

Communiqué from the Commission of the European Economic Community (1 August 1961)

Caption: On 1 August 1961, the Commission of the European Economic Community welcomes the United Kingdom's request for accession to the EEC and emphasises the importance of the European integration process.

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"The Commission of the European Economic Community has taken note with very great interest and lively satisfaction of the declaration made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Harold Macmillan, on the subject of Great Britain's adhesion to the European Economic Community. The Commission considers this a turning point in post-war European politics.

"The Commission regards it as a fresh recognition of the economic and political value of the work of European integration undertaken since 1950. It is particularly glad to note the very apt terms in the British declaration according to which the Treaty of Rome has an important political objective which consists in promoting unity and stability in Europe, essential factors in the struggle for liberty and progress throughout the world.

"It recognizes, no less than the British Government, the extent and the difficulty of the negotiations which are to be begun. For some months, the Commission has been studying the problems raised in the case of adhesion for Great Britain and for her various partners on the one hand, and for the Community on the other. It is resolved to bring its full support to a positive solution of these problems, in order to contribute to the realization of this new step in the economic and political unification of Europe, and thereby to tighten the bonds which link the free world on both sides of the Atlantic."