

## Interview with René Mayer following the presentation of the report on ECSC activities (14 May 1957)

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Interview René Mayer / RENÉ MAYER, Jacques Navadic, prise de vue : Roger Bestgen.- CLT Journal Télévisé [Prod.], 14.05.1957. Centre National de l'Audiovisuel (CNA), Dudelange. - FILM (00:02:10, Noir et blanc, Son original).

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview\\_with\\_rene\\_mayer\\_following\\_the\\_presentation\\_of\\_the\\_report\\_on\\_ecsc\\_activities\\_14\\_may\\_1957-en-e2e2f8af-8d9e-4c9f-9880-bbc8cb2219eb.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/interview_with_rene_mayer_following_the_presentation_of_the_report_on_ecsc_activities_14_may_1957-en-e2e2f8af-8d9e-4c9f-9880-bbc8cb2219eb.html)

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[Jornalist] You have just presented to the European Parliament — the body responsible for scrutinising the activities of the High Authority of which you are President — the report on the activities of the European Coal and Steel Community. At a time when everybody is talking about either Euratom or the Common Market, the activities of this European Coal and Steel Community constitutes an experiment. Could you tell us what lessons you have learnt from the summary that you have just given?

[René Mayer] The political lesson that may be learnt from the report presented to the European Parliament by the High Authority is the same as the one to which, on a number of occasions, my colleagues and I have referred during our public and parliamentary speeches. If the aim is to further European integration in any area, small or large, where the political will exists, it is always possible to find technical solutions. Of course, over the last four years we do not claim to have resolved, through the application of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community, all the issues raised by the evolution of the economy, which is very different today from when the Schuman Plan was drawn up. However, we have been able to demonstrate, and I believe we continue to demonstrate it every day, that, if the political will born of the Treaty has the devotees and followers that it requires, they can always, by means of a decision which, after due reflection, takes all factors into account, or by negotiation, find the technical solutions that will further European integration. I believe that this is the fundamental lesson that, once again this year, we may learn from our report. Remember that the European Coal and Steel Community has a four-year transitional period, which is very short in comparison with the minimum 15-year transitional period for the general Common Market.