

## Note from the Netherlands Trade Union Federation (Brussels, 5 January 1951)

**Caption:** On 5 January 1951, the Netherlands Trade Union Federation draws up an internal note on the attitude of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) in connection with the negotiations under way in Paris on the Schuman Plan.

**Source:** Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Amsterdam. NVV-J.G. van Wouwe (1945-1973). Stukken betreffende Europese en internationale organisaties. Stukken betr. conferenties en commissies van het IVVV inzake het Schuman Plan. 1950-1952, 112.

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**Last updated:** 05/07/2016

## Note from the Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions (Brussels, 5 January 1951)

Dear Comrades,

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) Subcommittee for the Schuman Plan met in Paris on 4 January 1951. Among other things, it discussed the question of ICFTU candidates for the Schuman Plan High Authority. It feels that the national centres in the six countries involved in the Schuman Plan are the only ones qualified to decide on this matter. The Subcommittee is convinced that this is entirely in keeping with the spirit and letter of the report on the Schuman Plan, which was adopted by the ICFTU Executive at its meeting of 9-11 November 1950 in Brussels.

For your information, this is how the situation stands at present:

1. The General Labour Federation of Belgium (FGTB/ABVV) is officially nominating Belgian party member Paul de Groot (a copy of the FGTB/ABVV's letter about this nomination is attached).
2. At the Subcommittee meeting Mr Bothereau, from the General Confederation of Labour *Workers' Force* (CGT Force Ouvrière) nominated Gust de Muynck, assistant general secretary of the ICFTU. Mr Bothereau's proposal was seconded by Mr Gallion from the Luxembourg Trade Union Federation.
3. Mr vom Hoff said that the German Trade Union Federation, the DGB, had no objections whatsoever to Mr de Muynck's nomination, but added that, should it be withdrawn for any reason, the DGB reserved the right to put forward its own candidate.
4. Mr Oosterhuis said that he could not express an opinion on the proposed nominations without first discussing the whole question with his executive committee. He added that it was quite possible that the Netherlands Federation of Trade Unions (NVV) would propose Hein Vos as a candidate, for instance.

Since the negotiations on the Schuman Plan are reaching their conclusion, the question of the ICFTU candidate for the High Authority has become fairly urgent, particularly as the ICFTU Subcommittee for the Schuman Plan has to have another meeting with a delegation from the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions so that the ICFTU candidate can then be proposed jointly by the two Confederations.

We would therefore ask you to give us your opinion on this matter and to let us know by 20 January at the latest:

1. whether either of the two proposed candidates has your preference and, if so, which;
2. whether you would like to put forward your own candidate and, if so, whom.

Comradely greetings,

Gust de Muynck  
Assistant General Secretary