

# Resolution by the Action Committee for the United States of Europe setting forth the reasons for the Joint Declaration (18 January 1956)

**Caption:** On 18 January 1956, the Action Committee for the United States of Europe (ACUSE) adopts a resolution in which it sets out the reasons for the Joint Declaration adopted the same day in Paris and places particular emphasis on the importance of the development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

**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. 12-14.

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**Last updated:** 05/11/2015

## Resolution setting forth the reasons for the Joint Declaration (18 January 1956)

1. Our organizations, political parties and trade unions, joining together for the first time over and above the national issues that may divide them, are unanimous in the belief that the hopes of our peoples for improvements in living conditions, for justice, freedom, and peace will not be fulfilled if each nation tries to work alone. Our countries must pool their energies and resources. That is why we have taken the initiative in forming the Action Committee for the United States of Europe. The Committee will bring about unity of action among its member organizations in order to attain by successive concrete achievements the United States of Europe.

The Committee stresses that it remains open to all similar organizations in other European countries which declare themselves to be in agreement with the avowed principles and the objectives pursued by it. It refuses to consider as final the present situation in which the organizations of only six European countries have been able to give their agreement, and unanimously renews its hope of seeing other European countries taking without reservations the place that is theirs in the building of Europe, or at the very least associating themselves closely in that effort.

2. The action of the Committee and of the participating organizations will consist first of all in making clear to Governments, Parliaments, and public opinion that the Committee and its constituent organizations are determined that the Resolution agreed on at Messina on 2 June last by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, becomes a real step towards the United States of Europe.

Just as the six Foreign Ministers declared in their Resolution at Messina on 1-2 June 1955, so too do our organizations 'believe that the establishment of a united Europe must be pursued by the development of common institutions, the progressive merger of national economies, the creation of a common market, and the progressive harmonization of social policies'.

In Brussels, experts of the 'Intergovernmental Committee created by the Messina Conference' have studied the technical problems posed by that Resolution. They have submitted their reports. In the near future the Governments will have to make the necessary decisions to translate the experts' conclusions into actual achievements.

Among these achievements that our Committee wants to be realized, the one that could and should be most rapidly carried out concerns atomic energy.

3. The development of atomic energy for peaceful uses opens the prospect of a new industrial revolution and the possibility of a profound change in living and working conditions.

Together, our countries are capable of themselves developing a nuclear industry. They form the only region in the world that can attain the same level as the great world Powers. Yet separately they will not be able to overcome their time-lag which is a consequence of European disunity.

Action is urgently needed if Europe is not to let her opportunity pass by.

An atomic industry producing atomic energy will inevitably be able to produce bombs. For that reason the political aspects and the economic aspects of atomic energy are inseparable. The European Community must develop atomic energy exclusively for peaceful purposes. This choice requires a water-tight system of control. It opens the way to general control on a world-wide scale. It in no way affects the implementation of international agreements already in force.

Mere cooperation among Governments will not suffice to achieve these objectives. It is indispensable that our States delegate the necessary powers and give the necessary common mandate to European institutions.

4. In order that the necessary measures may be taken rapidly, we have agreed to submit the attached

declaration for Parliamentary approval in Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands, and to invite our Governments to conclude without delay a Treaty conforming to the rules set forth therein.

5. Lastly, the Committee has decided to meet again on 5 April 1956 to examine the following points:

Parliamentary approval of the attached joint declaration concerning atomic energy;

decisions to be taken on the necessary measures for supporting the actions of the Governments for implementation of the Messina Resolution, particularly as regards the progressive establishment of the Common Market.