

Resolution adopted by the six Foreign Ministers (Luxembourg, 10 September 1952)

Caption: On 10 September 1952, the Special Council of Ministers of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) decides to establish an Ad Hoc Assembly responsible for the drafting of a European Political Community (EPC) Treaty within a period of six months.

Source: Selection of texts concerning institutional matters of the Community from 1950 to 1982. Luxembourg: European Parliament - Committee on Institutional Affairs, 1982. 561 p. p. 55.

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Resolution adopted on 10 September 1952 at Luxembourg by the six Ministers for Foreign Affairs

Considering that the final aim of the six Governments has been and still is the establishment of as comprehensive a European Political Community as possible;

Bearing in mind that at the request of the Italian Government there has been included in the Treaty constituting a European Defence Community, signed on 27 May 1952, an Article 38, the purpose of which was to entrust the Assembly of that Community with the task of studying the constitution of a new Assembly elected on a democratic basis so conceived as to constitute one of the elements in a subsequent, federal or confederal structure, based on the principle of the separation of powers and having, in particular, a two-chamber system of representation;

Recalling that in its Resolution No. 14, adopted on 30 May 1952, the Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe requested the Governments of the States participating in the European Defence Community to choose, by whichever procedure is the speedier, the Assembly which will be responsible for drafting the Statute of a supra-national Political Community open to all Member States of the Council of Europe and offering opportunities of association to such of these States as do not become full members of the Political Community;

Realizing that the constitution of a European Political Community, federal or confederal in structure, is bound up with the establishment of common bases of economic development and a merging of the essential interests of Member States.

The six Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the countries participating in the Coal and Steel Community, met together at Luxembourg on 10 September 1952, have taken the following decision, which takes account of the foregoing considerations as well as of their desire to expedite the study of the proposed draft, by ensuring that it possesses the maximum authority:

A. — The Members of the Coal and Steel Assembly are invited, on the basis of the principles contained in Article 38 of the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community and without prejudice to the provisions of that Treaty, to draft a Treaty constituting a European Political Authority. With this in view, the Members of the Assembly, grouped together in national delegations, shall co-opt, from among the Representatives to the Consultative Assembly who are not already members of the Coal and Steel Assembly as many additional members as shall be necessary to make up the total number fixed for each country's delegation to the Assembly of the European Defence Community;

B. — The Assembly with its membership thus constituted and extended shall meet in plenary sessions at the seat of the Council of Europe. It may also meet in committee.

It shall determine the conditions under which representatives of other countries, especially those which are Members of the Council of Europe, may be associated with the proceedings as Observers;

It shall periodically report to the Consultative Assembly on the progress of such work.

C. — The Ministers for Foreign Affairs, meeting as the Council of the European Coal and Steel Community, shall be associated with the work of the Assembly along lines which shall be determined by mutual agreement.

In order to facilitate such work, they shall frame questions which will be referred to the Assembly and will bear on such matters as:

— the spheres in which the institutions of the European Political Community shall exercise their powers;

- the measures necessary to ensure a merging of the interests of Member States in those spheres;
- the powers to be vested in the institutions.

The Ministers shall periodically report to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

D. — Within six months of the convening of the Coal and Steel Assembly, that is by 10 March 1953, the results of the surveys referred to above shall be transmitted to the Assembly of the European Defence Community responsible for carrying out the tasks laid down in Article 38 of the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community, as well as to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the six countries concerned.

E. — The Governments hereby explicitly affirm that they have based themselves upon the proposals of the United Kingdom Government for the establishment of the closest possible relations between the future Political Community and the Council of Europe.

It is with this in view that the drafting of the Statute of that Community should be undertaken and pursued in constant co-operation with the organs of the Council of Europe.

F. — The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe shall be informed of the above decision.

G. — The procedure laid down above shall in no way prejudice the Treaty establishing the European Defence Community.