

## Letter from René Mayer to Paul-Henri Spaak (18 March 1957)

**Caption:** On 18 March 1957, René Mayer, President of the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), forwards a series of observations to Paul-Henri Spaak, Belgian Foreign Minister and President of the Intergovernmental Conference on the Common Market and Euratom, on the institutions and the possible impact of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom), with particular regard to the operation of the common market in coal and steel and the coordination of energy policy in Europe.

**Source:** Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Union européenne, Bruxelles, Rue de la Loi 175. Négociations des traités instituant le CEE et la CEEA (1955-1957), CM3. Conférence des ministres des Affaires étrangères et signature des traités de la CEE et de la CEEA, Rome, 25.03.1957, CM3/ NEGO/098.

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### EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

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High Authority  
President

Luxembourg, 18 March 1957.  
Mr P H SPAAK  
Chairman of the Intergovernmental  
Conference on the  
Common Market and Euratom  
Château de Val Duchesse  
259, Boulevard du Souverain  
AUDERGHEM

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 28 February last and the enclosed texts of the Common Market and Euratom Treaties.

On behalf of the High Authority I should like to thank you for having sent me these texts. It has allowed the High Authority to study these drafts as they stand at present and to make these observations.

After close consideration of the texts, the High Authority will simply set out below, firstly, its observations on the planned institutions, in so far as the institutions of the European Coal and Steel Community are affected, and, secondly, its comments on the possible effects of the new Treaties, either on the operation of the common market in coal and steel or on the coordination of energy policy in Europe.

A. As regards the institutions, the High Authority understands, firstly, that the amendment of Article 21 of the Coal and Steel Treaty, as provided for in Article 2 of the draft Convention concerning certain institutions common to the European Communities, which is intended to allow the establishment of a single Assembly for the three Communities, in no way alters the powers invested in the Common Assembly or the relations which exist between it and the Assembly under the Coal and Steel Treaty. Similarly, the amendment of Article 32 of the Coal and Steel Treaty in no way alters the powers invested in the Court of Justice under this Treaty.

The High Authority notes that, under Article 232 of the draft Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, the rules and operation of the common market in coal and steel are in no way affected.

Finally, the High Authority understands that no amendment is made to the budgetary and financial provisions arising, as regards funds, from Article 49 of the Coal and Steel Treaty and, as regards administrative expenditure, from Article 78 thereof.

B. It follows from the draft Convention concerning common institutions that three Communities will be involved in the single Assembly and the single Court of Justice, whereas the Economic and Social Committee will concern only the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community.

Therefore, the High Authority understands that the European Coal and Steel Community will have to meet one third of the budgetary expenditure of the single Assembly and of the single Court pursuant to Article 6 of that Convention.

C. As regards the provisions relating to a coordinated energy policy in Europe, the High Authority can only emphasise once again — as it has already informed the Special Council of Ministers — how regrettable it is that there has been no response to the chapter concerning conventional energy in the Report of the Heads of Delegation dated 21 April 1956.

The High Authority has noted that the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community makes no provision for coordination of conventional energy and nuclear energy policy. However, it has no doubt that close collaboration between the competent institutions of the new Atomic Energy Community and the European Coal and Steel Community will be established so that the foundations required for an energy policy of all six countries may be laid.

The High Authority confirms that it is willing to study with the competent bodies, either before or after the Treaties enter into force, any matter whereof joint consideration might facilitate solutions with a view to further European integration.

By the same post, I am notifying the above observations to the Governments of the Member States of the Community.

Please accept, Sir, the assurance of my highest consideration.

René Mayer