mr Lambert Schaus, Ambassador to Brussels; finally, for the Netherlands by Mr Joseph Luns, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr Homan, head of the Netherlands delegation to the negotiations.

At that moment, made even more solemn by the spectacular splendour of the setting, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs could no longer hide his emotions. Virtually exhausted by the long battle he had waged for European unity, and still not completely recovered from his recent illness, Mr Spaak gave in to a few seconds of very human if not diplomatic weakness when his principal colleagues, who had fought tirelessly at his side, rose spontaneously to congratulate him. They included, apart from Baron Snoy, Mr Rothschild, Head of Spaak’s Private Office; Mr Hupperts, Minister plenipotentiary; Mr Van der Meulen and Mr Van Tichelen, Directors-General at the Ministry of Economic Affairs; Mr Staner, Royal Inspector of the Colonies, as well as Mr De Staercke, Belgium’s permanent delegate to NATO.

Mr Spaak was, however, the hero of this historic hour. All his colleagues, without reservation, made a point of paying tribute to his tireless efforts for the common goal.

But all the onlookers — diplomats, eminent Italian politicians, journalists, radio reporters, together with a hectic crowd of cameramen — will have been struck by the warm praise which Chancellor Adenauer gave him and which he concluded with words revived from Ancient Rome: ‘The Statesman Paul-Henri Spaak has deserved well of Europe.’

Rome, 25 March

Charles Rebuffat

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