

Statement by Walter Hallstein (1962)

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My name is Walter Hallstein. I am President of the Commission of the European Economic Community, better known as the European Common Market. Our community is a new political entity in the western world. In it we are seeking to abolish the barriers and conflicts that used to divide France, Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries. Other countries, and in particular Great Britain, are now on the way to joining us. The constitution of our community is in some respects federal like yours. Our executive is the Commission. Its members are independent of national governments and responsible to the community as a whole. Their task is to initiate legislation, to safeguard the common market's rules and to bring about agreement between the states. The member governments are represented in the Council of Ministers where, unlike most international organizations, majority vote is more and more replacing the national veto. The community's peoples are represented in the European Parliament. A body of one hundred and forty-two men and women which alone has the power to turn the executive commission out of office. Finally, justice is represented in the Communities Supreme Court. The European Community has always been an ally and partner of the United States. Together they are working to lower trade barriers, to aid developing countries and to bring about those closer links between free peoples which are the aim of us all.