

## Statement on European Union (The Hague, 29 and 30 November 1976)

**Caption:** In its conclusions of 30 November 1976, the Hague European Council shares the views expressed by Leo Tindemans in his report of 29 December 1975 ‘on the need to build European Union by strengthening the practical solidarity of the nine Member States and their peoples [...], and gradually to provide the Union with the instruments and institutions necessary for its operation.’

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## The Hague European Council (29 and 30 November 1976) Declaration on European Union

1. The European Council examined the report on European Union submitted to it by Mr Tindemans at its request. It heard an account given by the Chairman of the work carried out, and approved the general lines of the comments by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs on the various Chapters of the report.
2. The European Council indicated its very great interest in the analyses and proposals put forward by Mr Tindemans. It shared the views expressed by the Belgian Prime Minister on the need to build European Union by strengthening the practical solidarity of the nine Member States and their peoples, both internally and in their relations with the outside world, and gradually to provide the Union with the instruments and institutions necessary for its operation. It considered that European Union should make itself felt effectively in the daily life of individuals by assisting in the protection of their rights and the improvement of the circumstances of their life.
3. On this occasion the European Council had a wide-ranging discussion of the principles which must underlie the construction of European Union over the coming years. European Union will be built progressively by consolidating and developing what has been achieved within the Community, with the existing Treaties forming a basis for new policies. The achievement of Economic and Monetary Union is basic to the consolidation of Community solidarity and the establishment of European Union. Priority importance must be given to combating inflation and unemployment and to drawing up common energy and research policies and a genuine regional and social policy for the Community.
4. The construction of Europe must also make the best use of possibilities for cooperation between the nine Governments in those areas where the Member States are prepared to exercise their sovereignty in a progressively convergent manner.  
  
This form of cooperation in the field of foreign policy must lead to the search for a common external policy.
5. In the light of future developments as defined by the report on European Union, the Heads of Government, with the intention of establishing a comprehensive and coherent common political approach, reaffirm their desire to increase the authority and efficiency of the Community institutions, as well as the support of the peoples for them, and confirm the role of the European Council as a driving force.
6. On the basis of the conclusions reached by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, the European Council invites them, and the Commission, in the sectors for which it is competent, to report to it once a year on the results obtained and the progress which can be achieved in the short term in the various sectors of the Union, thus translating into reality the common conception of European Union.