

Press release on the creation of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe (Paris, 12 October 1955)

Caption: Following Jean Monnet's proposal to several political and trade union leaders to set up a committee in support of European federal integration, the Action Committee for a United States of Europe is founded on 12 October 1955 in Paris. Although the proposal is particularly aimed at individuals, it also encourages the political and trade union organisations to which they belong to join the Action Committee.

Source: Archives historiques de l'Union européenne, Florence. MK Max Kohnstamm, MK-01 Haute Autorité de la CECA (1952-1958). Travaux de la Haute Autorité de la CECA, conférence de Messine et constitution du Comité d'action pour les États-Unis d'Europe, MK-2.

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PRESS RELEASE

CREATION OF

ACTION COMMITTEE FOR A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

I - The following political and trade union leaders
have agreed , at the proposal of M. Jean MONNET , to join in
founding an Action Committee for a United States of Europe :

SOCIALIST Parties

J.A.W. BURGER, President of Dutch Labour Parliamentary Group
Max BUSET, President of Belgian Socialist Party
Jean FOHRMANN, Member of executive of Luxemburg Socialist Party
Matteo MATTEOTTI, Secretary-General of Italian Social Democratic Party
Guy MOLLET, Secretary-General of French Socialist Party
Erich OLLENHAUER, President of German Social Democrat Party

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT Parties

Amintore FANFANI, Political Secretary of Italian Christian Democrat Party
Kurt KIESINGER, Member executive German CDU, Chairman of Bundestag Foreign Affairs Commission
Robert LECOURT, President of French MRP Parliamentary Group
J.A.H.J.S. BRUINS SLOT, Dutch Protestant Party (A.R.)
Théo LEFEVRE, President of Belgian Christian Social Party
Nicolas MARGUE, Member of executive of Luxemburg Christian Social Party
G.P.M. ROUME, President of Dutch Catholic Party Parliamentary Group

LIBERAL and Other Parties

Martin BLANK, German FDP
Maurice DESTENAY, President of Belgian Liberal Party
Alexander ELBRACHTER, German Party, Member of Bundestag
Maurice FAURE, Secretary-General of French Radical Party
Pierre GARET, President of Parliamentary Group of French Independent Republicans ("Independants")
Ugo LA Malfa, Italian Republican Party
René PLEVEN, French UDSR Party

TRADE UNIONS

J. ALBERS, Dutch Workers' Movement
R. BOTHEREAU, Secretary-General French CGT-FO
Maurice BOULADOUX, President of French CFTC
Auguste COOL, President of Belgian Confederation of Christian Trade Unions
Walter FREITAG, President of German Trade Unions Federation (DGB)
C.P. HAZENBOSCH, Secretary-General of Dutch Christian Trade Unions
Heinrich IMIG, President of the German Miners' Federation
H. OOSTERHUIS, President of the Federation of Dutch Trade Unions
Antoine KRIER, Secretary-General of the Luxemburg Workers' Federation
Giulio PASTORE, Secretary-General of the Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Unions
André RENARD, Deputy Secretary-General of the Belgian General Federation of Labour
Heinrich STRAETER, Member of executive of the German Metalworkers Federation
President of the Steelworkers of the North-Rhine Westphalia
Italo VIGLIANESI, Secretary-General of the Italian Workers' Union.

II - The role of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe is defined in the letter that M. Jean MONNET sent to each of these leading figures who agreed, in reply, to join in forming the Committee. The following is the full text of the letter :

" I have the honour to ask you to participate in the establishment of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe .

" The personalities who participate in the establishment of this Committee will each ask their organisations to adhere . It is understood that the political and labour organisations adhering to the Committee will be represented by the delegate that they themselves choose for this purpose .

" The Committee will assure the unified action of the member organisations in order to arrive by concrete accomplishments at a United States of Europe .

" At first , by the Committee's intervention and that of the organisations grouped within it , its action will consist in demonstrating to governments, parliaments and public opinion their determination to see the Messina resolution of June 2nd become a veritable step towards a United States of Europe .

" This resolution called for the study of the expansion of the bases for economic development in the participating countries , particularly the use of atomic energy , the progressive realisation of a European common market with necessary safeguards , and the harmonisation of social policies .

" To achieve these objectives , it is necessary to put aside all specious solutions . Mere cooperation between governments will not suffice . It is indispensable for States to delegate certain of their powers to European federal institutions responsible to (" mandataires de ") all the participating countries taken as a whole . At the same time the close association of Great Britain with these new accomplishments must be assured .

" The Committee will, in conformity with the proposals of the May 14 session of the Common Assembly (of the European Coal and Steel Community) press for the Coal and Steel Community to receive the necessary powers for it to develop its activity in the social field . "

(signed) Jean Monnet .

III - The founder members of the Action Committee for a United States of Europe will hold their first meeting at the beginning of November . The date will be announced later .