

Official statement by Harry Truman (18 May 1950)

Caption: On 18 May 1950, US President, Harry S. Truman, officially recognises the Schuman Declaration. He gives American support to the French proposal.

Source: Harry S.Truman Library, Independence, MO 64050 USA, 500 W. US Highway, 24. White House Official Files. 312.

Archives historiques des Communautés européennes, Florence, Villa Il Poggio. Collections, COL. Jean Monnet American Sources, JMAS 63.

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Mr. Schuman's proposal for the pooling of the French and German steel and coal industries is an act of constructive statesmanship. We welcome it. This demonstration of French leadership in the solution of the problems of Europe is in the great French tradition. The wholehearted reception of this proposal in Germany is likewise encouraging.

This proposal provides the basis for establishing an entirely new relationship between France and Germany and opens a new outlook for Europe. There will be many difficult problems to solve in developing this far-reaching plan. I am confident, however, that the kind of imaginative thinking that went into the proposal can work out the details in ways that will benefit not only the countries directly concerned, including those who work in these industries and those who use their products, but also the whole free world.

We are gratified at the emphasis the proposal places upon equal access to coal and steel products to all Western European countries, and upon the need for reductions in cost, through higher productivity, so that consumers can benefit through lower prices and workers through higher wages. We are also gratified to note, while the proposal protects the coal and steel industries against the shocks of readjustment during the transitional period, it does leave the industry open to receive, once the transition is completed, the full benefits of the competitive process.