

Speech by Jean Monnet (Luxembourg, 10 August 1952)

Caption: Excerpt from the speech delivered by Jean Monnet at the inauguration of the ECSC High Authority in Luxembourg. The Members of the institution pledge solemnly to perform their duties with complete independence.

Source: Speeches delivered by Monsieur Jean Monnet, President of the High Authority -at the inauguration of the High Authority on August 10th, 1952, in Luxembourg -at the opening session of the Assembly on September 11th, 1952, in Strasbourg. Strasbourg: European Coal and Steel Community, September 1952. 29 p.

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Gentlemen,

[...]

In proceeding with the installation of the High Authority of the Coal and Steel Community we are performing a solemn act. We are taking charge of the responsibility which has been entrusted to us by our six countries.

Each of us has been appointed, not by one of our Governments, but by the common consent of the six Governments. Thus we are all of us the common representatives of our six countries: Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. One important sign of hope I wish particularly to emphasize: we are here together, French and Germans, members of the same Community; vital interests of Germany and France are under the control of an Authority which is no longer either German or French, but European.

SOLEMN PLEDGE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HIGH AUTHORITY

In the names of all of you, I publicly repeat the pledge which each of us took when we accepted our appointment:

We will perform our duties with complete independence in the general interest of the Community.

In the performance of our duties, we will neither request nor accept instructions from any Government or organization and we will abstain from any action incompatible with the supra-national character of our functions.

We take note of the pledge of the member States to respect this supra-national character and not to seek to influence us in the performance of our duties.

[...]