

Statement by Mr Raphael (Paris, 14 July 1947)

Caption: Speaking on 14 July 1947, the second day of the Paris Conference on European Economic Cooperation, the Greek Ambassador, Mr Raphael, calls upon European countries to work together for the recovery of the devastated economies of the Continent.

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.

Copyright: (c) OCDE / Historical Archives of the European Union-Florence

URL: http://www.cvce.eu/obj/statement_by_mr_raphael_paris_14_july_1947-en-d765827a-5863-4096-9405-dae93bf9fb1f.html

Last updated: 02/07/2015

Speech by Mr. Raphael, Ambassador of Greece in Paris, Head of the Greek Delegation (Paris, 14 July 1947)

The Greek people has been especially appreciative of the generous proposal of the United States, voiced by General Marshall, to help in the application of a plan of European organization and reconstruction. Greece, who is receiving from the United States economic and financial support for her immediate needs, regards the Marshall plan as a more general expression or as a permanent formula for the same American policy of assistance to economically weak nations. Underlying the determination of the United States to help the devastated and war-impooverished countries, we rediscover, despite certain differences, that same political, economic and moral principle — that it is necessary to aid the people in their efforts of economic recovery in order to enable them better to defend their national independence and individual freedoms. This was the object of the war and only by achieving it can we win the battle of peace.

The Greek people is very happy to note that this policy of the United States is not directed against anyone, that its intentions are friendly and that all those who wish to do so are admitted to benefit by it. The American offer makes no distinction between friends and enemies. The only enemies are famine and distress and the perturbations to which they may give rise. It is to fight those enemies that the United States are offering us efficacious weapons.

This is probably the first time since the war that the problem of European Reconstruction and Peace has been raised on a sound and constructive footing. There is no question of meeting the most urgent needs by measures the provisional character of which is detrimental to their efficacy. What is to be done is to draw up a plan of economic collaboration to which each country will contribute. Under such a plan, the anarchy prevailing in production and arbitrary economic nationalism could be advantageously replaced by a system of rational coordination and equitable distribution of products. European economy, once freed from the chains of a disastrous compartmentation and the resulting mutual distrust, would be able to breath freely. It would then be able to develop normally. It is only where European economy may be deficitary that the United States would step in to supply what is lacking and to make it viable through increased efficiency. The Marshall plan is not a palliative. It is a solution — the only possible remaining solution.

The Greek Government places all its confidence in such a solution. It cannot conceive that Greece's ruined economy could recover except within the framework of an organized European economy safeguarding order and stability in the production and distribution of wealth. Order and stability represent the essential conditions of recovery for Greece which, after the losses and sacrifices of the last war, has no other assets than the work of her people. We desire to work in peace in order to produce more goods. We wish to find regular outlets for our production and we should have to make some surplus imports in order to restart our production machine and set it working normally again.

These problems which are more or less common to all European countries cannot be efficaciously solved by piecemeal methods. It is only the European solution which can be satisfactory and fruitful in results. That is why my country is most grateful to the Governments of France and Great Britain, for their initiative in convening this Conference with the object of seizing the opportunity of salvation offered to Europe through the generous intentions of the United States of America.

Paris
Quai d'Orsay
14 July 1947.