

# Resolution of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe on the seat of the institutions (25 November 1957)

**Caption:** On 25 November 1957, the Action Committee for a United States of Europe adopts a resolution in which it calls for a single seat for the institutions of the European Communities, all of which should be located in a ‘European District’.

**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. 24-26.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/resolution\\_of\\_the\\_action\\_committee\\_for\\_a\\_united\\_states\\_of\\_europe\\_on\\_the\\_seat\\_of\\_the\\_institutions\\_25\\_november\\_1957-en-946d21f4-e848-4398-b052-3351c02b25e1.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/resolution_of_the_action_committee_for_a_united_states_of_europe_on_the_seat_of_the_institutions_25_november_1957-en-946d21f4-e848-4398-b052-3351c02b25e1.html)



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### I

In a few weeks' time, the Governments of the six member countries of the Coal and Steel Community, the Common Market, and Euratom will be called upon to appoint the members and decide on the seat of the common Institutions.

Before these decisions are taken, the members of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, which groups the political parties representing a majority in the Parliaments of the six countries and the non-communist trade unions with their membership of more than ten million, have decided to define and publish their attitude as they have done since the setting-up of the Committee, at every important stage in the building of Europe.

### II

It is clearly a practical necessity that all the Institutions, those of the ECSC, the Common Market, and Euratom should be concentrated in one place.

The Institutions must work together in close liaison. In its own field and in accordance with its own rules of action, each has the same goal, that of economic union encouraging the economic expansion of the member countries. The three Communities share the same Council of Ministers, Assembly, and Court of Justice. The executive bodies — the High Authority, the Economic Commission, and the Atomic Commission — although separate, are bound together by their common duty to consult or reach joint decisions with the Assembly, the Council representing the Governments, and the European Investment Bank.

To carry out the constant collaboration required by the Treaties, close contact will have to be established between the common Institutions and all interested circles in the member countries — Governments, administrations, Parliaments, political parties and trade unions, industrial management, and agricultural and professional organizations. It is of the greatest importance for the increasing numbers of those having dealings with the Institutions, and often with several together, that these should be situated in one place.

This is also a material necessity in order that administrative expenses may be kept as low as possible.

### III

The headquarters of the Institutions will be that of the Community. It cannot therefore be subject to any single one of the member countries. It must necessarily serve the benefit of all as a whole and, consequently, come under the province of the common Institutions. The material requirement is for a sufficiently large area for the construction of the necessary buildings. In other words, the headquarters must constitute a 'European District'.

The material organization of the headquarters will call for fairly extensive works and building, which should be accomplished as quickly and as efficiently as possible at minimum cost to the member countries as a whole.

The Institutions must therefore be able to call freely upon the enterprises of the member countries, and neither their installation nor running expenses must be increased by customs duties or taxes imposed by the State in whose territory the Institutions are situated.

The necessity for a 'European District' is yet another reason for bringing together all the Institutions in a single headquarters. It would obviously be unreasonable to secure the efficient running of the common Institutions by the creation of a 'European District' and, at the same time, to set up even one of these

institutions outside this area.

#### IV

In conclusion, the grouping of the Institutions of the three Communities in one place under the jurisdiction of a European statute must be a first step towards the rationalization and concentration of European Institutions as a whole.

### RESOLUTION

Therefore, the members of the Action Committee for the United States of Europe <sup>1</sup> have agreed to intervene with their respective Governments with the aim of persuading the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to take the following decisions at their next meeting:

- 1. The grouping in the same place of the Institutions of the Coal and Steel Community, the Common Market, and Euratom.**
- 2. The setting-up of the headquarters of the Institutions in a 'European District', administered by the common Institutions.**
- 3. The choice of a site easily accessible to all.**

The Committee placed on the agenda of its next plenary session, which will take place after the creation of the new Institutions, the question of the outcome of the negotiations on the Free Trade Area, as well as that of the future orientation of the Common Market and Euratom.

1. M. Margue, President of the Parliamentary group of the Luxembourg Christian Social Party, did not approve this resolution.