

Excerpt from an address given by Joseph Bech (Louvain, 2 February 1954)

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Excerpt from an address given by Joseph Bech (Leuven, 2 February 1954)

Europe stands before its destiny. It must either unite or perish. Unite economically so that it is not stifled in the lethal straitjacket of customs barriers. Unite politically and militarily in order, should the need arise, to defend our territories, our homes and our moral and spiritual values — in short, everything which makes our lives worth living — as effectively as possible. The lesson we have learned from history is that the only setting in which our freedom, security and prosperity can be guaranteed is a European community united by the same interests and the same ideals.