

## Address given by Leo Tindemans to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the new Council building (13 June 1989)

**Caption:** Address given by Leo Tindemans, Belgian Foreign Minister, on Tuesday 13 June 1989, to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the new Council of the European Communities building.

**Source:** Communication à la presse sur la pose de la première pierre de l'immeuble destiné au Conseil des Communautés européennes, 7325/89 (Presse 113). Bruxelles: Conseil des Communautés européennes - Secrétariat général, 14.06.1989. 21 p. "Annexe II - Allocution de Leo Tindemans", p. 5-7. Archives centrales du Conseil de l'Union européenne, B-1048 Bruxelles/Brussel, rue de la Loi/Wetstraat, 175.

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[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/address\\_given\\_by\\_leo\\_tindemans\\_to\\_mark\\_the\\_laying\\_of\\_the\\_foundation\\_stone\\_of\\_the\\_new\\_council\\_building\\_13\\_june\\_1989-en-c201c0a3-62ea-435c-800b-8e027878aa67.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/address_given_by_leo_tindemans_to_mark_the_laying_of_the_foundation_stone_of_the_new_council_building_13_june_1989-en-c201c0a3-62ea-435c-800b-8e027878aa67.html)



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## Address given by Mr Leo Tindemans, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new building of the Council of the European Communities on Tuesday 13 June 1989

Mr President, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

The Council President, Mr Fernández Ordóñez, has paid a well-deserved tribute to all those whose work has enabled us to be present here on this memorable occasion. I wholeheartedly echo his words of praise.

The laying of the foundation stone for a huge structure which a community, our Community, has resolved to build together is a dazzling testimony to the faith which that Community has in its future.

Monumental buildings are symbols which line the path of history; down the centuries they have been the illustration and concrete embodiment of great projects, of grand designs.

Our project, however, is both ambitious and modest — we make no claim to be building the cathedral at Aachen, the Parthenon or the Escorial. But we were keen that the Council, a forum in which both the will to live together and the interests specific to each Member State are expressed, should have the best possible conditions for its work of participating in the Community's legislative process.

The Council, the European Parliament, the Commission and the Court of Justice — and I extend a welcome here to the representatives from those institutions — have all for a number of years now been mindful of the huge additional responsibilities and workload created by the new and necessary challenges which the Communities have chosen to take on.

Just as the Community seeks to be open to the rest of the world and to integrate fully with the changes taking place there, it is important too that this building should fit in harmoniously with an area of the city which has long been in need of redevelopment.

Mr President, let me take this opportunity of thanking you and your colleagues for your work over the last few months in enabling this project to come to fruition. I am happy that the foundation stone should be laid by you; it is just one of many examples of your country's exemplary commitment to the building of Europe. You have shown dedication in your Presidency of the Council, with outstanding and well-deserved success.

In thanking you, I am also expressing gratitude to your predecessors in office. The work began during the German Presidency, continued under the Greek Presidency, and the final phase is now being completed under the Spanish Presidency. It goes without saying that my thanks are due also to the General Secretariat of the Council, whose experience and dedication I readily acknowledge.

Like you, Mr President, I fondly remember Mr Fabbri, who did so much to make this building possible.

Thanks are due to governmental agencies here in Belgium, for the efficiency of the work done by the State Secretary for Public Works Restructuring and by the Buildings Agency, responsible for overseeing the project.

I must also include everyone who represented Belgium in presenting this project to the Council.

In conclusion I would voice the hope that all of us, perhaps wearing different 'hats', may reassemble on this same spot five years from now to witness the inauguration of this new and true common European home. Thank you.