

'Joseph Luns: It was time to say no' from Communauté européenne (May 1962)

Caption: In May 1962, the monthly publication Communauté européenne prints an extract from the speech delivered by Joseph Luns, Netherlands Foreign Minister, on the day after the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Six, held on 17 April 1962 in Paris, where they discussed a treaty on European political union.

Source: Communauté européenne. Bulletin mensuel d'information. dir. de publ. Fontaine, François. Mai 1962, n° 5; 6e année. Paris: Service d'Information des Communautés Européennes. "Le moment de dire non était venu", auteur:Luns, Joseph , p. 5.

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[...]

Mr Luns, Netherlands Foreign Minister:

‘It was time to say no.’

‘The Netherlands are in favour of a united Europe that is as extensive as possible, in other words, one that is larger than the six-country EEC. This Europe should be founded upon the principles of supranationality and integration, just like the ECSC Treaty. The French Plan, however, is based on the old idea of a treaty between States, of an alliance between the countries of Europe. We believe that this plan must be rejected, but we are prepared to make some concessions, should the United Kingdom be interested.

Although it may sometimes be difficult to say no repeatedly to countries such as France, Germany and Italy, there are times when it is necessary. Yesterday was one of those times.’

[...]