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Hallstein statement on signature of merger Treaty

Addressing the conference of Government representatives of the six Member States who had met to sign the Treaty merging the Executives of the European Economic Community, Euratom and the European Coal and Steel Community, Professor Walter Hallstein, President of the EEC Commission, said that it was an unusual but exciting privilege for the Commission to be present at the signing of its own death warrant. And yet the Commission was happy to exercise this privilege, believing that for it there was a life after death.

The policy of economic integration pursued by the three Communities was, he continued, an important element in the political unification of Europe. Rationalization was therefore only one of the advantages of the merger; the chief gain lay in its political aspects. The three Communities were now to have common institutions, and for the outside world this would bring the situation more clearly into focus. The practical advantage lay in the creation of a single administrative apex, which would reduce the differences in the Treaties to virtual insignificance.

President Hallstein expressed the hope that the merger of the Institutions would soon lead to the formal amalgamation of the Treaties, and that the single Executive would display the same ingenuity and dynamism as the three separate Executives from which it had been formed.

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