

Drafting of the Rome Treaties

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Once the work of the Spaak Committee had been completed, intergovernmental conferences were held in order to draft the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom). The Foreign Ministers met on several occasions and based their work on the *Spaak Report*. However, disheartened by the collapse of the European Defence Community (EDC) in August 1954, the partners of France feared more or less openly that the French National Assembly would ratify only the one treaty in which it was interested, i.e. the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom) and that it would reject the general common market.

On the fringes of the diplomatic negotiations, the European Movement and other pro-European activist groups were determined to speed up the revival process. Accordingly, in October 1955, Jean Monnet, who had voluntarily resigned as President of the ECSC High Authority, chiefly in protest against the collapse of the EDC, once again did his utmost to speed up the process of European integration, which he felt was being threatened by certain national whims. With that in mind, he founded an Action Committee for the United States of Europe (ACUSE) which brought together eminent politicians of various hues and European trade union leaders intent on having the Messina resolution properly implemented. This pressure group exerted influence and acted as a channel of communication between national governments and the general public in the various countries.

The revival gave the European Movement (EM) the opportunity to resume its activities in promoting European unity. Its aim was to make the general public aware of the advantages of a common market and to bring to fruition the hopes aroused by the Messina Conference. The holding of information meetings and the distribution of publicity material were aimed at familiarising people with the new European institutions and speeding up the ratification of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

Although deeming these Treaties still to be unsatisfactory, the EM's 'Action Committee for a European Supranational Community' thought that they nevertheless constituted an effective way of steering the Six towards the establishment of a great economic union whose powers would rapidly extend to monetary policy and to a common foreign policy because, in the committee's opinion, the limits of national foreign policies had recently been proved by the Suez Crisis. The EM also advocated the gradual establishment of a common executive body, monitored by a single assembly elected by direct universal suffrage. Finally, the EM sought to prevent British moves designed to establish a free-trade area within the OEEC from calling the common market immediately into question.