

Memorandum from the European Directorate of the French Foreign Ministry (1 July 1957)

Caption: In July 1957, the European Directorate of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs comments on the procedure for the ratification in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) — on 3 May 1957 by the Bundesrat and on 5 July by the Bundestag — of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom), signed on 25 March 1957 in Rome by the representatives of the six Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

Source: Ministère des Affaires étrangères; Commission de publication des DDF (sous la dir.). Documents diplomatiques français. Volume I: 1957, 1er juillet-31 décembre, Annexes. Paris: Imprimerie nationale, [s.d.]. p. 5-7.

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Note from the European Directorate

Ratification of the Rome treaties by the five partners of France

Paris, 1st July 1957

A. *Germany*

1. On 3 May, the Bundesrat unanimously approved the Treaties

During the brief debate that preceded the vote, no objection to Euratom was raised.

With regard to the European Economic Community, the rapporteur deliberately drew attention to the declaration made by the Head of the German Delegation to Brussels according to which Germany reserved the right to request a review of the Treaties, should reunification take place; these could either be extended to East Germany, completely abandoned or simply amended.

The rapporteur also stressed the importance of the Protocol on German internal trade and the Joint Declaration on Berlin.

He did not hide the fact that important concessions had been made to accommodate the French. He also noted that it was difficult to imagine a common trade policy without the harmonisation of monetary and economic policies.

With respect to the Overseas Territories, the rapporteur admitted that the preference established within the Common Market would hinder German trade with the rest of the world. He was also very aware of political objections (links with an outmoded colonialism), but he thought that guarantees had been secured on this score (references made to the principles of the United Nations, the terms for the establishment of the European Development Fund).

The Socialist Prime Minister of Hesse, Georg Zihn, repeated these objections, but he, too, eventually gave his agreement.

In the resolution that was adopted to approve the Treaty, the Bundesrat stressed that the wording was still not entirely satisfactory and that some of the provisions were barely compatible with its aims; it also stated that Member States should gear economic and monetary policy to the attainment of common objectives and that it was necessary to organise a free trade zone.

2. Bundestag

At first reading, on 9 May, the Bundestag decided to set up a special committee which concluded its review of the Treaties on 28 June.

The great unknown was the stance to be taken by the Socialist Party. Erich Ollenhauer had stated during a press conference on 7 June that the Socialist Party thought that it would be preferable for the next Bundestag, to be constituted after the 15 September elections, to take a decision on the Treaties.

The Government and the ruling Party are no less resolute in their intention to have the Treaties approved by

the present Bundestag.

On 24 June, the parliamentary party of the SPD met to consider its position. The discussion was lengthy and painstaking. The opponents of a 'yes' vote, in particular Mr Werner, attacked the 'colonial' aspect of the Treaty. However, this objection was overcome, thanks to a particularly strong response from Carlo Schmid. The Party decided by a large majority to vote in favour of both Treaties and to impose the Party whip.

The special Bundestag committee completed its work on 28 June, coming down in favour of the approval of both Treaties. Only the representatives of the Liberal Party (FDP) abstained, because they had not officially adopted a specific position.

The Commission called on the Federal Government not to deposit the instruments of ratification until the parliaments of the other signatory states had approved the Treaties and Parliament had been given the power of scrutiny with regard to the Government's decisions relating to the application of the Common Market Treaty.

The second and third readings and the vote will take place on 4 July, the day before the Bundestag's final working day.

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