

Draft plan for the establishment of a Cooperation Committee (Paris, 13 July 1947)

Caption: On 13 July 1947, the Paris Conference of the Sixteen on European Economic Cooperation envisages the establishment of a Committee for European Economic Cooperation (CEECE) entrusted with drawing up a report on the economic requirements of Western Europe.

Source: Archives historiques des Communautés européennes, Florence, Villa Il Poggiolo. Dépôts, DEP. Organisation de coopération et de développement économiques, OECD. Committee for European Economic Co-operation, CEECE. CEECE 03.

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Draft plan of organization submitted by the Working Committee (Paris, 13th July 1947)

The Conference for European Economic Co-operation emphasizes the great importance of the problem of speeding up the economic reconstruction and development of European countries suffering from the effects of the war. The conference considers that this task would be facilitated by some form of economic assistance from the United States, similar to that proposed by Mr. Marshall in his speech on 5th June 1947.

The Conference considers that Europe should first help itself by developing its production of essentials. The assistance of the United States would be decisive in enabling to pursue these efforts and in contributing resources which will be lacking until they have been accomplished. This would provide the best means of ensuring the economic revival of European countries. Such a revival would be a safeguard of their independence.

In order to gather the information necessary for drawing up a programme comprising European availabilities and requirements as soon as possible, it is proposed to set up a special temporary organization. All the European States which wish to do so, with the temporary exception of Spain, are at liberty to co-operate in the task of this organization. The organization shall not intervene in the internal affairs of those States. No action shall be taken by the organization which might be regarded as implying a violation of their sovereignty. There shall be no restriction to the beneficial development of European trade.

Under these conditions, the Conference considers that it would be expedient to take the following measures:

Proposal

(1) A Co-operation Committee shall be established whose functions shall consist in preparing a report concerning European availabilities and requirements having in view a period of 4 years. This report shall be submitted to the United States Government before 1st September 1947.

(2) This report, prepared on the basis of the information freely supplied by the various countries wishing to associate themselves with the action undertaken, shall define:

(a) the development of production as regards certain essential activities which might result, on the one hand, from the efforts made by each European country individually, and, on the other, from inter-European exchanges of available resources.

(b) the requirements, both as regards quantity and value, which it would be possible to meet as a result of extra European economic aid. Those requirements shall comprise equipment goods intended to guarantee the development of production, and essential consumption goods (agricultural produce, coal, etc...) intended to safeguard the economic life of Europe during the period for which national production is inadequate.

(3) The Co-operation Committee shall consist of representatives of each of the Member States of the Conference and of all other European States which declare themselves willing to participate in the work undertaken.

(4) Information concerning the assets and requirements of Germany shall be requested from the Commanders-in-Chief members of the Control Council. An indication with regard to the development of German production shall conform to the decisions of the Council of Foreign Ministers and the Control Authorities.

(5) The Co-operation Committee, as suggested by the Secretary of State of the U.S.A., shall seek the friendly assistance of the United States for the preparation of the Report.

(6) An Executive Committee composed of shall assist the Co-operation Committee in its daily task.

(7) In order to facilitate the work of the Co-operation Committee, four technical Committees shall be created, namely:

1. Food and Agriculture
2. Power
3. Iron and Steel
4. Transport

Problems concerning the balance of payments shall be studied by the Co-operation Committee.

The technical committees shall be composed as follows:

The Co-operation Committee and the Technical Committees may set up sub-committees for the study of special questions.

(8) This organization in the accomplishment of its task shall maintain close relations with the United Nations Organizations and with its specialized agencies and with the existing intergovernmental economic organizations in order to avoid any overlapping and to make the best possible use of the studies undertaken by the organizations in question.

(9) If indicated in the course of its work, the Co-operation Committee shall be empowered to make appropriate changes in the said Organization.

Paris
Quai d'Orsay
13th July 1947