

Memorandum on the organization of a parliament for Europe (New York, 12 February 1947)

Caption: On 12 February 1947, Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, the then President of the Committee for the Congress of Europe, issues a memorandum in New York in which he calls on Members of European national parliaments to agree to the establishment of a European Parliament.

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In view of the urgent necessity to take practical steps toward a Federation of Europe, the COMMITTEE FOR THE EUROPEAN CONGRESS has recently addressed to all Members of the Parliaments of Belgium, Denmark, Eire, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, the following question:

"ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN FEDERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE U. N.?"

The overwhelming majority - over ninety percent, - of the numerous answers received until now, are in the affirmative.

Thus has it become possible to take the initiative by the following steps:

1. In every Parliament, the Members, having given affirmative replies, are invited to constitute immediately non-partisan Parliamentary Committees for European Federation, to study and promote the cause of European Union.
2. Each of these Committees should then be extended by the inclusion of all other Members of Parliament approving its objective.

Thus every Committee should aim at attracting a majority of Members of its Parliament, to compel its government to embrace the cause of European Union.

Every member of these Committees should try to include European Federation in its party's official program.

3. To merge the activities of these various Parliamentary Committees, a European Congress is being organized for June 1947, at Geneva.

Each of these Parliamentary Committees will be invited to send Delegations to this Congress, in proportion to the total of its national population, one Delegate corresponding to one million of his or her connationals.

4. This European Congress, attended only by Members of European Parliaments, shall take the lead in the campaign for European Federation.

It shall determine what other European Parliaments shall be invited to join.

It shall draft a European Charter.

It shall recommend to the European Governments practical steps to be taken to promote the political and economic union of Europe.

It shall submit to the United Nations Organization suggestions for the establishment of a Regional Organization for Europe, according to Article 52 of the United Nations Charter.

It shall organize special Commissions to study the various problems of European Federation.

It shall examine the organization of a European Plebiscite on the issue of Federation.

It shall constitute itself as a permanent body, meeting periodically and representing a kind of preliminary Parliament for Europe.

It shall elect a Council of Europe, to serve as a permanent advisory body to the Governments and to the United Nations.

This Council, composed of leaders from various European nations and parties, shall constitute the Continent's supreme moral authority and lead Europe toward a new era of peace, prosperity and liberty.

RICHARD COUDENHOVE-KALERGI
Chairman of the Committee for
the European Congress

New York University
New York City
February 12, 1947.