

Resolution of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe on the Common Market and Euratom (6 and 7 May 1957)

Caption: On 7 May 1957, welcoming the signing, on 25 March, in Rome, of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom), the Action Committee for a United States of Europe (ACUSE) adopts a resolution in which it calls on the governments of the six Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to ratify as soon as possible the Treaties that they have already signed.

Source: Statements and declarations of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe : 1955-67. London: Chatham House; PEP, 1969. 111 p. (European series ; 9). p. 22-24.

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I

The Action Committee for the United States of Europe, which in its Resolutions of January 1956 and September 1956 declared itself in favour of the rapid establishment of a European Community for the peaceful uses of atomic energy and of a Common Market, greets the signature in Rome on 25 March 1957 of the Treaties for the Common Market and Euratom as an event of capital importance for the future of the people of Europe.

The signature of the two Treaties, despite the insufficiency of some of their provisions, brings our countries to the threshold of a profound transformation of the existing state of affairs in Europe and of the relations between Europe and a large part of the rest of the world. They permit, in fact, the progressive creation of:

1 a vast European market and a common economic policy which will throw open to our countries stage by stage possibilities of development comparable to those enjoyed by the United States, while by means of Euratom our countries will be able to work together on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and will form the world's third great atomic complex;

2 an improvement and progressive levelling upwards of the living and working conditions of wage-earners;

3 an association between our countries and the overseas territories that will contribute to the economic, social, and cultural development which these territories await.

Moreover, the Committee wishes to stress the usefulness of enlarging the advantages of the Common Market and Euratom, after ratification by the six countries:

(a) by setting up a Free Trade Area between the Common Market, Great Britain, and the other countries of OEEC.

(b) by hastening the peaceful development of atomic energy, through growing collaboration with Great Britain and an association on the basis of genuine equality, with a two-way exchange of experience and technical progress, between the United States and Euratom.

Finally, the Committee records its satisfaction that the Treaty provides for the ownership of special fissile materials by Euratom, and thus permits Euratom to exercise a European control over the use of fissile materials produced or imported. It considers that this control should open the way to control on a world scale over the use of atomic energy, in the interest of all peoples.

II

Our September resolution, proposing the nomination of 'Three Wise Men', emphasized that 'the power supplies of Western Europe determine the progress or decadence of our countries'.

The work of the 'Three Wise Men' confirms, if confirmation were necessary, the gravity of our situation and the urgency of rapid action. The results of their mission show that it is necessary and possible to achieve, with the help of the United States, Canada, and Great Britain, an atomic electricity production programme whose target is the installation in our countries by 1967 of nuclear centres of a power of 15 million kW, giving an electricity production greater than those of all the conventional power stations and dams which exist today in France or Germany.

The economic expansion stimulated by the Common Market will demand growing quantities of energy. The realization of Euratom and of the atomic production programme will enable them to be obtained and, by limiting the increase of oil imports, will safeguard the economic independence of Europe.

III

The effort of the organizations participating in the Committee's activities — political parties representing a majority in the Parliaments of our countries, and trade unions grouping more than ten million workers — has so far been to contribute to the successful outcome of the negotiations. The objective now must be to terminate what has been begun and to pass on to its practical realization. In fact, the execution of the two Treaties will demand a tenacious effort and will naturally encounter difficulties whose importance must not be underestimated.

The value of the Treaties will depend upon what is made of them by their practical application and by the men who are put in charge of it. The close collaboration of workers' and employers' organizations in the preparation and application of the Community's policy will be indispensable to the success of the enterprise.

The Committee believes that the Treaties permit the undertaking of that positive action which is necessitated by the situation of Europe, and by that of the overseas territories associated with it, as well as by social progress.

Measures of practical application must be undertaken by the beginning of 1958. This is what our countries expect after negotiations which have already lasted nearly two years. Any fresh delay could only increase the difficulties and the risks.

That is why we have unanimously agreed, despite the reservations which each of us has to make, to recommend to the political, Parliamentary, and governmental authorities of our respective countries the ratification of the Treaty for the Common Market and of that for Euratom before the forthcoming Parliamentary recess.