

Statement by Walter Hallstein (1 November 1962)

Caption: At the time the Association Agreement between Greece and the European Economic Community (EEC) came into force on 1 November 1962, EEC Commission President Walter Hallstein gave a statement concerning the important role which Greece plays within Europe.

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"We welcome Greece as an associate member of the European Economic Community. This is a development — the outcome of protracted efforts on both sides — which is of great political and economic significance for both parties.

The Community is proving its outward-looking nature, proving that it is not merely a selfish enterprise for the sole benefit of its own members but is also working for the strength and peace of Europe beyond the Community's frontiers.

Greece is bearing witness to the political principles to which it has long been true. It is consolidating its security by binding itself more closely to its old friends and is opening up wide prospects for its economy. Association will allow the Greek economy to advance cautiously step by step to the level of prosperity enjoyed by the member countries of the Community. The way is now open for a move in due course from association to full membership.

I am sure that this undertaking will be crowned with success not only because of the balanced nature of the Association Agreement but also because both partners share a similar political resolve. Both uphold the ideal of freedom — which first took root 2 000 years ago on the Greek mainland. It is today the main concern of the West, and the cornerstone of our Community's strength and unity."