

## Address given by Paul Finet at the inaugural meeting of the EEC and EAEC Councils (Brussels, 25 January 1958)

**Caption:** In an address delivered at the inaugural meeting of the EEC and EAEC Councils, held on 25 January 1958 in Brussels, Paul Finet, President of the High Authority of the ECSC, notes that, despite the differences in their tasks and structures, the three Communities are working towards the same aim: European integration.

**Source:** Procès-verbal de la première session des Conseils de la Communauté Economique Européenne et de la Communauté Européenne de l'Energie Atomique tenue à Bruxelles, le 25 janvier 1958, CEE EUR/CM/20 f/58 mts. Bruxelles: Conseils de la Communauté économique européenne et de la Communauté européenne de l'énergie atomique, 25.01.1958. 28 p. "Annexe II: Allocution de M. Paul Finet, Président de la Haute Autorité de la C.E.C.A."

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## Address given by Paul Finet, President of the ECSC High Authority (First meeting — 25 January 1958)

I wish to thank the Council of Ministers and its President, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, for inviting the High Authority to take part in this inaugural meeting of the Councils of Ministers of the Common Market and of Euratom.

The presence of the High Authority at this first meeting is more than symbolic; it is the first tangible sign of the unity that exists between the three European Communities.

The immediate tasks facing us, namely to pool our six countries' basic industries, to establish a vast common market and to create a European nuclear industry, certainly call for very different concrete activities.

Although the Treaties have provided that some of our institutions are common institutions, they have not organised the powers assigned to us under that model.

Nevertheless, those differences in terms of tasks and structures are not essential. In fact they are of little importance because those various Communities are aiming at a single objective: European integration.

The men at the helm of our Communities come from political backgrounds that may differ very widely, yet they are inspired by one and the same ideal.

That ideal, Mr President, is one you described a moment ago in the most ambitious terms. You gave it back its real meaning and took it back to its only real measure, which is man.

You rightly emphasised that the success or failure of the European Community would depend on the extent to which its economic progress enabled it to achieve its social objectives.

The High Authority, for its part, is convinced that this is the touchstone of European integration.

However technical they may be, these three Communities are of value only to the extent to which they enable the people of our countries to develop to the full and to achieve their full potential.

In the activities it has been carrying out for the past five years, the High Authority has always been inspired by that human requirement.

Henceforth, the High Authority will no longer be alone in pursuing that objective. The first contacts that have been established between the Presidents of the institutions, those that are now being established between the Commissions and the High Authority, those that will be established tomorrow between the responsible members of those European Authorities, are being established under the aegis of extremely active cooperation and close coordination.

For its part, the High Authority — and I want to put this in very formal terms — declares that it is prepared to provide every possible assistance to the new institutions, whether through its officials or through its material resources.

The High Authority supports, with no reservations whatsoever, the principle of common services, which it wants to see as broadly based as possible.

The High Authority is convinced that our joint resolve, placed in the service of our common ideal, will make the three Communities into an instrument of ever closer integration.

The High Authority, strengthened by the experience it has gained, is more certain than ever that integration is the only means of achieving European unity, without which we will not be able to ensure that the people

of our countries attain the peace and freedom that are vital to any improvement in the human condition.