

'The forgotten story of the plan for a European Political Community', from Communauté européenne (August-September 1968)

Caption: On 31 August 1954, the French National Assembly refuses to ratify the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community (EDC) which results in the abandonment of the European Political Community (EPC) project. In 1968, the federalist journalist, Jean-Pierre Gouzy, tries to understand the reasons for this failure.

Source: Communauté européenne. dir. de publ. Fontaine, François ; Réd. Chef Chastenet, Antoine. 08.-09.1968, n° 121-122. Paris: Service d'Information des Communautés Européennes. "L'histoire oubliée du projet de Communauté politique européenne", auteur:Gouzy, Jean-Pierre , p. 28.

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The forgotten story of the plan for a European Political Community

[...]

Moral of a story

The *ad hoc* Assembly's plans for a European Political Community gave rise to fiery debates in certain European circles and amongst federalists, but political literature contemporary with the events referred to in this article reveal that the public was aware of only one aspect of the debate: the controversies surrounding German rearmament and the questionable virtues of the European Defence Community. We would be curious to know who – apart from the enthusiasts who have closely followed the meanderings of European integration over the last fifteen years – is today aware of the political episode briefly summarised above? We ask, not because we wish to pass judgment, but for the simple reason that, in the minds of today's 'Europeans', it does not even seem to have existed.

If, in this respect, we had to draw up a treaty, we could do so in the manner of Saint-Simon who entitled his plan for the United States of Europe '*On the Reorganisation of European Society, or the need to unite the peoples of Europe in one political body, while preserving national independence for each one*': we could tell the unknown story of the '*unfortunate project for a European statute that subjected first generation communities to a European civil power which derived from the States and was based on representation of the people*', a story that ought to be written in order to clarify certain subsequent events.

Jean-Pierre Gouzy