

Declaration by Robert Schuman (Paris, 9 May 1950)

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[Robert Schuman] In taking upon herself for more than 20 years the role of champion of a united Europe, France has always had as her essential aim the service of peace. A united Europe was not achieved and we had war. Europe will not happen overnight, or as part of some grand design; it will come about in practical steps, building on a sense of common purpose.