

Statement by Gaston Tessier on the Schuman Plan (11 May 1950)

Caption: On 11 May 1950, Gaston Tessier, President of the CFTC [the French Confederation of Christian Workers], expresses his agreement of principle with the Schuman Plan.

Source: MASSIP, Roger. Ce jour-là l'Europe est née. Lausanne: Fondation Jean Monnet pour l'Europe, Centre de recherches européennes, 1980. 71 p. (Cahiers rouges). p. 49.

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Christian trade unionism considers that the improvement of economic relations, in particular between neighbouring countries, is essential for the consolidation of peace.

That is why we have a keen interest in developments such as those being undertaken at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva and the Economic and Social Council in Lake Success.

Our initial impressions of the plan for Franco-German industrial entente presented by Robert Schuman are therefore favourable. However, we must withhold our final judgment until more information is available and thorough consideration has been given to it.

It is clear that any national, bilateral or international economic development programme will raise social concerns from our point of view: we must avoid overproduction and unemployment, striving instead not only for full employment, but also for a higher standard of living.