

Statement given by Georges Pompidou to ORTF (2 December 1969)

Caption: On 2 December 1969, the French President, Georges Pompidou, grants an interview to the French Organisation of Radio and Television (ORTF) in which he sums up the outcome of the Hague European Summit.

Source: La politique étrangère de la France. Textes et documents. dir. de publ. Ministère des Affaires Étrangères. 2e semestre 1969. Paris: La Documentation Française. "Déclaration de Georges Pompidou à l'O.R.T.F. (2 décembre 1969)".

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I think I may say that, at the end of this two-day meeting, we have restored among the six countries the climate of confidence required to give a fresh boost to Europe in all the areas and on all those issues that were, if not on the agenda of the conference (since the conference had no agenda), then at least on the minds of all the Heads of State or Government here present.

There were three problems. There was the one we refer to as the completion, that is, the adoption, of the final version of the financial aid regulation, which is the safety net for the Common Market in agriculture. It must be adopted by 1 January 1970. This issue, which is particularly important for France and particularly important for our farmers, features very clearly in the final communiqué. The second aspect was what we call the deepening, development or opening up of the Common Market to other areas besides agriculture and the Customs Union and involves joint action particularly to ensure better coordination of our economic and monetary policies.

I might also mention technology, high-tech industries and youth issues or measures for developing countries. Well, here, too, we have reached broad agreement on a number of proposals which I myself submitted this morning when I opened the second session of the conference.

Finally, there was the very important issue of enlargement and the attitude to take to the applications for membership from the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland and Norway. On this, too, we have reached agreement. It was agreed that the Community was prepared to discuss these applications. To that end, over the next few months, a joint position will be defined with a view to the negotiations that will begin, and that will begin, as stated in the communiqué, with a positive mind-set.

So, on all those issues, finalising what has already been undertaken, opening new areas of activity, and enlargement to include applicant countries such as the United Kingdom and the other countries I have just mentioned — on all those issues we have achieved unanimous agreement. The final communiqué records that agreement, and I believe I may say that this was a very positive conference, positive first of all for France, and positive for Europe, to which it gives new hope.