

'Signing ceremony for European Treaties' from the Süddeutsche Zeitung (26 March 1957)


Caption: On 26 March 1957, Gustav René Hocke, special correspondent for the German daily newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung, comments on the proceedings at the ceremony, held the previous day in Rome, to mark the signing of the Treaties establishing the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Atomic Energy Community (EAEC or Euratom).

Source: Süddeutsche Zeitung. Münchner Neueste Nachrichten aus Politik, Kultur, Wirtschaft und Sport. Hrsg. FRIEDMANN, Werner; GOLDSCHAGG, Edmund; SCHÖNINGH, Dr. Franz Josef; SCHWINGENSTEIN, August. 26.03.1957, n° 73; 13. Jg. München: Süddeutscher Verlag. "Europa-Verträge feierlich unterzeichnet", auteur:Hocke, Gustav René , p. 1; 2.

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Signing ceremony for European Treaties

At the Capitol in Rome, the Foreign Ministers put their signatures to the Treaties on the Common Market and Euratom / Adenauer says: the 17 million people in the GDR also belong to our Europe

From our correspondent Gustav-René Hocke

Rome, 25 March — The Treaties establishing the European Common Market and the European Atomic Energy Community were signed on Monday evening by the Foreign Ministers of the six participating states at a ceremony in Rome. Chancellor Adenauer put his signature to the Treaties on behalf of the Federal Republic. The last outstanding points had been clarified during the afternoon by the Ministers and their expert advisers. The Treaties now go to the individual parliaments.

The Piazza del Campidoglio was decorated with priceless Gobelin tapestries, and the Hill was strewn with flowers and flags as the Ministers drove up. Civil Guards in Renaissance costumes, *carabinieri* in dress uniforms and mounted policemen completed the picture. The rain was pouring down. The Hall of the Horatii and Curiatii in the Capitoline Palace, where the signing ceremony was held, was reminiscent of a huge television studio. It had been impossible to hide all of the 50 kilometres of cable for television and film equipment in the room packed with the dignitaries and 200 journalists. Since television transmissions were to go out via all the European stations, a decision was taken at the last minute that short addresses would be made by the Mayor, Signor Tupini, by Chancellor Adenauer as the current President of the session and by the five Foreign Ministers before the signing. At the ceremony, Mr Tupini also presented each guest with a gold medal minted specially to commemorate the signing of the Treaties.

In his speech, Chancellor Adenauer stressed that the significance of the Treaties establishing the Common Market and Euratom went far beyond the significance of other international agreements. He expressed his particular gratitude for the preparatory work that is so essential for the success of the Treaty to the experts from the six countries and especially to the Foreign Minister of Belgium, Paul-Henri Spaak. ‘Without the great creativity of Mr Spaak, the Treaties would not have been successfully completed. Europe has him to thank for this.’

The Chancellor then recalled the promising beginnings of the Community Treaties for which De Gasperi and Schuman had been responsible. These initial, very hopeful efforts had been followed by many setbacks, but the optimists had been proved right in the end. Not all the provisions in the Treaties concluded here enjoyed the unreserved approval of the parties, but this was only natural for such a wide-ranging treaty system, and there had ultimately been universal recognition that it was only by cooperating that the European states could ensure their freedom to evolve and to make social progress. With reference to the continuing division of Germany, Adenauer pointed out that the 17 million Germans in the Soviet Zone also belonged to the European Economic Community. The Common Market and Euratom were to be of service to the entire world, to justice and to freedom. The Chancellor’s address concluded with the words, ‘It is with this intention that we are signing the Treaties and with this intention that we shall approach their implementation.’

Before the signing, a session of the delegates and a session of the Foreign Ministers had been held, at which the final version of the treaty texts and amendments had been completed. A proposal from the Netherlands that the number of Members of the European Parliament be increased by one half was rejected. A joint declaration on Berlin affirmed the binding objective to support Berlin in its difficult economic and social situation. Tribute was then paid to the late former Prime Minister, Alcide De Gasperi, as one of the most convinced pioneers of European integration. Chancellor Adenauer visited his grave in the church of St Lorenzo and laid a laurel wreath.

The Treaty establishing the Common Market is a thick volume of 240 typed pages. Its centrepiece is formed by the provisions on the customs union of the six countries, France, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, and the dependent overseas territories of these countries. All internal customs duties will be dismantled in three four-year stages. Quotas for trading, where they exist,

will also be gradually abolished. It is only in the sphere of agriculture that the national frontiers will not come down until 12 years hence. Then, however, national protection policies for agriculture will be replaced by a European market organisation. For those outside the Community, that is, for trade with third countries, a common customs tariff will apply. The customs union will be complemented by provisions on a general economic union. Labour and investment capital are to cross borders freely, transport policy is to be coordinated, and rules on competition have been set up within the overall economic policy. With regard to the overseas territories, the Treaty has initially provided for joint development aid from the six countries for five years, and this will amount to some 580 million dollars. The Federal Republic has to pay 200 million dollars of that amount. The lion's share of the total sum is to go to France for its territories, above all for Algeria.

The treaty system includes two special provisions for the Federal Republic:

1. Trade between the zones will continue to constitute intra-German trade. The zone border will therefore not become a customs border.
2. If Germany is reunited, the Federal Republic has reserved the right to review its membership.

In Euratom, the six countries intend jointly to develop the exploitation of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. The nuclear fuels are to be purchased jointly. They will then be subject to strict controls on their use by an atomic energy authority. A decision has still to be taken on the location of the headquarters for the new authorities required. It is assumed that Brussels will probably be the seat of the Common Market Commission. The atomic energy authority might be located in Paris.

After the signing of the Treaties, Chancellor Adenauer will have a private audience with Pope Pius early on Tuesday morning. The following day, the Chancellor is flying to Teheran for a five-day state visit.