

Joint Declaration by the signatory Ministers (18 April 1951)

Caption: On 18 April 1951, the Foreign Ministers of the Six issue a joint statement in which they emphasise the importance of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) which they recently signed in Paris.

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Joint Declaration of the Ministers signatory to the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Pool (18 April 1951)

The Governments of Belgium, France, the German Federal Republic, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands,

CONSIDERING that world peace can only be protected by creative efforts commensurate with the dangers which threaten it;

CONVINCED that the contribution which an organized and vital Europe can bring to civilization is indispensable to the maintenance of peaceful relations;

AWARE that united Europe can only be achieved by concrete measures creating at the outset a de facto solidarity and by the construction of common foundations for its economic development;

DESIROUS, by means of the expansion of their basic production, of contributing to a higher standard of living and the progress of the work for peace,

DETERMINED to replace age-old rivalries by a merging of their fundamental interests, to lay the first foundations, through the establishment of an economic pool, of a broader and deeper community between peoples long divided by cruel strife and to prepare the ground for institutions capable of guiding a destiny henceforth to be shared in common;

HAVE RESOLVED on the establishment of a European Coal and Steel Pool.

The work to which our signatures have just set the seal is due to the intelligence and the tenacity of our delegations and our Experts. We are deeply grateful to them.

Even before this work was begun the very idea which was its inspiration had already aroused, in our countries and beyond, outstanding hope and confidence.

In signing the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Pool, an organization, involving a hundred and sixty million Europeans, the Contracting Parties have given proof of their determination to set up the first supra-national institution and thus to lay the real foundations of an organized Europe.

All European countries are free to participate in such an organized Europe. We sincerely hope that other nations will associate themselves with our efforts.

Fully aware of the need to give full validity to this first step by continuous action of the same nature in other fields, we hope and resolve, in the very spirit that has inspired the establishment of this Treaty, to bring plans now in preparation to a successful conclusion. The work will be carried on in co-operation with existing European organizations.

These measures, each with its particular objective, should rapidly take their place within the framework of the political community, the concept of which is being elaborated in the Council of Europe. The result should be a co-ordination and simplification of European institutions as a whole.

All these efforts are inspired by the growing conviction that the countries of free Europe are inter-dependent and share a common destiny. We shall consolidate this sentiment by pooling our energy and our determination and by bringing our work into harmony by means of frequent consultations and the establishment of ever more trustful contacts.

Such is the significance of this day's work. We do not doubt that this will be apprehended by public opinion in our countries and by the Parliaments who will be required to reach a decision on the Treaty. The Governments here represented will convey to them the determination which we all share, in common, to

construct and to serve a peaceful and prosperous Europe.