

Letter from Franz Grosse to Pierre Uri (9 June 1951)

Caption: On 9 June 1951, Franz Grosse, Director of the German trade union Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau, outlines to Pierre Uri, French economic adviser at the National Planning Board, the decisions taken by the extraordinary assembly of German mining delegates concerning the reorganisation of the German coal sector.

Source: Archives historiques des Communautés européennes, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Pierre Uri, PU. PU 38.

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**Administrative Headquarters
Union of Mining Workers**

By express air mail

Mr Pierre Uri
18 rue de Martignac
Paris
France

Dear Mr Uri,

Please find enclosed the text of the resolution adopted by the extraordinary assembly of delegates of the German Union of Mining Workers on 9 June 1951. May I draw your particular attention to the third part of the resolution, which will no doubt be of particular interest to you too. The view in trade union circles is that the appointment of a commission comprising three Allied representatives and one German representative to resolve the issue of the German Coal Sales Agency (DKV) is entirely out of the question. I earnestly urge you to use your best offices to ensure that this matter is resolved in a way that more or less reflects the principles we laid down in Paris. I have the unfortunate impression that there is a lack of awareness in Allied circles, and especially in France, of the fact that the trade unions have not yet adopted a firm stance on the Schuman Plan and that the Social Democratic Opposition, strengthened by the lamentable Saarland affair, is waging a vigorous campaign against the Plan, particularly within the trade union movement. The position of those trade unionists who are backing the plan, however, is not made any easier when agreements that have been concluded are interpreted or even distorted in the way that seems to be happening with regard to the resolution of the DKV issue.

Yours sincerely,
Franz Grosse

Annex

Resolution on the restructuring of the mining industry

The extraordinary assembly of delegates of the Union of Mining Workers (*IG Bergbau*) calls on the Federal Government to press the Allied High Commission for accelerated implementation of the restructuring of the German coal-mining industry. In particular, it asks that consideration be given to the following points:

1. Adherence to the restructuring plan for the German coal-mining industry presented by the German Coal Mines Management Trust (DKBL) is absolutely essential. This is the only way to guarantee the establishment of an economically and technically rational coal-mining industry, a measure which is absolutely necessary, especially in the light of the Schuman Plan. To this end, the mining companies listed in Annex C to Law No 27 must be included too.
2. At the present stage of the restructuring process, the old owners must not be compensated by means of shares in the new companies. Such a move would pre-empt the decision on the ownership question which is the prerogative of the Federal Parliament under the preamble to Law No 27.
3. On the matter of the DKV, decisions must be taken as soon as possible in order to eliminate the disquiet that exists in the Ruhr area with regard to this matter. Contrary to Allied promises, no official statement has yet been made to the effect that the date for the dissolution of the DKV is to be postponed, nor has the commission been appointed with the task of creating an organisation to replace the DKV — an organisation that can perform the main duties of the DKV — particularly the administration of the equalisation scheme for coal grades and manning levels. This commission must not be an Allied commission with a co-opted German representative but must be a joint body on which the trade unions are adequately represented. The satisfactory resolution of this issue will largely determine the position of the Union of Mining Workers on

the Schuman Plan.

The assembly of delegates also declares that it adheres resolutely to its demand for the transfer of private mining assets to public ownership. The events of recent months have shown that only a coal-mining industry in the public sector will be able to subjugate private interests to the common good and thereby achieve the efficiency that is required in the general interest of the German economy.

Bochum, 9 June 1951