

'A united Europe will be democratic' from the Bulletin de la Communauté économique européenne

Caption: In 1962, in the Bulletin de la Communauté économique européenne, Jean Monnet, former President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), urges Member States to create a united, democratic and social Europe.

Source: Bulletin de la Communauté économique européenne. dir. de publ. Communauté économique européenne. Mars 1962, n° 3. Luxembourg: Office des publications officielles des Communautés européennes.

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A united Europe will be democratic

by Jean Monnet

Recently, we have again experienced what was termed a state of equilibrium worldwide. That equilibrium had its foundations at national level. It was, in essence, a matter of preserving the established order. However, this proved to be impossible.

The countries of Europe were on the point of losing everything, with some countries seeking domination and others seeking absolute security.

Seeking security through superiority is to lead nations headlong into catastrophe, for superiority is limitless, and what is limitless cannot be achieved by man.

It is no longer a question of preservation, rather of transformation, of establishing a new peaceful world order based on equality and from which the notion of superiority has been abolished.

We are beset by problems on all sides – from Europe, Asia and Africa – no one can claim to be able to foresee how they will be resolved. What we can do is prepare the ground for evolution, for peaceful transformation.

It seems to me that the path along which the West is travelling, if pursued, will enable this to come to fruition, as Europe unites and establishes an equal partnership with the United States, and both countries, together, seek, with the USSR, permanent foundations for peaceful coexistence.

If the citizens of our countries are able to pursue, understand and support this common interest, we must create the conditions which will progressively change their attitudes and their conduct towards others; national problems must be shared. This can be done and achieved only through the adoption of common laws and institutions.

All this is almost blatantly obvious to us within our own countries. But, only very recently, have we begun to acknowledge in our international relations the truth which we recognise in the relationships between peoples within our own borders: force will not prevail, and differences of opinion must be regulated according to shared rules drawn up by common institutions.

Although our European institutions are currently limited to economic affairs, they nevertheless duly represent the beginning of the United States of Europe.

[...]

Step by step, the way in which European peoples conduct themselves towards each other is changing. They have begun to have common interests, a common destiny. While they remain attached to their pasts, the future for them has become European.

What sort of Europe will emerge from all these efforts? The response is unequivocal: this will be a democratic and social Europe. It will be an indispensable element, working for peace.