

Statement by Robert Bothereau on the idea of a Franco-German pool (11 May 1950)

Caption: On 11 May 1950, Robert Bothereau, Secretary-General of the CGT-FO [the combined French General Trade Union Confederation and Workers' Union] expresses his hope that European unity will be achieved progressively.

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. 50.

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The CGT-FO has not yet given its official opinion on the plan.

However, in view of the CGT-FO's ideas concerning the organisation of Europe and its position on the plans for a Franco-Italian customs union, we are in favour of any measure designed to strengthen European unity, and the plan in question is considered as such.

We believe that the draft agreement is not an end in itself, but a core around which further agreements regarding other products and other territories can and should be reached.

French trade unionists, and their German counterparts, will clearly have to monitor how the idea taking shape is put into practice.

We know that an economically and socially coordinated Europe is necessary for world balance, and that there can be no Europe without Germany.

It is in this spirit that we subscribe to the idea of a Franco-German pool, which should be extended to all the nations of Europe.