

## Six-point European policy plan described by Duncan Sandys (28 April 1965)

**Caption:** On 28 April 1965, in London, Duncan Sandys, former Conservative Defence Minister, describes, to the very conservative Primrose League, his six-point European policy plan.

**Source:** Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee: A retrospective view of the political year in Europe 1965. March 1966. Paris: Western European Union Assembly-General Affairs Committee.

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**URL:** [http://www.cvce.eu/obj/six\\_point\\_european\\_policy\\_plan\\_described\\_by\\_duncan\\_sandys\\_28\\_april\\_1965-en-5f5f454c-f17f-4071-a115-2648997e6811.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/six_point_european_policy_plan_described_by_duncan_sandys_28_april_1965-en-5f5f454c-f17f-4071-a115-2648997e6811.html)

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## Six-point European policy plan described by Mr. Duncan Sandys in a speech to the Primrose League, London

28th April 1965

[...]

Europe will not grow together without a positive effort by all. It needs a combination of faith and purposeful action. The Six and the Seven have their part to play collectively and individually. Every opportunity for European co-operation must be exploited. Every existing European institution must be used to the full.

### *Six-point policy for Europe*

In a matter so complex and so controversial, it is very rash to make precise proposals. But since others, both here and on the continent, seem to be hesitating, I have decided to put forward, as a basis for discussion, a six-point policy for Europe. I have no doubt that this will provoke objections of all kinds. But if it helps to focus attention on the issues which must soon be resolved, I shall be well satisfied. These are my six proposals.

1. It should be accepted as virtually certain that, in the next few years, Britain will join the EEC, and that most of the other EFTA countries will become either full or associate members of the Community ; and all the governments concerned should henceforth base their policies upon this assumption.
3. Britain and the other EFTA countries should accordingly take progressive steps to bring their economic systems into harmony with that of the EEC ; and the Community should, in its future decisions, take account of the expected enlargement of its membership. The two groups should consult regularly together ; and the EFTA Secretariat should be empowered to enter into discussions with the Commission of the EEC.
3. At the same time, the work of uniting Europe politically must go ahead ; and Britain's participation from the start is indispensable.
4. As a first step, the governments of the Six and Britain should consult one another on all major international issues and should endeavour to establish the basic principles of a common European policy. They should consider together the organisation of Europe's defence within the Atlantic Alliance, and should concert plans for the joint development and production of armaments. For these purposes, they should for the present use the existing machinery of Western European Union. This should be provided with a strong advisory body, whose task it would be to examine all questions from the collective European standpoint.
5. Later, when the EEC has been enlarged by the entry of Britain and other countries, the members of the Community should create a European Defence Organisation, through which they would jointly control their forces in NATO. By the same means, they should jointly control a European nuclear force, composed of units contributed by Britain and France. The ENF would be fully assigned to the Alliance, and its strategic plans would be integrated with those of the United States, as was proposed for the MLF and the ANF. Arrangements should also be made to provide a European contingent for peace-keeping duties elsewhere, when required.
6. The objectives of a united Europe should thus be :
  - (a) to bring prosperity to her peoples ;
  - (b) to defend Europe and the cause of freedom, in partnership with the United States ;
  - (c) to secure for Europe an effective say in great international decisions ;

(d) to help to further economic progress in other continents ; and

(e) to play her part in establishing peace through a system of world security, leading ultimately to world government.