

Statement by Paul Hoffman on the OEEC's role with regard to European economic integration (Paris, 1 February 1950)

Caption: At a press conference held on 1 February 1950, Paul Hoffmann, US Administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration (ECA) for the distribution of funds provided under the Marshall Plan, emphasises the important role that the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) needs to play in the process of European economic integration.

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<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>, Records created and inherited by the Foreign Office, FO. European integration: economic and political union of Europe including Britain is desired by USA 1950, FO 371/87137.

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**Statement by Paul G. Hoffman,
Economic Cooperation Administrator,
at Press Conference,
Paris, 6 P.M.
Wednesday, February 1, 1950**

At the outset I should like to cite you, as I reported to the Council of the OEEC, something of the mood of the American people and the American Government on the status of the Marshall Plan.

Since I was last in Paris I have travelled a great deal in the United States and I am sure that it is accurate for me to say that there is genuine and continued gratification at the recovery which has taken place during the past year in the individual countries of the OEEC. There is full recognition that excellent progress has been made, both in letter and in spirit, in carrying through measures of self-help.

This much is all to the good, but it would be misleading if I did not also mention, as I have pointed out to the OEEC, that there is genuine and continued expectation that the nations of the OEEC will achieve similar good results in the field of economic cooperation, and, thereby in carrying through, in letter and in spirit, the pledge of maximum mutual aid.

That expectation is not vague and general; it is specific. It concerns the concrete objectives and decisions unanimously set out by the OEEC resolution of November 2, 1949.

The accomplishment of the 50 percent reduction in quota restrictions is a valuable beginning towards liberalising trade. But it is only candid to say in the light of action taken to date by the OEEC Council further to implement these decisions, they provide the framework within which much or little can be accomplished.

There is still time for the OEEC to implement its November 2 decisions quickly, effectively and significantly in order that the accomplishments in Marshall Plan mutual aid may equal the accomplishments in Marshall Plan self-help and in order that the free peoples and the free nations of Europe may win for themselves a secure peace and an improved standard of living. I am, therefore, concerned that what is accomplished in the immediate future, will be much, rather than little. To this end it is highly encouraging that the OEEC has acted to create the political post which will give the organization additional strength and leadership. I am delighted at the selection of Dr. Stikker for this position and if the Ministers give him united support and backing, I am sure he can do much to assist in translating the objectives of the OEEC into reality.