

Letter from Lodovico Benvenuti to Walter Hallstein (Strasbourg, 18 August 1959)

Caption: On 18 August 1959, the arrangement between the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC) takes the form of an exchange of letters. This letter is from Lodovico Benvenuti, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, to Walter Hallstein, President of the Commission of the EEC.

Source: Arrangement entre le Comité des Ministres du Conseil de l'Europe et la Commission de la Communauté Economique Européenne = Arrangement between the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and the Commission of the European Economic Community. [s.l.]: Janvier 1961 = January 1961. 9 p.

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
The Secretary-General

Strasbourg, 18th August 1959

Sir,

In its Resolution (57) 27, adopted in December 1957, the Committee of Ministers expressed the wish :

"that, as soon as the institutions of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community are set up, close relations should be established between the Assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Communities of the Six and, in general, between the Council of Europe, on the one hand, and the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community, on the other".

In April 1958, the Committee of Ministers, having taken note of the setting up of the institutions of the new European Communities, instructed the Secretary-General, by its Resolution (58) 11, to approach the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community with a view to studying means of establishing close relations between the Council of Europe and those Communities.

With regard to relations between the Committee of Ministers and the Commission of the European Economic Community, I have the honour to inform you that the Committee, having been informed of the results of our talks, and without prejudice to the subsequent conclusion of a general agreement with the Community, has approved the following arrangements :

1. The Commission will transmit to the Committee of Ministers the annual general report which it is required to prepare under Article 156 of the Treaty of 25th March 1957 establishing the European Economic Community. It will participate in the Committee's discussion of any problems dealt with in that report.

A representative of the Commission will participate in any meetings of the Ministers' Deputies at which these problems are discussed.

2. The Committee of Ministers may address to the Commission any comments it may have to make on the report submitted by the Commission.

3. The Committee of Ministers may invite the Commission to participate in its discussion of any other problems of a general nature which are of concern to the Commission.

A representative of the Commission may be invited to attend meetings of the Ministers' Deputies at which such problems are discussed.

4. The experts of the Commission may, where appropriate, be invited to take part in meetings of the committees of governmental experts of the Council of Europe dealing with problems of interest to the Community.

5. The experts of the Secretariat-General of the Council of Europe may, when appropriate, be invited by the Commission to hold an exchange of views with its administrative departments on problems of interest to the Council of Europe.

6. The Statutory Report of the Committee of Ministers, the Report of the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe on European Co-operation as well as the Official Report of the debates of the Consultative Assembly on European economic integration, shall be transmitted to the Commission.

7. Within the framework of the present arrangement, the Commission and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe may devise other practical means of co-operation.

I should be grateful if you would let me know whether the foregoing arrangements are acceptable to your Commission.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(signed) : Lodovico BENVENUTI

Monsieur Walter HALLSTEIN,
President of the Commission of
the European Economic Community,
BRUSSELS.