

Radio broadcast of a lecture given by Pierre Dupong on a united Europe (Luxembourg, 11 April 1948)

Caption: In a broadcast on Radio Luxembourg on 11 April 1948, Pierre Dupong, Luxembourg Minister of State and Prime Minister, discusses the importance of Christian culture in the European unification process.

Source: Bulletin d'information. dir. de publ. Service Information et Presse - Ministère d'Etat. 31.05.1948, n° 4/5 ; 4e année. Luxembourg. "Conférence radiodiffusée de Pierre Dupong sur l'Europe unie (Luxembourg, 11 avril 1948)", p. 44-45.

Copyright: (c) Translation CVCE.EU by UNI.LU

All rights of reproduction, of public communication, of adaptation, of distribution or of dissemination via Internet, internal network or any other means are strictly reserved in all countries.

Consult the legal notice and the terms and conditions of use regarding this site.

URL:

http://www.cvce.eu/obj/radio_broadcast_of_a_lecture_given_by_pierre_dupong_on_a_united_europe_luxembourg_11_april_1948-en-1452c237-7818-408d-b013-59cd56cdbddb.html



Last updated: 05/07/2016

Radio broadcast of a lecture given by Pierre Dupong on a united Europe (Luxembourg, 11 April 1948)

For the last 20 centuries, Europe has been at the forefront of human progress.

For 2 000 years, the peoples of Europe have dominated the world because of their superior material civilisation.

Enjoying the blessings of the Christian religion, Europe has also held sway spiritually and culturally.

Today, Europe is in decline. The decay set in with the 1914–18 War. The Second World War exacerbated the trend.

The peoples of Europe themselves are responsible for their headlong flight towards the abyss. The reason is to be found in their disunity.

Europeans must, and can, put an end to this procession towards the pit.

The material and spiritual ruins spread out before us, the result of our rivalries, show with blinding clarity the need for us to alter our approach.

It is by removing the cause of our misfortune, disunity, for the greater good of all, that we shall clear the way for a return to the halcyon days.

This has to be achieved through persuasion. Europe has only to desire recovery for it to come about. All the factors that, in the past, made Europe great are now ready to come into play. These are the advantages with which the European continent has been endowed by Nature: with *Homo europus* and the qualities that set him apart; with the legacy of Christian civilisation, that driving force behind Europe's dynamism.

The European continent has a head start because of its geographical location, the contour and length of its coastline, its ports, its temperate climate, the natural wealth under the earth.

Through physical strength as much as through its intelligence, the white race that inhabits Europe is in a strong position vis-à-vis the other races making up the human species.

For Europeans, Christianity, which places man at the apex of earthly values and at the centre of our concerns, has been, and continues to be, the inspiration that develops humanity's natural qualities to their maximum potential.

By emphasising these factors in a harmonious way, we shall ensure that Europe reaches new heights.

The frightening spectacle of present-day disasters in Europe and the terrifying vista of the threats obstructing our future horizons have emboldened far-sighted men to unite their efforts in the task of saving Europe. The names of Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, Paul van Zeeland, Winston Churchill and others, who are the standard-bearers in the movement for European unification, are a programme in themselves. Together with the rank and file of the organisations over which they preside, these leaders are to meet in The Hague next May in order to coordinate their efforts.

In discussing this problem, I am considering it primarily from our national point of view. Luxembourg is an independent, political entity. In legal terms, that independence is total. In practical terms, it is very limited. We depend on other countries spiritually as much as in terms of our material needs. If we did not obtain what we lack from others, our nation would be condemned to death by starvation. What is true of tiny Luxembourg is true to a greater or lesser degree of all the others. The way out of this situation is for us to conclude agreements, treaties and unions with countries that complement us. Should we fail to use these peaceful means of ensuring mutual survival, the desperate countries would be forced to use violence. In the

past, European countries have used and abused this means of last resort. Therefore, they know from experience the price to be paid for that approach. Two deadly wars in less than 30 years have demonstrated that fact even to the most purblind. No problems have been solved through war. It has only aggravated them. Victors and vanquished suffer in equal measure. The decline of one country impacts on its neighbours. This is because the nations of Europe are linked by a natural solidarity.

The question remains to be answered. Will the people of Europe learn the lessons from their experience and organise European solidarity in unity and peace? The Benelux countries, through the example of their union, deliver a positive answer. The agreement of the Five, which brings together the Benelux, Great Britain and France, has greatly extended the borders of this union.

Please God, may all those European countries who share the same ideal soon, in one way or another, join this union.