

## Address given by Jean Monnet (7 October 1953)

**Source:** Remise des Passe-Ports Européens / Jean Monnet.- Luxembourg: 07.10.1953. CLT-UFA, Luxembourg. - SON (00:03:38, Montage, Son original).  
CLT-UFA, 45, Boulevard Pierre Frieden, L-1543 Luxembourg.

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**Last updated:** 05/07/2016



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I am happy to see here the representatives of the Community institutions, as well as Mr Kunnen, Director of the Luxembourg Customs, and Colonel Gilson, commander of our Luxembourg gendarmerie forces, who will actually be responsible for giving instructions to make sure that the holders of these passports can cross borders as freely as if they were citizens, not just of Luxembourg but of all the Community countries. As you know, the Coal and Steel Community has already established the free movement of goods between the six Community countries. Today, however, it embarks on something which is at least as important: the free movement of persons — making a modest start, it is true, since it is only going to be authorised, for the moment, for Community officials, but it is a very hopeful beginning. Anyone bearing this document will be able to cross the old borders of the six countries as if he or she were a citizen of those six countries. It really is the first European passport. I am going to sign this document for the first time and issue it to the representatives of the Community institutions. Mr Ernst, Deputy Secretary of the High Authority, I hand you your European passport. Mr [Deneré], Secretary of the Common Assembly of the Community, I hand you your European passport, as I do to Mr [Van Hout], Registrar of the Court, and Mr [Decharpe], Deputy Secretary of the Council of Ministers. I hope, and we all hope, that these European passports will soon be issued to other persons and that, in the near future, all of Europe's peoples, at last reunited, will hold this laissez-passer and will thus be able to move about the six countries as citizens of the European Community and citizens of the six countries. And in the active discussions which are currently under way in Rome on the establishment of a political authority, we see a hope that that Community of Europe which must at last bring us both prosperity and peace will shortly be brought into being.