

Extract from an address given by Pierre Dupong (Luxembourg, 11 April 1948)

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Europe today is in decline. The downward spiral started with the 1914–18 War, and the Second World War only accentuated that development. The peoples of Europe themselves are to blame for their headlong rush into the abyss. It was caused by their disunity. Europeans can and must pull themselves up before they hit rock bottom. The physical and spiritual ruin we see all about us, the consequence of the rivalries between us, illustrates with dazzling clarity how essential it is that we find a new approach. If we do away with the cause of our misfortunes — disunity — we will open up the way to putting things back where they were, for the greater good of all. Europe has only to want it, and it will stand tall again. The alarming spectacle of Europe's present disasters and the terrifying vision of the threats which close off the horizon of the future have prompted clear-sighted men to work together on the task of saving Europe. The names of Coudenhove-Kalergi, Paul van Zeeland, Winston Churchill and other leaders of the movement for European unification are a programme in themselves.