

'The Schuman Plan causes concern for the Italian iron and steel industry' from Le Monde (24 May 1952)

Caption: On 24 May 1952, the French daily newspaper Le Monde reports on the concern felt by Italian industrialists about competition from other ECSC Member States.

Source: Le Monde. dir. de publ. BEUVE-MÉRY, Hubert. 24.05.1952, n° 2 279. Paris: Le Monde. "Le Plan Schuman inquiète la sidérurgie italienne", p. 10.

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The Schuman Plan causes concern for the Italian iron and steel industry

The Italian Association of Iron and Steel Industries (Assider) recently held its annual assembly in Milan.

Steel production reached 3 063 000 tonnes in 1951, compared with 2 363 000 tonnes in 1950 and 2 323 000 tonnes in 1938, an increase of 29.65% and 31.86% respectively. Mr Rebugia, President of the Association, referred to the contribution that new blast furnaces in Piombino and Bagnoli, which began operation during the first quarter of 1951, made to the sector, and to the contribution from electric furnaces, whose increased production is due to a rise in the availability of electrical energy.

The production of rolled products reached 2 415 000 tonnes, an increase of 40 % compared to the 1938 numbers (1 734 000 tonnes) and 26.63 % compared to its best year (1 907 000 tonnes in 1935). This result was made possible by the importation of semi-finished products (184 000 tonnes).

With the importation of finished iron and steel products having risen to 390 000 tonnes and exports at 158 000 tonnes, the measurable Italian consumption can be estimated at 3 480 000 tonnes, taking into account fluctuations in supply.

In concluding his presentation, the President of Assider acknowledged manufacturers' concerns regarding Italy's customs policy and the impending implementation of the Schuman Plan. Both of these, he said in essence, will create serious difficulties for the Italian iron and steel industry, which is not able to hold its own against the major producers of iron and steel products.