

## Note from Antoine Pinay to Heinrich von Brentano (Paris, 12 December 1955)

**Caption:** During talks held on 12 December 1955, Antoine Pinay, French Foreign Minister, hands a note to Heinrich von Brentano, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), in which he sets out the priorities of the French Government regarding the economic issues involved in the resolution of the Saar question.

**Source:** Ministère des Affaires étrangères ; Commission de Publication des DDF (sous la dir.). Documents diplomatiques français. Volume II: 1955, 1er juillet-31décembre. Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1988. 1027 p. p. 939-940.

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### Economic aspects of the Saar settlement

Paris, 12 December 1955

Given the political concessions which the French Government is prepared to consider and the economic sacrifices that it will entail, a final settlement of the Saar problem will be deemed acceptable in France only if it includes the following economic elements:

1. The consolidation of our rights to mine the Warndt coalfield for a period at least equal to that provided for in the France-Saar Agreement.
2. A formal agreement on the construction of the Moselle Canal and the basic arrangements for such construction so that it may be implemented immediately. This canal, which will give heavy industry in Lorraine access to the sea under conditions similar to those enjoyed by the Ruhr, is the only way to ensure that the industry develops normally and to limit to an appropriate degree the effects of the imbalance created within the Coal and Steel Community by the addition of the economic potential of the Saar to that of the Federal Republic.
3. A satisfactory settlement of matters relating to the management of the *Saarbergwerke* and the availability and sale of the output from those mines.
4. A system allowing trade between France and the Saar to be maintained at its current level.
5. — a. Rules placing French commercial undertakings and bodies in the Saar on an equal footing with German commercial undertakings and bodies in all fields;  
b. The maintenance of French interests in banking and insurance;  
c. A satisfactory settlement in the field of inland waterway and rail transport.
6. A satisfactory settlement of all financial problems arising from the definitive solution to the Saar question.
7. The Federal Government's agreement that, with regard to votes in the Council of Ministers of the European Coal and Steel Community, the one-fifth proportion provided for in Article 28 of the Treaty of 18 April 1951 will be replaced by one sixth. The final paragraph of Article 21 of that Treaty, relating to representation in the Common Assembly, would also need to be amended.