

## Statement by Winston Churchill on the Committee for a United Europe (23 January 1948)

**Caption:** On 23 January 1948, as debates are being held on European unity, the former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, addresses the House of Commons and outlines the role of the United Europe Committee which he established in January 1947 with his son-in-law, Duncan Sandys.

**Source:** Parliamentary Debates. House of Commons. Official Report. Third session of the Thirty-Eight Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 12 George VI. Dir. of publ. Hansard. 1947-1948, No 446; fifth series. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

**Copyright:** Crown copyright is reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office and the Queen's Printer for Scotland

**URL:**

[http://www.cvce.eu/obj/statement\\_by\\_winston\\_churchill\\_on\\_the\\_committee\\_for\\_a\\_united\\_europe\\_23\\_january\\_1948-en-d831fb15-9fa9-4040-a52d-90d1c00e20c4.html](http://www.cvce.eu/obj/statement_by_winston_churchill_on_the_committee_for_a_united_europe_23_january_1948-en-d831fb15-9fa9-4040-a52d-90d1c00e20c4.html)

**Publication date:** 04/09/2012

## Statement by Winston Churchill on the Committee for a United Europe (23 January 1948)

**Mr. Churchill:**

[...]

I must say a word about our unofficial Committee for a United Europe, and also about its limitations. I am most anxious to reassure the Government and the Foreign Secretary on this subject. We do not aspire to compete with Governments in the executive sphere. What we seek to do is to build up moral, cultural, sentimental and social unities and affinities throughout all Europe, or all those parts of Europe where freedom still reigns. We are anxious to spread the idea of the men and women of many countries being good Europeans, as well as patriotic citizens of their native lands, ready and eager to meet and work with one another on terms of honour and amity, to forget past tragedies as far as possible, to recognise that what has happened in the past is unpayable by mortal man and that to exact its payment will wreck the world, and to build for a future which may one day make amends for all.

[...]