

Arguments in defence of the proposed organisation of the Secretariat of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers (Luxembourg, 12 December 1952)

Caption: This internal memorandum of 12 December 1952 summarises the arguments which the Secretariat of the ECSC Special Council of Ministers intends to put to the Council in defence of its organisation plan. In particular, it outlines the need to adapt its staff to the working procedure of the Council, the provisional recruitment procedure, as well as the importance of maintaining equal treatment between the officials of the Secretariat of the Council and those of the other Community institutions and national administrations.

Source: Archives historiques du Conseil de l'Union européenne, Bruxelles, Rue de la Loi 175. Fonds CECA, CM1. CM1 1953. Organisation administrative des services du Conseil, CM1/1953-38.

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Establishment plan

Position paper:

1. The establishment plan as agreed meets the various concerns expressed by members of the Council.
2. The plan provides for a total of 23 staff members, including all auxiliary staff. Of that number, are already in post and more will take up their positions very shortly. This staff complement is the absolute minimum necessary for carrying out all the Secretariat's current functions. It should be borne in mind, however, that the number of staff in certain categories (namely translators, shorthand typists and meetings secretaries) depends partly on the Council's proposed working procedure and partly on the intended application of the Protocol on use of languages in the Community.

With regard to the Council's working procedure, it is to be anticipated that in most cases — and they are numerous — where the Treaty provides for consultation, the Council will wish, before taking any decision, to seek the advice of experts meeting in committees. Were this procedure to be adopted — and it is bound to be adopted, given that there is virtually no other solution — one would foresee adjustments to the numbers of staff in the categories mentioned, as circumstances dictate.

3. There is a provision in Article 78 of the Treaty that the number of officials shall be fixed initially — insofar as it is not determined under another article of the Treaty or an implementing regulation — by a committee comprising the President of the Court, the President of the High Authority, the President of the Common Assembly and the President of the Council.

The procedure to be followed is therefore as set out below:

- (a) The number of staff on the Council Secretariat to be approved by the Presidents' Committee, taking account of the concerns about staffing expressed by the Council and, in particular, the German Federal Chancellor, Dr Konrad Adenauer.
- (b) Any increase in the staff complement to be subject to a Council decision.

4. The point should be made to the Council that it is in its own interest to adopt a benevolent attitude if it wishes to preserve its distinctive character and protect the principle of counter-weighting between the different Community institutions.

5. There can be no question of allowing the Council Secretariat to be placed at a disadvantage against the other Community institutions with regard to grades. It is essential that the officials of the Council Secretariat should be able to deal as equals with their counterparts in the other institutions. Similarly, in their dealings with national administrative bodies, the Secretariat staff must not be placed in a position of inferiority. These are two principles that affect the very reputation of the Council.

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