

The Messina Declaration

3 June 1955

The governments of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands believe the time has come to take a new step on the road of European construction. They are of the opinion that this objective should be achieved first of all in the economic sphere.

They believe that the establishment of a united Europe must be achieved through the development of common institutions, the progressive fusion of national economies, the creation of a common market, and the gradual harmonization of their social policies.

Such an agenda seems indispensable to them if Europe is to preserve the standing which she has in the world, to restore the influence and her prestige, and to improve steadily the living standard of the population.

To these ends, the six ministers have agreed on the following objectives:

1. The growth of trade and the migration of the population require the joint development of the main channels of communication. To this end, a joint study will be undertaken of development plans oriented to establishing a European network of canals, motorways, electric rail lines, and for a standardization of equipment, as well as research for a better co-ordination of air-transport.
2. Putting more abundant energy at a cheaper price at the disposal of the European economies constitutes a fundamental element of economic progress. That is why all arrangements should be made to develop sufficient exchanges of gas and electric power capable of increasing the profitability of investments and reducing the supply costs. Studies will be undertaken of methods to co-ordinate development prospects for the production and consumption of energy, and to draw up general guidelines for an overall policy.
3. The development of atomic energy for peaceful purposes will very soon open up the prospect of a new industrial revolution beyond comparison with that of the last hundred years.

The signatory states believe they must study the creation of a joint organization to which will be assigned the responsibility and the means to secure the peaceful development of Atomic Energy while taking into consideration the special commitments of certain governments with third parties.

These means should include:

- (a) the establishment of a common fund supported by the contribution of each of the participating countries, and allowing for the financing of power plants and for current or future energy research;
- (b) free and adequate access to raw materials, the free exchange of information, by-products and special equipment, and the mobility of technicians;

- (c) making available any benefits and financial subsidies without discrimination, towards the development of energy sources;
- (d) co-operation with non-member states.

The objective of the “Common Market”

The six governments acknowledge that the constitution of a European Common Market free of internal duties and all quantitative restrictions is the goal of their action in the realm of economic policy. They believe that this market should be achieved in stages. The realization of this objective requires study of the following questions:

- (a) The procedure and the pace of the gradual suppression of obstacles to trade in relations between the participating countries, as well as appropriate steps leading to the gradual standardization of tariffs applying to non-member states;
- (b) The measures to be taken in order to harmonization general policy of the participating states in the financial, economic and social fields;
- (c) The adoption of practical steps to insure at adequate co-ordination of the monetary policies of the member-states, in order to allow for the creation and developments of a common market;
- (d) a system of escape clauses;
- (e) The creation and operation of a currency re-adoption fund;
- (f) The gradual introduction of free circulation of labour;
- (g) The development of rules assuring the free play of competition within the Common Market, particularly in such a way as to exclude all preferences of a national basis;
- (h) The institutional agencies appropriate for the realisation and operating of the common market.

The creation of a European Investment Fund will be studied. This Fund should have as its object the joint development of European economic projects, and especially the development of the less favoured regions of the participating states.

As for the social field, the six governments believe it is essential to study the progressive harmonization of regulations now in force in the different states, particularly those relating to the length of the work-day and the payment of additional benefits (overtime work, Sunday and holiday work, the length of vacations and vacation allowances).

The six governments have decided to adopt the following procedure:

1. Conferences will be called to work on the treaties and the conventions dealing with the matters under consideration;
2. The preparation of these reports and treaties will be entrusted to a committee of government representatives, assisted by experts, under the chairmanship of a political personality charged with co-ordinating the various tasks;
3. The committee will consult with the High Authority of the European Coal and Steel Community, and as well with the general secretariats of the Council of

Europe and the European Committee of Transport Ministers, on necessary co-operation;

4. The full report of the committee will be submitted to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs by 1 October 1955 at the latest;
5. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs will meet again before this date in order to review the interim reports prepared by the committee and to give it any necessary instructions;
6. The government of the United Kingdom will be invited to take part in these sessions;
7. The ministers of Foreign Affairs will decide at an agreed time on the invitations to send eventually to other states to take part in this conference or in any others forecast in the first paragraph.