

'The ECSC – Europe's hope' from the Kölnische Rundschau (17 September 1952)

Caption: On 17 September 1952, the German daily newspaper Kölnische Rundschau leads on the hopes raised in Europe by the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC).

Source: Kölnische Rundschau. Hrsg. Heinen, Reinhold; Baumhoff, Jos.; Fuchs, Fritz ; R Herausgeber Heinen, Reinhold. 17.09.1952, Nr. 215; 7. Jg. Köln: Deutsche Glocke GmbH. "Montanunion - die Hoffnung Europas", p. 1.

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The European Coal and Steel Community — Europe's hope

De Gasperi wants rapid formation of a continental federation

Strasbourg, 16 September. In a speech to the Council of Europe's Consultative Assembly on Tuesday, the Italian Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alcide De Gasperi, called for the rapid formation of a European Continental Federation, which would also be open to other European countries. De Gasperi described what is known as the 'Eden Plan' as only a beginning.

De Gasperi expressed the hope that the European Coal and Steel Community would form the core of a 'much larger European community that would develop around it'. He advised the Council of Europe delegates to consider which aspects of European life should first be brought under a common European political authority. On the Saar question, De Gasperi declared it his urgent hope that the planned Europeanisation of the Saar would become possible in a new atmosphere. Without referring to France and Germany by name, he described a 'European solution' to the Saar question as the touchstone for the solution of other problems. Both sides should act with restraint, he said, and it was his dearest wish that the dispute would be resolved successfully for both nations.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Consultative Assembly opened the political debate with a paper given by the French delegate, Guy Mollet. As rapporteur for the Political Committee, the Dutch delegate Klompe explained the reasons for two motions for resolutions drawn up by the Committee. The first, calling for the inclusion of observers in the pre-parliamentary body, had already been taken into account; the second motion included practical proposals for the shaping of relations between the Council of Europe and the European Coal and Steel Community.

(ap, dpa)