

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

C O M M O N A S S E M B L Y

Ordinary Session, 1954

ADDRESS BY MR. JEAN MONNET,
PRESIDENT OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY.

Session of Wednesday, May 12, at 4 p.m.

Our Coal and Steel Community is now a reality.

During these past twelve months, our institutions have pursued their various tasks, and the common market is in a continuous process of development. This is the beginning of Europe.

Our experience has shown that it is possible to create Europe, and that the way to do it is to pool our resources and to create common institutions by transferring sovereignty to them and granting them the power of decision.

In accordance with the rules laid down by the Treaty, the High Authority today submits a report of the progress made during the past year to your sovereign Assembly.

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Since last year's ordinary session, our method of consulting with the interested parties, the governments, and the Assembly itself has been further developed and has proved its value.

The decisions taken by the High Authority have been applied by the governments and the enterprises in our six countries. Appeals have been lodged against some of them, and the Court has been confirmed as the highest tribunal ensuring the rule of law in the Community. The appeals which are lodged before it at this moment concern essential decisions of the High Authority. At the request of the French and Italian Governments, the Court must give a ruling on the decision regarding steel prices and, at the request of the Dutch Government, on decisions relative to coal prices.

These appeals clearly reveal one of the fundamental changes which our Community is making in the life of Europe. Instead of the governments themselves laying down the law, they submit their problems to the judgment of a common and sovereign institution.

After the tentative methods that were necessary at the beginning, the High Authority and the Council have now found a form of cooperation which effectively ensures real harmony between the development of the Community and that of the other sectors of our economies which remain under national control.

The Assembly and its committees have played an ever more important role. Because it is fully conscious of this, the High Authority would propose to the Assembly that a supplementary session be held this autumn in order that whole six months may not pass without direct contact between the High Authority and the full Assembly.

The administration of the Community may now be followed in detail by everyone. Last January, you received a statement of expenditures made during the first six months of the year, that is, before the fiscal year was even at an end. The Auditor's report on the fiscal year 1952/1953 has also been submitted to you. Such a detailed and timely accounting for public expenses does not exist in any one of our countries.

During this period in which the institutions of our Community were being consolidated, we have proposed to the British Government that negotiations be opened concerning the form which the intimate and lasting association between the Community and the United Kingdom should take. The British Government has replied to our offer with an invitation to visit London for preliminary talks for the purpose of laying the basis for constructive negotiations and for the permanent practical collaboration which is to be established between us. We have accepted this invitation.