

Resolution adopted by the Foreign Ministers of the ECSC Member States (Messina, 1 to 3 June 1955)

Caption: After the failure of the European Defence Community (EDC) on 30 August 1954, the six Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) revive European integration by adopting a resolution at the end of the Conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Six, held in Messina from 1 to 3 June 1955, supporting continued efforts to establish a united Europe by the development of common institutions, the gradual merger of national economies, the establishment of a common market and the gradual harmonisation of national social policies.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Union européenne, Bruxelles, Rue de la Loi 175. Négociations des traités instituant la CEE et la CEEA (1955-1957), CM3. Réunion des ministres des affaires étrangères, Messine, 01-03.06.1955, CM3/NEGO/006.

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Resolution adopted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the E.C.S.C. at their meeting at Messina (June 1 to 3, 1955)

The Governments of the German Federal Republic, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands believe the moment has come to go a step further towards the construction of Europe. In their opinion this step should first of all be taken in the economic field.

They consider that the further progress must be towards the setting up of a united Europe by the development of common institutions, the gradual merging of national economies, the creation of a common market, and the gradual harmonization of their social policies.

Such a policy appears to them to be indispensable if Europe's position in the world is to be maintained, her influence restored, and the standard of living of her population progressively raised.

I.

To this end, the six Ministers have agreed on the following objectives:

A. 1. The expansion of trade and the movement of persons call for the common development of large-scale communication facilities.

With this end in view, a joint study will be undertaken of development projects, centred on the establishment of a European network of canals, motor-highways, electric railway-lines, and the standardization of equipment, as well as on efforts to achieve a better co-ordination of air transport.

2. More and cheaper energy placed at the disposal of the European economies is a fundamental necessity for economic progress. All measures should, therefore, be taken to develop the exchange of gas and electric current in order to raise the profitability of investments and reduce the cost of supplies. A study will also be made of methods co-ordinating the common prospects for the development of energy production and consumption and establishing the broad outlines of an overall policy. ⁽¹⁾

3. Before long, the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes will open up prospects of a new industrial revolution far beyond anything achieved during the past hundred years.

The six signatory States consider that it is essential to examine ways and means for creating a common organization which would have the responsibility and the facilities for ensuring the peaceful development of nuclear energy, taking into consideration the special arrangements made by certain Governments with third parties.

These facilities should include:

(a) a common fund to be financed by contributions from each of the participating countries, which will enable the financing of plants and of research now in progress or still to be undertaken;

(b) free and sufficient access to raw materials and free exchange of knowledge and technicians, by-products and specialised equipment;

(c) the making available, without discrimination, of the findings and the granting of financial aid for their utilization;

(d) co-operation with non-member countries.

B. The six Governments agree that the setting up of a common European market, free from all customs duties and all quantitative restrictions, is the aim of their work in the field of economic policy.

They consider that such a market must be established by stages. Its introduction will necessitate a study of the following questions:

(a) procedure and rhythm required for the gradual elimination of impediments to trade between the participating countries, as well as appropriate measures for the gradual unification of customs systems in regard to third countries;

(b) steps to be taken for the harmonization of the general policy of the participating countries in the financial, economic and social fields;

(c) adoption of methods which will ensure a degree of coordination between the monetary policies of the member states which will enable the creation and development of a common market;

(d) a system of saving clauses;

(e) establishment and operation of a readaptation fund;

(f) gradual introduction of freedom of movement for workers;

(g) setting up of rules ensuring the full play of competition in the common market, in such a way as to exclude in particular all forms of national discrimination;

(h) the appropriate institutional means for the realization and operation of the common market.

C. The creation of a European investment fund will be examined. This fund would be used for the common development of Europe's inherent economic potentialities and, in particular for the development of the less favoured regions of the participating countries.

D. As far as the social field is concerned, the six Governments consider it imperative to study the progressive harmonization of the regulations now in force in the various countries, especially those relating to working hours, payment for overtime (night-work, work on Sundays and public holidays), length of statutory holidays and holiday-pay.

II.

The six Governments have decided to adopt the following procedure:

(1) a conference or conferences will be convened for the purpose of drafting the relevant treaties or arrangements;

(2) these conferences will be prepared by a Committee of government delegates assisted by experts under the chairmanship of a leading political figure whose task it will be to co-ordinate the work to be undertaken;

(3) the Committee will call on the High Authority of the E.C.S.C. and on the Secretariats-General of the O.E.E.C., the Council of Europe and the European Conference of Ministers of Transport for any cooperation

it may require;

(4) the general report of the Committee will be submitted to the Foreign Ministers not later than October 1, 1955;

(5) the Foreign Ministers will meet before that date in order to examine the interim reports prepared by the Committee and to give the necessary directives;

(6) the Government of the United Kingdom, as a State belonging to W.E.U. and associated with the E.C.S.C., will be invited to participate in this work;

(7) the Foreign Ministers will decide in due time which other States are to be invited to participate in the conference or conferences mentioned in para 1 above.

(1) In this connection, due regard will be paid to the resolution adopted by the Special Council of Ministers of the E.C.S.C. on October 12-13, 1953.