

The proceedings of the Hague Congress

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The official opening of the Congress of Europe, enhanced by the presence of Princess (later Queen) Juliana of the Netherlands and her husband, Prince Bernhard, took place in the *Ridderzaal* (Knights' Hall), at the heart of the Gothic architectural ensemble of the *Binnenhof* (Inner Court). Chaired by the former British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, the event was covered by some 250 journalists. Some 800 delegates took part in the debates held in The Hague in a personal capacity. In total, 18 national delegations attended the Congress. The work of the Congress, interspersed with various official receptions, was divided among three specialist Committees: the Political Committee, chaired by the former French Prime Minister, Paul Ramadier, the Economic and Social Committee, chaired by the former Belgian Prime Minister, Paul van Zeeland, and the Cultural Committee, chaired by the Spanish writer and former diplomat, Salvador de Madariaga.