

## Statement by Johan Kruse (Paris, 14 July 1947)

**Caption:** On 14 July 1947, the second day of the Paris Conference on European Economic Cooperation, the Danish Ambassador, Johan Kruse, expresses his satisfaction with the efforts being made to revive the European economies and outlines his country's most pressing requirements.

**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, CEEC. CEEC 03.

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## Statement by Mr. Johan Kruse, Ambassador of Denmark in Paris, Head of the Danish Delegation (Paris, 14th July 1947)

The Danish Government has noted with great interest the proposals for the rehabilitation of European economy based on co-operation of European countries and on the assistance of the United States.

My Government is therefore most happy to accept the invitation of the Government of the French Republic and of the Government of the United Kingdom, to participate in the organization which they wish to set up and in the study of the organizations contemplated.

The proposals submitted by the Working Committee have been studied, and we understand with much satisfaction that the structure of the Organization has been placed on a wider basis in order that all the countries participating may be represented on the Co-operation Committee and have the opportunity to follow the work of the various Committees and of stating their views to the latter.

The Draft plans for the Organization emphasize that the fundamental principle of the work we have to undertake is that the Organization — whose sole object is to reply to the United States' suggestions — should in no way interfere with the domestic affairs of the participating countries and that nothing should be done which might hamper the desirable extension of European exchanges.

The Danish Delegation is also glad to note the provision for close contact between the Organization and the United Nations, its agencies, and other intergovernmental organizations. There is no doubt that the European Coal Board, for example, can give us valuable assistance in our task.

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The pre-requisite of a rehabilitation of European economy is the basic improvement of Europe's food situation.

In this connection, I wish to point out that, subject to certain conditions, Denmark, as traditional supplier of agricultural produce such as butter, pork, etc., will be able to increase the production and, consequently, the export of foodstuffs to European countries. Denmark may also be able to increase her exports of fish and thus may contribute substantially to the improvement of European food supplies.

In spite of the difficulties caused by the war, Danish agriculture has succeeded, on the whole, in keeping intact its means of production and there is therefore a possibility of increasing production within a relatively short time and, consequently, of exporting essential foodstuffs.

However, the preliminary condition for this is that Denmark may be able to obtain as soon as possible, quantities of animal feeding-stuffs corresponding to her production capacity. This particularly applies to oil seeds and oil-cake.

In order to maintain Danish Industry which accounts for one third of the working population, it is of major importance that Denmark should obtain the necessary raw materials, and especially iron and steel.

Danish Agriculture and Industry are entirely dependent on foreign supplies of coal and oil fuel. Such supplies are therefore an essential factor.

The possibility of obtaining the commodities required by the Danish economy, particularly raw materials for agriculture, and iron, steel and fuel, chiefly depend on hard currency availabilities. We have no time to lose, our task is an urgent one, so I will confine myself to this brief outline of my country's views, and I will end with the assurance that we, on our side, are most gratified to be associated in the great task of European economic co-operation.